



The Irish Connection

The Irish American Society of Tidewater News

August 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:
AUGUST 3, 2017
AT GRACE O'MALLEY'S**

Meetings are held the first Thursday of the 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

To my fellow Irish American Society members:

I am writing this letter coming off an exciting weekend for the Tidewater Irish! Saturday, July 22 was the 3rd annual Coastal Virginia Cup (CVC) Hurling & Camogie Tournament, and while it was insanely hot, it was also exciting to see so many locals and visitors out celebrating and participating in the national sport of Ireland, hurling and camogie!

During the opening ceremonies, Mr. Joe Gavin, Justice and Home Affairs Counsellor from the Irish Embassy, spoke about how important the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) is to every city and village in Ireland and how happy it makes him to see the GAA and Irish culture spread to places like Hampton Roads. Standing there, listening to Mr. Gavin speak, I was reminded of the importance of our Irish heritage organizations in the United States. In a world of information overload, where every question can be Googled and misinformation can spread like wildfire, the responsibility to pass on nuanced and true depictions of our Irish American history and heritage falls to the people and organizations who put value in that tradition. I thank each and every person reading this because you are part of that tradition, and I encourage you to continue to share your stories and your passion.

If you weren't able to come out to the CVC, don't worry! We have plenty of events coming up!!!

The August business meeting will **NOT** be at Church of the Ascension. Instead, on **Thursday, August 3rd**, we will be having an informal night out at **Grace O'Malley's Irish Pub & Restaurant**, 211 Granby Street, Norfolk, VA 23510 at **6:30PM**. There will be a portion of the dining room reserved for our group, so mention you're with the IAS when you arrive. Please feel free to bring friends and family members! The more the merrier!

Our next official membership meeting will be **Thursday, September 7th** back at the Church of the Ascension. Our reigning IAS Princess, **Sandy**

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Archer, traveled to Ireland, Scotland, and Wales in May and will be presenting a photo journal of Ireland as seen from a first-time visitor at the September meeting. It should be a fun presentation! I would also love to do a little ceili dancing during the social portion of the evening, so please wear comfortable clothes and shoes!

The annual **Celtic Cousins Picnic**, hosted by the Scottish Society of Tidewater, St. Andrew's Society of Tidewater, and Irish American Society of Tidewater, will be **Saturday, September 16th, 1PM – 5PM**, at the Church of the Ascension Picnic Shelter (in front of the church). The societies will supply the burgers, hot dogs, buns, and condiments. Please bring a side or dessert to share!

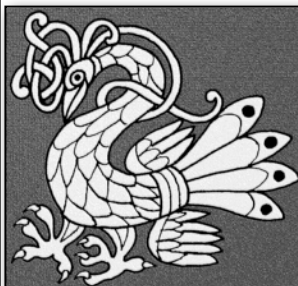
The board is also working on putting together another Irish breakfast and silent auction for a weekend in October, so stay tuned!!!

If you have any issues or ideas that you would like the IAS board to address, please e-mail ias.tidewater@gmail.com. The general membership meetings can sometimes be too short to discuss certain topics, so we welcome members to contact us via e-mail, phone, or during our regular monthly board meetings.

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The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614
Virginia Beach, VA
23450



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER - cont'd. from page 1

I would also like to thank all of our IAS volunteers who braved the sweltering heat to represent the IAS tent at the CVC and all the IAS members/friends who attended the Chipotle fundraiser on Sunday, July 23. From both events, the IAS raised almost \$300 for our organization! A special thanks goes to Mr. **Tim Riley**, President of the local division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, who donated \$50 to the IAS through our bake sale at the CVC.

I look forward to seeing you all soon!



Sláinte,

Katie McCrory



The Libasci Family: (from left) Alyssa (2017 IAS Junior Princess), Dylan, Michelle, Samantha (2017 IAS Teen Princess), Amanda



Katie & Colin McCrory



Kate Sandoval, Mary Ann Brady, Joe Brady with Colin McCrory



At the CVC - Sandy Archer (2017 IAS Princess), Lori Shea, Kate Sandoval

THE PARTING GLASS



Condolences to the family of **Frank Rohde**, who passed away on July 9th. Frank was a long time member of the Irish Society and will be missed. He is survived by his children, David Rohde and Suzette Rohde Buttram, his grandchildren, Jason Buttram (Robyn) and Elizabeth Webb (William), his great grandchild, Freya Buttram, and his long-time, loving companion, Pat Cunningham.



