



The Irish Connection

The Irish American Society of Tidewater News
December 2017 / January 2018



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 MEETINGS:
DECEMBER 7, 2017
&
JANUARY 4, 2018

Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at the

Church of the Ascension
Community Center
4855 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 hope that everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving!

So much has happened since my last letter to you all! The last week in October, the IAS participated in the Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games, including the Parade of Clans! Our table was located in a fantastic spot with lots of foot traffic and looked BEAUTIFUL thanks to **Lynnette Fitch Brash**, who decorated the tent. We had a great time! With this being the biggest (and one of the only) Celtic festivals in our area, I think it's not only a huge benefit for our recruiting efforts but also important to the mission of our organization to attend and participate. I hope we can bring an even larger group next year! A big "Thank you!" goes to **Lynnette Fitch Brash, Edward Brash, Sandy Archer, Debra Taylor-Kelly, Erin Morrissey, Deb Plummer, and Kathy Lienau** for manning our table and being awesome IAS ambassadors!

At our November meeting, the IAS also hosted a **Christmas Market**. The vendor tables looked so festive, and everyone had some amazing goods to sell! Thank you to all of our member vendors:

Crafts by **Ann Marie Donahue**

Art by **Betsy Kennedy**

The Enchanted Fawn by **Gabrielle Benham**

Thirty-One by **Caroline Morse**

The Thorny Seahorse by **Debra Taylor-Kelly**

If you would like to contact any of these shops, let me know!

Our **Christmas Ceili and Potluck** with the **Scottish Society of Tidewater** and the **St. Andrew's Society** will be held on **Thursday, December 7th**! Although we will be a larger group, we will still be holding our traditional wreath, centerpiece, and ornament contests, so be thinking about your entries. We will also be collecting **donations for the Church of the Ascension's food pantry and craft items for CHKD**. Please bring nonperishable food items and unopened/unused personal hygiene items to donate. The Scottish Society will also be holding their annual silent auction to raise funds for their scholarship. It should be a fun, festive time! Please let me know if you would like to help decorate!

The quorum that was present at the November membership meeting voted to **increase the annual membership dues to \$25 per individual and \$30 per family (in the same household)**. The increase will **go into effect on January 1, 2018**, so pay for 2018 **EARLY** (before January 1st) to receive the old rates (\$20 & \$25)!

Also in November, **Debra Taylor-Kelly** has been appointed to fill the position of Senior Vice President. Thanks to Debra for volunteering.

As you may also remember from the November meeting, this newsletter will cover both December and January. **There will be no newsletter sent in January**. If you have any contributions or ideas for the February newsletter or for future membership meetings, please email ias.tidewater@gmail.com.

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COMBINED IAS/SST/SAS CHRISTMAS CEILI

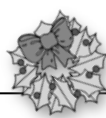
Thursday, 7 December
(Irish American Society/Scottish Society of Tidewater/St. Andrew's Society)
7:00 PM (Doors Open @ 6:30PM)
Church of the Ascension

* **Wreath, Centerpiece, & Ornament Contest**
Contest Rules:

- All entries must be handmade.
- Prizes go to the first place winner in each category.
- You may enter more than one category.
- Please do NOT make your name visible on your entry.
- * Silent Auction for the SST Scholarship
- * CHKD Collection

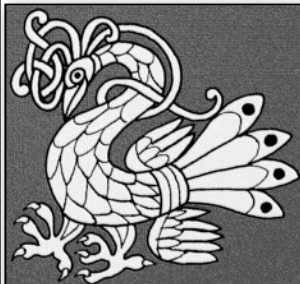
Collection of Non-Perishable Food Items & Unused Hygiene Products
for the Church of the Ascension Pantry





The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614
Virginia Beach, VA
23450



OFFICERS

President

Katie McCrory

Sr. Vice President

Debra Taylor-Kelly

Jr. Vice President

Caroline Morse

Treasurer

Kate Sandoval

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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!

Continued from Page -1-

One last business item... Our floats, the Irish Cottage and Paddy Wagon, must be off the church's property by December 19th. We still do not have a new home for our beloved floats, so if you have any leads or have space available for one or both of them, please let us know as soon as possible.

Thank you all for another wonderful year! I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you all on December 7th at our holiday celebration! Please welcome your family, friends, and neighbors to the Ceili, as well. The more the merrier!

Love and thanks to you all!



