



The Irish Connection

Irish American Society of Tidewater News

April 2019

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:
APRIL 4, 2019**

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,

Let me start off by wishing former IAS President **Mike Bromley** a VERY Happy Birthday and many more! "The Brom" turned 76 this Irish Month, and wife **Mary Ann** sent along the fabulous picture of the whole clan. We very much missed having them at Finnegan's Wake this year, but hopefully they will be able to make our IAS 40th Anniversary EMERALD BALL next March!



And speaking of **Finnegan's Wake** – WOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!! If you were there, you know what I mean! My mind is still blown by the OUTSTANDING event this organization pulled together and put on in just a couple months! We had an A++ team of talented volunteers who pulled out ALL the stops to make this – perhaps – the best FW ever! We said we needed volunteers since we were doing it totally on our own this year, and the IAS really rose to the occasion. I could not be prouder or more impressed – it was a truly spectacular evening with gorgeous décor, fantastic food, amazing door prizes, world class dancing and music, fabulous 2019 IAS Princesses (special feature on them coming next issue!), and MANY, MANY smiling Irish eyes. There were so many awesome things about this year's FW (many of which you can see in the photo spread inside this newsletter which **Lori Shea** has painstakingly put together for us), but I would like to specifically mention my personal top three.

1. It makes my heart swell to see so many generations having such a good time together at FW (or any IAS event). That is what it is all about.
2. It was lovely to see old and new IAS members bonding and making new friends as they helped

with setting up, serving food, hospitality (reaching out and introducing themselves during the evening), and/or cleaning up afterward. Many hands make light work, but, perhaps more importantly, this is how we build community in our organization.

3. I was tickled pink that **Nancy & Bruce Doyle**, who first came to our 2018 Christmas

Market & Ceili after seeing the article about it in The Beacon, not only joined the IAS at the beginning of the month but came to FW



and brought another couple! They are so fun, as you can see in the attached picture, and it was a highlight of an all-around wonderful evening for me to see them there having such a good time! CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte to them and all our newer members.

The rest of IRISH MONTH was also superb. See elsewhere in this issue an article and multi-page picture montage about our IAS Contingent in the **Ocean View St. Patrick's Day Parade**, a half page on the excellent 1st annual **Bold Mariner Brewing Company Post-Parade Party** in Ocean View, and a half page on the always fun **Church Hill Irish Festival** in RVA!