*Of all good times that e'er we shared,
I leave to you fond memory;
And for all the friendship that e'er we had
I ask you to remember me;
And when you sit and stories tell,
I'll be with you and help recall;
So fill to me the parting glass,
God bless, and joy be with you all.*

SOCIETY NEWS



submitted by Jim Hagerty

COOKOUT PLANNED FOR BRUNELL GIRLS BASKETBALL CLUB SUNDAY, AUGUST 13 2017

A few of us IAS members want to do something extra for the **Brunell Ladies Basketball Club** from Cork City, Ireland. They arrive August 8 to attend a basketball camp originally to take place August 10-12 at ODU but which was cancelled. They received an invite to a different camp at a site in Hampton. The IAS has already collected a significant sum of money to help with their transportation between Norfolk and Hampton while here in this area. After wrapping up their basketball camp the previous 3 days, the girls are planning on a visit to the beach on Sunday, August 13. An old-fashioned American-style cookout on Sunday late afternoon would be fun for them. And an additional opportunity for the IAS to get recognition for welcoming these Cork girls to the USA.

We plan to provide hamburgers, hotdogs, buns and condiments. We encourage folks to bring side dishes. And hopefully bring a few bucks to drop in the donation jar to help pay for the burgers & hotdogs and the cost of renting the space at Red Wing Park.

So far it's me, **Teresa Diaz**, **Margaret Buckley** and new friend **Christine Fuhrman** organizing this. If you are interested in helping, please let me know. Even if you can only come with a side dish.

We have reserved **Shelter #3 at Red Wing Park**, 1398 General Booth Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA. Just a short drive from the oceanfront. That way the girls, their families and coaches can join us after their planned day at the beach. We understand there are about 30 in the group.

We need a good headcount to get the right amount of burgers & hotdogs. Please call 757-287-3443 to let us know or with any questions.



The Brunell Ladies Basketball Club from Cork, Ireland, shown last season. Nine of the 11 players shown here will be traveling to Norfolk in August.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Tamara Cervi**, our IAS Adult Princess 2003, and her long-term beau, **Rob Williams**! After almost six years of courtship and globe trotting together, they decided to tie the knot... by running off to Vegas! With all the sadness earlier this year of settling Tamara's mother's estate and also the stresses of buying a house together in Florida, Tamara and Rob decided to keep the wedding fast, fun, and easy. They celebrated afterward with family, but further celebrations will take place as well. We wish them every happiness and a long and healthy life together!



IRISH ABROAD



Submitted by Lynnette Fitch Brash

As many of you know, **Edward** and I are spending 8 weeks this summer in Glasgow, Scotland. During this time, we were lucky enough to be able to finally do a "Grand Tour" of the European continent together. We flew into Amsterdam, rented a car, and visited 8 countries in just under two weeks: Holland, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic! We had mapped out a circular route beginning and ending in Amsterdam, and we created an itinerary of "must sees" along the way. Some people prefer to travel Europe by train, coach tour, or even river cruise, but we really like the autonomy of driving.



Edward enjoying lunch in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Highlights in Holland included visiting the **Anne Frank House**, having an authentic Dutch pancake breakfast, and doing a cocktail cruise on the gorgeous canals of Amsterdam. Highlights in France included visiting the **Vimy Ridge Canadian Memorial**, going to a dinner show at the **Moulin Rouge**, having Parisian fountain style absinthe cocktails and French oysters at a Montmartre café, and doing a cellar tour and tasting at the **Moët & Chandon** champagne house in Épernay. We had the best continental breakfast I have ever seen in my life in Luxembourg – way more than cereal, toast, and yogurt!!! The drive through Bavaria had the most stunning scenery of the entire trip. We learned the most history on the private walking tour of the **Jewish Quarter** in Prague and at the outstanding WWII nazi war crimes trial exhibit at the **Nuremberg Courthouse**. We thoroughly enjoyed all of this and so much more, but some of our favorite memories from the tour were meeting up with old friends who happened



Lynnette waiting to go on the cocktail cruise of the canals in Amsterdam

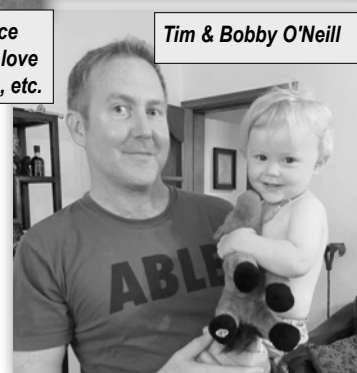
to be either living or visiting in Europe as well – and all three of these meet ups had Irish connections!

