



# The Irish Connection

Irish American Society of Tidewater News

Spring Quarantine Edition includes April, May June

July 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.



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.

OUR NEXT MEETING

TBD



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Fellow Irish American Society members,

Who knew that our spectacular **Comóradh 40 EMERALD BALL** that took place on February 29<sup>th</sup> would be, as **Tracy Fearon** put it to me, "the last fun thing"????!! But, as IAS Adult Princess 2001 **Danielle Donovan Dunn** remarked, we cannot feel badly about missing out on our usual Irish Month activities after such a spectacular IAS extravaganza the weekend of February 29/March 1! The Emerald Ball on Saturday night was followed by an IAS Irish Breakfast with **Irish Ambassador to the US Daniel Mulhall** and **VB Mayor Bobby Dyer** on Sunday morning at **Murphy's Grand Irish Pub** at the Oceanfront in Virginia Beach. Then **Tim Foley** and I had the honor of taking Ambassador Mulhall to **Bold Mariner Brewing Company** in Ocean View, another one of our local Irish-owned businesses, for a tour. After that, we drove him to Church Hill to meet some of the Irish community in RVA.

Our hardworking newsletter editor **Lori Shea** has put together some gorgeous photo collages in this issue to showcase what a grand time was indeed had by all that weekend – and what a glorious event we are capable of! The teamwork did indeed make the dream work, and I cannot even express how elated I was about how well it turned out and how proud I am of us as an organization. Even our wonderful Irish Ambassador to the United States, **Daniel Mulhall**, was very impressed, and tweeted a lot of pictures and compliments out about us on Twitter that weekend! ☺

As a special one-time-only project, Lori and I have a goal of putting together a full color yearbook-style **Comóradh 40** book for IAS members to purchase no later than this December. It will contain extended thank you's to all of our sponsors and volunteers as well as professional pictures, articles, 40 years of IAS history, etc. More info on that as it develops.

**...and then the pandemic struck, cancelling the rest of our Irish Month activities AND our monthly meetings at Ascension...**

On a serious note, life has changed unexpectedly and dramatically since early March, and COVID-19 has seriously impacted everyone in myriad different ways. Some members have lost friends or family members to this pandemic. Others have lost their jobs/incomes through no fault of their own because of it. Parents have had to learn first-hand how difficult educating children actually is, and everyone has had to do without most of their usual social, recreational, and self-care activities.

Probably the biggest impact on the IAS happened when Ascension had to close their doors to meetings because of the quarantine. Originally, that was going to be until August, but we just found out this week it will be for the rest of 2020 at least. The board already has been discussing possible options going forward. We will need to think outside the box for meetings - try some more online, try some outdoor gatherings at microbreweries or festivals where we can socially distance, etc. The Honor Guard fundraisers we had in

the pipe line for this spring & summer had to be postponed. I have a couple online irons in the fire for us to do together -- possible online beginner Irish classes and a video program on Irish history for a viewing party from my friend who presented to us last June on women in the Irish risings. We will need other options to keep the IAS active and interesting until we return to some semblance of normal, so by all means let us know if you have ideas!!! You can always email your ideas to [IAS.Tidewater@gmail.com](mailto:IAS.Tidewater@gmail.com).

### Emergency By-law & Mail-in Ballot Motion, AGM, & Elections

Because we weren't going to be able to meet to hold our even-numbered-year elections in May 2020, our Election Chair AND Bylaws Chair **Jim Hagerty** drafted an Emergency Bylaw & Mail-in Ballot Motion to address this. He researched the Code of Virginia to arrive at the wording, since the IAS is incorporated in Virginia. I think Jim has done yeoman's duty, as ALWAYS, for the good of the IAS.

