



The Irish Connection

Irish American Society of Tidewater News December 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:
DECEMBER 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,

Join me for a quick look back to fall, and then a quick look forward to December!

The IAS had another fantastic weekend this year at the **Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Highland Games** in October! We were neighbors again with our friends the **Richmond Irish American Society** in a prime location at the top of Clan Row. Congratulations to **Glasgow Kiss** (IAS members **Edward Brash**, **Tom Crouch**, and **John McGlynn**) who put in a great set on the main stage, to IAS member **Connie Smith** who won first place this year in the Mod (Gaelic song competition) at the culture stage, and to organizer **Stokes McCune** for another wonderful festival! Saturday started off misty, but the weather cleared by midday. The grounds were fairly muddy, but they put down straw, wood chips, and gravel to help with that. Sunday's weather was PERFECT -- cool, sunny, and clear. IAS members used the IAS tent as a home-base for their day(s) at the festival, and our younger generation (**Gabby Brown** and **Eadlyn & Eilidh Crouch**) got some good training at the IAS Fáilte Table -- they all did an EXCELLENT job meeting, greeting, and recruiting! We gave out membership forms, business cards, and newsletters. We also added about ten new people who live in the 757 to our email list! AND I met a historian who wants to come down to do an Irish history program for us in 2019!

In November, we had both the **IAS Samhain Costume Party & Silent Auction Fundraiser** on November 1st and the **IAS "Fighting Irish" Veteran Appreciation Pub Crawl** on November 10th. See elsewhere in this issue for photo collages and more details on both of these outstanding IAS events!

IAS CHRISTMAS MARKET & CEILI Thursday, December 6th, 7-9 pm, Ascension

Please see the event poster on the back of this newsletter for more party and vendor details! Please also consider helping out. We need more "hands on deck" than just the board members in order to make these special events successful! Even if you are not able to do anything else, please show your support by showing up. Your attendance is very important to us, and we really appreciate it when you come. Drag yourself out!



IAS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (contact IAS.Tidewater@gmail.com if you can help out):

1. Someone over 21 to keep drinks station for Mulled Cider & Hot Chocolate & shots area tidy & supervised -- could sign up to do this in shifts. ***Also need second crock pot & extension cord for hot chocolate.
2. At least 2 people good at wrapping presents to wrap presents until we run out of wrapping paper, tape, ribbon, etc. -- could sign up to do this in shifts
3. Setting up guest tables & decorating between 6:00 & 6:30 -- vendor tables will be set up prior to that. ***Need holiday centerpieces for guest tables.
4. Pot luck food -- everyone! Plus anyone who can help **Cheryl Brown** set up the buffet table beforehand!
5. Celtic musicians of all ability levels to sit in session and/or do a party piece for us! **Edward Brash** will set up sound system and organize.
6. Ceili dancing -- hopefully we'll have multiple callers and willing dancers of all experience levels!

*** Please don't forget canned/nonperishable food & new hygiene item donations for our FOOD BANK DRIVE for the less fortunate -- there will be a large box marked for these donations! And PLEASE encourage family, co-workers, neighbors, etc. to come shop!

IAS JANUARY 2019 MEETING & SPECIAL PROGRAM

Thursday, January 3rd, 7-9 pm, Ascension

We are starting the new year off right with a "wine & cheese" special program! **Edward Brash** will be presenting a song & history program for us about the Irish being transported to the penal colony of Australia in the 19th century. This program was inspired by the Australian wine company **19 Crimes**; visit their website for more info (www.19crimes.com). The local grocery stores are carrying it now. We ask that people bring a bottle of wine OR some Irish cheese to share with everyone else -- if they are able. **Whole Foods Market** (locations in Virginia Beach and Newport News) carries some lovely Irish & Irish farmhouse style cheeses, as does **The Cheese Shop** in Merchants Square, Colonial Williamsburg. And there's always Kerrygold cheese -- you can find Dubliner cheddar at most local grocery stores!

Slán go fóill! ('Bye for now!)

Lynnette

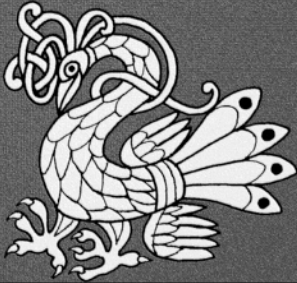


Please bring whatever CANNED GOODS
and other NONPERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS
to the DECEMBER MEETING to contribute
to the Church's FOOD PANTRY



The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614
Virginia Beach, VA
23450



OFFICERS President

Lynnette Fitch Brash

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Debra Taylor-Kelly

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757-642-0099

Sergeant-at-Arms

Jim Hagerty

Hospitality

Volunteers Needed

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lorishea@aol.com

Sunshine Bulletin

email the editor

WEBMASTER

Michael Lawler

WEB SITE

IRLUSA.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

Look for us on

Facebook & Instagram

Email us at:

IAS.Tidewater@Gmail.com



IAS WHITE JERSEYS – GROUP ORDER SALE PRICES!!!

