



# The Irish Connection

Irish American Society of Tidewater News

June 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:  
JUNE 6, 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,

We hope that all of our moms had a wonderful *Mothers Day* in May and that all of our dads have an equally wonderful **FATHERS DAY** in June.

Many thanks to both **Kathryn Peterson Lambert** and **Allison Berkowitz Millard** for a wonderful May IAS Meeting. A fun time was had by all! Kathryn delivered a great Beltaine horticulture presentation for us, and Allison of **Origami Owl** provided some fabulous Mothers Day shopping!!! Thanks to everyone who attended, and extra thanks to those who donated supplies and/or funds to the **Law Enforcement United 501(c)(3)** bike trip to **Police Week**. **Edward Brash** delivered the IAS contributions to **Erin Morrissey** for distribution during the 250-mile trek. Special thanks to **Michael Lawler** for setting the room up and doing the 50-50 raffle, to **Katie Morse McCrory** for making an emergency trip to get the hospitality supplies from Lynette Crouch and setting things up for her this month, to **Edward Brash** for setting up the IAS fundraiser cash bar, and to **Jack Kennedy** for doing the lion's share of cleaning up afterwards. A highlight of the evening was meeting **Tim Foley**, a longtime member who was finally able to attend his first meeting! Tim's a super nice guy who just got back from Co. Clare, where his family is from. Great to have a new set of smiling Irish eyes along! Great also to see **Joe Hardie** at the meeting after his recent hospitalization for pancreatitis. \*\*\*\*\*

### IAS MEETING – THURSDAY, JUNE 6th IN PLAIN SIGHT: FEMALE SPIES IN THE IRISH REVOLUTIONS Program by Kate Murphy Schaefer, Historian

We have a real treat for our June meeting -- we have an IRISH HISTORY SCHOLAR coming down from RVA to present for us on the topic of FEMALE SPIES IN IRISH REVOLUTIONS!!! I am so excited about this! PLEASE make every effort to attend and bring friends to this meeting -- she's coming all the way down here for free and bringing her husband and parents. We want to make sure she gets a warm Irish welcome with a large, appreciative audience!

I met **Kate Murphy Schaefer** at the IAS Fáilte Tent at the Richmond Games last October and asked her to come give a program for us. Like many of us, she has been fascinated with Irish history since childhood. Her BA is in history, and she has an MA



in History with a Military History concentration. In addition, she has completed online coursework with **Trinity College Dublin**.

Kate's master's thesis discussed the ways women both used and defied gender expectations to participate in the early 20th century Irish revolutions. Last August, *History Today*, a British history journal, published her article on female spies in the War of Irish Independence. Two of her articles on women's contributions in WWII have been published in *Historic UK History Magazine*. It will be an honor to have this historian present her work for us!

Doors will open at 6:30 pm for anyone who wants to help set up; the actual meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. We have some old and new business to discuss with the membership prior to the program. ALL ARE WELCOME - you don't have to already be a member to attend!

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 assorted beers and hard ciders as a fundraiser. Bring cash -- suggested donation is \$3 for one beverage / \$5 for two.

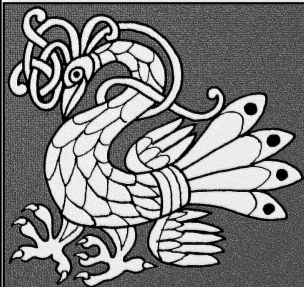
To help you plan your summer schedule, here's the IAS meeting / program / social info for the next few months.

\* Sun. June 16<sup>th</sup> – **Bloomsday** falls on **Fathers Day** this year, so we wish all our dads, granddads, stepdads, and godfathers a delightful day and will forgo our usual annual celebration of **James Joyce's Ulysses**.

\* Sat. June 22<sup>nd</sup> – IAS Meet up at the **GAELIC STORM** concert! The band from the famous *Titanic* film "steering ceiling" will be appearing in an all ages show at **Elevation 27**, 600 Nevan Rd, Va Beach 23451! Doors open at 7 pm; show starts at 8 pm. Wear some IAS gear and look for your IAS pals! Don't miss these Billboard World Music 7-time-number-1 chart toppers!!! Get your tickets (\$22 each) on TicketWeb before they sell out! <https://www.ticketweb.com/event/gaelic-storm-elevation-27-tickets/9313515?REFID=clientsitewp>

## The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614  
Virginia Beach, VA  
23450



### OFFICERS

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email the editor

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Michael Lawler

#### WEB SITE

IRLUSA.org

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Look for us on  
Facebook & Instagram

Email us at:

IAS.Tidewater@Gmail.com

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

\* Sun. July 14<sup>th</sup> – **IAS & Friends Irish Brunch**  
11:00 am – 12:00 pm in the side room at **Finn McCool's Kempsville!** More details in the next issue!

