



# The Irish Connection

The Irish American Society of Tidewater News

January 2016

The Irish American Society of Tidewater, Virginia, was established in 1980 to promote and preserve Irish culture, and all things distinctly Irish. Membership is open to persons of Irish birth or ancestry, as well as those persons who have an interest in Irish history and culture.

OUR NEXT MEETING:  
JANUARY 7, 2016

Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at the Church of the Ascension Community Center 4853 Princess Anne Rd Virginia Beach, VA. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., the meeting usually gets underway at 7:00 p.m., ending at 9:00 p.m.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

27 December 2015

To All I say Good Day,

If you have received the NewsLetter or attended the last meeting you know now that I; Joe Brady am now the President of the IAS. Lynnette and Edward will be heading overseas for a new beginning that should last about six months or longer.

First of all I want to say this is your IAS and it is because of its members; that it is successful.

If you have things you would like to see happen, let us know and we will try to implement them if the membership agrees. I have no intentions of doing anything without checking and clearing it with the Board and the Members.

This my first letter as your President is short because I am new at it. Again let me say happy to be here and glad to serve.

I hope I can count on your support for things to come.

Sincerely,

Joe Brady



*Lynnette Fitch Brash & Joe Brady  
- passing the sash and the torch  
to the new President*



*Joe & Mary Ann Brady*



## The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614  
Virginia Beach, VA  
23450



### OFFICERS

#### President

Joseph Brady

#### Vice President

Jackie Trudell

#### Treasurer

Kate Sandoval

#### Recording Secretary

Cheryl Mulliken Brown

#### Financial Secretary

Katie Morse McCrory

#### Membership

Betsy Kennedy

#### Sergeant-at-Arms

Jim Hagerty

#### Past President

Lynnette Fitch Brash

### HOSPITALITY

#### *Volunteers Needed*

#### Sunshine Bulletin

Maureen Honore  
757-721-2863  
or email the Editor

#### NEWSLETTER

Lori Shea, editor  
[lorishea@aol.com](mailto:lorishea@aol.com)

#### INTERNET NEWS

Vera Dotson

#### WEBMASTER

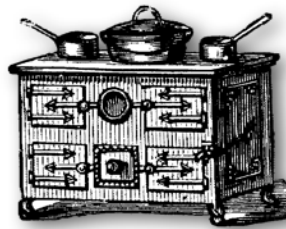
Michael Lawler

#### WEB SITE

[IRLUSA.org](http://IRLUSA.org)  
look for us on Facebook!



## CELTIC KITCHEN



Congratulations to **Nick Justesen** who won the **HONEY BAKE OFF** at our December Christmas Ceili! He won a holiday apron and two holiday dish towels as his prize.

Congrats to **Kate Sandoval** who came in second and won two holiday dish towels for her honey cookie recipe. Here is the first prize recipe!

### Nick's Baked/Brûléed Brandy Pears

#### Ingredients:

Pears (D'Anjou)  
Brown sugar (light)  
Honey (orange blossom used)  
Lemon juice (dash to taste)  
Brandy  
Cinnamon (Optional)  
Vanilla Ice Cream

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Skin and de-core pears. Cut bottoms so they stand vertical. Place pears in baking dish standing vertical. For each pear, stuff hole where core of pear was half way full with brown sugar then fill top half with honey. Place pears in baking dish uncovered, cook for 15 minutes at 400 degrees F. Lower temperature to 325 degrees F and cook for 15 minutes. Add brandy to cover bottom of dish ~1/16 to 1/8 inch (about ¼ cup) and a dash of lemon juice (to taste), baste pears (fill core hole with syrup when basting) and cook for 15 minutes at 325 degrees F, basting about every 5 minutes. Pears should be softened, but standing (reduce time at 325 for firmer texture, adding brandy & lemon juice half way). Turn oven to broil, remove pears, baste pears (fill core hole with syrup when basting), and dust with cinnamon. Place pears in baking dish back into oven and broil for 15 minutes, basting about every 5 minutes. Remove pears and let cool to serve. Optional to brulee outside of pears with torch (may want to dust with sugar for hard crust). Can make ahead and reheat or serve chilled. Drizzle with syrup on plate and/or fill core hole if unsliced, dust with cinnamon if desired. Putting brown sugar under whole pear on plate will stabilize and prevent syrup from leaking out. Serve with scoop of vanilla ice cream.

