



The Irish Connection

Irish American Society of Tidewater News September 2018

The Irish American Society of Tidewater, Virginia, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization 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
THURSDAY:
SEPTEMBER 6, 2018**

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

Dear Fellow Irish American Society members,

Pace yourselves, because this September is going to be one heck of a busy month chock full of fun! Here's the short list of everything going on, and then I will go into more detail on each.

ALL OF SEPTEMBER 2018 IS IAS FIRE FIGHTER APPRECIATION MONTH!

- Thurs. Sept. – Meeting with Special Program on Irish Roots of Fire Fighting in America
- Sat. Sept. 15 – IAS Halfway to Paddy Day Pub Crawl
- Sat. Sept. 22 – Murphy's Halfway to Paddy Day Festival
- Sat. Sept. 29 – Celtic Cousins Cook Out

ALL OF SEPTEMBER 2018 IS IAS FIRE FIGHTER APPRECIATION MONTH!

We have so much respect for the brave fire fighters in our communities and around the world, and we will be honoring their selfless dedication all month! We are "adopting" **Fire Station 9** at 5145 Ruritan Court in Virginia Beach. In addition to being the closest fire house to our IAS meeting place, we also have a personal connection to this fire house: our IAS Teen Princess 2001 & former ACR championship Irish step dancer, **Ashley Valdez (nee Fordice)**, is married to her high school sweetheart **Tavish Valdez**, one of the fire fighters who works there! If you get a chance to stop by Station 9 (and/or the fire house closest to where you live), say hi, and take the fire fighters some baked goods or other treats, definitely tell them you are an Irish American Society of Tidewater member and that we really appreciate everything they do to keep our community safe!



THURS. SEPT. 6 - IAS POT LUCK DINNER PARTY TO HONOR LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS!

- Invite any Fire Fighter family, friends, or neighbors to be our guests!
- Bring a yummy dish to share!
- We also need donations of 6-packs of various kinds of beer for the party! Any leftover beer will be used on the pub crawl bus and/or at the Celtic Cousins Cook Out.

- BAKE OFF contest w/ prize for 1st place: most creative THANK YOU cake for the fire fighters!
- Doors open at 6:30 pm for us to set up the pot luck buffet - eat something beforehand to tide yourself over until we go through the food line at 7 pm!
- BRIEF announcements and then a special short video by Katie on the Irish Roots of Fire Fighting in America!

SAT. SEPT. 15 –

IAS HALFWAY TO PADDY DAY PUB CRAWL

We have rented a commercial bus that will seat 50 lucky leprechauns ready to get their pints on! Our official IAS Bagpiper, **Tom Crouch**, will pipe us off and on the bus at every pub crawl stop. We will also have coolers on the bus, Celtic tunes, and other pub crawl swag to be announced later.



Tickets are \$20 per person, and you must be over

21 to attend. People do NOT have to be IAS members to attend, so feel free to invite family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. ALL TICKETS ARE NONREFUNDABLE AND MUST BE BOUGHT IN ADVANCE.

You can buy your tickets immediately via PayPal at IAS.Tidewater@gmail.com. Make sure you list the first and last names of who the tickets are for in the comment for our pub crawl spreadsheet. You can also buy them with cash, check, or credit card at the September IAS meeting. I would get yours ASAP, though, so that they don't sell out on you.

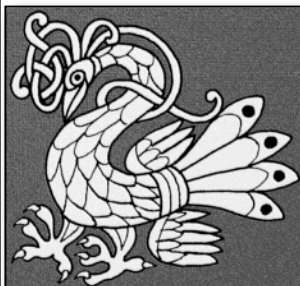
The ticket guarantees your spot on the bus, but you are also responsible for buying all your food and drink at our various stops. If you buy a ticket and end up not being able to come, you may give or sell your ticket to someone else, but you MUST notify us in advance so we can update our spreadsheet with the correct name.

The pub crawl will start and end at **Murphy's**. The night of the pub crawl, meet at Murphy's at 5 pm. You must show photo ID when you check in with us to claim your special commemorative pub crawl wristband! You must be wearing that wristband at every stop to board the bus. You also must be wearing that wristband to avail yourself of special pub crawl food & drink specials at our various stops.