\* Thurs. August 1<sup>st</sup> – **IAS Silent Auction** to get our **Irish American Honor Guard** new recruits kitted out in kilt uniforms – this **Fundraiser** is in lieu of the regular meeting!!! **PLEASE START GETTING NICE AUCTION ITEMS TOGETHER!!!** Ask local businesses (especially Irish ones!) for gift certificates. Location & time TBD – watch for this in next newsletter, Facebook group, group email, and website.

\* **IAS "DRINKING AT LUGHNASADH"** Mid-August Meet Up – date, time, & location TBD

\* Thurs. September 5<sup>th</sup> IAS Meeting – **SELKIE SEPTEMBER** program – As our area enjoys the final weeks of summer, we will be doing a

variety of activities at our September meeting in honor of these Irish mermaids! More info in a later newsletter!

\* Sat. September 28<sup>th</sup> - **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Celtic Cousins Cook Out** in the Ascension Picnic Area w/ our friends in the Scottish Society of Tidewater! More info in coming months. (Set up 12-1 pm, Event 1-4 pm, Clean up 4-5 pm)

We're cramped for space this month, so we are holding over some Irish Abroad and IAS Honor Guard info for next month's issue!

*Go raibh maith agaibh! Slán go fóill!*

*Thank you! 'Bye for now!*

*Lynnette Fitch Brash* 

### IAS TREASURER'S REPORT

#### Finnegan's Wake 2019

As of 31 March 2019

#### Revenue

Ticket Sales (191)	2,865.00
Beverage Sales*	847.00

#### Expenses

Catering	2,000.00
Alcohol	444.67
Entertainment	450.00
Sashes	115.00

#### Expenses

Flowers	103.84
Placemats	136.83
Ticket Printing	41.31
Décor & Supplies	169.37
ABC License	85.00
PayPal Fees	24.90
Square Fees	17.33

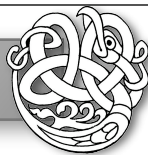
(3,588.25)

#### Net Profit/Loss

**\$123.75**

\* Beverage sales are ongoing at IAS events which will recoup additional FW costs.

### 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..*

### JUNE 2019 Trivia Questions

- ♣ What does GAA stand for?
- ♣ How many American Presidents have Irish roots?
- ♣ Which Irish city is also known as the "city of the tribes?"

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

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## BARTENDER'S CHOICE



Submitted by *Lynnette Fitch Brash*

A German friend of a friend posted this online recently, and I think it sounds like a DELICIOUS and easy way to make use of the fresh strawberries people have been picking recently!

STRAWBERRY BOWL POSTED BY SILKE SELL

1 lb. of strawberries [hulled and halved]  
1 bottle champagne [or Prosecco]  
1 bottle dry white wine  
1 cup sugar

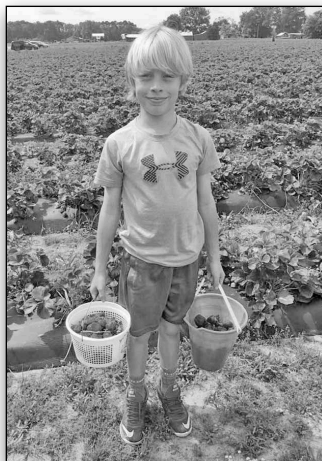
Mix in large bowl or pitcher. Serve ice cold; frozen strawberries would keep it cold without watering it down as they thaw. Great for a summer party!

As a bonus, here is a TASTY dessert recipe using fresh strawberries as well that I found online:

**Strawberry Pretzel Cheesecake!** It looks and sounds delicious! Here is the source; there is a two-minute video at this link showing the recipe being made.