The IAS board held an online meeting Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> for AGM purposes and to vote on this motion. We had a quorum of 5 of the 6 elected officers for the vote. In attendance, we

had the following:

Lynnette Fitch-Brash (President)\*  
Debra Taylor-Kelly (Senior VP)\*  
Maureen Cahill (Junior VP)\*  
Katie Morse McCrory (Treasurer)\*  
Mike Lawler (Financial Secretary)\*  
Lori Shea (Newsletter Editor)  
Jim Hagerty (Election Chair & Bylaws Chair)  
Meagan Garibay (Youth Outreach Chair)  
\*elected officers

After an excellent presentation by Jim on his motion regarding emergency bylaws & mail-in balloting, I brought his motion forward, and Katie seconded it. We had some group discussion, and then, since there was a quorum of 5 out of the 6 elected officers present, those 5 officers voted one at a time on the motion. It passed unanimously.

We subsequently posted the emergency bylaws addition on the IAS Facebook page in the files section and also circulated it by email. In addition, we held a ZOOM meeting for the general membership on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm. We covered May 2020 AGM topics (emergency bylaws, mail-in ballot for elections, Treasurer's Report, Q&A); the remaining time was social.

I had expected to turn over the reins to the next IAS President at our usual even-numbered-year elections in May, but the pandemic had other ideas!!! I apologize for the delay, but it took us some extra time to organize the mail-in ballot and get the newsletter ready. We were too overwhelmed with quarantine-related issues to produce our usual monthly newsletter, but we hope you enjoy this special expanded QUARANTINE EDITION (March – June 2020). And I am very proud of the slate of awesome candidates we have running for the IAS board!

Cont'd. on Pg. 2

## 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

#### Treasurer

Katie McCrory

#### Recording Secretary

Mary Ann Brady

#### Financial Secretary

Michael J. Lawler

#### Membership

Betsy Kennedy

#### Phone Tree

Mary Ann Bromley

757-471-2007

#### Sergeant-at-Arms

Jim Hagerty

#### Hospitality

Lynette Gilmour Crouch

#### Youth Outreach Chair

Meagan Garibay

#### Newsletter

Lori Shea, editor

lorishea@aol.com

#### Sunshine Bulletin

please email the editor

#### WEBMASTER

Michael J. Lawler

#### WEB SITE

IRLUSA.org

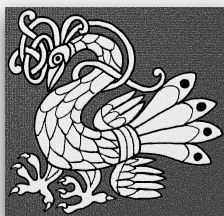
#### Email us at:

IAS.Tidewater@Gmail.com

#### Social Media:

Look for us on Facebook &

Instagram



### PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONT'D.

#### A New Era

My life was in transition before the pandemic hit. Many of you may be surprised to learn that Edward and I are divorcing after 15 years of marriage. It will be finalized this summer. We have remained civil, and I am sure that **Glasgow Kiss** will continue its close connection to the IAS going forward.

Because of the separation and impending divorce, I had already decided not to run for President again this year. I need to spend some time focused on taking care of myself, my health, my home, my two dogs, my job (which is now totally online), etc. Other than a brief span from January 2016 – May 2018, when I stepped down to live in Glasgow, Scotland for a while with Edward, I have been on the IAS Board as either President, Senior Vice-President, or Junior Vice-President for the better part of TWENTY years now. It truly has been one of the great honors and passions of my lifetime to lead the IAS, but it is time for some new blood with new energy, ideas, contacts, and connections. I will still be on the IAS board as Immediate Past President, and I will still be active at whatever we have going on – but in a support rather than executive role now. The initiatives and

committees the current board put in place will continue, so no worries about that. Please give the new board your full support and goodwill; they will need it during these strange times we are going through as a nation and planet.

In closing, I would respectfully ask that you reach out to folks, especially to IAS members as well as family/friends/neighbors/colleagues, who may be feeling extra isolated and lonely because of the quarantine. We have many members who live alone for one reason or another, and we also have many members who are in vulnerable populations for various reasons. Some extra Irish caring and compassion at this time would go a long way.

Please be safe and stay healthy!!! Take care of yourselves, try to notice the positive each day, and remain emotionally close though spatially distant!