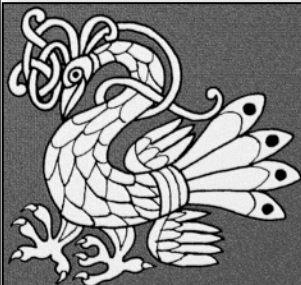
~~~~~  
IAS MEETING – THURSDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>  
**THE WEE FOLK Special  
Program  
by SCOTT  
MACGREGOR  
& DONATION  
MATCHING DRIVE  
FOR ST. BALDRICK'S**

Join us in the Ascension Community Center at 7 pm for our monthly meeting. Our own **Scott Macgregor** (pictured with daughter **Darcie** and granddaughter **Emmy** at the George Washington Ball in Williamsburg, VA) has majorly tweaked the



## The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614  
Virginia Beach, VA  
23450



### OFFICERS President

Lynnette Fitch Brash

### Sr. Vice President

Debra Taylor-Kelly

### Jr. Vice President

Maureen Cahill

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Katie McCrory

### Recording Secretary

Mary Ann Brady

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### Hospitality

Lynette Gilmour Crouch

### Youth Outreach Chair

Meagan Garibay

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### Sunshine Bulletin

email the editor

### WEBMASTER

Michael Lawler

### WEB SITE

IRLUSA.org

### SOCIAL MEDIA

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IAS.Tidewater@Gmail.com

program he did for the SST on Celtic Faerie Folk for an Irish audience! You don't want to miss this -- and it is our last chance this year to DONATE to St. Baldrick's (research charity for children's cancers) in time for the IAS to MATCH all member donations up to a total of \$125!!! Bring cash, check, or credit card if you want to contribute -- and make sure to tell us it is for St. Baldrick's!

Doors will open at 6:30pm; a brief business meeting will begin at 7:00 pm so that the board can present summaries on our fabulous Irish Month activities & fundraisers as well as discuss upcoming IAS plans both big & small with membership.

If you want to bring a treat to share, please do! These refreshments will be available in the coffee area, and we will also be selling the leftover beer, soda, and water from FW as a fundraiser.

To help you plan your summer schedule, here's the IAS meeting / program info for the next few months.

♦ **Thurs. May 2<sup>nd</sup> IAS Meeting** – APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS: ANCIENT CELTIC AGRICULTURAL TRADITIONS OF BELTAINE program by **Kathryn Peterson Lambert**, certified Tidewater Master Naturalist – Kathryn will also be bringing some live herb & native plants from her own collection to give away to us!

♦ **Thurs. June 6<sup>th</sup> IAS Meeting** – FEMALE SPIES OF THE IRISH REVOLUTIONS program by historian and author **Kate Murphy-Schaefer** – Kate is coming down from RVA to present on a specialty area of hers for us! Let's make sure we have a great turn out!

♦ **Thurs. July 4<sup>th</sup> – NO IAS MEETING** due to INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!

## ANNUAL COASTAL VIRGINIA CUP HURLING & CAMOGIE TOURNAMENT

Norfolk, Virginia -- Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

This is the only public information we have seen on this event. Contact the **Coastal Virginia GAA** for additional information. Their current President's name is **Josh Parker**. If you do attend, make sure to have a look at the two beautiful perpetual trophies for the tournament that the IAS donated for the inaugural CVC in 2015. Presumably, if any of our 2019 IAS Princesses were willing to show up in their sashes, they would be incorporated into the opening ceremonies.

**Finally, a repeat reminder: PLEASE don't forget to pay your 2019 IAS membership dues!!!** We are a volunteer organization. The annual dues go 100% to support the IAS mission to promote and preserve Irish culture in our area. Even if you can't attend any events or meetings, YOUR ANNUAL DUES HELP SUPPORT THE IAS MISSION.

You may pay your dues to our Financial Secretary **Michael Lawler** by cash or check along with your membership form at the April meeting if you haven't already. If you would rather pay by credit or debit card, see our Treasurer **Katie McCrory** at the April meeting. You may also pay by PayPal to **IAS.Tidewater@gmail.com**; please make sure to include a note on the PayPal payment with your name, email, postal address, and 2019 dues so we know to add you to the 2019 membership rolls.

