



The Irish Connection

The Irish American Society of Tidewater News September 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:
SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

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:

What a month for the Irish! We had a wonderful time at Grace O'Malley's in lieu of our monthly business meeting and enjoyed a fantastic picnic put on for the **Brunell Ladies' Basketball Team**.

There were many volunteers that made the picnic a huge success, but I must give special thanks to **Jim and Michael Hagerty, Margaret Buckley, Teresa and Richard Diaz, and Joe and Mary Ann Brady**. For everyone's efforts, the mayor of Cork even sent the IAS a letter which can be seen in this issue of the newsletter.

There is some very sad news to report, however. Longtime member **Jim Ramsey** passed away peacefully on Wednesday, August 23, 2017. Jim was loved by many, and we will miss him dearly. Our hearts and prayers go out to Jim's family.

I would also like to offer my condolences to our immediate past-president, **Joe Brady**, on the passing of Joe's brother, John. We send all our love to Joe, Mary Ann, and the entire Brady clan.

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

Be sure to also mark your calendars for our next **Irish Breakfast and Silent Auction at Murphy's Grand Irish Pub on Sunday, October 22nd, 11AM – 1PM**. Please RSVP on Facebook or at the next meeting, so we can give Murphy's an accurate headcount. If you have anything you would like to donate for the auction, please contact the board at the meeting or via email: ias.tidewater@gmail.com.

If you have any issues or ideas that you would like the IAS board to address, please e-mail ias.tidewater@gmail.com.

See you on the 7th!



Sláinte,

Katie McCrory

CHKD CHILD LIFE PROGRAM CRAFTS FOR KIDS

Please remember that we will be conducting our quarterly **CHKD Collection** at the September meeting!

Acceptable Donations:

Coloring books, craft glue, wooden craft kits, crayon paint and watercolor paint, markers, paint brushes, play dough, rattles, Fisher Price little people, board games, matchbox cars, Legos, playing cards, action figures, Barbie dolls, puzzles, books, wooden trains, bubbles, stress balls, small pinwheels, stickers, and batteries.

Unacceptable Donations:

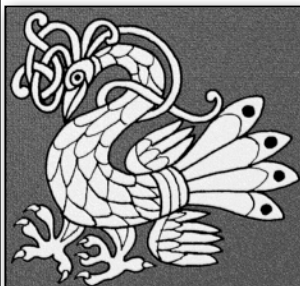
Toys must be new.
No glass, brittle plastic, or sharp edges.
No toys with small removable parts.
No food, candles, knives, razors, latex balloons, medicine, violent toys or video games, or toys/books with religious themes.

For more information see their website:
www.chkld.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

President

Katie McCrory

Jr. Vice President

Caroline Morse

Treasurer

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Recording Secretary
Cheryl Mulliken Brown

Financial Secretary
Sheila Hetherington-Smith

Past President

Joseph Brady

Membership

Betsy Kennedy

Sergeant-at-Arms

Jim Hagerty

HOSPITALITY

Volunteers Needed

NEWSLETTER

Lori Shea, editor
lorishea@aol.com

Sunshine Bulletin

email Lori Shea

INTERNET NEWS

Vera Dotson

WEBMASTER

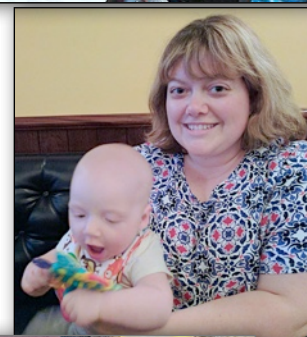
Michael Lawler

WEB SITE

IRLUSA.org
look for us on
Facebook!



IAS AUGUST MEETING
Held at Grace O'Malley's
in Norfolk!



