



The Irish Connection

Irish American Society of Tidewater News

January 2020

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:
JANUARY 9, 2020**

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,

BLOW OUT THE OLD, BLOW IN THE NEW,
BLOW OUT THE FALSE, & BLOW IN THE TRUE!

Many thanks to our 2001 IAS Adult Princess & former IAS Secretary / Newsletter Editor **Danielle Donovan Dunn** for this great Irish New Year's wish. The tradition is to open both front and back doors at midnight on New Year's Eve and walk into the house reciting this little rhyme. I was fast asleep already at midnight, so I had to wait until the next morning to give it a whirl. May the New Year bring all of us health, happiness, and peace.

JANUARY IAS MEETING

Thursday, January 9th, 2020

7 pm in Ascension's Community Center; doors
open at 6:30 pm to set up

After a brief business meeting, we will be taking 2020 IAS annual dues & membership forms, selling EMERALD BALL tickets, socializing over refreshments (including the Cash Donation Bar plus any treats people bring to share), and holding IRISH RAFFLEMANIA!!!

BIG RAFFLE PRIZES

All proceeds going to help cover Emerald Ball expenses!!!

Raffle Tickets will be \$10 each / or 3 for \$20

First ticket drawn gets first choice of prize,
second ticket drawn gets next choice of prize, etc.

*You/your agent must be present OR available by
phone when the drawing is done at our January 9th,
2020 IAS meeting to win.*

CHECK OUT THESE GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES!!!

2 - 1 comped night at the Sheraton Waterside
with breakfast for 2 and valet parking included!!!
(Can be used the night of our Emerald Ball OR
another night of your choosing prior to

01/02/2021) – *Limit of one win per person/couple in
this category!*

2 – 1 comped EMERALD BALL ticket – *Limit of
one win per person/couple in this category!*

2 – 1 Grace O'Malley's \$25 gift certificate – *Limit
of one win per person/couple in this category!*

2 – 1 pair of IAS Irish coffee mugs

4 – 1 COMÓRADH 40 IAS 40th anniversary
lapel/sash/kilt pin

4 – 1 Complimentary Valet Parking Pass at the
Sheraton Waterside for the Emerald Ball on

Saturday, February 29th, 2020

4 – 1 Glasgow Kiss CD

IAS EMERALD BALL

Sheraton Waterside Ballroom,

Downtown Norfolk

Saturday, February 29th, 2020

We are now LESS than 2 months away from our
40th Anniversary EMERALD BALL taking place
in the Sheraton Waterside Ballroom on Saturday,
February 29th, 2020!!! This will be *instead of*
Finnegan's Wake for one year only. It is a BIG
DEAL for us as an organization to host a fancy
dress event like this, and we hope we will have
everyone's full support to make it a fabulous
success.

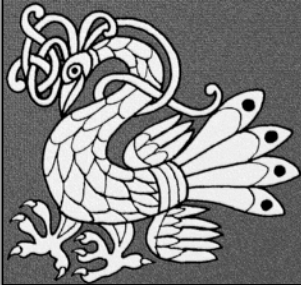
- Check In/Mingling from 6-7:30 pm
- Formal program/presentations/
performances 7:30-9:00 pm
- DJ & dance party from 9 pm - 12 am!!!

The ball will feature Irish music, step dancing by
the Walker Academy, community awards, heavy
hors d'oeuvres during the first two hours, cash
bar all night, and a DJ for dancing from
9pm-12am. Our goal is to host an event that
celebrates our vibrant local Irish/Irish American
community AND is fun for all! Tickets are open
to the general public. Buy your ticket or table
today!

Continued on Page 3

The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614
Virginia Beach, VA
23450



OFFICERS President

Lynnette Fitch Brash

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Newsletter

Lori Shea, editor

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



THE PARTING GLASS

*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.*



Condolences to our IAS Adult Princess 2005 **Carrie McCabe Gordon** and her family on the passing of her maternal uncle, **David Allen Sekol**, of Missouri in November. He suffered complications from hemochromatosis. David was an important member of the **Columbia Vet Center** Vietnam Vet group and will be much missed by them as well as his family.