## SUNSHINE BULLETIN



We would like EVERYONE to help out with spreading the Irish Sunshine where it is needed.

Please notify **Lori Shea**, newsletter editor, at [lorishea@aol.com](mailto:lorishea@aol.com) if you, a family member, or an has experienced any sort of illness, surgery, hospital stay, loss, or other set back.

We can then let the society know, in the next newsletter.

If you would like to give the person's mailing address to Lori, she will give it privately to any IAS members who wishes to send a note; we are sure many of your IAS friends will send cards and notes.

**Maureen Honore**, continues to help out with the Sunshine Committee when she is in town.





*IAS CHRISTMAS CEILI  
DECEMBER 3, 2015*

*Joe & Mary Ann Brady  
& their entourage*



*Terry Fahey &  
Jackie Trudell*



*Mary O'Toole & Patrick*



*Cheryl & Gabby*



*Jack & Betsy Kennedy & Lori Shea*

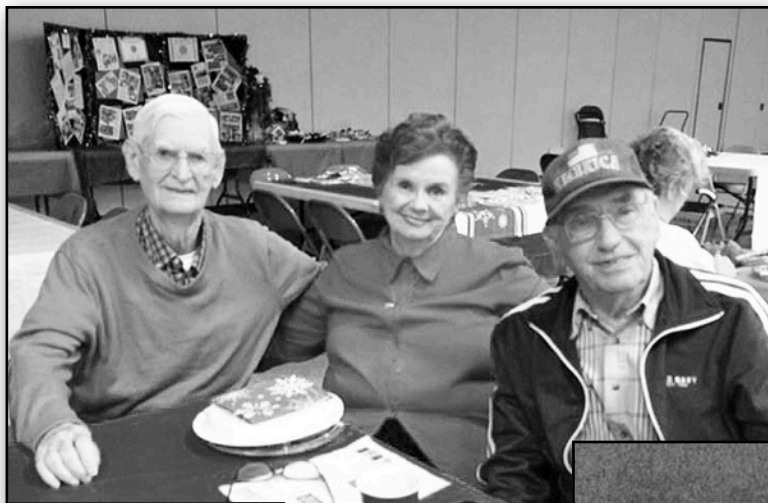
*Christmas Ceili Photos compliments  
of: Lynnette Fitch Brash*





*IAS CHRISTMAS CEILI  
DECEMBER 3, 2015*

*Teresa Buckley Diaz &  
Margaret Buckley*



*Bill Sweeney, George &  
Eileen Collins*



*Catherine Morse, Katie  
& Matt McCrory*



*Anniversary Memory Board by  
Mary Ann Brady & Lori Shea*





*Lynnette & Lori  
Newsletter Muse & her Editor*



*Marian Thomas  
celebrates*



*Catherine Twomey  
& Karen*



### INTERNATIONAL ANCESTRY WEBSITE ACCESS

The IAS has purchased an international subscription to Ancestry.com ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)). Included in this subscription is access to many Irish records databases, including births, deaths, marriages, christenings, and passenger ship manifests. Over the last few years, there have been hundreds of new data sources added.

In order to help offset the cost of this subscription to the society, IAS members may purchase access in one month increments, at a cost of \$10 per month. For more details, please contact **Edward Brash** at [brash99@gmail.com](mailto:brash99@gmail.com).