[https://tasty.co/recipe/strawberry-pretzel-cheesecake?](https://tasty.co/recipe/strawberry-pretzel-cheesecake?utm_source=dynamic&utm_campaign=bffbbuzzfeedtasty&ref=bffbbuzzfeedtasty&fbclid=IwAR2zLQVjA8Rj7kOwNgd93w9UUI_kbS3y5T8r26W490LC9TnoiJqjN_Q2CGtk)

[utm\\_source=dynamic&utm\\_campaign=bffbbuzzfeedtasty&ref=bffbbuzzfeedtasty&fbclid=IwAR2zLQVjA8Rj7kOwNgd93w9UUI\\_kbS3y5T8r26W490LC9TnoiJqjN\\_Q2CGtk](https://tasty.co/recipe/strawberry-pretzel-cheesecake?utm_source=dynamic&utm_campaign=bffbbuzzfeedtasty&ref=bffbbuzzfeedtasty&fbclid=IwAR2zLQVjA8Rj7kOwNgd93w9UUI_kbS3y5T8r26W490LC9TnoiJqjN_Q2CGtk)



*Fynn Burgess -  
picking strawberries*

### Ingredients for 12 servings

- 2 ½ cups mini pretzel
- 10 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 8 oz cream cheese, 2 packages, at room temperature
- 1 ½ cups powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 cup whipped cream
- 2 cups water
- 6 oz strawberry gelatin
- 1 lb strawberry, hulled and sliced

### Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C).
2. Fill a gallon plastic bag with pretzels and use a rolling pin or meat mallet to crush the pretzels, creating a chunky texture.
3. Combine crushed pretzels and butter in a mixing bowl and stir to combine.
4. Place the pretzel mixture in the base of a 9-inch (23-cm) springform pan with the mixture to create the crust. Use a measuring cup to smooth the surface.
5. Bake for 10 minutes. Let cool to room temperature.
6. Place cream cheese in a large bowl and mix with an electric mixer until cream cheese is smooth.
7. Add in powder sugar, vanilla extract, and sour cream. Mix until combine. Use a spatula to scrape the sides of the bowl.
8. Add in the whipped cream until batter is thick and smooth.
9. Pour the mixture into the 9-inch (23-cm) springform pan and spread with a spatula to cover the pretzel crust and create a flat even top. Transfer to the refrigerator to chill for 30 minutes.
10. Boil water in a medium saucepan over high heat. Once boiling, add the strawberry gelatin and stir for 3 minutes, or until gelatin has dissolved. Remove from heat.
11. Let gelatin mixture cool for 8 minutes or until room temperature. Add in strawberries and stir to combine.
12. Remove the springform pan from the refrigerator and pour the strawberry mixture over it. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours.
13. Enjoy!

## THE WEDDING OF LINDSEY MORGAN JOHNSON AND CHRISTIAN HARRIS - OUR JJ'S BABY GIRL TIES THE KNOT! (see page 4)



## SOCIETY SHOUT OUT!



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

### THE WEDDING OF LINDSEY MORGAN JOHNSON AND CHRISTIAN HARRIS – OUR JJ'S BABY GIRL TIES THE KNOT!

*Submitted by Lynnette Fitch Brash*

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, **Lindsey Johnson**, youngest child of our dearly departed former IAS Vice President **John "JJ" Johnson**, married her fiancée, **Christian Harris**. Friends and family came in from all over to witness their big day. The rehearsal dinner was held the night before at **Captain George's Seafood Restaurant** in Virginia Beach. The wedding and reception took place at **West Neck Village Hall** in Virginia Beach; the weather held for a gorgeous outdoor spring wedding, after which everyone went indoors for the dinner and dance reception. All the very best to the new husband and wife.

Lindsey was an absolutely beautiful bride! Her older sister, **Carrie Johnson Wong**, did Lindsey's hair and make up for her over champagne cocktails. Lindsey wore her hair loose and tousled, and a gorgeous crystal and pearl floral tiara, custom made by **January Rose Bridal Boutique**, set her brunette locks off perfectly. Lindsey's mermaid-silhouette bridal gown had an exquisite floral lace overlay bodice and cap sleeves. She carried a hand-tied bouquet of sunflowers, daisies, and other white and yellow flowers, and attached to the base of the bouquet with an ivory satin ribbon was a locket with a picture of JJ.