*Mile buíochas! Slán anois!*

(Many thanks! Goodbye now!)

*Lynnette Fitch-Brash*



**Daniel Mulhall** @DanMulhall · Mar 1

Met Tamara Cervi at the Emerald Ball of the Irish American Society of the Tidewater. Her mother's family hail from Baileborough Co. Cavan. She has been to Ireland each year since 1996. Deserves @TourismIreland medal for her devotion to Ireland. Wears her #Cavan shirt with pride.

12:24 PM · Mar 1, 2020 from Virginia Beach, VA · Twitter for iPhone

7 Retweets and comments 21 Likes

**Tamara M. Cervi** @cervi.tamara · Mar 1

Replying to @DanMulhall @TourismIreland and 2 others

Thanks a million Ambassador Mulhall! Was a complete pleasure!

**Daniel Mulhall** @DanMulhall · Mar 1

It is really an uplifting experience to come across Irish Americans with such pride in their Irish heritage all over the globe. Last night, I met the members of the wonderful Irish American Society of the Tidewater as they prepared to celebrate #StPatricksDay.

**Embassy of Ireland USA** Retweeted **Daniel Mulhall** @DanMulhall · 12h

A nice message of congratulations to the Irish American Society of the Tidewater (Virginia) from President Higgins @PresidentIRL on their 40th anniversary celebration which I had the pleasure of attending last night.

**What a treat it was to see Irish heritage cherished and celebrated in the Hampton Roads area of #Virginia by the Irish American Society of the Tidewater with excellent Irish dancing & music by an very talented young fiddle player Seán Heely.**

**IAS 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

✠ EMERALD BALL ✠

Twitter messages after the Ball from Ambassador Mulhall

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### MOTION TO EXECUTIVE BOARD REGARDING EMERGENCY BYLAWS

I propose that the IAS incorporate an additional section to Article IV, Meetings, as follows:

Article IV, Section 6. In an emergency, the requirement for a corporate annual meeting may be waived and the election of officers, in even-numbered years, may be conducted by mail-in balloting.

An emergency exists for purposes of this section if a quorum cannot readily be assembled because of some catastrophic event.

#### PROCEDURE FOR MAIL-IN BALLOTING

Mail-in ballots will be sent to the current mail address of IAS members who have paid current dues.

The mail-in ballot will list the normal slate of candidates in the same manner as done for voting purposes in the corporate annual meeting with the exception of a need to properly identify the voting member and provide for a signature.

The quorum requirement of the corporate annual meeting is waived for purposes of conducting a mail-in ballot.

Any write-in nominee receiving a majority of the mail-in votes must submit in writing his or her willingness to serve the two-year term of office.

**The deadline for receiving a completed mail-in ballot will be July 31, 2020. A satisfactory ballot, either by mail, email scan/ photo attachment, or hand-delivery, must be received by the IAS Election Chair by the date indicated in order to be counted.**

Election Chair:  
James Hagerty

795 Bishopsgate Lane Virginia Beach, VA 23452  
jimbohagerty@gmail.com

#### From Lynnette Fitch-Brash (from an email sent to the membership on May 31, 2020):

At the direction of the Board, Election Chair AND Bylaws Chair Jim Hagerty drafted an Emergency Bylaw & Mail-in Ballot Motion. He researched the Code of Virginia to arrive at the wording, since the IAS is incorporated in Virginia. Obviously, the pandemic and ensuing lock down have affected our ability to conduct IAS business and our usual activities, including face-to-face meetings and our elections (which are held in May of even-numbered years). This needed to be addressed, and I think Jim has done yeoman's duty, as ALWAYS, for the good of the IAS.

The IAS board held an online meeting Thursday, May 28, 2020. There was a quorum of 5 out of the 6 elected officers present, those 5 officers voted one at a time on the motion. It passed unanimously.

#### Tracy Fearon Candidate

##### Office of President IAS 2020 Elections

I grew up on a small farm in Windham, Maine. For most of my life, if we didn't grow it or raise it we didn't eat it. My parents tended acres of gardens and took care of the livestock while maintaining full-time jobs. I formed my work ethic watching my parents toil literally night and day to provide for our family. I am never one to watch from afar when there is a job to be done.

My life has afforded me opportunities I did not imagine growing up. I've lived on both coasts and in the mid-west, have had a couple of interesting careers, traveled internationally, married a great guy and raised the best kid. For the past nine years I have worked for the U.S. Marine Corps as the Director of Marine Corps Family Team Building at Camp Elmore in Norfolk, VA. Working with service members and their families is a privilege and I am grateful to them every day.



In 2008 my daughter Kelly started taking Irish dance classes with An Cor Rud School of Irish Dance (now Walker Academy of Irish Dance). It was really on a whim and I never imagined her avocation would allow us to travel all over the country and internationally and immerse us in Irish culture! I am a novice researcher of my family history and greatly enjoy the "rabbit trails" down which my research takes me! Fun fact: In the U.S. the spelling of my last name, "Fearon" is quite uncommon, but in Ireland, it is the customary spelling! Even within my own family, there is discussion about the proper pronunciation, but I side with my father and pronounce it "Ferrin."

If elected President of the Tidewater Irish American Society, I look forward to carrying on the traditions of the Presidents and members who came before me. I am eager to collaborate with community organizations and resources to bring fresh ideas and new ways we can promote and preserve Irish culture in the Tidewater area and beyond. I envision the Society as a vibrant mix of young and old, all sharing their experiences and learning from one another. The difficult time the world is experiencing will lead to rejuvenation and renewal and I look forward to leading the IAS into the future!

### IAS 2020 ELECTIONS

#### Roxanne Baer Candidate

##### Office of Junior Vice-President IAS 2020 Elections

Dia Dhaoibh!

I am running for the position of IAS Junior Vice-President. While I am new to the IAS, I have a deep connection to Ireland and its culture and would love to have an influential role in the IAS.

My introduction to all things Irish was in 2009 while as a musician at Busch Gardens. Anuna, Lunasa, Planxty, and the Corrs became my playlist that summer. Although I was a french hornist by trade, I was always after my friends for lessons on the whistle and bodhran, and within a year found myself packing for a year abroad to study at the Cork School of Music. As one of two exchange students, I was immersed in Irish culture and fortunate to study with and alongside some amazing musicians.

When I returned to the States I felt a kind of loss and disconnect from the culture that had become so familiar.

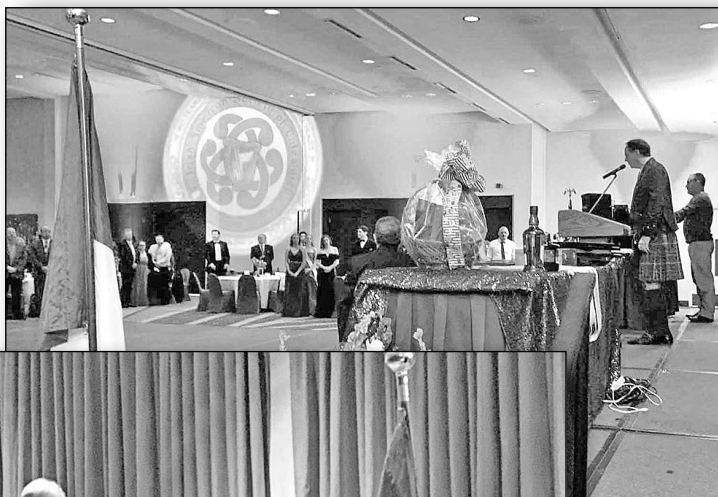


Thankfully, YouTube was there to satisfy my cultural cravings, but I longed for a real connection. About ten years went by, and I moved to Virginia Beach. I started studying dance, and, as luck would have it, stumbled upon ceili dancing! Thanks to the girls in the Crossroads Ceili class, I finally feel like I'm connected and a part of the culture I've missed for so long!

I'm ready to help in any way I can to promote and expand the Irish culture and would be thrilled to do so as IAS Junior VP.

Thank you!  
Roxanne Baer





**IAS 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
EMERALD BALL  
FEBRUARY 29TH 2020**

**IAS Honor Guard renamed  
in honor of Mike Bromley  
Mary Ann Bromley, son Joe  
Bromley & Joe Brady**



**Ambassador Daniel Mulhall,  
Mike Lawler & Maureen Cahill**



**Honoring Former IAS Presidents - those present were:  
IAS founding President, Eileen Seeley, Johanna Gross, Mary Ann (for Mike) Bromley,  
Ambassador Daniel Mulhall, Joe Brady & Lynnette Fitch-Brash**



## OUR 2020 IAS PRINCESSES

Adult Princesses ♣ **Ms. Darcie Rae MacGregor-Schauf &**

♣ **Mrs. Jamie Sue (MacGregor) Grover**

Teen Princesses ♣ **Miss Cecilia Rose Donovan-Dunn &**

♣ **Miss Mathisen Claire Wood**

Junior Princess ♣ **Miss Emerald "Emmy" Adeline Schauf**

*This year's princesses were "crowned" at our special  
**Comóradh 40 EMERALD BALL***

*by the **Irish Ambassador to the United States,**  
**Mr. Daniel Mulhall***



Junior Princess ♣ **Miss Emerald (Emmy) Adeline Schauf**

**Clan MacGregor** is well-represented this year by 3 of our 2020 IAS Princesses! **Scott MacGregor's** only granddaughter, **Emerald Adeline Schauf**, is this year's IAS Junior Princess. Could there even be a more perfect first name for an IAS princess this year?! Her Irish ancestry comes from Co. Carlow on her maternal grandfather's side and from Belfast on her maternal grandmother's side. Emmy attends many IAS events with her grandfather **Scott**, mother **Darcie**, and big brother **WESS**. She was born and raised here in southeastern Virginia and is a rising sixth grader in the Norfolk public school system. Emmy loves both softball and dancing, and she also accompanies her mom and grandpa to various costume balls/historical era dances in the region. Although the St. Patrick's Day Parade was cancelled this year, Emmy did do a great job representing the IAS with the rest of her family at the annual **St. Baldrick's** shaving event (where they raised money yet again for this great cause) and the **Bold Mariner Brewing Company** parade day event, which went on although the parade did not.

Teen Princess ♣ **Miss Cecilia Rose Donovan-Dunn**

Cecilia has Irish heritage on both sides of her family, Co. Tipperary on her mother **Danielle Donovan Dunn's** side, and Co. Cork on her father **Sid Dunn's** side. Being an IAS Princess runs in the family; Mom Danielle was our Adult IAS Princess in 2001! Cecilia has three older brothers (**Sid Jr.**, **Matt**, and **Jason**) from her father's first marriage, and she is very close to all three. A current Entrepreneurship & Business Academy honors student at Kempsville High School, Cecilia attended the academically rigorous International Baccalaureate middle school program before that at Plaza. Cecilia represents Kempsville on the swim team and has competed in both districts and regionals. Cecilia is a Girl Scout Senior and the top cookie seller in her troop! She is also on the Girl Scout Council of the Colonial Coast. A long-time dance student, Cecilia studies and performs many kinds of dance including ballet, contemporary, lyrical, tap, jazz, and hip hop. She spends a lot of time volunteering, particularly at the oceanfront, for such organizations as the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center, Ocean/Bay Clean Up, Lynnhaven River Now, World Oceans Day, and Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Her personal interests include travel, photography, and her adorable puppy Milo!

Teen Princess ♣ **Miss Mathisen Claire Wood**

Mathisen has Irish heritage from her mother **Samantha's** side (Co. Meath, Co. Fermanagh, and Belfast) and her father **Tristan's** side (Co. Down and Co. Kerry). Her tight-knit family also includes her older brothers **Aidan** and **Kail**. She comes to various IAS events with all of them. Mathisen is an honor roll student at Catholic High School; in middle school, she was Vice President of the National Junior Honor Society. She plays on the CHS Volleyball and Lacrosse teams and runs for their Track team. She made Varsity track as a freshman and qualified for States on both her relay teams. Mathisen is an accomplished Irish step dancer in the **Walker Academy of Irish Dance**. She's been dancing for ten years and achieved Open Champion at the age of 11. She is a multiple-year Nationals qualifier, and she was a Worlds qualifier in 2018. You've definitely seen her perform at our annual Finnegan's Wakes as well as in this year's spectacular Emerald Ball finale! Mathisen has been lucky enough to do a lot of international travel, as her mother was born in England, and they still have many relatives there. She also traveled to Ireland to compete in the Worlds.

Adult Princess ♣ **Ms. Darcie Rae MacGregor-Schauf**

Darcie, the extroverted twin, and her twin sister Jamie are both IAS Adult Princesses this year! Darcie is the twin more likely to wear her hair down and/or with a large flower. Darcie is the proud mom of our IAS Junior Princess 2020 **"Emmy" Emerald Adeline Schauf** and her older brother **William Edward Scott "WESS" Schauf**. Like her sister, Darcie is a graduate of Granby High School in Norfolk and, also like her sister, currently works in the front office of a medical practice. Her creative talents were put to good use helping to decorate for the Emerald Ball, but she also enjoys designing murals and other décor for her home. She has also been known to prank family members!

Adult Princess ♣ **Mrs. Jamie Sue (MacGregor) Grover**

Jamie, the introverted twin, and her sister Darcie are both IAS Adult Princesses this year! They and ALL of their kids have joined dad/grandpa Scott in shaving their heads for **St. Baldrick's** on team **Yes Way, Jose**. Jamie is married to **Donald "Donny" Christopher Grover**, US Army veteran. They are the parents of **Logan Alexander Grover** and **Brennen Christopher Grover**. Jamie also attends IAS events with her family, but many of us long-time IAS members remember her and her sister Darcie from when they were kids coming to IAS events and ceili classes with their dad, **Scott MacGregor**. Jamie and Darcie's mother's name is **Randa-Lynn Gordon**, and they also have a brother named **Stuart**.





### BOLD MARINER (NO) PARADE DAY PARTY MARCH 14, 2020

Our Our Adult Princesses, Jamie (MacGregor) Grover, her twin sister Darcie (MacGregor) Schauf, Teen Princess Mathisen Wood & Junior Princess, Emerald "Emmy" Schauf were introduced. There were dancers from the **Walker Academy** with **Tracy Fearon** doing MC duties.

### ST. BALDRICK'S SHAVE DATE 2020

SPONSORED BY ST. BALDRICK'S FOUNDATION TO  
CONQUER CHILDHOOD CANCERS

You all are awesome !!!Thank-you to everyone who donated and made this year another BIG success.

The 2020 Shave Date for St. Baldrick's was March 7th, at a new venue this year. The festivities were at O'Conner Brewing Company at 211 W 24th St in Norfolk from 1:00PM to 4:00PM.

Your willingness to step up, getting behind me and my grandson, Brenny, in making your donations towards finding a cure for childhood cancers is greatly appreciated. To date for this year through your support I have raised \$1445 and my grandson **Brenny** raised \$761. Together the two of us raised at shave time a total of \$2,206 for St. Baldricks.

The team, **Yes Way! Jose**, has again raised over \$10,000 again this year and the event overall has raised a total of \$75,000. All numbers will rise a bit more.

Thanks again for all your support. All donations are very much appreciated.