Sláinte,

Katie McCrory

BARTENDER'S CHOICE



Submitted by **Lynnette Fitch Brash**

Just in time for the holiday season, **Debra Taylor-Kelly** brought this lovely **Cranberry Rosemary Prosecco cocktail** to my attention! It would make a delightful drink for Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year's Eve gatherings! The recipe below is from *Better Homes & Gardens*, and you can access it at the link at the bottom. I bolded the amount of time you have to freeze the mixture as this is important to keep in mind when you are doing party prep and have time constraints. They say this recipe makes 10 servings, and each is about 97 calories, but who's counting during the holidays?! Cheers!

Cranberry Orange Rosemary Cocktail

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 sprig fresh rosemary (5 to 6 inches long)
[plus additional sprigs to garnish each glass]
- 2 cups cranberry juice
- 1 cup Triple Sec
- 1 750 milliliter bottle Prosecco, chilled

Directions

1. Heat water to boiling in microwave. Add rosemary sprig to water and let steep 10 minutes. Discard rosemary sprig.
2. In a 1-quart freezer container, combine cranberry juice, rosemary water, and Triple Sec. Cover and **freeze 8 hours** or until ready to use.
3. To serve, scoop frozen cranberry mixture into champagne flutes, filling about 1/2 full. Top with Prosecco and garnish with sprigs of fresh rosemary.

<http://www.bhg.com/recipe/cranberry-orange-rosemary-cocktail>

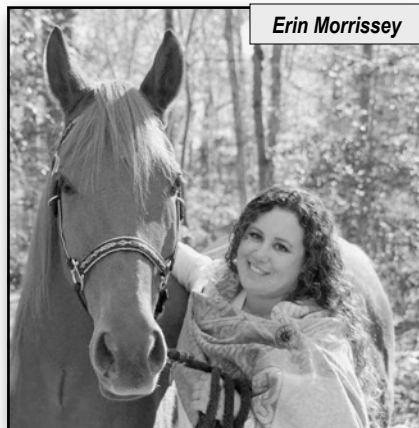


Debra Taylor-Kelly & friends

SUNSHINE NEWS



Erin Morrissey, our IAS Adult Princess 2004, broke her collarbone in two places after falling from her beautiful red Arabian rescue horse **Falchion** just one day after she was at the November IAS meeting with her little lemon beagle girl **Kenna**. As a result of the injury, she had to have surgery to put a plate in to hold the bone together so it would mend. Everything went well with the surgery, so hopefully Erin will be "back in the saddle" again soon. She's out of work for two weeks, then light duty for up to another six weeks. Her family and local friends have been helping out with Falchion at the barn and all her dogs at her place while she recuperates. Here is a gorgeous picture, taken by **Kelly Wells**, of Erin & her beloved Falchion together pre-injury.



Joy Brady-Boyd is in a boot for two months due to strained tendons and inflamed nerves in one foot. That's a bummer, especially during the holiday season, to be sure, but she has her handsome hubby as well as her four fabulous kiddos to take care of her while she is mobility-challenged. Plus her awesome parents, **Joe and Mary Ann Brady**, are nearby as well. Joy, you may as well just kick back, let them bring you eggnog and Christmas cookies, and enjoy the chance to relax!

Best wishes for a full and speedy recovery to the mother of **Donna Looney-McGlynn**. Last month, **Mrs. Looney**, who is 95, fractured her femur and is now in a rehab facility. Donna has made several trips up to Connecticut to spend time with her since it happened. There are also other family members and friends who live in Connecticut visiting her during her recovery.

All the best to **Rick Taylor**, younger brother of **Debra Taylor-Kelly**. He suffered a terrible fall recently and had to have a tricky hip surgery as a result. Debra is flying out to Chicago over the Thanksgiving holiday to spend time with him. Her visit will surely be just the tonic he needs to get better soon. Wishing her a safe trip there and back as well.

Sending positive energy to **Rex B Fitch IV**, 15-year-old nephew and godson of **Lynnette Fitch Brash**. Rex recently fractured his left hand during a soccer game; he had scored three goals in the game and was moving the ball up the field to attempt a fourth when a defender from the other team took him out from behind. Rex broke his fall with his left hand, but then the hand swelled up to twice its normal size, so he had to go to the hospital. Ultimately, he had to have surgery to re-break it and set it with three metal pins so it would heal properly. OUCH!!! Here is a picture of Rex in his hard cast just getting home from surgery. Hope the month goes by quickly so you can get back to playing the sport you love, Rex!