Lindsey's brother, **Justin Johnson**, walked her down the stone walkway aisle in a black tuxedo with a pale turquoise vest, bow tie, and pocket square. The maid of honor wore a pale turquoise dress, and the best man was dressed exactly the same way as Justin. The groom wore a black tuxedo with a lustrous ivory diamond jacquard vest, bow tie, and pocket square. The female officiant was dressed in black with a lovely corsage matching the wedding flowers. This group of five stood for the marriage ceremony on a large stone circle in front of an elegant, white-columned pergola which was beautifully decorated with greenery and more yellow and white floral arrangements. The backdrop behind this was a man-made lake with a lovely fountain feature. The overall visual effect was simple, natural, and elegant.

Neat rows of cushioned, pristine white wooden chairs had been arranged on either side of the aisle for the wedding guests, but the most special seat of all was reserved up front. This was a special chair set up in their dad JJ's honor. Lindsey wrapped one of his favorite flannel shirts around the back of it with some lilies tied in yellow and pale turquoise ribbons. Sitting on the seat was a plaque consisting of a picture of the two of them together and painted text that said, "Today a bride, Tomorrow a wife, Forever your little girl". If that doesn't bring a tear to your eye, you're not human!

JJ was also remembered in many of the reception details. A place was held for him at the Johnson table with his siblings and kids by a handsome portrait of JJ, one of his favorite cigars, and a small bottle of "the hard stuff". That's so JJ! His brother **Jerry Johnson** stood in for him to dance with Lindsey (pictured). JJ's beloved girlfriend and soulmate, our own **Debra Taylor-Kelly**, was invited for all the festivities. She is our final wonderful gift from JJ. She has remained close with JJ's kids, especially Carrie, as you can see from the picture of JJ's favorite two beautiful redheads cutting up at the reception! There was also a nod to their family's Irish heritage with Bells of Ireland included in some of the floral arrangements at the reception.

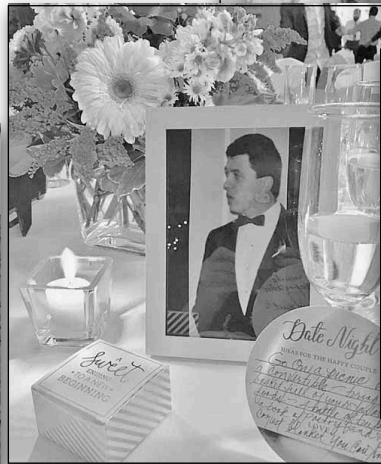




The reception décor was lovely all the way around. The tables were "dressed" with white tablecloths, pale turquoise napkins, white chair covers, and pale turquoise chair bows. The centerpieces were lovely fresh flower arrangements in the wedding colors of bright yellow, white, and pale turquoise. The wedding favors continued the color theme, with beer koozies in yellow and pale turquoise commemorating that Lindsey and Christian "swiped right" when they met online. There were also special keepsake bookmarks, perfect mementos for a teacher wedding!

Rather than choose one or the other, Lindsey and Christian had both a small wedding cake and a selection of gourmet cupcakes from **Twisted Sisters Cupcake & Sugar Shack Cafe**. The wedding cake was one layer with white icing floral swirls all around, decorated on top with a ring of sunflowers and a gold topper saying "Best Day Ever". The cupcakes came in luscious flavors (lemon blueberry, crème brûlée, honey lavender, and "death by chocolate") and were decorated and displayed with white, yellow, and pale turquoise icing, decorations, and/or flowers. Some of those flavors/ingredients even match the yellow and blue theme!

The after-reception shenanigans were at one of JJ's favorite locals, **Murphy's Grand Irish Pub** at the oceanfront. You can see in the attached picture of Justin and Carrie at Murphy's that JJ's kids definitely inherited his fun-loving, life of the party personality! The next day, the family ventured out to the **Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery** in Suffolk, Virginia, to place Lindsey's wedding flowers on JJ's grave. It is fitting that I am finishing this article on Memorial Day, given JJ's patriotism and his service to our country. May JJ's dear ones continue to feel the warmth of his loving presence and example as they grow and flourish. Sláinte to Lindsey & Christian!







## HURLING HAPPENINGS

The **2019 Coastal Virginia Cup Hurling & Camogie Tournament** hosted by the **Coastal Virginia Gaelic Athletic Association (COVA)** was held Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at **Capt. Slade Cutter Park** in Norfolk. IAS Junior Princesses **Eadlyn** (2018) and **Eildih** (2019) **Crouch** took part in the opening ceremonies (see picture). **American Hurling** was there to sell gear, and **Top Golf** hosted an event tent. COVA gave away prizes from **Masita**, **Guinness**, and **American Hurling** for the Puc Fada / Cross bar challenge winners. The After Party / Awards took place a short drive away at the new **Elation Brewing** on Colley Avenue.