FRESH EIRE

Glasgow Kiss
Fall 2017 Schedule



Tuesday, September 12 th thru Saturday, September 16 th	Grace O'Malley's (Norfolk, VA)	8:00pm (T/W/Th), 9:00pm (F/S)
Friday, September 29 th & Saturday, September 30 th	Grace O'Malley's (Norfolk, VA)	9:00pm
Saturday, October 28 th	Rare Olde Times (Richmond, VA)	8:00pm
Saturday, October 28 th & Sunday, October 29 th	Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival	Times TBA
Tuesday, November 28 th thru Saturday, December 2 nd	Grace O'Malley's (Norfolk, VA)	8:00pm (T/W/Th), 9:00pm (F/S)

Check out our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/GlasgowKissBand/
and 'like' us to get event updates and invitations!





THE PARTING GLASS

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.

Our condolences and prayers are with **Joe Brady** and his family. His brother **John Joseph Brady**, from Poughkeepsie N.Y. passed away suddenly on August 14, 2017. He was one of Joe's six brothers, including, William, his twin Howard, Michael, and KJ. His brother Vincent, a much loved member of the Irish Society, passed away in 2009.

Our gentle giant, **Jim Ramsey**, passed on to join his beloved wife **Nancy** this month. He was an active member of the IAS up to the very end, always ready to lend a hand with any event. He and Nancy were part of the Hospitality Crew and Couple-of-the-Year in 1999. He was a true gentleman, and his twinkly eyes and warm smile will be so missed by all of us. Jim's love of Ireland was lifelong, with both of his parents coming to America from **County Donegal** and Nancy herself coming from **County Clare**. Jim was a superlative friend, a Golden Gloves boxer, and served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 33 years, retiring as a Sergeant Major. But most of all, he was a loving family man. Our deepest condolences to his children, his grandchildren, and his sisters.

By the time this newsletter comes out, Jim's viewing and funeral mass will already have taken place at **St. Nicholas Catholic Church** in Virginia Beach, with bagpipe music performed by **Tom Crouch** of our **Irish Color Guard**. There will be a graveside service with full military honors at **Arlington Cemetery** later. Semper fidelis, Jim, and may "flights of angels sing thee to thy rest".

You can visit this link to read Jim's obituary.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pilotonline/obituary.aspx?n=james-j-ramsey&pid=186494009&fhid=23367>



AN APPRECIATION - JIM RAMSEY

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

interviews by **Mary Ann Bromley**
October 2010

Let's meet ... **JAMES (Jim) RAMSEY**, a member of the I.A.S. since around 1996, when Bob and Bridgett Lukeman told him and his late wife Nancy all about us.

Jim was born in Manhattan, N.Y., March 26, 1931, youngest of 5 children, 2 sisters and 2 brothers. Jim's parents were both born in Donegal. They knew each other in Ireland, but married in America. Jim's dad was an Operator for the N.Y. trolley and subway system. His mother was a full time homemaker. Sadly Jim lost his mom at age 13 and his dad at age 20. In high school, Jim was a member of the Boys Club (Police Athletic League) and was on the boxing team. At age 16, he became a "Golden Glove". After graduating from Samuel Gompers High School, he worked for A & P grocery store as a checker and in the dairy department.

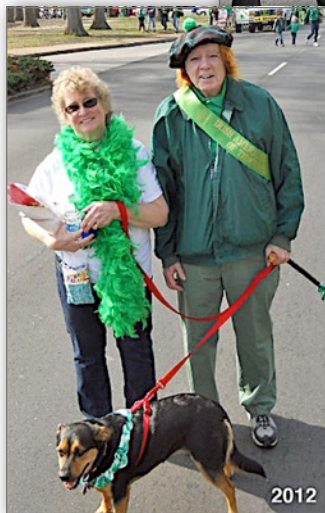
In 1951 he joined the Marine Corps. Boot camp was Paris Island, South Carolina. Jim was in the Infantry and fought in the Korean War. He left the service in 1955. At a house party, he met his future wife Nancy, who was born in County Clare. They married in 1958 in Washington D.C.. Also in 1958, Jim went back into the Marines, stationed at Quantico. He traveled extensively with the service, lived in Rota, Spain, went on 3 Mediterranean cruises, 3 tours of Okinawa, and 3 tours of the Philippines. Jim was sent to Vietnam and fought in the war 1966-1967. He retired as a Sergeant Major in 1985, after serving his country for 33 years. Way to go Jim!!! After leaving the Marines, Jim worked as a Federal Police Officer for 10 years.