*Go raibh maith agaibh! Slán go fóill!*

(Thank you! 'Bye for now!)

Lynnette Fitch Brash



## IRISH & IRISH-AMERICAN TRIVIA



*Submitted by Maureen Cahill*

*Each month, you will be asked to test your knowledge at three levels: easy, middling, and most difficult..*

## April 2019 Trivia Questions

- ♣ John Barry, father of the US Navy, was born in Ireland. Where?
- ♣ What percentage of Americans claim Irish heritage?
- ♣ What was Tir na nÓg?

*Answers on page 8  
with web links for you to learn more. Sláinte!*

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# FINNEGAN'S WAKE March 9, 2019



Opening the evening



Allison Spitz, of Southern Spool worked with Debra Taylor-Kelly to create the table decorations



Kathy Lienau, Deb Plummer, Ellen Barta, Doreen Martin, Cheryl Brown, Nanette Legette Emmerich & Meagan Garibay



Randy & Cheryl Brown



Olivia & Suzette Ware

Raffle Surprises



Terri Garand, Maureen Cahill & Dawn Fitch Carragino



Serving dinner & Mary Ann Brady's special for dessert



Irish Step Dancers from the Walker Academy of Irish Dance



2019 Teen Princess, Kelly Ann Gould with the youngest dancers





2019 Jr. Princess Eilidh Crouch with her sister Eadlyn, our 2018 Jr. Princess!

## FINNEGAN'S WAKE March 9, 2019



Caroline Morse 2018 IAS Princess & 2019 Teen Princess, Kelly Ann Gould



Little Miss & Adult IAS Princesses Catriona, Juliette with Ruaridh & Brad Dunphy



Lynette Crouch our 2003 Adult Princess, Eilidh 2019 Jr. Princess, Tom Crouch & Eadlyn our 2018 Jr. Princess



Stevie Callahan, her friend Caroline & Christopher Cassidy - a volunteer from the VFW.

Thanks to the volunteers from Joe Brady's VFW Post #392:  
Ray, Maria & Christopher Cassidy  
R J & Kate Devine  
they cheerfully tended bar and handled tickets at the front door.



Joe & Mary Ann Brady with (almost in order) Liza Villaneda, Jyllian, Jake Chism, Jen, Jordan, William, Megan, Jessica, Jason, Jessica & Joy



Debra Taylor-Kelly, Frank Passarelli, Allison Cochrane Spitz & Jennifer O'Connell

### RAFFLE PRIZES



Props for the IAS Photo Booth

# FINNEGAN'S WAKE March 9, 2019



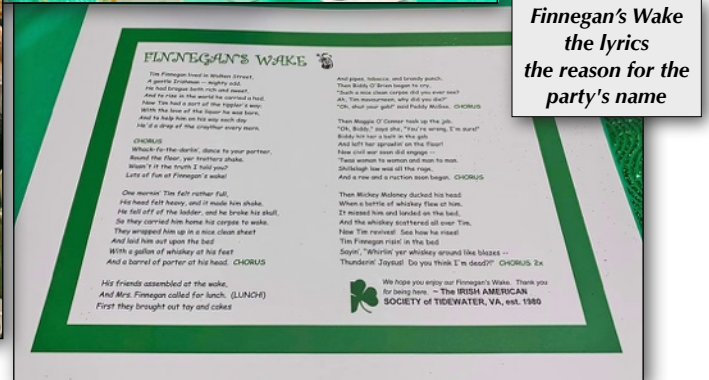
**Peggy Anthony, Nanette Legette Emmerich  
& Doreen Martin**



**Jim Hagerty  
& Mary Ryan**



**Debra Taylor-Kelly  
& Maureen Cahill**



**Finnegan's Wake  
the lyrics  
the reason for the  
party's name**



**Glasgow Kiss  
Edward Brash,  
John McGlynn  
& Tom Crouch**

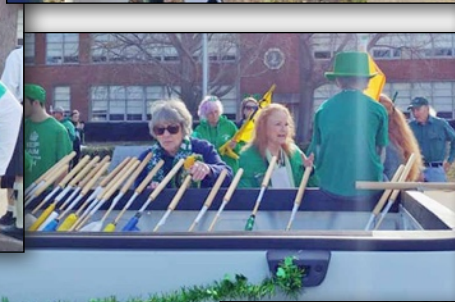


# ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019

*Getting Ready!*



**Debra Taylor Kelly, Joe Brady with Joseph Brady, Doug & Dawson Smith**



**Lisa Burgess & Fynn, Debra Taylor-Kelly & Teaghan Brown**



**Eileen Seeley & her son David Schleck**



**Aileen Coggenshell, Joe Hardie & Marsha Montgomery**



**Joy & Jordan Boyd**



**Mike Pettry, Jack Kennedy & Lori Shea**



**Jake Chism & Jyllian Barry**



**Edward Brash & Lisa Burgess**



**Darryl & Lara Lazar Danielle Irwin**



**Marsha Montgomery**



## PARTY AFTER NORFOLK PARADE AT BOLD MARINER BREWING COMPANY

The new Ocean View location of **The Bold Mariner Brewing Company** was the scene of a FANTASTIC after party! Lots of IAS members came out to support this USN vet & Irish American-owned business, and the event was a DEFINITE success!