Congratulations to the **D.C. Gaels** for winning the Hurling Cup! You can see the D.C. Gaels celebrating their victory at the After Party, hoisting one of the beautiful CVC perpetual trophies donated by the **Irish American Society of Tidewater!**

They beat **UNC Irish Sports** in the finals and went undefeated the entire tournament, in fact. Also competing were two hurling teams from COVA, the **Richmond Battery**, **Raleigh Cú Chulainn**, the **Akron Celtic Guards**, and the **Blacksburg Scourge**. Hurlers from the last two teams filled in gaps on the other teams. Here was the hurling schedule for the day.

### Hurling Schedule:

10:30 - COVA B vs RVA  
11:15 - COVA A vs RAL  
12:45 - UNC vs RVA  
1:30 - DC vs RAL  
2:15 - COVA B vs UNC  
3:00 - COVA A vs DC  
4:30 - Hurling Final  
5:15 - Hurling Skills



COASTAL VIRGINIA CUP			
2019 GAME SCHEDULE			
HURLING		CAMOGIE	
TIME	TEAM 1 vs TEAM 2	TIME	TEAM 1 vs TEAM 2
10:30	COVA B vs RVA	10:30	COVA B vs RVA
11:15	COVA A vs RAL	11:15	DC vs ATL
12:45	UNC vs RVA	12:45	COVA A vs ATL
1:30	DC vs RAL	1:30	DC vs RVA
2:15	COVA B vs UNC	2:15	ATL vs RVA
3:00	COVA A vs DC	3:00	ATL vs RVA
4:30	HURLING FINAL	4:30	CAMOGIE SKILLS
5:15	HURLING SKILLS	5:15	CAMOGIE FINAL

Congratulations to the COVA camogs (see picture) for holding onto the camogie trophy by defeating **Atlanta Clan na nGael** in the finals. Also competing were camogs from the **D.C. Gaels** and the **Richmond Battery GAA**. The Richmond team was playing in their first camogie tournament, so good for them! Unfortunately, camogie teams from New York, Baltimore, and Allentown who had originally committed all pulled out prior to the CVC. Here was the camogie schedule for the day.

### Camogie Schedule:

10:30 - COVA vs RVA  
11:15 - DC vs ATL  
12:45 - COVA vs ATL  
1:30 - DC vs RVA  
2:15 - ATL vs RVA  
3:45 - COVA vs DC  
4:30 - Camogie Skills  
5:15 - Camogie Finals



## CU CORNER

**Hear all the latest about our Hibernian hounds!**

*Feel free to submit news and/or pictures relating to Irish breed or Irish-owned dogs!*

*Submitted by Lynnette Fitch Brash*

The IAS Paddy Pack suffered a double loss this spring, one of our gentle giants and one of our tiniest friends.

**FAREWELL to Frizzle Conti**, beloved Irish wolf hound of **Rebecca Conti** and long-time IAS Paddy Pack member. Rebecca made every remaining day glorious for her good girl after getting the osteosarcoma diagnosis. Frizzle got all her most favorite treats, and the "social butterfly" received daily visits from all her friends, both human and canine, including her litter mates who came from out of town to see her. Frizzle passed just days before her seventh birthday.



**FAREWELL** also to **Buddy Diaz**, precious chihuahua rescue son of **Richard and Teresa Buckley Diaz**. Teresa described Buddy as "our fierce 4 lb. Aztec warrior fur baby", and they took him with them everywhere. He stuck by Richard's side like Velcro, and was the "first among equals" in their pack. The entire Diaz household is mourning their little Buddy. One of Teresa's friends posted a poem that I'd like to share in honor of Buddy, Frizzle, and all the other beloved IAS Paddy Pack members who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge.



### WAITING AT THE DOOR...

I was just a pup when we first met,  
I loved you from the start,  
you picked me up and took me home  
and placed me in your heart.  
Good times we had together,  
we shared all life could throw,  
but years passed all too quickly,  
my time has come to go.  
I know how much you miss me,  
I know your heart is sore,  
I see the tears that fall when I'm not  
Waiting at the Door.