I am very sorry to have to report that **Mary McFadden O'Toole** passed at the end of October; her funeral service was in early November. She was a native of Donegal, a long-time member of the IAS, and a lovely person. Condolences to her family, especially her eight children, and her friends. Thanks to **Lori Shea** for the picture of Mary. I am also attaching a photo of her obituary that **Jim Hagerty** sent to me - many thanks, Jim. Thanks also to **Teresa Buckley Diaz** and **Judy Gallagher** for getting the word out. Contributions to **St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church**, Virginia Beach, in Mary's memory would be appreciated by the family.

Mary McFadden O'Toole

Mary McFadden O'Toole, 88, of Virginia Beach, VA, went to be with the Lord on October 30, 2019.

Mary is a native of Donegal, Ireland and was the daughter of the late Denis and Grace McFadden. She was preceded in death by her late husband, John A. O'Toole Sr. She was a member of the Irish American Society and she was a certified Master Gardener in 1990.

Left to cherish her memory are her children, two daughters, Constance Grace Evans (Howard) of Virginia, and Maureen T. Golby (Cliff) of Virginia Beach; six sons, Dennis P. (Sonja), John A. Jr. (Nancy), Patrick J. Kevin B. (Beckie), Michael L. and Brian A. O'Toole, all of Virginia Beach; and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and extended family in England, Scotland & Ireland.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 9, 2019, by Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home, Princess Anne Chapel @ Colonial Grove Memorial Park 3445 Princess Anne Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23456.

In lieu of flowers, the family request contributions be made to Saint Gregory the Great Catholic Church @ 5345 Virginia Beach Blvd Virginia Beach, VA 23462 or St. Gregory's on line contribute. Condolences may be offered to the family at: www.hollomon-brown.com

APPLE CIDER PUNCH

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 Jameson Black Barrel
- 2 dashes Angostura Bitters per serve
- 2 Apple Cider
- 1/2 Lemon Juice
- 1/2 Honey Syrup

INSTRUCTIONS:

Build together and heat. Move to punch bowl or pitcher. Garnish with apple slices, clove studded lemon wheels, and star anise.

BARTENDER'S CHOICE

A FESTIVE
DRINK FOR
ANY SEASON
OF THE NEW
YEAR

IRISH & IRISH-AMERICAN TRIVIA



January 2020 Trivia Questions

- ♣ Where would you go to see Winterfell?
- ♣ When is Little Women's Christmas?
- ♣ Who was the first American President to visit Ireland?

Submitted by **Maureen Cahill**

Each month, test your knowledge at
three levels: easy, middling, and most difficult.

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- ♣ Many thanks to **J.R. Walker & The Walker Academy of Irish Dance** for being our first sponsor to make a donation!
- ♣ Many thanks to **Clan MacGregor** for being the first group/family to buy a whole table at once!!!
- ♣ Thanks to IAS Adult Princess 2003 **Tamara Cervi-Williams** & hubby **Rob** for being the ticket buyers coming from furthest away (Florida) as of now for the EMERALD BALL!!!

EMERALD BALL tickets are \$50 per person, advance sales only, and non-refundable. All are welcome, not just IAS members, so please do invite friends. Tables seat 10 people, and the tables closest to the dance floor/front of room must be purchased all at once for \$500. Groups smaller than 10 will be combined with other groups to form a table of ten. Only 300 people can attend, so don't miss out!!!