## THE PRINCESS DIARIES, CONTINUED ... JANUARY 2016

Big congrats to Clan O'Neill!!! Baby **Robert John** was born on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and joins mama **Kate Collins O'Neill** (our 2010 IAS Adult Princess!), daddy **Tim**, big sis **Moira** (our 2010 IAS Little Miss Princess!), and big bro **Finn**! FÁILTE, BUACHAILL BEAG! See enclosed pix of mama right before baby's arrival and of new son! Robert weighed in at birth at 7 lbs 4 oz and 20 inches tall.



Condolences to IAS Adult Princess 1998 **Mary Fien** whose beautiful and sweet male Siamese cat passed away this month. Elegant **Iggy** was a beloved family member and made it to a grand 17.5 years old. We are very sorry for the loss of your fur baby, Mary.

Best wishes to IAS Adult Princess 2003 **Tamara Cervi's** mother **Dolores**, who recently took a bad spill and was in hospital recovering.

Bon Voyage to IAS Adult Irish Princess 2014 **Heather Walker Warren**, IAS Little Miss Princess **Caelin Warren**, and mom/grandma **Eileen Walker** who went on a "Ladies Only" cruise to the Caribbean this month! As is appropriate, they were traveling on the PRINCESS line!!! The ports o' call included St. Maarten and St. Thomas! Hope to run some pix from their trip next month in an "Irish Abroad" collage...

Bon Voyage also to IAS Adult Princess 2011 **Bridgett Cherry Sakach** who is spending the holidays in HAWAII!!! Best wishes for an awesome trip to paradise, Princess!

Congrats to IAS Adult Princess 2001 **Danielle Donovan Dunn's** brother-in-law, **RADM Bill Byrne**, one of three recipients of the 2015 **Distinguished American Award** presented by the **National Football Foundation**! Bill was QB for the Naval Academy football team when he went to school there, and he still holds many school records. Visit this link to learn more about the award! <http://www.navyports.com/sports/m-footbl/spec-rel/111715aae.html>

Congrats to IAS Adult Princess 2009 **Katie Morse McCrory** and her hubby **Matt** who recently closed on a house in Virginia Beach! So exciting!!! We are super happy to have you guys back!

Happy **December Birthdays** to IAS Adult Princesses **Maureen Cahill** (2009) and **Lynnette Fitch Brash** (2000) and to IAS Teen Princesses **Maura Flatley** (2004) and **Maggie Wilcox** (2008)! Maureen is going on a great trip to Spain over the holidays to visit her son **Jeremiah**, a junior officer in the

USN! **Lynnette** and her husband **Edward** head for their exciting sojourn in Scotland after Christmas!

Happy **December** Wedding Anniversary to IAS Adult Princess 2000 **Lynnette Fitch Brash** and her husband **Edward** (who were married in 2004), IAS Adult Princess 2010 **Kate Collins O'Neill** and her husband **Tim** (who were married in 2007), and to IAS Teen Princess 2009 **Nina Colleti Galvez** and her husband **Aaron** (who were married in 2013) – and to all the other IAS couples with December anniversaries! The **Bromleys**, the **Bradys**, and the **Kennedys** were all married in Decembers past! As you may already know, the Bradys celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary this year and are still as affectionate as newlyweds – wonderful role models for us all!



IAS Adult Princess 2002 **Lisa Hunt Burgess** and IAS Teen Princess 2008 **Maggie Wilcox** have been leading parallel lives recently! First, they were both spotted at the Tech-UVA football game in Charlottesville at the end of November; in the attached pix you can see Maggie, a VT alum, there with her Dad, and Lisa, a UVA alum, there with her son **Fynn**!



Then, both girleens were in NYC right before Christmas and got a chance to check out buddy and fellow IAS Princess **Sara Rhodes** (IAS Teen Princess 2005) dancing on Broadway in *Lord of the Dance*! See Lisa with Sara and Maggie with **Michael Flatley** himself in





THE CLIPPER MARCH 17, 1995

# Group invites Irish-Americans to celebrate their culture, roots

BY JENNIFER C. O'DONNELL  
STAFF WRITER

Everyone claims to be at least a wee bit Irish on St. Patrick's Day.