You always did your best for me  
your love was plain to see,  
for even though it broke your heart  
you set my spirit free.  
So please be brave without me,  
one day we'll meet once more,  
for when you're called to Heaven.





## THE PARTING GLASS



*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.*

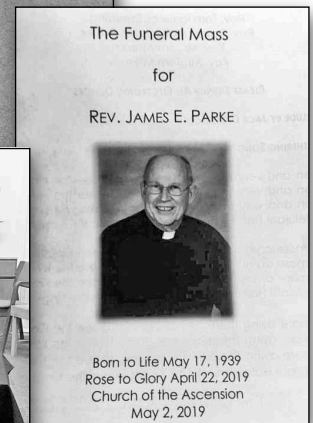
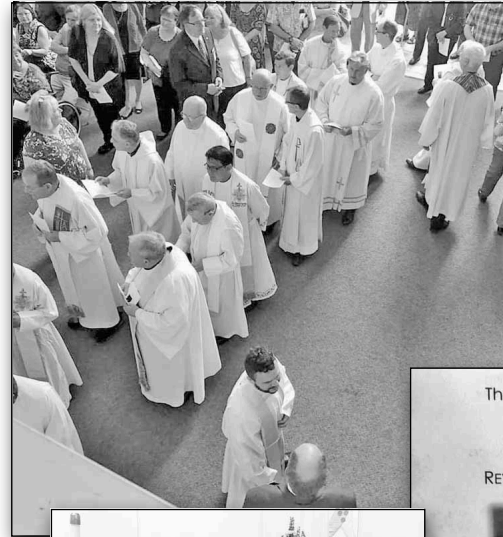
*Of all good times that e'er we shared,  
I leave to you fond memory;  
And for all the friendship that e'er we had  
I ask you to remember me;  
And when you sit and stories tell,  
I'll be with you and help recall;  
So fill to me the parting glass,  
God bless, and joy be with you all.*

As everyone knows, we lost **Father Jim Parke**, aka "Padre", a great friend of the IAS, on Easter Monday. Our May newsletter had an extended *Parting Glass* entry about him, but we also promised we would run a follow up this month including his obituary and other details not available when the May issue went to print.

Father Jim's funeral mass was held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the **Church of the Ascension** with the **Rev. Thomas A. Ianucci** (CDR, CHC, USN) presiding and giving the homily. According to **Mary Ann Bromley**, over 30 priests were in attendance at Father Jim's funeral mass! He was a huge Steelers fan, so they displayed a special black and gold chasuble of his in the church for the service; I think former IAS member **Mary DeNoble** made this for him as a gift. Ascension was absolutely packed to the gills, standing room only, for his send off. Every inch of the church was filled with people there to pay their respects. Overflow seats were filled in the foyer, the refreshment area, even the second floor. Father Jim's ashes now have been inurned in the Ascension Columbarium.

The **City of Virginia Beach**, for whom Father Jim was Volunteer Director for the Office of Volunteer Resources until he became too ill in January, lowered their city flags to half-mast on May 2<sup>nd</sup> in his honor. A celebration of life in honor of Father Jim was held at the May **Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission** monthly meeting. Father Jim's Facebook page was flooded in May with posthumous messages on what would have been his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. He may be gone, but he will never be forgotten. His legacy is love.

Here is the link to Father James "Jim" Elden Parke's obituary. You can watch a lovely memorial video about him and/or leave a condolence message there for his family as well.  
[www.altmeyerfuneralandcremation.com/obituary/father-james-e-parke/](http://www.altmeyerfuneralandcremation.com/obituary/father-james-e-parke/)  
fbclid=IwAR24kLaK9fyISB5CxWzwbpf6jg\_gofdalUEq9AWjV9y-xJVh6G2j939cfh0



♣ Galway - [www.ireland.com/en-us/campaign/jump-into-ireland-galway-city-of-tribes/](http://www.ireland.com/en-us/campaign/jump-into-ireland-galway-city-of-tribes/)

♣ 22 - <http://gotireland.com/2012/03/05/irish-american-presidents/>

♣ Gaelic - Athletic Association <https://www.gaa.ie/>

JUNE 2019 - Trivia Answers



NO JULY IAS Meeting  
Happy Independence Day!

## FRESH EIRE



### MY IRISH JEWELER

Céad Míle Fáilte to Our Newest Sponsor!