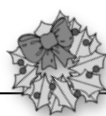


Please notify **Lori Shea**, newsletter editor, at lorishea@aol.com if you would like a member to be included in sunshine news.



We wish you
a Merry Christmas





IAS NOVEMBER MEETING
Our Second Annual IAS
Christmas Market



**Lynnette Fitch Brash had
IAS Merchandise table**



The Enchanted Fawn by Gabrielle Benham (& Bexley)



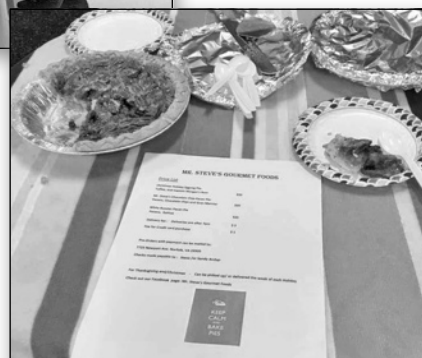
Erin Morrissey, Katie & Jack



**The Thorny Seahorse by Debra Taylor-Kelly
(& Sandy Archer)**



Jack Kennedy & Jim Hagerty
Jack Kennedy's reaction to receiving his Ireland tee-
shirt. It was sent by one of the parents from Cork
traveling with the Brunell Girls.



Sandy Archer - "Mr. Steve's Gourmet Foods"

Photos by Lynnette Fitch Brash & Lori Shea





Teresa Diaz & Lynnette Fitch Brash

IAS NOVEMBER MEETING
Our Second Annual IAS
Christmas Market



Terry Fahey, Cecilia Thomas & Jim Hagerty



Gabrielle & Tyler Benham



Art by Betsy Kennedy



Betsy Kennedy & Jim Hagerty



Mary Ryan, Katie McCrory & Jack

Thirty-One by Caroline Morse
(with Ann Marie Donahue)



Crafts by Ann Marie Donahue





HURLING HAPPENINGS



On November 11th the **Coastal Virginia GAA** proudly hosted the **2017 National USGAA Convention** here in Virginia Beach. Members from Gaelic Athletic Clubs across the country and Ireland gathered for the convention. The convention had over 150 participants.

The CoVA GAA was thrilled to win the award for the Best TV Spot for 2017 over all the other Clubs across the United States!

The events kicked off with an Welcome dinner for the Irish **Ambassador Daniel Mulhall** and his lovely wife **Greta** at Grace O'Malley's Restaurant in Norfolk. The CoVa Team was joined by **Rebecca Norman**, **Skip Hunter** and **Marcey Hunter** from the Mid Atlantic GAA. **Dennis Clancey** and **Blake Cahill** from the Ancient Order of Hibernians and **Sandy Archer** from Irish American Society of Tidewater joined us in welcoming the Ambassador. We learned the Ambassador and his wife also speak fluent Gaelic and he was surprised that Skip and Marcey Hunter carried on a



Donna Looney, Rebecca Norman (IAS Princess 2013), Ambassador Mulhall, Sheila Smith, Jackie Trudell & Greta Mulhall

conversation with him in Gaelic.

Saturday Morning the Ambassador greeted the Convention attendees where he gave the welcome speech for the event and much appreciated assistance with the continued growth of Irish Sports in America.

Following his speech at the Ambassador and his wife were escorted by our own **Captain Donna Looney USN (Retired)** on a tour of the Norfolk Naval Base and the Aircraft Carrier USS Abraham Lincoln.

Upon return from the Navy Base the Ambassador himself requested that Donna continue their visit with some Oceanfront sightseeing and Donna was kind enough to walk 20 blocks down the Virginia Beach Boardwalk to Murphy's Irish Pub for the Afterparty.



Over 200 people gathered for the AfterParty at Murphy's Irish Pub thanks to the generosity of **Tom Mooney** and **Guinness**.

The event was enjoyed by all and many compliments were received from attendees on the beautiful Irish County Flags provided by **Jim Hagerty**. A HUGE thank you to Jim! Next year Chicago will host the tournament.