But William Sweeney makes that claim year-round, and for him and others like him, St. Patrick's Day means more than wearing green.

For Sweeney and other Irish-Americans, St. Patrick's Day is a day to celebrate their culture and family histories.

Sweeney's interest in Ireland and his family roots encouraged him to find others that want to talk about life in the old country.

"It's fun to know where you come from," said Sweeney, "and to find people whose ancestors grew up or worked in the same areas. You have something in common right away."

That's why one of the first things Sweeney did when he moved to Chesapeake was hook up with the Irish American Society of Tidewater. Sweeney and his wife, Cay, short for Cathleen, moved to Chesapeake in 1989 after he retired from the New York City Police Department after 30 years of service.

Although Sweeney was glad to have an Irish community to turn to, he missed the network and enthusiasm he found in his previous society up north.

"My Irish society in New York had dances every other weekend," said Sweeney, "but there aren't as many of us down here, and many Southern-American Irish have forgotten their family histories."

"The Irish that came to Virginia and other southern states generally came to farm, which isolated them from other Irish. I think that's why it was easier for them to forget where they came from."



Staff photo by STEVE EARLEY

**William Sweeney's ancestors immigrated to the United States in 1848.**

But Sweeney and the fellow members of the Irish American Society of Tidewater can change all that for folks with last names of O'Brien, Brennan, O'Connell and the like. "We've had members come to our meetings knowing very little about where their ancestors came from but other members were able to tell them."

Sweeney does know a bit about his family history. His father's ancestors immigrated to the United States in 1848, around the time of the potato famine. Sweeney's mother's family came from a small farming community called Six Mile Bridge in County Clare and settled in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1860. Like many Irish who immigrated to the United States during the 19th century, Sweeney's relatives remained in New York and that's where he met and married Cathleen Deery, the daughter of two Irish immi-

grants from Donegal.

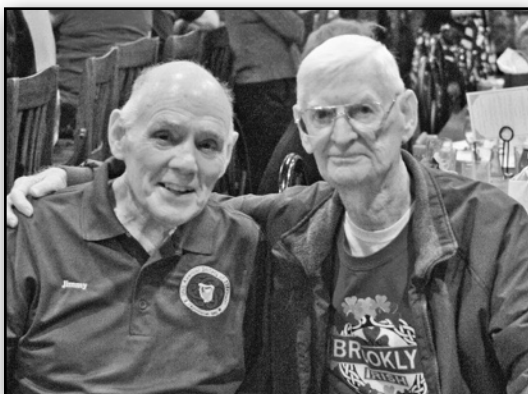
Sweeney has served as the society's treasurer for the past two years and he hopes the membership, currently around 150, will continue to grow.

"We'd like to attract younger members and increase our social agenda," said Sweeney. Currently, the society meets the first Wednesday of the month at the Virginia Beach Central Library.

So what does an Irishman do on St. Patrick's Day? He spends it with fellow Irish, of course. Sweeney said the society is planning a bash at Fort Monroe's officers club this evening, where they'll sing, dance, eat and drink till midnight.

So, if the spirit of the holiday has you green with envy wishing you too could claim Ireland as your homeland, fret not. Sweeney stresses that the Irish American Society of Tidewater isn't just for the Irish.

SOCIETY SHOUT  
OUT!!



## DOWN MEMORY LANE - FOR THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Bill Sweeney was interviewed in the Virginian Pilot on  
March 17, 1995

Photo of Bill and Jim Ramsey  
at the Anniversary Celebration







*Nick Justesen and the Mead table*



*Kate Sandoval & friends*



*Glasgow Kiss (Edward & John)  
with guest Terry Fahey*



*Bill Sweeney & Anne Devereux  
He won Betsy's Gingerbread House!*



*Marian Thomas, Cecilia Thomas, Jim  
Hagerty & ticketmaster Joe Brady*