Submitted by *Lynnette Fitch Brash*

In need of a fabulous "late but great" Mother's Day present? How about something special for the dads and grads in your life? Upcoming proposal, anniversary, or vow renewal? Planning ahead for big birthdays or Christmas gifts? Boy oh boy, do we have a wonderful option for you!

We are delighted to announce that **My Irish Jeweler**, located in Dublin, Ireland, and online at [www.MyIrishJeweler.com](http://www.MyIrishJeweler.com), is offering all IAS members a 10% discount on purchases! Our discount code for the website "shopping cart" is **IAS10**. You can even use your discount in combination with their LAYAWAY program. Layaway orders require a nonrefundable 25% deposit, but there is no fee. Visit this link to learn more about the layaway program.

[www.myirishjeweler.com/layaway](http://www.myirishjeweler.com/layaway)

**My Irish Jeweler**, launched by **Peter Gavin** in 2005, is the latest incarnation of a family jewelry business going all the way back to 1947. Peter's grandfather, **Louis Gavin**, opened a successful jewelry store on Aungier Street in Dublin and later **Gavin's Jewellers** on iconic George's Street. In 1963, Peter's father established **College House Jewellers** on Nassau St., overlooking historic Trinity College. Peter joined the business in 1964 and ran **College House Jewellers** for over fifty years before closing up their bricks and mortar shop and moving entirely online with My Irish Jeweler in 2011.

Peter now has a small showroom for visitors seen by appointment at My Irish Jeweler in Sandyford, but the bulk of their business is online with an international audience. As Peter says, "I always enjoyed doing 'mail order' for customers abroad. With My Irish Jeweler, I hoped to bring our beautiful designs to a global audience." A hallmark of Peter's business is the personal care and attention to detail he provides for customers all over the world. Obviously, the Irish diaspora is drawn to their Irish designs, and My Irish Jeweler honors that with their logo, the word "Home" written in Ogham, the runic tree-based alphabet of the ancient Irish.

A visit to their website will wow you. Among the iconic Irish designs are jewelry pieces showing the Claddagh, Ogham, St. Brigid's cross, Celtic crosses, the Celtic tree of life, Trinity knots, Celtic knotwork, Shamrocks, Celtic spirals, Irish Gaelic, and Irish harps. If you love Celtic bracelets, there are torcs, watches, and charms and beads for collectors. There are also jewelry lines based on famous pieces of ancient Irish art and architecture, such as the *Ardagh Chalice*, the *Book of Kells*, *Newgrange*, and the *Tara Brooch*. There are beautiful pieces inspired by Irish mythological subjects, such as the *Children of Lir* (4 swans), *Carric Finn* (the Giant's Causeway), and *Danu* (phases of the moon inspired by Danu, the Celtic great mother of the earth and gods). History buffs will appreciate the *History of Ireland* pieces, showing 12 symbols representing twelve different phases of Irish history (see explanation at this link <https://www.myirishjeweler.com/blog/history-of-ireland-jewelry-meaning>). The *Map of Ireland* pieces have the symbols of the four provinces superimposed on the shape of the island of Ireland. You can also order pendants, tie tacks, cuff links, and rings with your Irish family crest on them!



Personalized, hand-engraved inscriptions are available for an additional fee on the backs/insides of many pieces. They offer a variety of precious metal options, including platinum; yellow, white, and rose gold; sterling silver; and palladium. The Irish rose gold is sourced from a mine outside of Omagh in the hills of Co. Tyrone! Some pieces are set with diamonds; emeralds; sapphire; ruby; birthstones; pearls; or the "Irish Gemstone," Connemara marble. If you subscribe to their email list, you will receive a new message from Peter every week or so with interesting and educational information about the Irish language, Irish mythology, Irish history, Irish culture, and, of course, some related Irish jewelry! I really look forward to these emails!

Their jewelry is handmade in Ireland and thus bears the Hibernian hallmark of the Dublin Assay Office, guaranteeing the quality of the materials and their Irish origin. Whether you are looking for a small remembrance or a grand piece destined to be a family heirloom, Peter Gavin and his team at My Irish Jeweler can help you make the perfect purchase.

[www.myirishjeweler.com](http://www.myirishjeweler.com)

Like their Facebook Page or join their Community for Competitions & Offers:

<http://www.facebook.com/celticweddingrings>

<https://www.myirishjeweler.com/community/subscribe>

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