Our IAS Honor Guard Piper **Tom Crouch** gave the DJ a break while piping some Irish tunes for the audience. That gazebo back there would be a perfect place for an Irish band to do an outdoor gig (Hint, hint, Glasgow Kiss!). You can see The Bold Mariner Brewing Company owner **Michael Stacks** in the back far left. He was outside hustling all day making sure everything was where it needed to be. Hard working guy, for sure. IAS members Joe, Lynnette, Eileen, David, and Lynette enjoying the lovely day, delicious beer, and Irish camaraderie!



## CHURCH HILL IRISH FESTIVAL RICHMOND, VA 2019

Gorgeous weather brought out the big crowds. Lots of beer brought out some interesting fodder for people watching!!! All in all, a great time was had by all.

Glasgow Kiss played with Edward Brash's parents, Lynnette, Donna Looney, Lynette, Eadlyn & Eilidh Crouch enjoying the day.





**Marching & Flag Waving**



*Photos in this issue by: Lynnette Fitch Brash,  
Joy Brady-Boyd, Lynette Crouch & Lisa Burgess  
many thanks*



## St Patrick's Day Parade Ocean View Saturday, March 16, 2019

Another OV St. Patrick's Day Parade is in the books, and this one would be hard to beat! We had GLORIOUS weather for it and a great turn out from our members to represent for the IRISH here in Tidewater! Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed the multi-generational Irish camaraderie with the IAS!

Looking this good doesn't just happen spontaneously, even though we ARE lucky enough to be Irish! :) There is a LOT of prep work behind the scenes leading up to this parade. So I'd like to give some special thanks to the following:

CLAN BRADY, as always, went above and beyond! **Joseph Brady** hustled to get the green mustang Princess convertible ready, he got trucks & drivers for both floats, and he tracked down the IAS parade banner for us. All of these are ESSENTIAL to our parade contingent. **Mary Ann Brady** gave our **Irish Cottage** and **Paddy Wagon** floats a spring cleaning, and got them decorated absolutely beautifully. She also spearheaded the breakdown job afterward. **Joy Brady-Boyd** got us a crew of leprechauns loaded up with treats and Irish souvenirs to give out along the parade route. She also brought her lovely and talented children to help out. Her whole crew helped with clean up.

Both **Lori Shea** and **Debra Taylor-Kelly** deserve a lot of thanks and praise for their work to get the 32 Irish county flags (that **Jim Hagerty** had the vision to make happen for the IAS six years ago) ready for the parade. **Lori** got them all back on their poles after

we displayed them flat for FW. She also had to sew sleeves for 20 out of 32 of them to put them on poles. In case that didn't register, she sewed sleeves for TWENTY of them in the few days between FW & the Parade!!! This on top of taking care of her son **Michael** who just had emergency gall bladder removal surgery! (Best wishes, Michael!!! <3 ) **Debra** did a lovely job inventorying the flags and distributing and collecting them all. She made sure everyone who could carry one had one to carry, and, using her keen artist's eye, she made sure they stretched all the way from the front of our contingent to the Paddy Wagon grand finale. Thanks to our **Founding President Eileen Ryan Seeley** as well, who brought the Irish 4 Provinces flag and the Irish flag to the parade for Jim, who could not make it this year.

All 4 of our **2019 IAS Princesses** did a wonderful job in the parade! Many thanks to **Clan Dunphy** for REALLY going all out to represent Ireland and Irish America in style! **Catrina** and **Juliette** made beautiful **Adult & Little Miss Princesses**. In addition, I would like to mention that **Cat & Brad Dunphy** sacrificed their annual 8K Shamrock Run, something they do religiously AND that they had already paid to do, in order to represent the IAS in the OV SPD Parade this year since both events are on the same day.

