



The Irish Connection

The Irish American Society of Tidewater News January 2017

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 5, 2017

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,

Happy New Year!!! I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and holiday season!

The Annual IAS Christmas Ceilidh held on December 1st was a huge success and so much fun! Thank you to everyone who attended! You all donated so much for both the children at CHKD and the Church of the Ascension's food pantry and I am so grateful for such an incredible membership. Special thanks to our musicians **Edward Brash, Amanda Dailey, and Corey Roy**, to **Mary Anne Brady and Lynnette Fitch Brash** who won prizes for their gorgeous centerpiece and ornament entries, and to **Debra Taylor-Kelly and Caroline Morse** for providing the fun Christmas Shoppe! Also, a huge thank you to everyone who helped set up and clean up!!!

I am looking forward to seeing you all in the new year at our next monthly meeting on **Thursday, January 5th**. Along with discussing upcoming business for 2017, **Eileen King Walker** will be giving a presentation on her summer trip to Isle of Sky, Scotland. Eileen was the 2016 selectee for the **IAS Thomas Henry Porter Memorial Scholarship**. The board will be presenting her with a scholarship check for a Gaelic course she took at Sabhal Mor Ostaig in Isle of Sky.

The new year also means that 2017 annual dues are now due. Membership forms (for new and

renewing members) are available in this newsletter, 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.

It seems hard to believe, but March festivities are now right around the corner!!! Our largest annual celebration and fundraiser, **Finnegan's Wake**, is scheduled for **Saturday, March 11th** at the Church of the Ascension. Tickets will be on sale beginning at the March meeting, and they will go FAST. Tickets cost \$15 for Adults and \$10 Children under 12.

Mark your calendars for the 50th Annual **Norfolk St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 18th** as well! We will need volunteers to carry flags, join the Paddy Pack (for all of our dog lovers), and represent the IAS in the parade!

Please also remember that a nomination form for the 2017 IAS Princesses is 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 our next meeting **Thursday, January 5th**, in person, to the IAS President, **Katie McCrory**, or via e-mail at ias.tidewater@gmail.com.

Can't wait to see you **January 5th!**



Sláinte,
Katie McCrory

The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614
Virginia Beach, VA
23450



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look for us on Facebook!

ANNUAL IAS
CHRISTMAS CEILIDH
DECEMBER 1, 2016





Irish Medieval History
@Medieval.Ireland

IRISH HOUNDS FROM IRISH MEDIEVAL HISTORY on Facebook

You ain't nothin but a Hound Dog! The ancient Irish had a marked preference for naming their warriors after the wolf-dog or wolf-hound. The Irish

word for hound / wolf-hound is "con" (genitive) and is found today in many popular surnames and forenames including O'Connor, Connolly / Conneely, Conroy, Connaughton, O'Connell, Connery, Confray, Conalty and forenames like Conan, Conor, Conn, Connell and many more. In contrast our continental neighbours did not have Irish wolf hounds so they named their warriors after the wolf and this is found in names like Ulf, Rudolph, Ralph, Raúl, Adolf, Lovell and even female names like Ulrica, Ralphina and Otsana.

The word "con" is not meant to be translated literally as it was used figuratively to mean a warrior. The name of the famous mythical warrior defenders of Ireland in ancient times, na Fianna is found in the current emblem of the Irish army. It literally translates as "deers" because stags engage in battle in the rutting season but the term has for centuries been used figuratively to mean soldier. In fact the word "soldier" in English comes from French through Latin and literally means just "solid". Solidus was the name of a Roman gold coin meaning it was made of solid gold and used to pay warriors. They worked for a Solidus and the name stuck. In fact many of the words which we use today we use in the figurative sense rather than the literal sense. It bedevils our attempts to understand history and even the law. For example the word "adventure" is also from French and its earlier meaning was "to risk one's life". We of course do not think we are risking our life going on an adventure or even going into hospital. When we die of a medical mishap, the legal term used is "medical misadventure", thus going on the literal meaning, to receive medical treatment is to risk one's life!

So now we know about figurative meanings we are better able to decipher Irish surnames.

Connor: Irish from Conchobar literally meaning wolf/hound lover but really meaning patron of the warriors.