Sandy Archer (IAS Princess 2017) with Ambassador Mulhall and his wife Greta



2017 National USGAA Convention (with the IAS flags by Jim Hagerty)

POETRY CORNER

Submitted by **Lynnette Fitch Brash**

At the end of October, our much-loved gentle giant **Jim Ramsey**, USMC (retired), was laid to rest in **Arlington National Cemetery**, where many of our other IAS members, their spouses, or their parents have been interred as well. **Veterans Day/Remembrance Day** is bittersweet with them gone from our midst. In honor of Veterans Day / Remembrance Day, I am submitting the following poem written by **Mike Waugh**, a longtime friend of the IAS. Mike and his lovely wife, **Trish O'Donnell Jenkins**, are the owners of **Wild West Irish Tours**, and he was kind enough to give a program for the IAS on "**The Waters & the Wild - The West of Ireland**" at our February 2015 meeting. He gave me permission to submit this poem for our newsletter after I saw it and the accompanying picture posted on his *Facebook* profile and asked him about it. He wrote the poem about his grandfather. The following introductory information was written by him on *Facebook*, and the poem was originally published in *The St. Petersburg Times*.

This is **LCPL James Henry Waugh**, 16 years old, known then as "Young Jimmy Waugh" - my grandfather. He lied about his age so could volunteer to fight in WW I. He was sent to France and Belgium, where he lost his eye in battle to a sniper's bullet a month before the Armistice. He made it home on Christmas Day in 1918. He eventually married **Margaret Hassett** from **County Clare, Ireland**. He might not have known this, but his Grandparents, **Henry Irwin** and **Mary Waugh** were from **County Leitrim, Ireland**. They were "Vaugh" when they got on the boat in Ireland. Anyway, Pop was awarded the Purple Heart. I gave him my first Good Conduct Medal before he "looked the reaper in the eye and sang his last goodbye."

I wrote this after a dream aboard ship in 1982 and it was posted in *The Saint Petersburg Times*.



FOR POP

I'll always remember that certain way
he so often used to sit,
smoking his pipe in the evening
and the first one up in the morning;
wearing his tie and that familiar cologne.
With only one eye, he'd glance
at a world that changed more
than he'd care for.
That war took his sight
but not his insight...
His will and desire never compromised.
This man from Torey Hill
and his bride from County Clare;
they say opposites attract, and they did.
Together forever, and without many words,
and love extended to all of us.

He laughed at my jokes
even if they weren't funny.
Talking about the Mets and the old days
made us smile.
Slipped the kids a buck when
he could, making sure we all were happy.
A man that kept to himself
But loved out loud with a purple heart.
Standing erect, always in control,
we called him the patriarch,
the old man, our Pop.
On the day he left,
he made it quite clear,
that he'd leave this world with dignity.
While looking the reaper in the eye,
he sang his last goodbye:
"I did it my way"
And Pop, you did.

by M. J. Waugh St. Petersburg





CHKD CHILD LIFE PROGRAM CRAFTS FOR KIDS

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

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.

For more information see their website:
www.chk.org



CONTRIBUTE to the Church of the Ascension's FOOD PANTRY

Please bring Canned/Boxed Food
& New Hygiene Items and other
Nonperishable food items
to the DECEMBER MEETING

FINNEGAN'S WAKE 2018 INFO

Tickets will go on sale at the **January Meeting** they usually sell out by the February Meeting. Please get your group together and buy tickets at one time (I do not keep track of who bought tickets at any table) there are 10 seats at each table so plan on getting a group together and purchase a table all at once. Tickets will also be sold individually. Credit cards will be accepted.

Mike Bromley

FINNEGAN'S WAKE

MARCH 10TH 2018

Performing once again! By Popular demand

GLASGOW KISS

MENU
IRISH STEW
CORNED
BEEF
CABBAGE
POTATOES
SODA BREAD

Irish Music
Irish Dancers



Adults \$15.00
Children \$10.00
Cash Bar

Doors open at 6:30 PM

No refunds

ART NOTES

2018 Class Schedule

Betsy Rivers-Kennedy

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

7 to 9 PM

4 week course on

The Celtic Hand in depth

4 week class fee-\$100

Individual class-\$30

Thursday, January 11, 2018

1 to 3 PM

6 week course on

Formal Italic +

This class will cover the Italic hand as well as layout and design for cards, letters, quotes and/or poetry

6 week class fee-\$150 - Individual class-\$30

Please register before January 5, 2018

Classes are held at **One11 Art**

111 Pennsylvania Ave., Norfolk, VA 23504

Call (757)434-8041 for more information



IAS Annual Dues Increase

January 1st 2018!!!

\$25 for Individuals

\$30 for Families

**Pay your 2018 dues before January 1st
to receive the old rates!**

(See the President's Letter for details)

