



The Richmond Claddagh

<http://www.rvairish.com/>

AUGUST 2014

The Richmond Irish American Society

2014 IRISH AMERICAN SOCIETY PICNIC GREAT TURNOUT AND GREAT DAY!



NOW DON'T YOU WISH YOU HAD COME TO THE IAS PICNIC! ☺

Might have been our best picnic in the last couple of years. Saw so many of our members that we don't normally get to see at the events... I hope this will encourage many of you to make that little extra effort to join us at the events/meetings/Pub Suppers/movies/etc. that the Board works so hard to organize. Also, big thanks to Bill Riddell for slaving over that grill cooking for us. And a big thank you to the members for all the goodies brought to add to the spread.

And, many thanks to new member Joy Caporale for this photo and for answering our "search" by volunteering to fill the open spot on our IAS Board! Also, to any interested members... 8 x 10 reprints of this photo of our Picnic Group - are available for \$5 - please contact Karon if you are interested. 804-982-7835 or irishmom1958@gmail.com)

IRISH POETRY NIGHT –

Thursday - 09/04/2014 – 7pm

Tuckahoe Library

1901 Starling Drive, Henrico, VA 23229



Yes, to some, the above sample might be considered Irish poetry. But we know better. The real beauty of Irish poetry lies in the works of Heaney, Yeats, Wilde, Goldsmith, Lewis and so many more. To honor our heritage, and to give all our members either an opportunity to share a favorite Irish poem with fellow members – or to just listen to the wonders of Irish poetry for the first

time- Dan Begley has scheduled an "Irish Poetry Night" for our members. For those so inclined, please feel free to come "In Costume" to reflect the "feel": of your poem or the subject of your poem.

You are asked to bring a favorite Irish poem to read to the group – or just come to listen and enjoy. After, we'll all discuss the poem or comment on the feelings that the poem brought to the surface.

These poetry nights have been very popular in the past. Please free to bring a friend and join us on Thursday 9/4/2014 at 7PM at Tuckahoe Library.

Use the links below to look up Irish poets/poems and also to get directions to the library.

SEE YOU THERE!

http://famouspoetsandpoems.com/country/Ireland/Irish_poets.html

[Click for Driving Directions to the Library](#)

**The Richmond IAS
“Storm” the Irish Embassy in DC.**



What a great time we had on our road trip to the Irish Embassy! Those handsome guys with us are the *Washington Irish Rugby Football*. Not shown in the photo are the local Irish dancers and musicians providing entertainment for the folks waiting to start the tour. Such a good time we all had and many thanks are due. Thanks to Dan Begley for setting up the trip and for driving our rented van (and for making the same trip the week before to scope out the best routes!) Thanks to Karen Ide for the tasty treats to tide us over on the way back to Richmond! Thanks also to Bonnie Atwood for taking this group photo! Also joining us were Pat Burke, Jack Boles, Karon Bell, Ann McGehee, Ray & Linda Gallagher, Kathryn O'Meara, Joe Green, Frank Hardy, & friends of Kathryn O'Meara – Gerrie Pendell & Trudy Feeny.

New IAS Board Member – Joy Caporale

Many thanks to Joy for volunteering to help. Joy is also an accomplished photographer, (note the picnic photo!) so we are doubly lucky!

However, we still have some uncovered positions. None take a lot of time or energy, but getting some volunteers would take some of the load off our Board members. The open slots are - **Publicity** – helping to get the word out about the IAS and our scheduled events. **Historian** – maintain our club scrapbooks, and **Awards and Memorials**, ordering any plaques or items needed for IAS presentations. All afford much needed support to the organization. Like all Board positions, they are unpaid - but so very rewarding! It takes some work to keep the IAS a strong entity. If you have some time and are willing to help us out, please contact Karon Bell at 804-982-7835 or irishmom1958@gmail.com

**Memorial Day at the VA War Memorial –
Remembering all Veterans &
Especially our Irish Veterans.**



Frank Hardy & Mike Kane with the IAS Wreath.

