



The Irish Connection

The Irish American Society of Tidewater News

December 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:
DECEMBER 1, 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

Fellow Irish American Society members,

What a great meeting we had this past November! After some good discussion and ensuring that a quorum was present, all of the proposed changes to the IAS Bylaws were accepted by the attending membership.

Also at the November meeting, **Brian Collins** gave a fantastic presentation on the history of the Ancient Irish! We hope to have Brian present again in the coming months, so please stay tuned!

The Annual IAS Christmas Ceili will be held in lieu of our normal business meeting on **Thursday, December 1st**. Children, family, and friends are welcome! Please bring a savory or sweet dish to share!

To all of our musician members and friends – We would LOVE to have an open Irish session at the ceili. Bring your instrument(s) to join in!

The IAS will also be carrying on our tradition of the *wreath, centerpiece, and ornament decorating contest* again this year! Please remember the following guidelines when preparing your submission:

Prizes go to the first place winner in each of the three categories:

- (1) Wreaths
- (2) Centerpieces
- (3) Ornaments

- You may enter more than one category.
- Please do NOT put your name on your entry, but see Katie at the ceili for an Entry Number

assignment before displaying your entry.

As this is our last newsletter of 2016, keep in mind that 2017 annual dues will be due this January. Membership forms (for new and renewing members) are available at meetings, on the IAS website, and on the IAS Facebook page. Annual dues have not changed, and are \$20 per person / \$25 per family (in the same household). Among other things, these dues help the IAS produce and send our monthly newsletter, provide beverages at meetings, and pay the rental fee(s) for our monthly meetings.

Please also remember that a nomination form for the 2017 IAS Princesses is now available at meetings and on the IAS Facebook page. A form must be submitted to be considered for IAS Junior (6 - 12), Teen (13 - 19), or Adult (20+) Princess. Please check with the nominee before submitting her name to be sure she (1) would like to be an IAS princess and (2) is able to meet all obligations listed on the nomination form. Nomination forms should be submitted by **Thursday, January 5th**, in person, to the IAS President, **Katie McCrory**, or via e-mail at ias.tidewater@gmail.com.

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Ceili on **December 1st**!



Sláinte,

Katie McCrory

CHKD - CHILD LIFE PROGRAM

CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Please support this program, which accepts donations of arts & craft supplies for hospitalized children. Bring any of the following items to the December Ceili:

- Coloring books(non holiday and non religious)
- Craft glue, Wooden craft kits,
- Crayola paint and markers
- Paint brushes-all sizes
- Hasbro Play-Doh
- Puzzles, Matchbox cars, Lego sets, Mega blocks
- Barbie dolls, Action figures, children's books
- Bubbles, Stickers, Batteries, stress balls

Sturdy items - No glass or brittle plastic or sharp edges.
No stuffed animals due to risk of infection.
No food or candy items.
No violent games or videos.
No guns, swords or fighting figures.
Items must be NEW and NOT be gift wrapped.

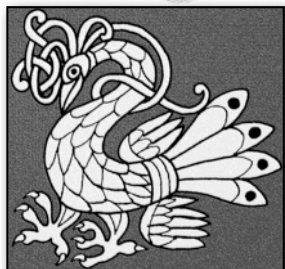
For more information see their website:
www.chkdp.org/Support-Us/Other-Ways-to-Give/Donate-to-Child-Life





The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614
Virginia Beach, VA
23450



OFFICERS

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Sr. Vice President

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Membership

Betsy Kennedy

Sergeant-at-Arms

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HOSPITALITY

Volunteers Needed

NEWSLETTER

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lorishea@aol.com

Sunshine Bulletin

email Lori Shea

INTERNET NEWS

Vera Dotson

WEBMASTER

Michael Lawler

WEB SITE

IRLUSA.org

look for us on Facebook!



MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER 2016

- ♣New Members: Katherine rejoined, welcome back.
- ♣Sunshine news: Lori Shea & Mike Lawler's Aunt has passed away October 12th, and, at the time of this meeting, Marian Thomas is in Hospice at home.
- ♣UPCOMING Events: Christmas Ceili- Thursday, December 1 (7-9) @ the church of ascension, with wreath decorating contest. No business Meeting.
- ♣Tickets soon available for Finnegan's Wake,- Saturday March 11, 2017
- ♣Financial report: opening balance, 3353.63. Rent-50.00, printing-482.00, Incorporated fee, Hospitality, envelopes. Income- 50/50 and dues-142.00 with a remaining balance of 3011.88
- ♣Old Business: Voting on new wording for proposed changes to the by-laws
- ♣Do we have a quorum for voting – yes we did.
- ♣Timmy the donkey received the donation made last month and we received a personal letter from his owners.
- ♣2017 Membership forms & 2017 Princess Nomination forms are available
- ♣Tonight's program – History of the Ancient Irish- thank you Brian Collins!
- ♣Thanks to all those who brought desserts this month.

submitted by: Cheryl Brown

FINNEGAN'S WAKE

Saturday, March 11, 2017

Church of the Ascension
4853 Princess Anne Rd,
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Tickets:

\$15 for Adults

\$10 for Children Under 12

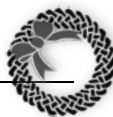
Tickets will be sold at the
January and February meetings
No tickets will be sold after March 1st!
No tickets reserved without payment.