He and Nancy were blessed with 2 sons, a daughter and 3 grandchildren. Jim told me he & Nancy would make yearly trips to Ireland. They were married 50 years! How wonderful! Sadly, Nancy passed away in 2008.

Jim is now enjoying his retirement and keeps busy with many volunteer programs. He is a member of KOC, volunteers with the Marine Corps at the V.A. hospital in Hampton, and every Thursday, you will see Jim volunteering at Oceana pharmacy refill clinic. Jim is also an active member at the VFW. Jim is also an usher at St. Nicholas parish. Her still likes to travel and last year he and his daughter enjoyed a trip to Ireland. He enjoys yard work and carpentry work. But what takes up most

of his time is his year old cocker spaniel named "Mr. Bailey"! Ah, a fitting Irish name!!

Jim is an active member of the I.A.S. You will see him not only at our meetings, but Irish breakfasts, picnic's, Christmas parties, etc. We are happy to have Jim with us and hope he stays for many years. We thank him for his years of service to his country. May God bless this wonderful Irish/American man!



IAS HOSTS BRUNELL BASKETBALL TEAM FROM CORK

By Teresa Buckley Diaz

Following a steady bout of rain and weeks of careful planning, the afternoon of Sunday, August 13, 2017, turned out to be a truly memorable experience which is certain to be one for the IAS history books. What started as a small fundraiser in early July transformed into a fantastic star-spangled, traditional American summer cookout for our guests from Ireland, the **Brunell Girls Basketball Team**, their coaches and families.

The plight of the girls from Cork came to the attention of several IAS members who learned of their unfortunate situation from a correspondent for *The Virginian-Pilot*. Two years of planning a trip to America was in jeopardy due to the cancellation of a basketball clinic originally scheduled to be held at Old Dominion University.

An observant and generous member of the **Boo Williams** organization in Hampton came to the rescue and offered the Brunell girls not only a place to play but a tournament where they could compete with American teams. With the finer details needing to be ironed out, the trip to Virginia was back on for mid-August!

Once again, the *Pilot* picked up the team's story. After learning of the unforeseen transportation expense for traveling to the Peninsula from ODU where the team was based, IAS member **Michael Hagerty** suggested to his father, Jim, that the society consider reaching out to the team in some way. Jim made an announcement at the July society meeting and in less than 10 minutes, \$400 was collected. Given the overwhelming outpouring of support shown by the IAS membership in attendance, the idea of hosting a meal for our Irish sisters and brothers was born.

For the next six weeks plans were formed, lists were made, tasks were delegated and duties carried out. The August IAS meeting at **Grace O'Malley's** led us to the discovery that



Margaret Buckley welcomed our Irish guests.



Jim Hagerty talks about the Society and its history.

they, too, were supporting the team by way of a fundraiser and hosting the group for dinner.

The team and their entourage – almost 30 in all - arrived in Norfolk on Tuesday, the 9th. After exploring the city and being treated to a fine evening on Wednesday, they traveled to Hampton on Thursday to participate in the tournament. They played their hearts out for the next two days and made their way to Virginia Beach on Sunday.

