



The Irish Connection

The Irish American Society of Tidewater News

February 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:
FEBRUARY 2, 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,

Thank you who all attended our first meeting of 2017!!! It was so nice to see everyone after the holidays and to welcome a few new faces.

I would like to give special thanks to **Eileen King Walker** who gave a presentation on her summer trip to Isle of Sky, Scotland. While in Scotland, Eileen took an advanced Scottish Gaelic class at the college of Sabhal Mor Ostaig. The college stressed full immersion, so students were expected to use Gaelic for everything from ordering breakfast to asking questions. Eileen was the 2016 selectee for the IAS Thomas Henry Porter Memorial Scholarship. For more information about the scholarship, please see the guidelines and application in this newsletter or on the IAS website: irlusa.org.

Please remember that **2017 annual membership dues are now due!** 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.

Can you believe that St. Patrick's Day is NEXT month!?!? 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 at the February meeting, but they are going FAST. Tickets cost \$15 for Adults and \$10 Children under 12.

The 50th Annual **Norfolk St. Patrick's Day Parade** on **Saturday, March 18th** is around the corner as well! **Jim Hagerty** has graciously volunteered to take charge of the flags again this year. If you would like to sign up to carry a flag, please see Jim at the February meeting or see the sign-up sheet in the IAS Facebook page. We will also need volunteers to join the Paddy Pack (for all of our dog lovers) and represent the IAS by walking in the parade! There is limited room to ride in the Irish Cottage. See **Jack Kennedy** if you are interested!

Our next meeting and social hour will be **Thursday, February 2nd**. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend, but I hope that you all can come, bring a friend, and have fun! Again, this will likely be the last chance to purchase Finnegan's Wake tickets before they sell out!

As many of you already know, I am expecting my first child at the beginning of March. While I will probably miss most or all of the March festivities (and some of the preparation), I will be thinking of and celebrating with you all!



Sláinte,

Katie McCrory

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2017

SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH
SIGN UP TO CARRY A FLAG!

Sign up with Jim Hagerty to carry one of the flags. Represented are the the U.S. Flag, the Republic of Ireland Flag, the Provinces Flag, and the 32 County Flags.
email Jim at jimbohagerty@gmail.com



The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614
Virginia Beach, VA
23450



OFFICERS

President

Katie McCrory

Sr. Vice President

Jackie Trudell

Jr. Vice President

Caroline Morse

Treasurer

Kate Sandoval

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!



JANUARY MEETING

Eileen King Walker gave a presentation on her summer trip to Isle of Sky, Scotland. While in Scotland, Eileen took an advanced Scottish Gaelic class at the college of Sabhal Mor Ostaig.

The college stressed full immersion, so students were expected to use Gaelic for everything from ordering breakfast to asking questions.

Eileen was the 2016 selectee for the IAS

Thomas Henry Porter Memorial Scholarship.

For more information about the scholarship, please see the guidelines and application in this newsletter (on page 5) or on the IAS website: irlusa.org.



Sign from Sabhal Mor Ostaig, the college in Scotland where Eileen took the Gaelic course.

Eileen King Walker, the 2016 recipient of the IAS Thomas Henry Porter Memorial Scholarship, giving a presentation on a Gaelic immersion course she took in Isle of Skye, Scotland.



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
February meeting

No tickets reserved without payment.



SUNSHINE NEWS

Our prayers and hugs to **Joe Brady**, IAS Past President who is in the hospital with an abnormal heart rhythm. He is resting comfortably and undergoing tests.

Lynnette Fitch Brash, another one of our IAS Past Presidents, had a bit of a scare over Christmas. She went into the emergency room on December 20th with what turned out to be

acute appendicitis. After an emergency appendectomy, there were some complications as the appendix was perforated. She spent 11 days in the hospital followed by another 10 days at home on bed rest, but she's back at work now and better than new. She and Edward are both grateful for the kind thoughts, messages, prayers, cards, flowers, and visits that brightened the holidays for them. They also give an A++ to the doctors, nurses, and staff who took such good care of Lynnette at beautiful **Sentara Leigh Hospital**.

*Please notify **Lori Shea**, newsletter editor, at lorishea@aol.com if you would like a member to be included in sunshine news.*



IRISH ABROAD

Best Wishes to **Clan O'Neill** who relocated for a few years to Belgium in December! They spent an enchanted Christmas in Brugge. Wonder if they ran into Colin Farrell there?! (Hahahaha - movie joke!) **Tim, Kate, Moira, Finn,** and wee **Bobby** are now settling in happily to their new home. We will miss having them here, but what a great opportunity for their family!



HURLEY HAPPENINGS



submitted by Jackie Trudell

Fellow Irish!- Our **Hampton Roads Hurling Club** and **Camogie** team have now merged and are known as the **Coastal Virginia Gaelic Athletic Association** or Coastal VA GAA. We are quickly growing in numbers and by joining forces we can share resources and equipment.

Coastal VA GAA is part of the MidAtlantic GAA which recently held it's elections for 2017 and our own **Skip Hunter** is now the President and our 2013 Irish Princess **Rebecca Norman** is the new Secretary. Congratulations to both !

Moving in 2017 both teams are beginning to drive hard for this upcoming tournament season. We are hoping to see a successful year for both the Hurlers and Camogs.

If you know anyone interested in coming out to play they can contact us at through Facebook "Coastal Virginia GAA."

Our first tournament this year will be in on March 25th in Nashville, TN. Everyone is looking forward to getting warmed up and bringing home a win !



CV 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

Fáilte to the newest member of the **IAS & Friends Paddy Pack, Holly Brady!** **Mary Ann Brady** must've been *extra* nice this year, because Santa brought her Holly, a collie puppy, a very special surprise Christmas present Mary Ann had been yearning for! As one would expect from the collie breed, Holly is smart, beautiful, and affectionate. **Joe Brady** texted me these two adorable pictures last month – I can't wait to meet Holly in person!!!



CELTIC COUPLES



Donna Looney and John McGlynn first met at the Newport News Police Pipe Band's Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl on 16 September 2006. In June 2013, John proposed in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland. They were married 19 July 2014 in a ceremony that blended their Irish, Scottish, and German heritage!



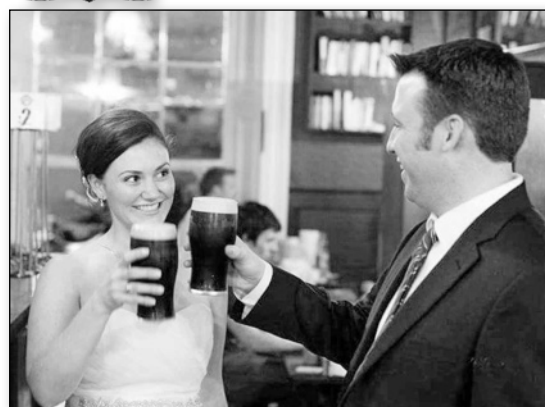
Matt McCrory and Katie Morse reconnected at Murphy's Irish Pub in Alexandria during the 2010 St. Patrick's Day Parade. In 2013, they exchanged vows at Killiney Hill in Dublin overlooking the Dublin Bay.



Lynnette Fitch and Edward Brash wed on 17 December 2004 in Wessex Hall of the Williamsburg Winery, Colonial Williamsburg. Their beautiful ceremony and celebration incorporated their Scottish and Irish heritage.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



**Annual IAS Thomas Henry Porter
Memorial Scholarship
for the Promotion of Irish Culture**

GUIDELINES:

- ♣ The purpose of the IAS Tom Porter Memorial Scholarship is to provide financial support toward the study and preservation of Irish culture. This includes, but is not limited to: Irish history, literature, dance, music, languages (Gaelic & Hiberno-English), genealogy, politics, design/art, sport, cuisine, traditions, and Diaspora/immigration issues & contributions. Only applications relevant to the promotion of Irish culture will be considered.
- ♣ Scholarships will be awarded up to \$250. The scholarship committee may split this amount between multiple recipients or give all or part of it to one recipient. The committee's decision is final and non-negotiable.
- ♣ **All applications must be postmarked on or before March 31st to be eligible for consideration for that year's scholarship.**
- ♣ Applicants must be at least 10 years of age; there is no upper age limit.
- ♣ Applicants must be willing to attend an interview with the scholarship committee, if requested. Awardee(s) must attend specified IAS event to be presented with scholarship.
- ♣ Awards will be given based on relevant study and potential educational/cultural benefit to our community.
- ♣ Applicants **MUST** be current members of the IAS. Annual dues may be submitted with this application (\$20 single/\$25 family, checks made out to IAS). All other things being equal, preference will be given to those with longer IAS membership.
- ♣ All scholarship monies must be utilized within 12 months after the award date. Scholarship recipients must submit a letter confirming enrollment, registration, or apprenticeship in the program toward which the scholarship will be applied.
- ♣ Scholarship recipients must submit a certificate or letter from the institution, organizer, or instructor confirming completion of the program.
- ♣ Scholarship recipients are expected to attend a monthly meeting of the IAS and/or submit a IAS newsletter article to share how the scholarship funds were used.

**Annual IAS Thomas Henry Porter Memorial Scholarship
Application**

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer/Institution: _____

Month & Year Applicant Joined IAS: _____

Irish ancestry—family names/counties (if known): _____

On an attached sheet, please answer each of the following:

1. (Required) How will you use the scholarship money if you are chosen as the recipient? How will you share what you learn with others?
2. (Required) What is your involvement with Irish culture? How do you feel about this involvement?
3. (Optional) Additional comments or information supporting your application. You may include up to 3 letters of recommendation; however, letters of recommendation are not required.

Please mail completed applications to the Irish American Society/Tidewater.
No applications will be returned; all submissions are property of the IAS.

About Tom Porter

Tom Porter served as IAS president from 1993 - 2002. During his tenure, the IAS grew dramatically, largely due to his Irish charm and recruiting skills, and also established strong links with other Celtic organizations in the area. He was instrumental in working with the Mayor's office to make Bangor, Northern Ireland, a sister city of Virginia Beach. Tom also joined forces with the DC Irish Centre to recognize Irish nationals who fell in U. S. military service with special wreath laying ceremonies at and IAS bus trips to the Viet Nam Wall on Memorial Day and Veterans Day each year. He was a major presence in the founding of the Multicultural Alliance of VA.

Originally from Derry, Northern Ireland, Tom came to America in 1958 to join the U.S. Navy, which he retired from as a Senior Chief Petty Officer after 30 years of proud service. He and his wife, Monica, raised 2 daughters (Sonia & Michelle) and 5 grandchildren (Sean-Patrick, Quentin, Monica, Kayla, & Jacqueline) in Virginia Beach. Tom was a true people person and an enthusiastic promoter of Irish culture. He started many IAS meetings with an Irish song delivered in his lilting tenor, and he was quick with a joke and a smile. For years, he and his beloved Irish wolfhound, Willie, were a frequent sight at events in the Tidewater area.



To recognize Tom Porter's many contributions, to celebrate our 25th anniversary as an organization, and to support the perpetuation of our shared Irish cultural heritage, the IAS executive board (Mike Bromley; President; Lynnette Fitch Brash, Sr. Vice-President; Lynette Gilmour, Jr. Vice-President; Lori Shea, Secretary; and Bill Sweeney, Treasurer) unanimously decided to establish and award for the first time this scholarship fund in 2005. The IAS board will serve as a scholarship committee to make this award annually, assuming acceptable applications are received, preferably with a member of Tom Porter's family serving in an advisory position each year.

Irish American Society of Tidewater
P.O. Box 9614
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23450



THOMAS HENRY PORTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

FOR THE PROMOTION
OF IRISH CULTURE



**IRISH AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF TIDEWATER**
Look for us on Facebook!
www.IRLUSA.org



FIRST CLASS IN THE NAVY, CAPTAIN ON THE FIELD: A STORY OF RECRUITING AND COMMUNITY



Petty Officer 1st Class Trevor Hoagland, a native of Virginia Beach, Va., and Navy recruiter assigned to Navy Recruiting District Nashville, chases after the ball during an Irish hurling match at Heartland Fields in Nashville. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Timothy Walter)

by Petty Officer 1st Class Timothy Walter
Navy Recruiting District Nashville

The Parthenon towered before the eyes of the Sailor. He was on liberty after sailing with his squadron aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). Now looking back, he calls it one of the best moments in his naval career.

Indeed, the Navy took Petty Officer 1st Class Trevor Hoagland far from his hometown of Virginia Beach, Va., to places he never thought he would go. Then as a Navy recruiter, he was taken to places and communities he never knew existed.

Just a few years had passed since he had seen the famed wonder of Greek architecture when he found himself traveling an hour south from his recruiting station in Bowling Green, Ky., to Nashville. There it was again – the Parthenon – as if it had never experienced the ravages of war and time like its Greek counterpart. He didn't know until a friend told him that a fully recreated Parthenon has existed in the Music City for more than 100 years.

For Hoagland, it was like looking back in time and there was little chance he would have seen either structure without the Navy. Yet this wasn't the first time a friend had introduced him to something he never knew existed. A few years earlier when he was still with the "Tomcatters" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 31, a friend asked him to try out a new sport. He reluctantly agreed and found himself holding a long ash wood stick that curves at the end to form a paddle-like surface with which to strike a ball, similar in size to a baseball.

The sport was hurling. Just like the Parthenon in Nashville, he never knew it existed, despite the fact that it had been played in Ireland for nearly a 1,000 years before the first Parthenon was even built. He learned that the stick he held was called a hurley and the ball a sliotar. His friend convinced him to play a season with the local club in Hampton Roads and soon he was hooked. So when he got orders to Navy Recruiting District Nashville, one of his first searches on the internet was for a hurling club.

Near his station in Bowling Green, there were no clubs. And despite some effort, he couldn't manage to convince the locals like his friend had once convinced him. Perhaps it was the fact

that it has been described as the fastest field sport in the world or that the sliotar can reach speeds in excess of 100 mph as it flies toward the goal.

"It wasn't really catching on fast enough for me, so I decided to bite the bullet and drive to Nashville," Hoagland said.

Surprising as it may seem, Nashville had a club which played the ancient Irish sport. Its members were just as surprised that the Navy was nearby.

"Where are the ships around here?" Hoagland recalled one of the questions he first heard. But he felt welcomed and got back into the game. After helping his team take the championship that season, he was asked to lead a team in the fall. He was asked to be a captain.

For Hoagland, it was a great way to use the skills he has gained in the Navy to impact his newly found community. At first glance, the two worlds shared little in common. In one, he was working through applications in a typical office tucked into a strip mall decorated in Navy blue and gold with a few cream colored desks. At the other, he was yelling commands on a reworked soccer field to direct a team of eight other players. But he found similarity in how the Navy and his team could overcome any difficulty.

"We had one goalie on the team and he couldn't make it out. I was a little worried about what we were going to do. But then in the days leading up to the game, I identified the person I thought could fill that role. We put him back there in goal and he did outstanding. He surprised everyone, including himself. And I think that happens in the Navy. You give someone a little responsibility and that Sailor will run with it and do well. People rise to the challenge when you believe in them," he said.

Hoagland helped others rise even as he excelled himself. He recently led his team to the championship game and in the recruiting world he helped his station earn the honor of Best Station in the Nation for NRD Nashville. On a personal level, he just received news that he earned a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal for his success in recruiting particularly hard to find candidates.

It is these accomplishments that confirm what he knew from a young age. He wanted to wear a uniform just like his father who was a special warfare combatant-craft crewman.

"I knew growing up that I wanted to join the Navy," Hoagland said.

Now he wears two uniforms, one to the office and one to field. Either way, the person inside determines what that material means. For the new recruits he is guiding, he knows it may mean a future meeting.

"The best part of this job is me knowing that one day I may run into these Sailors again because I know the people we are putting in the Navy are some of the best and they will rise to the occasion," he said.

[Trevor Hoagland learned how to play with the Hampton Roads Hurling Club when he was stationed locally. His wife Samantha played for Cumann na mBan Camogie Club before they moved further south.]



Navy Recruiting District Nashville is responsible for recruiting efforts throughout more than 100,000 square miles of the states of Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Kentucky and Virginia.

For more information on NRD Nashville, visit us at <http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/nashville/> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/NRD.Nashville>

Submitted by Lynnette Fitch Brash



FRESH EIRE

Upcoming **Glasgow Kiss** gigs - mark your calendars now so you don't miss out on the craic and great Irish tunes! Please note that the exact times are subject to change. Check our Facebook page for the latest info.

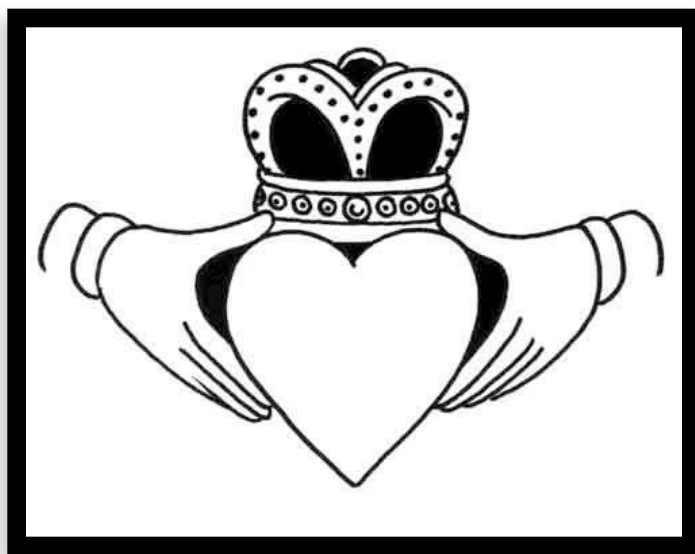
Submitted by Edward Brash



Saturday, March 11th	Finnegan's Wake (Church of the Ascension, VB) - 6pm-10pm
Friday, March 17th	Shamrock o' Plaza (Newport News City Center) - 6pm?
Friday, March 17th	Grace O'Malley's (Norfolk) - 9pm-1am
Saturday, March 18th	O'Connor's Brewery (Norfolk) - 2pm-4pm?
Saturday, March 18th	Smartmouth Brewery (Norfolk) - 4:30pm-6:30pm?
Saturday, March 18th	Grace O'Malley's (Norfolk) - 9pm-1am
Saturday, March 25th	Church Hill Irish Festival (Richmond) - time TBD
Saturday, March 25th	Rare Olde Times (Richmond) - 8pm-11pm
Sunday, March 26th	Church Hill Irish Festival (Richmond) - time TBD

CELTIC KIDS CORNER

COLOR ME IRISH



LEARN IRISH GAELIC

Claddagh: [klad-uh]

A traditional Irish ring which represents love, loyalty, and friendship.