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Marian Thomas passed away on Friday, November 4, 2016. A Mass to celebrate her life was held at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia Beach on Friday, November 11th. Marian was a longtime member, joining the Irish American Society of Tidewater in 2007. Her beautiful smile and spirit will be greatly missed.





SOCIETY SHOUT-OUT

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Mary & John Ryan celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in November. They were married in St. Mary's Church, Greenwich Ave., Greenwich CT. on November 19, 1966



CONGRATULATIONS!

The Chesapeake Sports Club recently held its monthly meeting at the Chesapeake Conference Center. **Gene Batten** was inducted as the **82nd Legend of Honor**. The Chesapeake Sports Club Legends of Honor Award was established to recognize and honor former outstanding athletes, coaches and individuals for their athletic performance, leadership and/or contributions to athletics in Chesapeake. Congratulations, Gene!

submitted by Catherine Twomey



THANK YOU TO BRIAN COLLINS

At the November meeting, **Brian Collins** gave a fantastic presentation on the history of the Ancient Irish! We hope to have Brian present again in the coming months, so please stay tuned!





This year's Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Highland Games in late October was blessed with glorious fall weather. Not too hot, not too cold, and no rain! There was a great turn out on both days of people who were there enjoying the food, fun, music, and culture. IAS members Cheryl Brown, Donna Looney-McGlynn, and Eileen King got some good shopping done at the Celtic vendors on sight. There truly was something for all ages at this fantastic event. Many thanks to Stokes McCune and the other organizers, and we will be back again as always next fall!

CENTRAL VIRGINIA CELTIC FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES



Long-time IAS members Scott Macgregor and Sandy Macgregor hold down the Macgregor tent on Clan Row while keeping an eye on the rest of us!



IAS Adult Princess 2007 Erin Morrissey brought beagle boy Breccan (Gaelic for speckled) up for the day. The CVCF&HG is very dog-friendly. All dogs have to be on leads, and the owners must show proof of vaccinations for each dog at the gate.



Our friends in the Richmond Irish American Society were there as always with their fabulous double tent set up at the top of Clan Row!



IAS Past President Lynnette Fitch Brash enjoying the weekend with hubby Edward at one of their favorite events of the year!

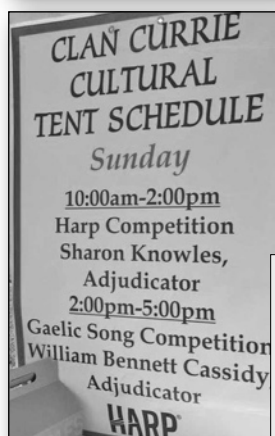




Our own Glasgow Kiss put on great sets for the crowd on both Saturday and Sunday afternoons!



The Fighting Jamesons were the musical headliners this year, and they did not disappoint!



This was the first year a Gaelic Song contest has been held at the CVCF&HG, and we hope that it continues! It joins the Irish feis, Highland dance competition, Irish fiddle contest, Scottish fiddle contest, piping competitions, and Scottish heavy athletic competitions already held each year at this event.



Edward Brash was convinced at the last minute to enter the Gaelic Song competition, and he won third place! Not too shabby!



Heather Hanchett Burns & the other awesome peeps in the Irish Wolfhound Association of the Mid South were there all weekend with their fur babies educating people about this glorious Irish breed! I should have taken a picture on Saturday when IAS Paddy Pack member Rebecca Conti was there with her wolfies!





HURLEY HAPPENINGS



Submitted by Lynnette Fitch Brash

As 2016 draws to a close, the time has come for me to give out a few 2016 CnamB President's Awards to deserving members of our local Gaelic games organizations. The physical tokens are being made (at my personal expense, so no need for a fundraiser!), and I will distribute them once they are ready. The awardees are people who, in my opinion and from my vantage point, really brought the best of the Irish sporting tradition and culture to our camogie club as well as to the local Irish community and the greater GAA universe. Congratulations to **Riley Smith, Breana Ryan, Donna Looney-McGlynn, Betsy Power, & Andrew Speer**, and thank you each for setting such excellent examples for us all!