The highlight of Belgium definitely was our visit with **Clan O'Neill** at their lovely home on the outskirts of a picturesque village. For newer members who might not know Clan O'Neill, **Tim** was on the IAS board and in the Irish Color Guard, **Kate** was our IAS Adult Princess 2010 and a 2014 founding member of Cumann na mBan Camogie Club, and **Moir** was our IAS Little Miss Princess 2010 and also studied Irish dance in **An Cor Rud** (The Reel Thing School of Irish Dance). Middle child **Finn** was born while they were stationed in Italy and really enjoyed IAS events when they moved back to Virginia Beach from Italy. And youngest child **Bobby** was only a baby when they left Virginia Beach for Belgium, but he is an active toddler now with



Kate & Finn O'Neill

Moir has been ma wee pal since she was a toddler! We share a love of books, unicorns, Irish dance, etc.

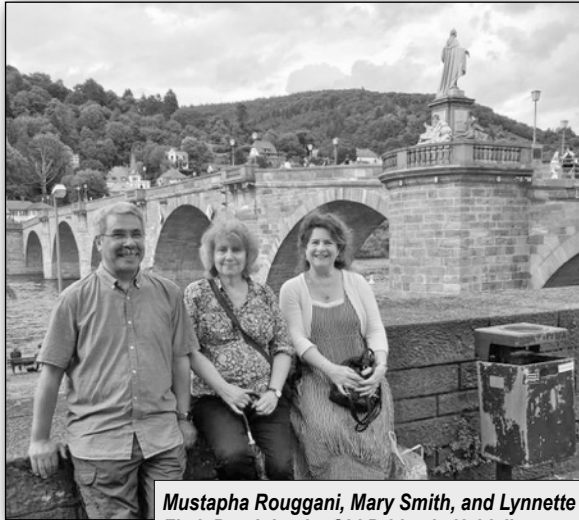


Tim & Bobby O'Neill

his own distinct personality. It was AWESOME to get to catch up with all of them – and Kate's parents, **Shirley & John Collins**, who were over visiting, as a bonus! We even got to see **Ulysses**, the beautiful white stallion who lives in the farmer's field right next door! We are happy to report that Clan O'Neill is thriving and loving their time being stationed in the EU. Fingers crossed that we may see Tim & Kate again this year for Hogmanay in Scotland!

In beautiful Heidelberg, Germany, we met up with our buddy **Mary Smith** and met her long lost but now found love, **Mustapha Rouggani**! Those of you who are longtime IAS members will remember Mary as the very talented Celtic folk singer & musician who performed at our **IAS Halfway to St. Patrick's Day** bash at the KOC hall near the Virginia Beach oceanfront in September 2003. Years before that, Mary and Mustapha met in his native Morocco and fell in love when she was a university undergrad in Heidelberg, but they lost touch after she moved to Paris to continue her education. Life went on, she moved back to America, they married other people and had children, but neither Mary nor Mustapha ever forgot "the one who got away". With marriages ended, children grown, and retirement on the horizon, fate gave them one more chance

to be with the loves of their lives. Mary found Mustapha on Facebook, they reconnected, and it was like they had never been apart. Mary now lives in Germany with Mustapha, giving this story the blissfully happy ending it deserves. If that isn't romantic, I don't know what is! It was absolutely delightful to spend time with both of them, and we look forward to seeing them again on future trips to Germany.



Mustapha Rouggani, Mary Smith, and Lynnette Fitch Brash by the Old Bridge in Heidelberg,

Our final meet up with Irish connections was in Nuremberg, Germany, with my friend **Lisa Walker**, whom I met almost twenty years ago when I started teaching at Tallwood High School. Lisa still works there as the Gifted teacher. As it turns out, Lisa and both her sons have Irish/EU passports because Lisa's mother was born in **County Cork, Ireland**. This was quite useful when her eldest son, **Andrew**, wanted to play professional soccer in Europe after graduating from JMU. Having an EU passport made that much easier. He met, fell in love with, and married a German girl named **Lena**, and they made a home and started a family in Nuremberg. Lisa and her hubby **Robert** spend every school break over in Germany visiting, especially now that they have grandsons **Liam** and **Enda** to spoil! (By the way, are those great Irish names or what?!) It's possible that Lisa and Robert may even live part of each year over in Nuremberg after they both retire. We had a fabulous lunch in Nuremberg with Lisa, Robert, and young Liam – such a treat to spend the afternoon relaxing and talking



Edward & Lynnette Brash and Robert, Lisa, & Liam Walker relaxing at Bratwurst Röslein Restaurant in Nuremberg, Germany

with them in a gorgeous German bier garten/restaurant! It will be great to reminisce with Lisa and Robert once we are all back across the pond in Virginia.