If you haven't donated and would like to my donation page is here:

<https://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/1043647/2020>

Sincerely,  
Scott MacGregor





## THE PARTING GLASS



*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  
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.*

### ~ Late February ~

Condolences to the entire extended family of IAS Adult Princess 2007 **Erin Morrissey** on the passing in February of her amazing maternal great-uncle, **Dr. James Joseph McNally, Jr.** What a phenomenal life he led! After enlisting to serve in the Marine Corps during WWII, he went to university and became an academic. Dr. McNally led a rich scholarly life, giving lectures all over the world and teaching literature at several universities, including Penn State and ODU. He was also a published, award-winning poet. Most of all, though, he was a family man, and he leaves behind a large and loving family to preserve his memory. His funeral was the same day as the IAS Emerald Ball. Visit this link for more of Dr. McNally's impressive obituary.

[www.legacy.com/obituaries/pilotonline/obituary.aspx?n=james-josephmcnally&pid=195489190&fbclid=IwAR2UxEEgN4\\_bLwUmqYOHuASfbSN2\\_TwuaMBAeXF54XytJ7vz6WiECmm3S8E](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pilotonline/obituary.aspx?n=james-josephmcnally&pid=195489190&fbclid=IwAR2UxEEgN4_bLwUmqYOHuASfbSN2_TwuaMBAeXF54XytJ7vz6WiECmm3S8E)