Please don't forget the IAS white jersey sale is ongoing; you will NEVER be able to get them for this amazing \$50 per jersey group order price again!!! They will cost at least \$20 more to order them online from the O'Neills website.

We need to have a minimum of 18 jersey orders paid for before we can place the group order with O'Neills. We definitely want to do this by early



February 2019 to get them in time for IRISH MONTH 2019!!! We are currently about halfway there.

There will be jersey order forms at the IAS Gear & Membership table **Katie Morse McCrory** will be running during our December IAS Christmas

Market & Ceili. We will also have them at the January meeting. If you can't make it to either event, see the IAS Facebook page for the picture & order form, or send a message to IAS.Tidewater@gmail.com.



Lynnette with Lisa Burgess



Betsy Kennedy, Caroline Morse
& Katie McCrory



Eadlyn & Eilidh Crouch



Sandy McGregor, Evelyn
Hoff & Judy Gallagher



Bexley Benham &
Dawn Fitch Carragino



Mary Ryan &
Margaret Buckley

**SAMHAIN COSTUME PARTY &
SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER**
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018

IRISH & IRISH-AMERICAN TRIVIA



Submitted by Maureen Cahill

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

December 2018 Trivia Questions

- ♣ When was Guinness established?
- ♣ Who was the first Irish person to win an Olympic gold medal?
- ♣ When & where is the next IAS Irish Breakfast going to be held?

Answers on page 7
with web links for you to learn more. Sláinte!

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SAMHAIN COSTUME PARTY & SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018

Many thanks to everyone who showed up, dressed up, ponied up donated items, paid up on purchased items, and helped clean up! It was a fun evening, and we made several hundred dollars for the IAS coffers!

Bragging rights go to these members in the following 7 original costume categories:

- Best Couple/Duo Theme Costume - Lemonade couple (**Tracy Fearon & hubby**)
- Scariest Costume - Maleficent (**Jyllian Barry**)
- Funniest Costume - Dragon w/ Fireball (**Samantha Wood**)
- Most Irish Costume - An Mórrígan (**Lynnette Fitch Brash**)
- Best Homemade Mask or Make Up - **Joy Brady-Boyd's** make up on every member of her family!!! WOWZA!
- Best Baby/Toddler/Child Costume NA
- Least Recognizable Person Under Costume - Witch (**Betsy Kennedy**)

Small Samhain-themed 1st place prizes will be given at the December meeting to the costume winners!



Edward Brash & Lynnette Fitch Brash as Thurston C. Howell III & An Mórrígan
(an = the, mór = great, rígan = queen -- in Irish mythology, An Mórrígan is the goddess of battle, death, & destiny, and is often symbolized by ravens)



Joe & Mary Ann Brady & daughter Joy with Jyllian, Jordan, Jessica & William





IAS "FIGHTING IRISH" VETERAN APPRECIATION PUB CRAWL SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2018

We had a FANTASTIC time and met some cool new people at the three great microbreweries we went to: **Bold Mariner**, **Rip Rap**, and **Young Veterans**! The owner of Bold Mariner, **Michael Stacks**, is Irish American in addition to being a USN vet, and he wants to join the IAS! We tried out lots of yummy beers and had some fun singsongs on the bus. We had a fun and friendly group on the crawl, including our driver, **Gus** from **Fun Tours**, who did a great job! Thank you to everyone who came along for the fun. Many thanks to **Edward Brash**, **Maureen Cahill**, and **Meagan Garibay** for bringing coolers of iced beer on the bus. Extra special thanks to **Tom & Lynette Crouch** who did a lot to help organize this event, from coming up with the Veterans Day theme to scouting out three microbreweries owned by vets/active duty military. Lynette made awesome commemorative pins for all the vets, and she made cool stickers for the rest of us. And Tom really made our presence known by piping us into and out of each venue — it was fabulous! We will DEFINITELY have to do it again next year!





IAS "FIGHTING IRISH" VETERAN
APPRECIATION PUB CRAWL
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2018



Katie McCrory & Lynnette Fitch Brash with
Michael Stacks owner of Bold Mariner





IRISH DANCING UPDATE # 1: CROSSROADS CEILI!