Visit the IAS Facebook group "Save the Date" event invite for more info.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/321186388586851/>

ROOM RESERVATION & PARKING INFO FOR THE SHERATON WATERSIDE:

Guest room rate \$109.00 per night plus tax
 \$8.00 overnight self-parking
 \$5.00 event only self-parking
 \$26.00 overnight valet parking
 \$13.00 event only valet parking

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#### **WE NEED CORPORATE/COMMUNITY SPONSORS for our Emerald Ball!!!!**

Know any Irish-friendly businesses looking for a tax write off??? HELP!!! Please seek out donations. We need money for various things:

- ♣ \$4000 (or any part thereof) for the Kilt Fund to get our 5 new IAS Honor Guard recruits kitted out
- ♣ \$500 for green up-lighting & other special Emerald Ball decor items
- ♣ \$400 for Presidential Medallions for all IAS Presidents & a Founder gift for our 1st President to be presented at the Emerald Ball
- ♣ \$300 for other special Awards to be presented at the Emerald Ball

Sponsors can specify which of these they want their money to go toward OR just make a general donation toward the event. Our sponsors will be recognized in the program at the Emerald Ball, with signage on our IAS floats during the annual Ocean View St. Patrick's Day parade in March, and with coverage in our newsletters!

Purchase Emerald Ball Tickets &/or Sponsorships here:  
<https://secure.givelively.org/event/irish-american-society-of-tidewater/ias-emerald-ball>

*Please consider becoming a sponsor of this event:*

#### **Friends of the IAS**

\$250 w/ no tickets included

*Family or Company name in program  
 (full amount tax deductible)*

~ or ~

\$750 w/ tickets for full table

*Family or Company name on table and in program  
 (\$250 portion above ticket price tax deductible)*

#### **Shamrock Level**

\$500 w/ no tickets included

*Family or Company name in program\*  
 (full amount tax deductible)*

~ or ~

\$1,000 w/ tickets for full table

*Family or Company name on table and in program\*  
 (\$500 portion above ticket price tax deductible)*

#### **Emerald Level**

\$1,000 w/ no tickets included

*Family or Company name in program\*  
 (full amount tax deductible)*

~ or ~

\$1,500 w/ tickets for full table

*Family or Company name on table and in program\*  
 (\$1,000 portion above ticket price tax deductible)*

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IAS 2020 Annual dues are now due!

See the membership application/renewal form insert for rates. Please support our mission to preserve & promote Irish/Irish American culture locally by paying these dues. We know times are tight for many folks, so many thanks for your financial support of the IAS!

Slán go fóill! ('Bye for now!)

Lynnette Fitch Brash 





IAS Christmas Market & Ceili

Thursday, December 5th, 6:00-9:00 pm

THANKS TO OUR VENDORS AND TO EVERYONE THAT ATTENDED!



...friendly...
...to the public!
...Celtic holiday music & cello dancing! Pot Luck Buffet & BYOB!
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 Mini - Mary Ann Brady
- COLOR STREET Nail Polish Strips (Free Instant Application w/ Purchase) - Danah Stover-Hubbard
- GILMOUR ORRISL GOODS Decor, Clothing, & Personalized Gifts - Eadlyn & Lynette Gilmoir Crouch
- IAS HONOR GUARD Kilt Fundraiser Items - Tim Foley
- IRISH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TIDEWATER Emerald Ball tickets & Membership Dues - Katie Morse McNairy
- KNOT IT GOOD! Gorgeous Kilt Clothing & Accessories - Maureen Cahill
- ORIGAMI Owl, Unique Locketts & Other Customized Jewelry - Allison Hill
- OTHER WORLDLY SOAP Handcrafted Luxury Soaps & Bathbombs - Louise McGinnis
- POKIE TREASURES Celtic accessories & gifts - Jeanne & Bob Rider
- ROSE & JAGGER Handcrafted fiber art gifts - Gabrielle Rider
- THIRTY-ONE GIFTS Totes, Bags, etc. & Irish and Harry Potter themed ornaments - Caroline Morse



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





SOCIETY SHOUT OUT!