### ~ March ~

Condolences to IAS member **Kat Aschenbrenner Rickerson** and family on the passing in late March of her beloved stepfather, **Thomas Sagar**. Kat posted on Facebook about him: *He was one of the most kind and generous souls I have ever known. While his passing was very unexpected, he did not suffer. Brad and I are traveling to Mississippi to be with my mother during this difficult time. His funeral mass will take place at a later time once people are able to gather together again. Please keep my mother and Tom's family in your prayers.*

~~~~~

Condolences to IAS Adult Princess 2004 **Lynette Gilmour Crouch** and her extended family on the loss this March of her father's first cousin, **Jimmy Boyle**. As Lynette wrote on her Facebook page:

*It cannot be underestimated, the love we have for this man.....my Dad's first cousin, and absolute best friend/brother, Jimmy Boyle. His love for us all was boundless, his humility was something each of us could do well to inherit, his humour, his nervous-nelly concern for all of us...short of losing my Dad, this one hurts deep as can be. Selfishly, we will miss him something awful, but we are grateful for a peaceful passing and a life treasured.*

### ~ April ~

Condolences to all the family and friends of our wonderful **Mary Helen "Maureen" Honore**, who passed in late April. She had a recurrence of the cancer from a few years ago, but the treatments did not go well, and there was nothing further the doctors could do. Maureen and her husband **Frank Honore** have been IAS members for many, many years, and Maureen used to be one of our Sunshine Committee contacts. There will be a funeral mass at the Church of the Ascension after the state lock down ends.

Thank you to Eileen Ryan-Seely, Mary Ann Bromley, Catherine Twomey, and Johanna Gross for keeping the IAS circle informed.



Here is a link to Maureen's obituary:

[www.legacy.com/obituaries/pilotonline/obituary.aspx?n=mary-helen-honore-maureen&pid=196054713](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pilotonline/obituary.aspx?n=mary-helen-honore-maureen&pid=196054713)

If anyone would like to mail condolences/mass cards for Maureen to Frank, here is the address.

Frank Honore  
2853 Majestic Oak Court  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

### ~ May ~

Condolences to the entire Porter family on the loss in late May of **Michelle Colleen Porter**, beloved daughter of **Monica** and the late **Thomas Porter**, both of County Derry, Ireland. Tom was the longest-serving IAS President thus far, and Michelle and her sister **Sonia** attended many IAS events over the years. Michelle's three daughters are all IAS Junior Princesses; twins **Kala & Monica Bishop** had a special two-year reign in 2004/2005 and **Jacqueline Duvall** was crowned in 2010. The attached picture of Michelle is from the Ocean View St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2019, and the one of her and Jacqueline is from the OV Parade in 2010. Michelle had cancer and was on hospice before she passed this spring.

Michelle Porter's viewing and memorial service were on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Altmeier Funeral Home Southside Chapel in Virginia Beach. The IAS was represented with multiple members there as well as Bromley's Irish American Honor Guard Bagpiper Tom Crouch in full kit. Tom piped "Danny Boy" and "Amazing Grace" for the family. Jacqueline did the readings and gave a beautiful eulogy for her mother, and Fr. Dominic from St. Gregory's said prayers.

Many thanks to **Mary Ann Bromley** (via **Catherine Twomey**) for keeping the IAS informed about this very sad event. If anyone would like to mail condolences/mass cards for Michelle to Monica and the family, here is the address.

Monica Porter  
1808 Rock Lake Loop  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456



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Condolences to IAS member **Deb Plummer** on the loss this May of her dear life-long friend, major influence, and former companion, **Cynthia Erskine**. Below is a link to her obituary. As Deb wrote, "While this is a beautiful obituary by her niece, the essay she wrote that was published in the *Yale Review* was amazing. Cynthia was Scotch and Irish and British all rolled into an eclectic, eccentric, wonderful free spirit." Cynthia was at The Consulate in Williamsburg on hospice when she contracted COVID-19. Deb visited her window every day once that happened. The end of the story is tearful, but WOW! What an amazing life!

[https://rwbakerfh.com/obituaries/cynthia-hilary-erskine?fbclid=IwAR3g5jh9tp0quP181qdFAG52iAbAflaoqMPPMRRMStEW8zGVY\\_AMfaJG0Y](https://rwbakerfh.com/obituaries/cynthia-hilary-erskine?fbclid=IwAR3g5jh9tp0quP181qdFAG52iAbAflaoqMPPMRRMStEW8zGVY_AMfaJG0Y)





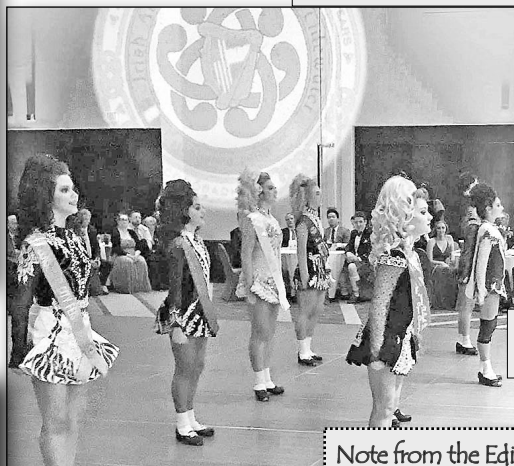


♣ IAS PRINCESSES ♣  
PAST & PRESENT

*Darcie MacGregor-Schauf with the 'most-clever-use-of-an-IAS-anniversary-pin' in a flower in her hair.*



*Patty Ritzi proprietor of Premier Events making decorating magic.*



*Irish Dancers from Walker Academy of Dance*



*It's officially an IAS party!  
Finnegan arrived - thanks to Mary Ann Bromley*

#### Note from the Editor:

Here is just a preview of next month's Newsletter. There will be full pages of photos from the Emerald Ball, including the preparation, the Irish Dancers, the dancing feet and smiling faces of the attendees.

Also, photos from the IAS VIP Breakfast at Murphy's Pub, held on March 1, 2020 and the trip north with the Ambassador to Norfolk and Richmond visiting along the way.

Although 'me and mine' are doing well, the newsletters this spring seem to have fallen down the rabbit hole. My apologies to you all, Lori.

If anyone can add a photo that we haven't seen on Facebook, please email me at [lorishea@com](mailto:lorishea@com)

THANKS for lots and lots of PHOTOS to:  
Lynnette Fitch-Brash  
Maureen Cahill  
Debra Taylor-Kelly  
Darcie MacGregor-Schauf  
Tracy Fearon  
Samantha Heaslett Wood  
Walker Academy of Dance  
Tiffany Garibay  
Lynette Crouch  
Joy Brady-Boyd  
Lori Shea