I do have one last Irish detail to report from our Grand Tour of the Continent: we saw AT LEAST one Irish pub in every single city we visited in Europe this summer!!! As my friend and former colleague **Susan Motley** theorized, "The Irish are taking over the world, one pub at a time!" Hey, far worse things could happen!

☺ Sláinte!



Edward & Lynnette Brash on the gorgeous 14th century Charles Bridge in Prague, Czech Republic. Several friends recommended this, including Tamara Cervi, who went to school in Prague. Interestingly, Prague used to be part of Bohemia, and Bohemia was named after a Celtic tribe, the Boii, who lived there during the La Tène period. There is some historic connection between Bavaria and the Boii as well.



Edward paying his respects at Mozart's Birthplace Museum in Salzburg, Austria.



Lynnette paying homage to The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka in front of a statue honoring him in his hometown of Prague in the Czech Republic.



HURLEY HAPPENINGS

submitted by Jackie Trudell

The **Coastal Virginia Gaelic Athletic Association** would like to thank the IAS for all your help in making this years Tournament a success! We greatly appreciate all those the braved the heat to come out and support our team.

Jim Hagerty brought out those beautiful Irish Flags for display. **Joe Gavin** from the Irish Embassy always comments on how impressed he is to see them.

Katie Morse sang the National Anthem and **Connie Smith** sang the Irish Anthem or "Amhrán na bhFiann" showing off their incredible talent !

Also thank you to all who came out to man the Irish Society tent and bake sale.



This year we had teams from Washington DC, Baltimore, MD , Richmond VA, Akron, OH , Rochester , NY , Raleigh NC and Naperville, IL but they couldn't stop either the Coastal Virginia GAA Hurling and Camogie teams captured the 2017 CVC Tournament Championship !

This tournament win is on top of our recent Championship wins in Raleigh NC in June where we again won both the Hurling and Camogie Championship. Both teams have worked really hard this last year for the wins and are looking forward to going on to the MidAtlantic Division Championship.

We were happy to have the 2017 Irish Princess , **Sandy Archer** come out and participate our in the opening ceremonies and meet Joe Gavin from the Irish Embassy.

This year I couldn't be prouder than to announce that one of the Tidewater Irish Society's own members - **Donna Looney-McGlynn** won the **JJ Johnson Volunteer of the Year Award**.

While JJ left big shoes to fill, Donna has stepped up every time the Coastal VA GAA has put the call out for help. Donna is not only the Secretary for the Club, but also was on the 2017 Coastal Virginia Cup Committee for which she organized our BEAUTIFUL opening ceremonies.

Donna has also helped out for all our fundraisers as well as our year end parties !

Congratulations and Thank you Donna !



COASTAL VIRGINIA CUP JULY 22, 2017



**Paul Cannon (Hampton Roads Hurling Club),
Katie McCrory, & Joe Gavin (Irish Embassy)**



**Joe Gavin (Justice and Home Affairs
Counsellor from the Irish Embassy) &
Sandy Archer (2017 IAS Princess)**



Note from Katie:

Congratulations to IAS member **Donna Looney-McGlynn** on receiving the **Coastal Virginia GAA's JJ Johnson Volunteerism Award!** Since joining the CnamB

Camogie Club in 2015, Donna has

worked tirelessly to grow the club while preserving the important historical and cultural aspects of Ireland's national sport.

The JJ Johnson Volunteerism Award was established in honor of Past IAS Vice-President John (JJ) Johnson who we lost unexpectedly last year. As Donna stated, remembering her friend, "JJ was one of the first and most dedicated supporters of COVA's legacy clubs - Coastal Virginia Hurling and CnamB Camogie Club. Were he here today, he would be an equally strong supporter of COVA. Thank you, COVA GAA. This award means a great deal as it represents your appreciation for all our volunteers - and there are so many - and keeps alive the memory of one of our finest!"



EMAIL UPDATES NEEDED



It's important to keep everyone in the Society up to date on events or happenings, especially things that occur between meetings..

If you haven't been getting news we may not have your email address.

The IAS email listing hasn't been updated in a long time. Please let a Board member know at the next meeting or email us at:

ias.tidewater@gmail.com

Please note: The IAS mailing list is never shared or made available to any company. If a you need to contact another member and do not have the email or postal address, please send an email to Lori Shea, newsletter editor, at lorishea@aol.com.

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CELTIC KIDS CORNER

COLOR ME IRISH!



Sliotar (slit-er) a hard solid ball, slightly larger than a tennis ball, consisting of a cork core and covered by two pieces of leather stitched together. The sliotar is used in the national sport of Ireland, hurling (for men) and camogie (for women)!: