



# The Irish Connection

The Irish American Society of Tidewater News

May 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:  
MAY 4, 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

To my fellow Irish American Society members:

Last week, our Senior Vice-President, **Jackie Trudell**, informed the board that she could no longer serve on the IAS Board for personal reasons. While we are sad to see her go as VP, she has told us that she plans to remain as active as possible as a member of the society. I would like to thank Jackie for her 18 months of service on the IAS Board and wish her luck as the recently elected Coastal Virginia GAA Chair. Thank you, Jackie!

For all you interested in Irish history, I wanted to share a new Amazon show I found! Over the past month, I have been at home on maternity leave, and, with a baby that loves to be held and hates to be put down, I've found myself watching a lot more television than I thought I would be watching. As I scrolled through Amazon Instant Video a couple of weeks ago, though, I came across a show called "Easter 1916." This show is a historical documentary series telling the stories behind the seven signatories of the 1916 Easter Proclamation. There are only seven episodes, one dedicated to each of the signatories, and each one is really interesting! With so many great programs and documentaries that emerged during last year's centennial, this show may have gotten lost in the mix. If you haven't already seen "Easter 1916", I highly recommend it!

As we all calm down after a busy March and slide into the summer months, I am excited to brainstorm about ways to reinvigorate the IAS. The board is always looking for new ideas for programs, volunteer opportunities, and events. If you have any ideas, please bring them up at the next meeting or e-mail the board at [ias.tidewater@gmail.com](mailto:ias.tidewater@gmail.com).

Coming up at this month's meeting on **Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**, **Kathryn Peterson Lambert**, owner of Kulture and Klass, will be presenting the program *Native Plants of Ireland and Scotland*. Kathryn gave a similar program for the IAS back in 2013, and I have heard great things!

Also coming up this month is a much anticipated IAS Breakfast! The breakfast will be held at **Murphy's Grand Irish Pub**, 2914 Pacific Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 on **Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 10AM - 12PM**. We will have several tables reserved in our usual section and will be ordering individually, directly off the menu. Please RSVP at the May meeting and/or on the event on the IAS Facebook page.

I am looking forward to seeing you all on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7PM and might even have my little sidekick with me this time!



Sláinte,  
*Katie McCrory*

*It has been too long since our last Irish Breakfast!*

**Join the IAS for Sunday Brunch**

**Murphy's Grand Irish Pub**  
30th & Pacific Avenues  
Virginia Beach

**Sunday, May 21st from 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

We will have several tables reserved in our usual section and will be ordering individually from the menu.

Please RSVP at the May meeting and/or on the event notice on the IAS Facebook page.



## The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614  
Virginia Beach, VA  
23450



### OFFICERS

#### President

Katie McCrory

#### 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](mailto:lorishea@aol.com)

### Sunshine Bulletin

email Lori Shea

### INTERNET NEWS

Vera Dotson

### WEBMASTER

Michael Lawler

### WEB SITE

[IRLUSA.org](http://IRLUSA.org)

look for us on Facebook!

SUPPORT OUR  
SOCIETY MEMBERS



*thirtyone*  
celebrate | encourage | reward

**Caroline Morse**  
Independent Consultant  
[caremorse@gmail.com](mailto:caremorse@gmail.com)  
757-348-6038  
[www.mythirtyone.com/CarolineMorse](http://www.mythirtyone.com/CarolineMorse)

Gifts  
Jewelry  
Scarves  
Clothing

The  
Thorny  
Seahorse

By appointment 773-790-0711  
Debra Taylor-Kelly

### SUNSHINE NEWS



Hugs and prayers to **Catherine Twomey**, who is having neck surgery on April 26th (after this issue goes press).

If you'd like to wish her well, her address is:

217 Willard Drive  
Chesapeake, VA 23322

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



**WADDELL  
& REED**  
Financial Advisors™

### It begins with a plan...

Planning is everything, particularly when it comes to your long-term financial objectives.

### Brian Collins

Financial Advisor

2901 S Lynnhaven Rd  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452- 8505

Office: (757) 431-2929

*Art &  
Calligraphy*

*Betsy Rivers Kennedy*

111 ART 757 434-8041  
111 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Norfolk, VA 23504

EMAIL [bkennedyva@mac.com](mailto:bkennedyva@mac.com)  
[betsyriveruskennedy.com](http://betsyriveruskennedy.com)

### The Copperplate Class

*five classes  
5 Wednesdays  
in May, 2017  
at One 11 Art  
111 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Norfolk VA 23504  
from 7:00 to 9:00*

*The class fee is \$150. And includes  
materials-oblique pen,  
copperplate nibs, paper and ink.*

*Please call Betsy at 757-434-8041  
to sign up as soon as possible to insure  
she has adequate materials.*



## CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte



*One hundred thousand welcomes  
from the IAS to new members &  
to newborns in the local Celtic Community!*

Welcome to new members **Kat & Brad Rickerson**, daughter **Kristina**, and fur baby **Ms. Grumbles**, newest member of the IAS Paddy Pack! Kat and Brad got engaged in Ireland, honeymooned in Ireland, and have family in Ireland. Edward and I became friends with them when **Glasgow Kiss** played at their wedding reception. We are hoping Kat can be persuaded to do a presentation for the IAS on their climb to the top of **Crough Patrick** in Ireland!



Clan Rickerson



Kat &amp; Brad Rickerson on Crough Patrick

Welcome to **Bexley Rose Benham**, first child of **Gabrielle & Tyler Benham**. Gabrielle is **Lynnette Fitch Brash's** sister **Dawn's** eldest daughter. Bexley Rose, Dawn's first grandchild, arrived on 28 March 2017.



Bexley's First Easter

Welcome to **Oban Macpherson-Smith**, first baby for **Calum & Suzahn Macpherson-Smith**.

Oban is the first grandchild of **Laurie Macpherson**, Vice President of the **Scottish Society of Tidewater**. Oban arrived in mid-March.



Laurie &amp; Oban



Stewart, Katharine &amp; Baby James Pittman

Welcome to **James Pittman**, first born of **Stewart & Katharine Pittman**. Stewart plays uilleann pipes and whistles in Williamsburg-based Celtic band **Poisoned Dwarf**. James was born in late March

*Did you recruit someone new?*

*Send us a picture and/or tell us about our newest members!  
Want to make a birth announcement from within the local Celtic  
Community? Send us a photo and/or the details!*



## BARTENDER'S CHOICE

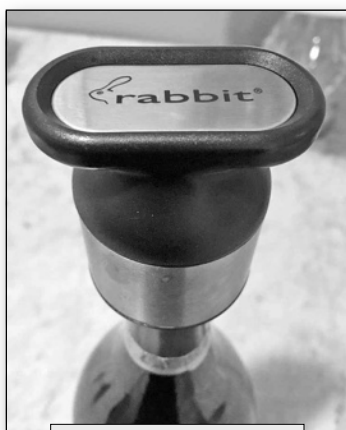


*Submitted by Lynnette Fitch Brash*

Well, with spring officially sprung, my cocktail colleagues, **Debra Taylor-Kelly** and **Cheryl Mulliken Brown**, and I decided to “take one for the team” and taste test a trio of sippers especially suitable for sharing during the warm months! The only thing Irish about these drinks is that three Irish American colleens are making them and drinking them!

All three of these delicious cocktails are made with sparkling white wine, sparkling water (seltzer or soda but not tonic water), and a specialty liqueur. Most people immediately think of **champagne** when sparkling white wine is called for, but France is not the only country to produce excellent sparkling white wine! **Prosecco** from Italy and **cava** from Spain are also delicious sparkling white wines – and are frequently cheaper than their more famous cousin, champagne.

Debra introduced us to a wonderful device, a **Rabbit** wine bottle sealer. Should you happen to have leftover bubbly — hey, it *could* happen! — one of these devices will help keep it effervescent for at least another week. This is very important; not much is sadder than a sparkling wine that has lost its sparkle! Just lower the Rabbit over the top of the open bottle, and tighten until an air lock has been created. Voila! The carbonation is trapped inside where it belongs.



**Rabbit Champagne Sealer**

Debra brought another fabulous device to the taste testing session, one that was given to her by our dearly departed **John “JJ” Johnson**, who knew she loved **St. Germain** liqueur. St. Germain is made with hand-picked wild elderflower blossoms. Debra’s bartender niece turned her on to St. Germain in champagne cocktails, and JJ gave her a beaker of sorts that enables one to mix the perfect St. Germaine champagne cocktail! This was part of a seasonal gift set that was at the ABC store for Christmas, so keep your eyes peeled next December if you are a St. Germain fan, too.

**Liqueur's for Spritzes**



I became a huge fan of **Campari** spritzes during a spring trip to Venice, Italy, last year. Campari is a bitter with a distinctive red color made by infusing a secret mix of herbs, fruits, and aromatic plants in alcohol and water. It is an integral part of several iconic Italian cocktails, including the Americano and the Negroni. Perhaps this is why Campari has been so heavily featured in art — such as posters on display at the Murano Glass Museum — and has featured quite a few artists in their own advertising campaigns over the years.

**Domaine de Canton** is a deliciously intense ginger liqueur. It also has cognac, vanilla beans, honey, and ginseng in its recipe. Domaine de Canton is ideal not only for a variety of cocktails, but also for cooking both savory and sweet dishes. I might just have to incorporate it into a recipe for a future IAS cook off!



**St. Germain Spritz Beaker**





Cheryl Brown, Lynnette Fitch Brash  
& Debra Taylor-Kelly

### ST. GERMAIN SPRITZ

Pour the following ingredients into a glass over ice.

- 3 parts sparkling wine
- 2 parts St. Germain
- 2 parts sparkling water

Adjust these ratios to taste.

Stir gently.

Garnish with half a strawberry.

### CAMPARI SPRITZ

Pour the following ingredients into a glass over ice.

- 3 parts sparkling wine
- 2 parts Campari
- 2 parts sparkling water

Adjust these ratios to taste.

Stir gently.

Garnish with a slice of orange.

### DOMAINE DE CANTON SPRITZ

Pour the following ingredients into a glass over ice.

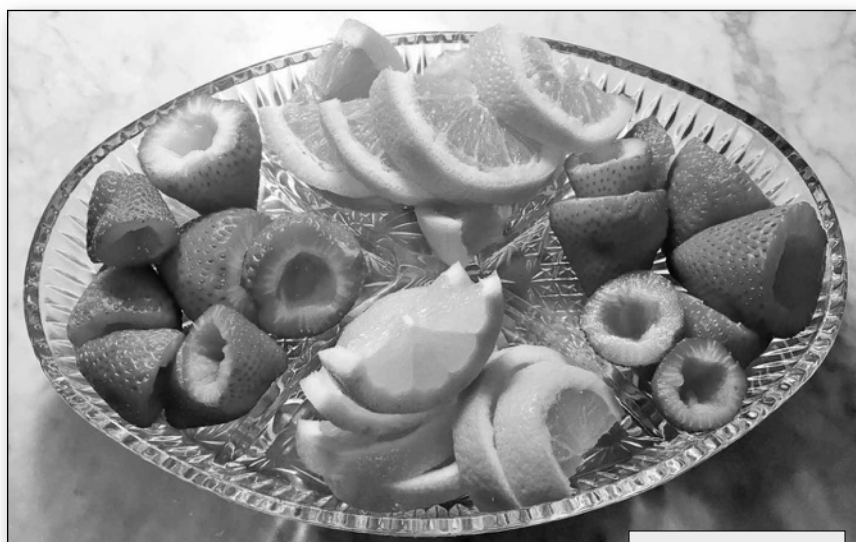
- 3 parts sparkling wine
- 2 parts Domaine de Canton
- 2 parts sparkling water

Adjust these ratios to taste.

Stir gently.

Garnish with a lemon wedge.

A **spritz**, by the way, is different from a **spritzer**. Spritzers only have two ingredients: sparkling wine and sparkling water. Spritzes also have a specialty liqueur added to the mix. These liqueurs are available at local ABC stores; all three are on the shelves at the ABC store in Kempsville at Providence Square Shopping Center. See their websites if you want to try out other delicious drinks made with these fabulous liqueurs.



Garnishes for Spritzes

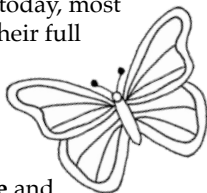
[www.stgermain.fr/recipes/](http://www.stgermain.fr/recipes/)  
[www.campari.com/our-cocktails](http://www.campari.com/our-cocktails)  
[www.domainedecanton.com/cocktail-recipes/](http://www.domainedecanton.com/cocktail-recipes/)

## THE PARTING GLASS



Our Society suffered a terrible loss on Monday, April 10th, 2017, when our lovely **Linda Batten** passed away. Our deepest condolences to her devoted husband of 55 years, **Gene Batten**, their beloved children son **Terry Batten** and daughter **Rhonda Batten**, and their precious grandchildren **Kendra Batten** and **Travis Batten**.

As **Katie McCrory** wrote on the IAS Facebook page about Linda, "She was a kind, wonderful woman who will be greatly missed by all those who knew her." Her wake was Thursday, April 13, at Graham Funeral Home in Chesapeake. A celebration of life service was held Friday, April 14, at Azalea Garden Church of God in Virginia Beach. **Jim Hagerty** related that, "The IAS was well represented at Linda's funeral service today, most notably by **Joe Brady** and **Tom Crouch** in their full Irish kilt regalia. Tom piped "Amazing Grace" for the attendees as they left the church. The IAS was prominently mentioned as part of the eulogy."



Gene mentioned at her viewing to **Lynnette** and **Edward Brash** that Linda planned everything out in advance down to the tiniest detail, including her choice of pink and green casket, the beautiful photo collage video showing at the funeral home, and the obituary (link following), so that he did not have to worry about a thing. He also took great comfort in the fact that their entire family had had dinner together every single night for the two weeks before she passed. Even her adored fur baby was able to be with her.

[www.legacy.com/obituaries/pilotonline/obituary.aspx?n=linda-b-batten&pid=185043603&](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pilotonline/obituary.aspx?n=linda-b-batten&pid=185043603&)

\* \* \*

Sympathies to **Nora Friel Holt** (one of our seven beloved Donegal Sisters), her son **Andrew Holt**, and the extended Friel and Holt families on the passing of Nora's husband and Andrew's father **Roger Graham Holt** in Ashburn, Virginia, the afternoon of March 11th. Now you know the very sad reason why the Friel/Dotson clan wasn't at Finnegan's Wake as usual this year.

Andrew posted the following online about his Dad: "He passed peacefully in his own home and was surrounded by loving family. His wife Nora Holt of 47 years of loving marriage holding one hand and myself holding his other. In addition, two of my mother's amazing sisters and, of course, his loving grand dogs, who never left his side over the last two weeks, on his bed by his feet. In lieu of flowers, we ask if you would make a donation in Roger's name to the Johns Hopkins Prostate Cancer Research Fund." Roger passed after a ten-year battle with this disease.

\* \* \*

Sympathies to IAS President **Katie McCrory**, IAS Vice President **Caroline Morse**, and their extended family on the loss of their uncle, **Dr. Mark Andrew Gaertner**, who passed at age 59 on April 7th. As Katie posted online, "Uncle Mark was like no one else. He was always up for anything, whether it was a fun adventure, helping his family, or pursuing his dreams, and always with the warmest smile on his face. He was accomplished without an ounce of pretentiousness, generous, and kind. He was the type of person who could make anyone feel completely at ease and, at the same time, completely inspired." The family gave him a wonderful send off in Annapolis, Maryland. Here is a link for Dr. Gaertner's online obituary.

[www.lastingtributesfuneralcare.com/obituaries/Mark-Gaertner/#!/Obituary](http://www.lastingtributesfuneralcare.com/obituaries/Mark-Gaertner/#!/Obituary)

*Oh all the time that e'er I spent,  
I spent it in good company;  
And any harm that e'er I've done,  
I trust it was to none but me;  
May those I've loved through all the years  
Have memories now they'll e'er recall:  
So fill me to the parting glass,  
Goodnight, and joy be with you all.  
Oh all the comrades that e'er I had,  
Are sorry for my going away;  
And all the loved ones that e'er I had  
Would wish me one more day to stay.*

*But since it falls unto my lot  
That I should leave and you should not,  
I'll gently rise and I'll softly call  
Goodnight, and joy be with you all.  
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.*







## HURLEY HAPPENINGS

*Submitted by Donna Looney-McGlynn*

Lots of news about your **Coastal Virginia GAA**! First off, huge congratulations to the Hurling Team for winning the Holy City Tournament in Charleston, SC! In a great final match, COVA HRHC beat Raleigh to become the **2017 Holy City Cup Hurling Champions**! This is the second time the team has brought home the Holy City Cup. Congratulations lads!

**COVA 2017 Holy City Cup**



Also in big news is the win of the Camogie Team over Naperville at the **Nashville Music City Tournament** 25 - 26 Mar! It is **FIRST** tournament win for CnamB and in addition to the win, they received much praise from all the teams there. Congratulations ladies!

Our Hurling Team did extremely well there, too. All the hard work has clearly been paying off! There is no question that COVA GAA is on the map!

Once the Champions return, our **Pub League Series** starts back up. Come on out and watch this exciting game and cheer on your favorite player and team! We have two Camogie Teams playing and four co-ed Hurling Teams.



**COVA Camogie Team at Nashville**

We also have some great sponsors for the pub league - **Keagan's Irish Pub, Grace O'Malley's Irish Pub, Patriot's Grill, Ozzlefinch Craft Brewery** and **Bottlecraft Beer Shop**. Plan to join us for a beevy after the games at one of our sponsors. They help make the Pub League happen!

Mark your calendars! Planning is well underway for the **BEST** sports event all year – the **3rd Annual Coastal Virginia Cup**! It will be held on 22 July at the same location – Princess Anne Sports Complex.

COVA GAA looks forward to working with our IAS friends to once again put on a world class Tournament! Details to follow, but count on a fun-filled day of Hurling and Camogie capped off by an After Party at Keagan's Irish Pub.

We look forward to seeing you out there as this great year of hurling and camogie continues to unfold- with lots of success and more to come!

#### Pub League Series

30 Apr	Hampton	Spratley Middle School, 339 Woodland Road
21 May	Norfolk	Lafayette Park, 3500 Granby Street
28 May	Hampton	Spratley Middle School, 339 Woodland Road
7 June	Norfolk	Lafayette Park, 3500 Granby Street
11 June	Hampton	Spratley Middle School, 339 Woodland Road

## CELTIC KITCHEN



*Submitted by Lynnette Fitch Brash*

New IAS member **Brad Rickerson** (see **CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte** article elsewhere in this issue) has a thing for pickled eggs, especially spicy ones!

In March, he treated me to a jar he had prepared for me. I thought they were pretty tasty! I am calling them Irish Tricolor Pickled Eggs because of the beautiful green, white, and orange colors of the contents. Evidently, pickled eggs are a popular pub snack in some establishments. Who knew?!

Here is the link to the recipe that Brad used to make his Irish Tricolor Spicy Pickled Eggs. Try it out, especially if you have a ton of leftover hardboiled eggs from Easter. They really were beautiful to look at as well as yummy to eat!

<https://hubpages.com/food/spicypickledeggs>



*We welcome recipe submissions from ANY AND ALL Irish American Society members for the Celtic Kitchen column!*

*Got a dish that always gets compliments? Share your recipe, along with a little background history, with the rest of the IAS! Send submissions to our editor, Lori Shea, at [lorishea@aol.com](mailto:lorishea@aol.com).*

## CELTIC KIDS CORNER

### COLOR ME IRISH

#### LEARN IRISH GAELIC

**Oireachtas:**  
[EH-ræk-təs] Assembly

**In modern competitive Irish dance, an oireachtas refers to an annual championship competition.**