We plan to leave Murphy's by 6pm and return by 11:45 pm to finish out the night there. In between, we will be visiting various Irish drinking establishments in Norfolk (**O'Connors Brewing Co., The Public House**) and VB (**Finn McCool's**). We will have a private room for food & drinks at our middle stop, but we recommend you get some

The Irish American Society of Tidewater

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appetizers at Murphy's so you have a drinking base in your stomach! A pub crawl is NOT the time to drink on an empty stomach -- total rookie move! ;)

The bus company reserves the right to kick anyone off the bus who is endangering safety or property. That would also earn you a permanent ban from future IAS pub crawls. Don't be that guy.

SAT. SEPT. 22 - MURPHY'S HALFWAY TO PADDY DAY FESTIVAL

This will be an outdoor all-day festival with our own **Glasgow Kiss** and the **Fighting Jamesons** performing! See the festival poster in this newsletter for more details!



SAT. SEPT. 29 - CELTIC COUSINS COOK OUT

On Saturday, September 29th, we will also be holding our 7th annual **CELTIC COUSINS COOK OUT!** Bring your families and invite your friends -- they do not have to be members to attend. Wear your IAS jerseys or IAS sweatshirts or other IAS gear to show your Irish pride!!! This event will take place in the picnic area in front of the Church of the Ascension from 1-5 pm. The IAS & the **Scottish Society of Tidewater** will be providing burgers, dogs, buns, fixings, and soda. Attendees are each asked to bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. All beverages other than soda are BYOC (bring your own cooler)! Musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments, and if we have enough dancers there maybe we can get some ceili dancing going as well. The **IAS Paddy Pack** is welcome to attend; please keep your fur babies on a leash, attended to, and cleaned up after. The

Scots are looking for a rematch in the "Oatmeal versus Potato" **Cornhole Challenge!** I believe the Irish have won this challenge most of the previous six years if not every year, so we have bragging rights to protect! Let me know if we have any ringers in the IAS to help with this!!! Last but not least, we hope to have some face painting for the kiddos, and our 2018 Junior Princess **Eadlyn Crouch** has kindly volunteered to organize some kid activities. Unless there is a hurricane or



nor'easter, this event goes on rain or shine as the picnic area does have a roof overhead. If you missed out on our gorgeous green IAS jerseys, don't despair! We know have an ongoing group sale of the beautiful **white IAS jerseys** for the special rate of \$50 each! Order them now for the fall season -- or for great Christmas presents! See our Facebook page or website for more info or contact us at IAS.Tidewater@gmail.com if you are interested.



Vert Dotson and her new IAS Jersey

Slán go fóill! ('Bye for now!')

Lynnette



IRISH & IRISH-AMERICAN TRIVIA



Submitted by Maureen Cahill

*Test your knowledge at three levels:
easy, middling, and most difficult.*

September 2018 = Trivia Questions

- ♣ 1. What ingredients make Irish coffee?
- ♣ 2. Where can you find the Book of Kells?
- ♣ 3. Before the Euro, what fish was on some Irish coins?

*The answers will be provided on page 7
with web links for you to learn more. Sláinte!*

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THE PARTING GLASS



Deepest condolences to **Debra Taylor-Kelly** and the rest of her family. Debra's godmother and favorite aunt, **Gloria "Sissy" Andrews Swanson**, recently passed away in hospital in Chicago, Debra's hometown, after battling pneumonia. She was named Gloria after the actress Gloria Swanson and then ended up marrying **Harry Swanson**, as luck would have it! Sissy was Debra's mother's only sister. She had recently turned 85. Attached is a picture of Debra as the flower girl in her Aunt Sissy's wedding.



Sincere sympathies to **Edward Brash** and the rest of his family. Edward's only paternal aunt, **Maria Luisa Castelvetti Brash**, passed peacefully in her sleep



this August in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. This was a terrible shock to everyone in the family as she had not been ill at all. Luisa, who went by her middle name, will be missed terribly by her husband Jimmy, their three children and seven grandkids, her extended family, and her friends. Attached is a picture of **Luisa and Jimmy Brash**; her obituary is at this link. www.everhere.com/ca/obituary-kingston-maria-luisa-brash-7873401?fb=1

There is great sadness in the local Celtic community at the loss this summer of one of its "elder statesmen", **Donald Gaines Gregory, Jr.** As Drum Major of the **Tidewater Pipes & Drums**, for many years Don Gregory cut an imposing figure, but he was actually a very sweet man. Attached is a picture of Don in full TP&D uniform backstage at the **Virginia International Tattoo** with IAS Teen Princess 2000 **Carlyn Aasheim** and IAS Adult Princess 2000 **Lynnette Fitch**. He was a USN veteran and leaves behind a large and loving family. Visit this link for Don's obituary. www.legacy.com/obituaries/pilotonline/obituary.aspx?n=donald-g-



*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.*



HURLING HAPPENINGS



submitted by Jackie Trudell

COVA CAMOGIE WINS THE 2018 MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPIONSHIP CUP!