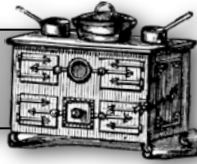
Please feel free to submit news about yourself and/or other current or former IAS members, with or without pictures!

CONGRATULATIONS to Logan Bromley who passed his Junior EMS test in November.

Logan is the grandson of **Mary Ann Bromley**, former IAS Secretary (who also wrote wonderful interviews of IAS members for this newsletter) & former President **Mike Bromley**



CELTIC KITCHEN



We welcome recipe submissions from ANY AND ALL Irish American Society members for the Celtic Kitchen column! Got a dish that always gets compliments? Share your recipe along with a little background history with the rest of the IAS!

Send submissions to our editor, Lori Shea, at Lorisha@aol.com

RUM AND RAISIN CAKE (A HOLIDAY FAVORITE!)

Original recipe from **Gertie Best**.
Southern Harbour, Newfoundland, Canada
Adapted in tiny ways by her niece, Maureen Cahill

DIRECTIONS

Combine raisins, currants or chopped dried apricots, and dates. Cover in rum and soak for several hours.

Combine raisins, currants or chopped dried apricots, and dates with sugar, water, butter, and spices in a sauce pan. (If there is any rum that does not soak into the fruit, leave it, and add it later to make the needed ½ cup). Bring to a boil, then reduce heat, and let simmer for 20 – 30 minutes.

Remove from heat. Stir (or mash) all ingredients and let cool for about an hour. (I prefer stirred, but if you don't want the fruit visible, mash them.)

Preheat oven to 275.

Add rum and vanilla. Mix through, and let stand about 30 minutes.

Add eggs to the **wet** mixture, and mix well.

Combine flour, baking soda, and baking powder in a separate bowl. (Make sure baking soda and powder are fresh, and stir all together.)

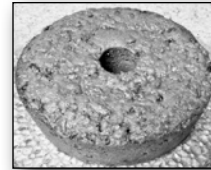
Add flour mixture to wet mixture, and mix until well combined.

Grease and flour a non-stick tube cake pan (angel food cake pan, NOT Bundt). If the pan is not non-stick, line the bottom with parchment paper.

Fill pan about ¾ full.

Bake at 275 for 1 hour and 45 minutes to 2 hours.

Makes one large cake. If you want 2 smaller cakes, 8" or 9" cake pans can be used, but the cook time will need to be adjusted.



INGREDIENTS

2 cups of raisins

2 cups of currants (or chopped dried apricots)

1 ½ cups of diced dates

Rum to cover fruit

1 cup dark brown Sugar

2 cups cold water

1 tsp vanilla

1 cup butter

1 tsp allspice

1 tsp ground cloves

1 tsp cinnamon

½ cup Captain Morgan or other Jamaican rum

3 cups flour

2 tsp baking powder

2 tsp baking soda

AN FOCLÓIR



FOCLÓIR = DICTIONARY, LEXICON, VOCABULARY

AN = THE

By Tyler Klausmeier

Hello everyone,

With this month's issue of An Foclóir, we'll be learning about Christmas and winter. I hope everyone enjoys this season of rest and time with family!

Lesson 4

♣ **an Nollag** (Christmas)

a_n N_o_ll_a_g (a - as in hat, n - as in onion, N - as in English but with tongue pressed against back of upper teeth, o - as in bought, ll - as in English but with tongue pressed against back of upper teeth, a - as in fit, g - as in kin)

♣ **Daidí na Nollag** (Santa Claus)

D_ai_d_í n_a N_o_ll_a_g (D - as in English but with tongue pressed against back of upper teeth, ai - like I, d - as in English but with tongue pressed against back of upper teeth, í - as in cheer, n - as in onion, a - as in hat, N - as in English but with tongue pressed against back of upper teeth, o - as in bought, ll - as in English but with tongue pressed against back of upper teeth, a - as in fit, g - as in kin)

♣ **geimhreadh** (winter)