Conroy: Irish from Con Rí – king of the warriors lit. king of the wolfhounds

Connolly / Conneely: Irish from Conghaile valourous warrior.

Connell: Irish from Conghal (literally wolf/hound valour) fierce as a wolf-hound.

Folan: Irish from Faolán composed of the word faol "wolf" and a diminutive suffix, hence "little wolf."

Pheelan: Irish from Fáelán: Variant spelling of Irish Gaelic Faolán, meaning "little wolf."

Continental names similar to the Irish "con/ faol" names...

Ulrica: Feminine form of Middle English Ulric, meaning "wolf power."

Randy: Pet form of English Randall and Randolph, both meaning "shield-wolf."

Rannulf: Frankish German form of Old Norse Ránulfr, meaning "plundering wolf."

Alf / Adolf: Modern contracted form of Old High German Adalwolf, meaning "noble wolf."

Ethelwolf: Variant spelling of Anglo-Saxon Æthelwulf, meaning "noble wolf."

Lovell: English from Lowell derived from the Old Norman French byname Louvel, meaning "little wolf."

Raúl: Spanish form of German Radulf, meaning "wise wolf."

Rudolf: Modern form of Old High German Hrodwulf, meaning "famous wolf."

Rudi: Pet form of German Rudolf, meaning "famous wolf."

Ulf: Scandinavian form of Old Norse Ulfr, meaning "wolf."



Image: Fionn MacCumhaill and his Hounds A sculpture by Lynn Kirkham located on the Roundabout at Ballymany, Newbridge Co. Kildare. Exit 12 off the M7 motorway.

ANNUAL IAS
CHRISTMAS CEILIDH
DECEMBER 1, 2016





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FRESH EIRE

Submitted by Lynnette Fitch Brash

On November 16th, 2016, I attended my 26th **Easter Rising Centenary** event. Earlier in the year, I had attended 1916 commemorative events in Ireland, Scotland, and England, but this was my first one in North America. I was invited to this one as an alumna of **University College Dublin**, where I went to graduate school in Ireland. UCD was hosting a forum in Washington, DC, in collaboration with the **US Embassy of Ireland** called **AMERICA AND IRELAND: RE-IMAGINING PRIORITIES AND OUR COMMUNITY**. I took as my guest my friend **Tonya Harmon**, who has done consulting work in Ireland and has flirted with the idea of opening her own business there.

The first part of the event was a panel discussion called **IRISH AMERICA TOMORROW: RE-IMAGINING OUR COMMUNITY**. As per the event invitation, "This panel will discuss lessons learnt from the Ireland 100 celebrations, the changing nature of the Irish American connection, and the current demographics and perspectives of Irish America."

Panel 1 was chaired by **H.E. Anne Anderson**, the Ambassador of Ireland to the United States of America. Among the interesting comments she made that I noted was that there were more than three hundred 1916 Centenary events in the US that the Irish Embassy is aware of! The Embassy also organized a three-week festival of Irish culture at the Kennedy Center in DC earlier this year called **Ireland 100**. This was the largest festival of Irish culture ever held outside of Ireland! She also talked about the new position created in the Irish government, the **Minister for the Diaspora**, intended to strengthen and preserve the connection to Ireland not only for expats but also for people of Irish descent.

Also on Panel 1 was **Niall O'Dowd**, founder of *Irish Central.com*, *Irish America* magazine, and *The Irish Voice* newspaper and recipient of a Distinguished Service Award from Irish President **Michael D. Higgins**. Niall stated that "Ireland as a brand is unbeatable" and made it clear he feels Ireland has a huge advantage over other European countries in terms of attracting investment. Niall said that the emotional connection to Ireland is how you engage with Irish Americans. He talked about how the first generation Irish American head of the CIA (**John Brennan**) launched into a discussion about Roscommon Gaelic Football when asked about his father during an interview a month ago.