Many thanks also to our **Teen Princess, Kelly Ann Gould**, for making the SPD Parade a priority. She looked gorgeous, and handled all the photographs like a professional. She and her parents, **Tracy Lynn Fearon & Craig Leap**, got to the Parade area super early to park at the end and take the shuttle, because IMMEDIATELY after the Parade, they had to get Kelly over to **O'Connor's Brewing Company** where she had an Irish step dancing gig with the other **Walker Academy Worlds** qualifiers!!!

♣ The land of eternal youth. [www.thoughtco.com/the-irish-legend-of-tir-na-nog-2561709](http://www.thoughtco.com/the-irish-legend-of-tir-na-nog-2561709)  
♣ larger-than-ireland/utm\_term=.bea738c00162  
♣ 12%. [www.washingtonpost.com/news/world/wp/2013/03/17/the-irish-american-population-is-seven-times-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/world/wp/2013/03/17/the-irish-american-population-is-seven-times-)  
♣ Wexford. [www.ushistory.org/people/commodorebarry.htm](http://www.ushistory.org/people/commodorebarry.htm)  
April 2019 - Trivia Answers



### St Patrick's Day Parade continued

For the first time ever, I believe, we had back-to-back sister **Junior Princesses** in 2018 & 2019! **Eilidh Crouch** looked like she just stepped out of the hills of Connemara in her Aran jumper! We really appreciate what a trooper she was all day, given how sick she was earlier in the week. (Ditto for **Juliette** & her brother **Ruaridh** on that note!) And it was really special to have her with her older sister **Eadlyn**, our Jr. Princess last year, riding on the front of the Irish Cottage! You may have noticed them smiling and waving in some of the news coverage!

Thanks to their parents, **Lynette & Tom Crouch**, for all their efforts. Lynette brought blankets for the princesses in case it was cold, and she got the girls there early with plenty of time to help out. Tom, of course, is our official **Irish American Honor Guard Piper**, and he made sure our contingent made an impressive and stylish and festive showing from step off until the very end. I might mention that both **Tom Crouch** and **Edward Brash** really deserve a lot of bonus points for showing up, given that they had

been playing gigs at **Grace O'Malley's Irish Pub** all week long, including the night before the SPD Parade, until the wee hours!

And last, but definitely not least, I would like to thank our friends in the **Irish Wolfhound Association of the Mid South** for showing up to be our **Paddy Pack** again this year! The Irish wolf hounds are a HUGE hit with the crowds every year, and we feel so grateful to have them as part of our contingent. These iconic hounds of Ireland are such beautiful and gentle giants. The IAS has a natural and long association with wolfhounds, going back to former IAS President **Tom Porter's** lovely wolfhound **Willie**. All the members of IWAMS are to be commended for preserving and protecting this wonderful breed. It is an honor to have the companion breed of the High Kings of Ireland march with us. Thank you, **Heather Hanchett Burns**, **Rebecca Conti**, and **Angela Tumwa** for organizing & making it happen!

All right, folks, next year's parade will be during our 40th anniversary year of 2020! How can we top this????!! Put your thinking caps on now and start planning -- we are already less than a year away!!! ;)

## ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019



### Marching & Flag Waving



# ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019



Mary & John Ryan



Irish Wolfhound Association of the Mid South  
represented by Heather Hanchett Burns, Rebecca Conti,  
and Angela Tumwa with their gorgeous hounds



Eilidh, Eadlyn Lynette & Tom Crouch

All the Parts!



Little Miss & Adult IAS  
Princesses Catriona &  
Juliette with Ruairidh &  
Brad Dunphy



2019 Teen Princess, Kelly Ann Gould, her  
mom Tracy Lynn Fearon & dad Craig Leap



Our founding IAS President  
Eileen Ryan Seeley with the  
current IAS President  
Lynnette Fitch Brash  
wearing Eileen's Dad's sash