On August 5, 2018 the CoVA Camogie team brought home the MidAtlantic Division Cup. To play in the championship, they had to first beat Washington DC Gaels. The Baltimore Bohs are National Camogie title winners so the ladies had to work hard but won a solid victory with the final score our CoVA 6-7 and Baltimore Bohs 4-2.

MidAtlantic GAA Chairman and IAS Member Skip Hunter presented the Championship to our 2014 Irish Princess Heather Warren.

Both the Coastal Virginia Hurling and Camogie teams are going to Philadelphia Labor Day Weekend to compete in the 2018 National Championships so wish them luck!



2018 Camogie Team



Team Captains left to right Courtney Otto, Heather Warren, Mandy Wolkowich



Championship Cup Presentation to Heather Warren (2014 Irish Princess) by Skip Hunter (MidAtlantic GAA Chairman)



**IAS AUGUST MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 2ND
PLAYING SPEED BLARNEY
& WEARING NEW IAS JERSEYS!**



**Bríana Ní Ríain &
her Dad**



Our thanks to Hannah!



Dawn & Lynnette



Maureen Cahill & Lynnette

IAS & FRIENDS DRINKING AT LUGHNASADH 2018 **SATURDAY, AUGUST 25TH**

In the ancient Celtic calendar, Lughnasadh (pronounced LOO-nuh-suh) was celebrated with dancing, feasting, & bonfires in July or August each year in honor of Lugh, the god of the sun & light & father of Cuchulainn



Fantastic time with Glasgow Kiss at Grace O'Malley's! Thanks to everyone who came out, especially Bríana Ní Ríain & her Dad; it was her last night home before flying back to Ireland to start grad school at University College Cork! Thanks to the staff, especially our fabulous waitress Hannah, for taking great care of us.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 10TH
CELEBRATING THE DOG DAYS OF
SUMMER BY GETTING TOGETHER FOR SOME
PINTS 'N' PUPS AT O'CONNOR BREWING CO.



*Dalriada Gormaine-Breagha Cu Brash
& Glasnevin O'Canusa Cu Brash*



Donna Ablaseau and Saga, Angela Tumwa with Gaibhin, Sissy Munger with Finn, and Rebecca Conti with Frizzle. Laura Nadeau and Avery managed to escape the group photo somehow.



Eilidh & Eadlyn Crouch introduce us to Mhairi (Cairn terrier/corgi cross) & Glinda (Brussels Griffon)



The IAS Paddy Pack got together at O'Connors for our first PINTS 'N' PUPS to celebrate the Dog Days of Summer!

The evening was a great deal of fun! There were FIVE IRISH WOLFHOUSES, two whippets, one Brussels Griffon, and one Cairn terrier / corgi cross plus lots of fun people in the IAS Paddy Pack last night! Many thanks to IWAMS for their support, especially Heather Hanchett Burns and Rebecca Conti for promoting the event. Special thanks also to the three Crouch ladies (Lynette, Eadlyn, and Eilidh) who showed up looking sharp in their new IAS jerseys and were also very kind to bring dog treats for all the fur babies! Thanks to both the jerseys and all the dogs, we met a lot of new people, some of whom are interested in checking out the IAS!

Thanks to Eadlyn Crouch for the photos!

FAMILY TREE TALES



THE CLINCH CLAN SAGA IN THREE PARTS

Submitted by Tamara Cervi Williams

Part III – Rejoicing at Weddings and on Honeymoons

Let's recap: Part I covered how my Mom and I found and met our family in County Cavan, and Part II was taking Mom to her final resting place in Cavan.

Now, Part III is a hometown wedding of my cousin, **John Clinch**, and his gorgeous bride, **Devita Owens**, plus their American Honeymoon!

Once the rehearsal, at the Church, was over. . . it was the night before the big day, and all the family gathered at the groom's home. The women in one room and the men in another, fire burning, whiskey flowing, and the talk getting louder. The teasing of the groom commenced, as it seems to be quite the best thing to be a part of. I heard this second hand, as I was kept in the other room with the girls. Being an American woman, I did not like being kept out of the festivities in the other room! Mammy sent us girls to bed earlier than the lads. The girls were to start getting ready for the 2 p.m. wedding at 8 a.m. the next morning. Yes, 8 a.m. for a 2 p.m. wedding that would last until 4 a.m. the next day. Can you say 5-hour energy shots? That 8 a.m. start included a full Irish Breakfast for EVERYONE, which would be the devil if you had a bit too much to drink the night before.