The **CROSSROADS CEILI** Tuesday night ceilidh class has started back up! Are you an Irish step dancer trying to learn all the ceilis for your TCRG or TMRP exam? Or are you a *former* Irish step dancer who wants to keep involved in Irish dance even though your competition days are over? Or are you a dance parent who wants to learn to do the basics of Irish dance on a social rather than competitive level? Or maybe you have no

dance experience whatsoever but love Irish music and culture and want to learn Irish social (ceili) dancing just for the fun of it?

No matter what your motivation, students of all backgrounds and ability levels are welcome. No excuses – come on out and dance off all the holiday feasting! Don't miss out on the fun! The class meets from 7:30-8:30 pm at the Golden Slipper dance studio at the corner of the shopping center on Kempsville Road in Virginia Beach next to the intersection with Centerville Turnpike; Indian River Road East is the closest interstate exit.

December class dates will be the 4th, 11th and 18th. Tuition will be \$21 for the month of December. No classes on the 25th or 1st of January. Contact Crossroads Ceili Director **Mary Fien** at 757/285-9125 or mpfien@outlook.com with any questions. Mary is our IAS Adult Princess 1998 and a former Adult Prizewinner dancer with **An Cor Rud**.



IRISH DANCING UPDATE # 2: THE RHODES ACADEMY!

Sara Rhodes, our IAS Teen Princess 2005, is all grown up and has her own dance school now, the **RHODES ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE**! Sara grew up dancing for us at IAS events when she was an **An Cor Rud** championship dancer, she competed multiple times at the Worlds, she was a lead dancer in the Virginia International Tattoo, she toured with Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance* in Europe and on Broadway, she was the female lead dancer in Busch Gardens' *Celtic Fyre* show, she also danced at Disney's Raglan Road in Florida, and she earned her TCRG Irish step dance instructor certification from *An Coimisiún Le Rincí Gaelacha* (The Irish Dancing Commission) in Dublin, Ireland. In addition, she has a degree in Design Tech for Theatre from CNU. Please see the poster for contact info and details about her fall classes.



IRISH DANCING UPDATE # 3: THE WALKER ACADEMY!

Submitted by J. R. Walker, TCRG

The **WALKER ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE** made their debut performance at the **Eileen Ivers** concert at the request of the **Sandler Center of Performing Arts** on November 14th. The dancers began the night by entertaining the pre-show audience with a lively breakout showcase prior to entering the venue. The team, comprised of Regionals-, Nationals-, and Worlds-qualifying dancers, love sharing their rhythm dancing and promoting the Irish culture in our Hampton Roads community.

New **Beginner**

Irish Dance Classes

Fun • Fitness • Friendships
Competitions • Performances

with
Certified Irish Dance Instructor
and
Professional Dancer

Sara Rhodes, TCRG
Busch Gardens' Disney's
Celtic Fyre Raglan Road
Michael Flatley's
Lord of the Dance

Fall Classes
Sept. 20 - Dec. 13
Thursdays
6:30 - 7:30 pm
Ages 6-10
7:30 - 8:30 pm
Ages 11-17
For Boys and Girls

Rhodes Academy
of Irish Dance

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The Walker Academy



**SOCIETY SHOUT OUT!**

Please feel free to submit news about yourself and/or other current or former IAS members, with or without pictures!

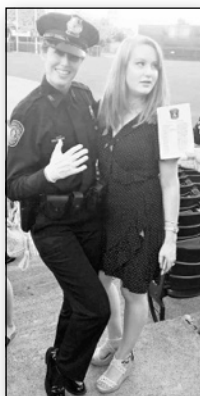
Submitted by *Lynnette Fitch Brash*

CONGRATULATIONS

to **Breana Ryan** on graduating earlier this fall from **University College Galway!** Mom Shannon and the rest of the family ARE very proud, I am sure. Breana has now started grad school at **University College Cork** AND she has landed a place in **Ernst & Young's** audit graduate programme in Cork. She will start her 3.5 year contract with them next September, during which time she will do her professional exams to become a chartered accountant with Chartered Accountants Ireland. WOW! Go, girleen!!!

**CONGRATULATIONS**

as well to **Maura Flatley**, our IAS Teen Princess 2004, who graduated from the Police Academy recently! Maura already had a bachelor's degree from JMU, and subsequently decided to go into law enforcement. We are so used to seeing her in an Irish dance costume from her years studying, competing, and performing with **An Cor Rud**, but now she is our second IAS princess who is part of the Thin Blue Line! Our IAS Adult Princess 2007 **Erin Morrissey** is a police officer in the Newport News PD. Maura is in the Norfolk PD.