It was a picture perfect weather day and a welcome respite from the summer heat. A lovely breeze blew in just as the girls arrived, setting in motion the row of spinning pinwheels which lined a portion of the driveway in Red Wing Park. The picnic shelter was festively decorated with the society's Irish county flag collection and the site encircled with small American flags. The tables were adorned with red, white and blue decorations galore including bead necklaces, friendship bracelets, American flag keychains and



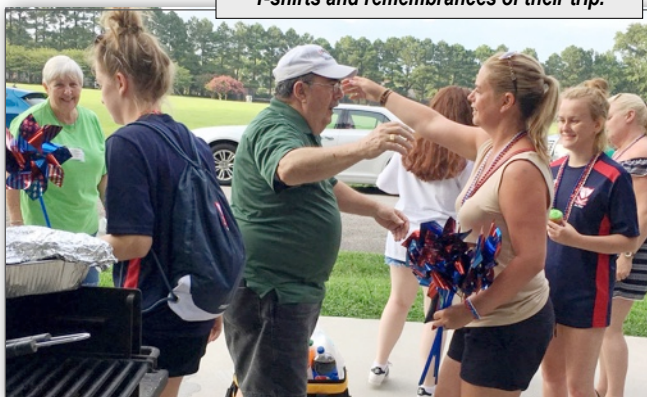
President Katie McCrory & Treasurer Kate Sandoval present coaches Kevin Harris and Kiernan O'Leary with a check on behalf of the IAS to help defray their expenses.



other
small



Joe & Mary Ann Brady present the girls with T-shirts and remembrances of their trip.



mementos intended for our guests to take back to Ireland as souvenirs of their time with us.

Elated IAS members greeted the group with a rousing welcome as they arrived and introductions were made all around. The atmosphere was jubilant as the moment we had anxiously waited for was finally here!

A short program followed with **Jim Hagerty** sharing the society's history and mission. **Margaret Buckley** provided a warm welcome to our Irish guests and told of her mother leaving Cork as a young girl to immigrate to America. She shared of the Buckley family's steadfast allegiance to Ireland and the sense of pride of being a first-generation Irish descendant.

IAS President **Katie McCrory** and Treasurer **Kate Sandoval** joined Jim in the presentation of a check for \$500 to the Brunel coaches on behalf of the society and other community members who rallied together to help defray the team's expenses. Each girl on the team was presented with IAS society patches by Katie and an individual gift bag which were donated by the Brady family. **Joe Brady** presented Coaches **Kevin Harris** and **Kiernan O'Leary** with pocket watches. The coaches were overwhelmed with gratitude and thanked everyone for the outpouring of support. They then gifted the IAS with pins and pens from Cork and a letter to the IAS from the Lord Mayor of Cork.

continued on page 6



Continued from page 5

Following the blessing of the food, a lovely spread of American fare was enjoyed by all. The feast included hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, chips, cupcakes, apple pie and ice cream.

The Brunell girls were humble and sweet; their families were gracious and clearly overwhelmed. There was no shortage of laughter, smiles and true Irish fellowship for the next several hours which included lots of photos and great conversation. It was just like a reunion of old friends; even familiar connections were made. Several of the adults from Cork actually knew of cousins and other living kin of some IAS members!

As the girls departed, there was an abundance of hugs and thanks all round. Group pictures were taken. The girls were drawn to the spinning pinwheels and politely asked if they could take them as further reminders of the day. One mother relayed she'd like one for a family grave site in Ireland. With the pinwheels in tow, they were off on the final leg of their American adventure: a road trip to our nation's capital where they'd immerse in history and culture before returning to the motherland.

A huge thanks is due to all those from the IAS and the Hampton Roads community for making this an amazing, memorable event. The IAS membership represented a fine showing. New IAS friends **AnneMarie Donahue** and her son, **Frankie**, along with **Ms. Christine Fuhrman** are owed thanks for their hard work preparing, cooking and supporting the IAS for this epic afternoon. Much appreciation to the **Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau** for their contribution of the decorations, the remains of which were donated to the Green Run ROTC for future events. To those who donated, pitched in, attended and embraced our guests with the true spirit of the Irish, thank you.

Last but not least, there was one man who was involved – knee deep – in making the day a reality. From the very first twinkle in his eye when sharing the idea of a taking up a collection, to securing the park shelter, cheering the team during the tournament and pitching in to help clean up after the event ended, **Jim Hagerty** is owed our sincerest gratitude and our continued utmost respect. A true gentleman and fine Irishman: Jim, we deeply thank and salute you!