No wonder it takes so long to get ready for an Irish wedding; it was like a scene from the Oscars! Irish weddings are a fashion cat walk. Who knew you were supposed to have multiple outfits for the reception, too! Did you? I didn't -- such a classic American first timers mistake.

While sitting in the Church parking lot, what do we see, but tractors decorated with ribbon, signs, and flowers making their way up to the Church! What else would a groom/farmer use to get to and from a wedding?

I was to read during the wedding, about love and marriage, but I came down with the Irish crud (laryngitis), not the Irish flu. Rob, my husband, dressed in his Scottish finery, stepped up to take my place. As Rob walked up to the altar, he did not pause or genuflect; this alarmed my 8-year-old cousin sitting next to me. He was quite concerned about Rob's soul for not doing as a good Catholic should. Well, Rob isn't Catholic, I assured him, but a Presbyterian (or, as my Catholic Irish family calls him, "Rob The Protestant"). It was well known he wasn't Catholic, as the Priest told Rob to walk quickly across the carpet, so as not to start a fire since the carpet was new. Love the Irish sense of humour!

The wedding was like an American wedding, except the reception. Cocktails first, for an hour or two — where you have a nice hot cuppa tea, a pint of the black stuff, or champagne with scones. Afterward, all are escorted into dinner. Dinner is like a refined Sunday Roast times ten! Once dinner is finished, everyone leaves to change their outfits (or have another pint or two in my case since I had nothing to change into), while the dinner room is transformed into a NIGHT CLUB! There were photo booths, Coffee/Tea/Cappuccino bars, full service bars,

drapery with coloured lights wrapped inside, theatrical lighting, a DJ, a full live band, a second meal at about midnight (of sausages, crisps and sandwiches), singing, and loads and loads of dancing! Never have I experienced such a day or night! Mammy, Daddy, Rob, and I made our way up to our rooms about 4 a.m. They called that an early night for a wedding. Whew!

John and Devita decided to spend their honeymoon with us in Orlando and then go to Vegas and see it with our cousin, James. John couldn't get over all the McDonald's or the size of the 7-11 Big Gulps. He thought it was heaven that he could have FREE refills of Coke. They had their first American Thanksgiving with us, and probably their last since they weren't too keen on the American food. They visited with Mickey at Disney, said hi to Harry Potter at Universal, and lounged in our pool. In Vegas, they got to see all the different clubs, casinos, light shows, and a few unsavory but interesting things about America. They have already planned to come back in November 2018, but after Thanksgiving, so as to skip the nonsensical food bit.

But first, Rob and I head back to Ireland for a family reunion, once again, in October 2018. I want to visit Mom's grave, see all the new editions to the family born this past year, and welcome new ones -- hopefully we will have another wedding next year!!

(for Part I see the March 2018 News - Part II see the May 2018 News)



Tamara & Rob



Devita & John



BARTENDER'S CHOICE



Submitted by *Lynnette Fitch Brash*

This month's cocktail is a seasonal one. But first, let me ask you a question. What do you do with bananas when they are overripe? Everyone knows the answer to that – make banana bread with them! Well, what do you do if you have a stone fruit (peach, plum, or nectarine) that has just become overripe? The answer is you make the following drink, which is delicious!!! It takes the classic G&T to an unbelievably scrumptious new level – you can't even believe how much yummier until you try it!

BILL REID'S JUST PEACHY G&T

1 overripe (but not rotten) peach, nectarine, or plum per person
 1 generous jigger of your favorite quality gin per drink
 8 or so ounces of your favorite tonic/diet tonic water per drink
 1 packet Truvia or Stevia per drink (optional)
 Ice
 A highball glass for each person

Remove the stem and any store labels from an overripe stone fruit. Wash the fruit, but leave the skin on. With a sharp fruit knife, cut all the way around the cleavage of the fruit so that it is cut in half; don't separate the halves. This will be a bit juicy and messy; let the juice drip into the highball. Now cut all the way around the fruit so that the halves are halved. Carefully pry each quarter of the fruit from the pit (or stone) inside, and put all four quarters into the highball. Top with several ice cubes. If you want to add a little natural sugar substitute like Stevia, now is the time to open the packet and dump the contents in the glass. If your fruit is overripe and juicy, this isn't really necessary, though. Add a jigger of good



gin, and then fill the rest of the glass with tonic water. Stir with a teaspoon, swizzle stick, or straw, mashing the fruit a little if you can. ENJOY!!! If you want another Just Peachy G&T after you finish this one, you can get several drinks out one piece of fruit – just leave it in the bottom of the glass and re-use it. There is PLENTY of juice and flavor still left in it.

* * *

The attached picture was taken by my buddy **Bill Reid** in Scotland. I got this cocktail idea from him. He and his lovely wife **Karen** are the founders of **East of the Hebrides Entertainments** (<http://www.eastofthehebrides.com/>). They used to put on the **Philly Midwinter Celtic Music Festival** that so many of us enjoyed over the years. Now they do a variety of guided Scottish tours. Bill is quite the gin connoisseur, and the following paragraph is excerpted from his advice to me about good gin brands and great gin garnish pairings.



"...What makes the Scottish (as well as the many new Irish and English gins) is the infusions of locally grown botanicals. The taste and complexion is entirely different than the gins we grew up with and sadly are limited to in most US bars. Most people who hate gin is due to the heavy juniper most London-style gins are made with. And American bars seem to always use lime as the garnish. You can get wonderful tastes from so many gins and fruits. Look for **Caorunn** in your store. I love this one. Add a couple slices of green apple. **Hills and Harbour** from the Galloway area of Scotland calls for mango. **Rock Rose** - Mandarin orange. **Blackwood** - either slices of strawberry or raspberries with a little black peppercorn. **Harris** - ruby red grapefruit. **The Whitley Neill** is a small batch English gin with African botanicals. I decided to try peaches and WOW! I did this at home with inexpensive (but nice) **Burnetts** and it worked. There is an Irish gin - **Gunpowder Gin** - infused with tea... I like the **Hendrick** but not a huge fan of cucumber. Look for **The Botanist** from Islay. It's gorgeous! Try a sprig of rosemary. Or slices of plum. Now the tonic is important. **Fever Tree** is the one! Get it at Whole Foods, Weis Markets. Try the original (gold label) and their Mediterranean. And they make a low calorie, too."



September 2018 Trivia Answers

1. Coffee, Irish whiskey, sugar, and cream
2. Trinity College, Dublin
3. www.fcd.ie/library/manuscripts/book-of-kells.php
3. Salmon https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coins_of_the_Republic_of_Ireland

FRESH EIRE



PAYPAL FUNDRAISER FOR PIPER GEOFFREY SAUR

Submitted by Lynnette Fitch Brash



This August, local Virginia piper **GEOFFREY SAUR** had the honor and pleasure of participating in the **EDINBURGH TATTOO** in Scotland's capital city! During the month-long tattoo, Geoffrey and the other pipers of "The Pipers Trail" played 25 shows on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle in front of an audience of 220,000! They had to learn all the music ahead of time, and then learn the marching patterns once they got to Edinburgh. Our local Celtic community should be so proud that one of our own did this!

Now, on the basis of their great performance in Edinburgh, Geoffrey has been given another once-in-a-lifetime chance: to pipe in both the **LIVERPOOL TATTOO** in England

and the **DUSSELDORF TATTOO** in Germany this fall! During the tattoos, his room, board, and transportation will be covered.

HOWEVER, the problem standing in his way is that he needs funding to support himself overseas during the next month BEFORE the next tattoo begins. Just enough for a room, some food each day -- basically, enough to put together with some busking on clear days to get by for a month.



*****If you and/or your organization would be willing to help Geoffrey make this dream opportunity happen, please go to [PayPal.com](https://www.paypal.com) and SEND A DONATION (no amount too small -- it all adds up!) to him at gsaur317@yahoo.com. *****

In January 2019, Geoffrey will begin grad school at Radford University, where he will pursue his MBA. In his grad school application, he wrote about how he wanted to work on establishing business projects to rejuvenate economy and culture through the arts. His participation and networking at these European tattoos is outstanding research that he will be able to put to use in his graduate studies!

Geoffrey most recently piped for the IAS at our 2018 BLOOMSDAY BASH back in June. Let's help out this local piper and all-around nice person! Imagine the wealth of experience, tunes, and contacts he will bring back to the local pipe bands! Imagine the stories he will have to share with all of us!