Next to talk on Panel 1 was **Maureen Murphy**, an American academic who is Co-Director of the undergraduate Irish Studies minor at Hofstra University and also Director of the **Great Irish Famine Curriculum Project** for the New York State Department of Education. She discussed the **Emerald Isle Immigration Center** (which helps ALL immigrants, not just the Irish) and the **Aisling Center for Seniors**. She was very active in organizing the 1916 Commemorations that took place in NY on April 24th, the actual date of the Easter Rising. They held a Symposium on 7 State Street, where **Rose McDermott**, sister of executed 1916 leader **Sean McDermott**, worked that addressed the neglected women of 1916. Maureen discussed how the **Irish County Associations** were directly involved in raising money for the rebellion in 1916 and how Irish Americans have always played key roles in Ireland in such things as the peace process in



Northern Ireland. To continue this tradition, she felt it was important to create a cohort of American students who have studied in Ireland. I agree!!!

Next up for Panel 1 was **Celine Kennelly**, who is head of the **San Francisco Irish Immigration Pastoral Center** and also President of the 11 IIPC across the United States. She talked about building bridges between Irish American and Irish youth via **Global Irish Summer Camps**, **GAA Cul Camps**, and **GAA Féile Tournaments**. She also mentioned that the Irish have a large number of *undocumented* and thus scared and vulnerable immigrants in the US, and that the Irish and Irish American communities were going to need to take leadership roles in 2017 to push the new US administration for fair immigration reform. She also discussed lobbying for an Irish "future flow visa", which the Australian government successfully obtained. Finally, she talked about how the IIPC needs to function reciprocally and help Irish Americans attempting to emigrate to Ireland as well as Irish attempting to immigrate here.

Steve Lenox, president of **Irish Network USA**, spoke next for Panel 1. The purpose of his group is to do Global Irish/Irish Diaspora outreach. As an American married to an Irish woman, he started this group in Chicago and then launched in other big Irish cities such as NYC, Boston, etc. There are now 22 chapters across the US.

Liam Kennedy, Professor of American Studies at the **UCD Clinton Institute**, finished out Panel 1. He was absolutely fascinating and talked about how both the US presidential election and Brexit were at least partly a referendum on globalization. Edward and I were living in Scotland when Brexit happened, so I found his discussion of this especially riveting.

The second part of the event was another panel discussion, this one called **PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION**. As per the event invitation, "This panel will discuss current issues in the diplomatic, political, and economic relations between Ireland and the US, with a view to understanding some of the factors that will shape policy in the next four years."

Panel 2 was also quite interesting, but it was focused more on politics and government as opposed to the legacy of the 1916 commemorations. Three of the panelists from Panel 2 were quite brilliant and worth the drive up and back just to hear each of them: **Donal Donovan**, Deputy Director of the **IMF (Ret)**; **Jack Horgan Jones**, Business Correspondent with the **Sunday Business Post (Ireland)**; and **Tom Wright**, a fellow and director at the **Brookings Institute**. WOW!!! What a treat to be in the presence of such scintillating intellects!

From 5:30-7:30 pm there was a wine reception with a reading from the award-winning Irish poet **Martin Dyar**, who was Sligo-born but Mayo-raised. He attended University College Galway and Trinity, and has also been a writer-in-residence at the University of Iowa.



CV CORNER



Thanks to **Heather Hanchett Burns** for this quick and easy holiday (or every day!)

PEANUT BUTTER DOG TREATS recipe for
our IAS Paddy Pack members!



See the video here: www.facebook.com/AmericanKennelClub/videos/10153404257064121/.

Preheat over to 350 degrees F.

Beat 2 eggs, 3/4 pumpkin puree (no sugar added), and 3 scoops peanut butter (without xylitol in ingredients). Mix in 3 cups of flour, a bit at a time. A dough will form. Roll out the dough. With cookie cutters, cut the dough into shapes of a size appropriate for your dog. Place "cookies" on a cookie sheet. Bake for 20 minutes. Let cool. Treat the fur babies and watch them enjoy! :)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE IAS PADDY PACK!!

Hear all the latest about our Hibernian hounds!
Feel free to submit news and/or pictures relating to
Irish breed or Irish-owned dogs!

*Irish Wolfhound Association
of the MidSouth*



Maggie Morse



Murphy McCrory



Falchion & Erin Morrissey



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.



CELTIC KIDS CORNER



COLOR ME IRISH

LEARN IRISH GAELIC

Happy New Year!

Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhuit:

(pronounced ah-vleen fwee vosh-
ah ghwitch)

Midnight:

(pronounced mi-ahn- ee-heh)

Meán-Oíche