Irish American Society
Virginia Beach
Virginia
USA

27th July 2017.

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CORCAIGH T12 T997

LORD MAYOR'S ROOM
CITY HALL
CORK T12 T997

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Web: www.corkcity.ie

LETTER OF GREETING FROM THE LORD MAYOR OF CORK

Dear Irish American Society,

As Lord Mayor of Cork it gives me great pleasure to convey to you warmest greetings from Cork.

This letter is being presented to you by Brunell Basketball Club from Cork who are traveling to Virginia for team camp.

Brunell Basketball Club are very much looking forward to visiting Virginia. I would like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to organize a cook out and welcoming Brunell Basketball Club.

Kindest regards and best wishes from Cork

Is mise le mór mheas,

CLLR. TONY FITZGERALD,
ARDMHÉARA CHORCAÍ,
LORD MAYOR OF CORK.



CU CORNER



Hear all the latest about our Hibernian hounds!

Feel free to submit news and/or pictures
relating to Irish breed or Irish-owned dogs!

Submitted by *Lynnette Fitch Brash*

Here are some fabulous hounds from the **Irish Wolfhound Association of the Mid South (IWAMS)** really showing all of us how to enjoy the "dog days of summer"!

The fetching **Demelza** (named after the beautiful and headstrong heroine of the Cornish *Poldark* franchise books and two *Masterpiece Theatre* series) enjoys the breeze at the front of the boat while her mom, **Tina Jones Keener**, steers it



across the lake. Photo cred to Demelza's dad, **Robert Keener**, who was evidently IN the lake with a waterproof camera!



Demelza has had quite the exciting summer; she made her stage debut in Knoxville, TN, in a production of Shakespeare's *Two Gentleman of Verona*! The picture of her performing was taken by **Ted Vallejos**.

Read more about her in this article, "Two Comedies and a Dog: It's Summer's *Shakespeare on the Square*"!

www.knoxnews.com/story/entertainment/2017/07/07/two-comedies-and-dog-its-summers-shakespeare-square/448271001/

Caitlin Condon took the two fun pix of wolfies **Saoirse** and **Henry** frolicking on the beach in lovely Hilton Head, South Carolina. Looks like an awesome play date! Nothing like a beach holiday for recharging the batteries, both human AND canine.



Even if your summer was more "staycation" than vacation, **Lucy Hanbury Moneymaker's** handsome wolfhound **Branigan** shows a great tried-'n'-true way to beat the heat in your own backyard!



SOCIETY NEWS



Our own **Kate Sandoval** won 1st place in the **Virginia Pilot's Dream Team Baking Contest** on August 26th, She will now be entered into the Virginia State Fair in September.
Congratulations, Kate!



Calligraphy Class

Beginning & Intermediate Italic and More
Wednesday, September 13, 2017

This will be a mixture of beginning and advanced calligraphy.

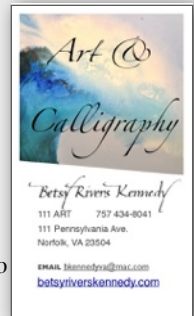
\$150. for Beginning Students for all 6 weeks

This includes pen, nibs, ink and paper).
\$125. for Intermediate Students who have pens for the Italic hand.

For details, please check the website,
www.betsyriverskennedy.com.

The deadline for signing up is September 6, to give me a chance to order the necessary supplies.

To insure a spot for the class, please call **Betsy Kennedy** at 757-434-8041 Or email her at bkennedyva@mac.com.
Your check will secure your place.



**IAS COOKOUT
AUGUST 13, 2017**



Joe Brady leads the team in a round of "Simon Says"



Kevin Harris and Kiernan O'Leary present Kate & Katie with a letter from the Lord Mayor of Cork.



Margaret Buckley welcomed our Irish guests.