{This word is pronounced very differently than it looks to us, as native English speakers/readers} (g - as in give, ei - as in deck, mh - pronounced v, as in vet, r - as in tree, eadh - pronounced oo, as in too)

♣ **fear sneachta** (snowman)

f_ea_r s_n_ea_ch_t_a (f - as in fit, ea - pronounced a, as in hat, r - as in foreign, but sounded more forcefully, s - pronounced sh, as in ship, n - as in onion, ea - pronounced a, as in hat, ch - as in lough, t - as in English but with tongue pressed against back of upper teeth, a - pronounced u, as in chute)

♣ **stocaí** (stockings)

s_t_o_c_aí (s - as in sip, t - as in English but with tongue pressed against back of upper teeth, o - as in bought, c - hard c, as in cat, aí - pronounced u, as in chute)

♣ **crann péine** (pine tree)

c_r_a_nn p_é_i_n_e (c - hard c, as in cat, r - as in foreign, but sounded more forcefully, a - as in hat, nn - as in English, but with tongue pressed against back of upper teeth, p - as in pit, éi - as in Gael, n - as in need, e - pronounced i, as in fit).

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

*Submitted by J. R. Walker, T.C.R.G., Director of
The Walker Academy of Irish Dance*

Thank you to **Lisa Hunt Burgess**, T.M.R.F., for running the ceili practices. Thank you also to **Melanie Wasko Photography** for taking so many amazing pictures.
Happy Holidays!



Kelly Ann Gould
Oireachtas 2019



*Mathisen Wood
Oireachtas 2019*



JANUARY IAS MEETING – Thursday, January 9th, 2020

IRISH RAFFLEMANIA

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4 - 1 COMÓRADH 40 IAS 40th anniversary lapel/sash/kilt pin

4 - 1 Complimentary Valet Parking Pass at the Sheraton Waterside for the Emerald Ball on Saturday, February 29th, 2020

4 - 1 Glasgow Kiss CD

Mini-album by Katie Morse McCrory For Sale!

I am selling a mini-album (digital copy only) of Irish songs to raise funds for the Irish American Society of Tidewater's 40th Anniversary Emerald Ball.

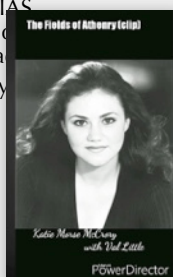
**** \$5 for the 5-song set (digital copy only)****

Please use the link below to send \$5.00 to the IAS. Once received, I will send a link to the email address provided where the songs may be downloaded.

<https://www.paypal.me/IrishAmericanSociety>

Tracks:

1. Erin Gra Mo Chroi (Ireland, Love of My Heart)
2. The Foggy Dew, accompanied by Val Little
3. She Moved Through the Faire
4. The Fields of Athenry, accompanied by Val Little
5. An Mhaighdean Mara (The Mermaid)



IAS ANNIVERSARY PINS

BEAUTIFUL 1.5" FULL COLOR
METAL & ENAMEL
COMÓRADH 40
LAPEL/SASH PINS
\$8 EACH OR
2 FOR \$15



IAS WEB SHOP IS NOW OPEN AT O'NEILLS SPORTSWEAR IRELAND

REPEAT ANNOUNCEMENT, for those looking for new IAS GEAR FOR MARCH "IRISH MONTH" PARADES & PARTIES!!!

I have very exciting news, everyone — our IAS web shop on the O'Neills Sportswear Ireland website is now officially live! Go have a look! Not only are both the green and white versions of our society "Irish Volunteers" jerseys there, but also polos, hoodies, skinny pants, fleeces, tees, hats, jackets & vests, etc. with our logo!!! It's all GORGEOUS -- even better than I had hoped! Stock up early for parade season! Here is the link:

https://www.oneills.com/uk_en/shop-by-team/gaa/usa/irish-american-society-of-tidewater.html