BRAVA, Moira O'Neill!!! Our IAS Little Miss Princess 2010 had the lead role in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* in her school production. In addition, she maintained straight As the entire school year last year, earned an honorable mention in the Noetic math contest, played baseball, AND won the Bronze award in Girl Scouts! The Bronze award is the highest award a Junior Scout can earn. It requires a minimum of twenty hours of service to accomplish the Girl Scout mission of developing courage, confidence, and character to make our world a better place. Moira and three of her troopmates devoted over thirty hours each during 2.5 months to plan and conduct a Mothers Day party for displaced women at a local shelter. OUTSTANDING!



CONGRATULATIONS to **Eadlyn Crouch**, our IAS Junior Princess 2018, who was recently elected Vice President of the **National Honor Society** at Sewells Point Elementary School! NHS is an academic achievement organization into which excellent students are inducted. Eadlyn enjoys helping out and will make a great officer. Congratulations are also in order to her sister, **Eilidh Crouch**, who was selected by teachers to be an Ambassador in the **eS2s (elementary student to student)** program at Sewells Point. This program brings military-connected and civilian kids together so that new kids feel included in their new school environment. Kudos to both of the Crouch girls for developing their leadership skills and serving their school community!



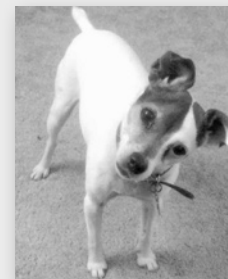
Gabby Brown (L), Eilidh Crouch (M), & Eadlyn Crouch (R) at IAS FÁILTE Table, CVCF&HG October 2018

CU CORNER

Submitted by *Lynnette Fitch Brash*

Hear all the latest about our Hibernian hounds!
Feel free to submit news and/or pictures relating to Irish breed or Irish-owned dogs!

I am very sad to report we have lost a Paddy Pack member. **Cheryl Brown's** extra special fur baby **Schnitzel** has passed. Schnitzel, or Jack, was a rescue Jack Russell, so his specific age is not known, but the Brown family gave him a wonderful home. Schnitzel was completely devoted to Cheryl. He was a great wee hunter, especially of voles, and a lively companion. Goodbye, good boy.



December 2018 Trivia Answers

♣ 1759 <https://astrumpeople.com/arthur-guinness-biography-the-history-of-guinness-beer/>

♣ Pat O'Callaghan. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pat_O%27Callaghan

♣ At the Kempsville location of **Finn McCool's** in Providence Square Shopping Center on **Sunday, January 20th from 11 am – 1 pm.** There will be a special brunch menu & drink specials. See you there!



IAS Christmas Market & Ceili!!!

Thursday, December 6th, 7:00-9:00 pm



Calling All Shoppers!

Get your holiday shopping done in a fun, family-friendly environment hosted by the Irish American Society of Tidewater - admission free & open to the public!

Celtic holiday music & ceili dancing! Pot Luck Buffet & BYOB!

Holiday stories read aloud in the Kids Corner! Santa & Mrs. Claus photo appointments on site for small donation to the IAS!

Wrapping services for small donation to the IAS!

Mulled cider & hot chocolate (w/ or w/o shots of something stronger) for small donation to IAS!

Canned food & hygiene item drive for local Food Bank!



Vendors* (alpha order):

- AVON Products & Makeovers - Joy Brady-Boyd
- CHRISTMAS DECOR by Mimi - Mary Ann Brady
- COLOR STREET Nail Polish Strips (Free Instant Application w/ Purchase) - Danah Stover-Hubbard
- THE ENCHANTED FAWN Custom Baby & Child Hairbows, Bowties, etc. - Gabrielle Benham
- GILMOUR GRRRRL GOODS Decor, Clothing, & Personalized Gifts - Eadlyn & Lynette Gilmour Crouch
- IRISH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TIDEWATER Gear & Membership Dues - Katie Morse McCrory
- KNIT IT GOOD! Gorgeous Knit Clothing & Accessories - Maureen Cahill
- ORIGAMI OWL Unique Locket & Other Customized Jewelry - Allison Millard
- OTHER WORLDLY SOAP Handcrafted Luxury Soaps & Bathbombs - Louise McGinnis
- THIRTY-ONE GIFTS Totes, Bags, etc. - Caroline Morse
- THE THORNY SEAHORSE Accessories, Decor, & Gifts - Debra Taylor-Kelly
- VINTAGE ELEGANCE BY MVK Shabby Chic & Coastal Decor - Marianne V. Kleber

** Plus several other local vendors who are in the works!
Support local businesses & artists! Buy local!*



See you there 7-9 pm at the Ascension Community Center, 4853 Princess Anne Rd, VB 23462!

IAS.Tidewater@gmail.com