My husband **Edward** and I founded **Cumann na mBan Camogie Club** in the fall of 2014. I was elected CnamB President for 2015 and again for 2016. Edward and I made the decision to form Cumann na mBan Camogie Club based upon several important founding principles:

1. To have a club that was dedicated to the sport of **camogie**, as opposed to "female hurling".
2. To form a Gaelic games organization that was committed to supporting and promoting Irish culture in our area in a dignified manner **respectful of the GAA heritage**.
3. To make sure the women's club was completely inclusive of **all** ages, ethnicities, and fitness/ability levels.
4. To create a women's club that was governed entirely separately from the Hampton Roads Hurling Club (HRHC), **by women and for women**.



DONNA LOONEY-MCGLYNN --the **COUNTESS MARKIEVICZ Leadership Award** for 2016 for her diligent & unselfish efforts to get the Coastal Virginia GAA up & running for the benefit of all local Irish sports including CnamB CAMOGIE CLUB.



RILEY SMITH -- the **MARGARET SKINNIDER "Young Gun"** Award for 2016 for superlative athleticism playing for CnamB CAMOGIE CLUB.



BRIANA RYAN -- the **HELENA MOLONEY Irish Culture Award** for 2016 for her active embrace of all things Irish including CnamB CAMOGIE CLUB.



ANDREW SPEER - the **757 VA 2016 IRISH SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR**



BETSY POWER - the **757 VA 2016 IRISH SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR**

5. To maintain a positive and synergistic working relationship with the HRHC based upon mutual respect and **equality**.

As most of you know, Edward and I had the amazing opportunity to move to Glasgow, Scotland, in late December 2015, and we were there until early August 2016. Prior to that, we were at every Saturday and Tuesday camogie practice for 14 straight months, from CnamB's very first practice on November 1st, 2014, through December 26th, 2015, with the exception of a few weeks when we were in Canada and Ireland. Edward as Bainisteoir (Head Coach) lugged the CnamB stick bag and CnamB helmet bag to every single practice while we were in Virginia. I brought the team banner to most practices and to every tournament CnamB attended and to every fall camogie league match of the 2015 season where I personally made sure it was proudly and visibly displayed.

Those of you who know us, know we love the sports of camogie and hurling. Those of you who were in CnamB in 2014 and/or 2015 know that we devoted countless amounts of time, personal money, energy, talent, blood, sweat, and tears to the creation, expansion, protection, and promotion of CnamB. I personally recruited quite a few camogs and spent large amounts of my practice time working one-on-one with newbies to make sure they learned proper fundamentals. Edward advocated for the camogs and CnamB constantly and also sacrificed his own playing time with the HRHC to coach CnamB in tournaments. We care deeply about CnamB Camogie Club and want it to be worthy of its important Irish name.

Best of luck to the 2017 Bord Cruinn of CnamB. We hope the future has great things in store for the entire club.

Slán agus gach rath ort amach anseo!



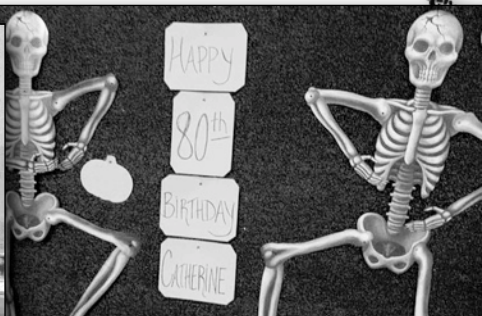
Lynnette Fitch Brash
CnamB Founder & Immediate Past President

Edward Brash
CnamB Founder & Immediate Past Bainisteoir

Andrew and Betsy both put the good of the team before selfish concerns, they show great enthusiasm & commitment to the sports of hurling & camogie, and they are extremely supportive of their sister/brother GAA clubs.



A HALLOWEEN BIRTHDAY PARTY
FOR CATHERINE TWOMEY
OCTOBER 29, 2016





IAS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CEILI

Thursday, December 1st
7PM - 9PM (Doors Open at 6:30PM)
Church of the Ascension Community Center
4853 Princess Anne Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23462



*Join the Irish American Society for our annual Christmas Ceili!!!
Children, family, and friends are welcome!
Please bring a dish (savory or sweet) to share!
Musicians – Bring your instruments to participate in a fun,
informal session!*

Wreath, Centerpiece, & Ornament Decorating Contest Guidelines

- All entries must be handmade.
- Prizes go to the first place winner in each of the three categories.
- You may enter more than one category.
- Please do NOT put your name on your entry, but see Katie at the ceili for an Entry Number assignment before displaying your entry.

CELTIC KIDS CORNER

COLOR ME IRISH

DECORATE THE CHRISTMAS TREE...

... and LEARN IRISH GAELIC

Nollaig Shona:
(pronounced Null-eg hunna)

Happy Christmas! / Merry Christmas!

Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhuit:
(pronounced ah-vleen fwee vosh-ah ghwitch)

Happy New Year!