Pub Supper Friday Night - August 29th

Meet at 6:30



O'Toole's, 4800 Forest Hill Ave,
Richmond
(804) 233-1781

Our IAS Pub Master – Mike Kane has another great night planned for our members. He has made arrangements for us to meet at O'Toole's for supper and some Irish fun. We will all be seated together in the back room (and away from the maddening crowds☺). So please mark your calendars and be sure to join us for another night of fun and good food. It is a great opportunity to get acquainted with your fellow members. It's a help if you call Mike and let him know how many are coming. O'Toole's can have the room set up for us



Do you have a suggestion for an interesting Irish themed program for one of our monthly meetings? As long as it is Irish based... we are open to any and all suggestions.

Do you know of anyone who presents an interesting program on the Irish, or The Irish in American or our shared Irish heritage? Do you have suggestions on other sites for meetings? How about giving Dan Begley a call. Dan is our hardworking Vice President, and he is also in charge of setting up programs for our Irish education and enjoyment. Suggestions and ideas are always encouraged and most welcome.



During his interesting program on “The Irish in New York” in April – Ed Kast also gave us some information on “Big Onion Walking Tours” in New York. He and Kathy have used them on several occasions, and they highly recommend their services. All of the tours have a guide that is well versed in the history of the area being toured.

You can use the links below to learn more and even see the schedules for the upcoming months.

<http://www.bigonion.com/tour/irish-new-york/>

<http://www.bigonion.com/schedule/>

Sometimes I find a quote that makes me want to read the book. This is one. Has anyone read this book??

“There was always a big party on the night before anyone left for the States. They called it an American wake, because the whole community stayed up to keep the emigrants company through their last night on the island, just as they would have bidden farewell to a soul beginning the long journey towards eternity. There was almost no chance that anyone present would ever see the departed again”.

Cole Moreton - Author of -

[Hungry for Home - Leaving the Blaskets, A Journey from the Edge of Ireland.](#) (Click link for more Info)



Always looking out for you! Found this in People Magazine... **“Great Whiskey - Green Spot Single Pot Still Irish Whiskey. Finally available in the US.”** Learn more at this website - [Master of Malt](#)



[The History of Ireland in 6 Minutes](#) – Click this link (or use the one below - to enjoy a cute little video ... it’s a quick trip down “Video Memory Lane” and you might want to pause a few times to enjoy the Irish humor and artwork. ☺

For more Irish history – click here – [more](#) Irish history videos are available at this site --- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbeGx7Tu8EA> –this is 57 min. long, but very good!

In Irish legend, the white crested waves of the sea are poetically called the horses of Manannán mac Lir, an Irish Sea deity and the guardian between worlds.



Have no idea if this is a true Irish legend – but I really love both the idea **AND** the image.

“Operation Sunshine” – A reminder that our IAS Board Member Ann McGehee is not only our Recording Secretary, but she also handles all the correspondence going out to members that are under the weather or experiencing some kind of event that could use some support and contact. If you know of a member that could use a bit of cheer, please contact Ann or any Board member and we’ll make sure that we get the notice out. You can reach Ann at - <mailto:annmcgehee7@gmail.com>

Gaelic Football...I found this cool video on Gaelic Football through a link on the web at the website for the Irish store in Fredericksburg, **“Irish Eyes”** which is run by our old friends Bernadette and Mike Esler. It’s a great Irish shop and they are super folks.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEAbWrdB9XU#t=185> - They also have tons of good information on Ireland, Irish genealogy, travel to Ireland and more on their website – you can enjoy a visit at their website – or visit them and their store in person! Info at link below.
<http://www.irisheyesofva.com/index.html>

Don’t Forget to Support Our Local Irish Musicians – and tell your Friends!

**TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC SESSIONS
IN RICHMOND**



2nd & 4th Wednesday every month - Starts 7:30 pm. Rosie Connolly’s, 1548 E Main St, Richmond, VA 23219. **IT IS OPEN TO ALL MUSICIANS** – Spread the word!

1st & 3rd Sat. every month – 10 am – till 1:00 pm
Ashland Coffee & Tea, 100 N. Railroad Avenue,
Ashland, VA 23005, Phone: 804 798-1702
Old-Time & Irish Jam – Celebrating the music
of the Irish & Appalachia - ITS AN OPEN
SESSION

Ireland is rich in literature that understands a soul's yearnings, and dancing that understands a happy heart. – (Margaret Jackson)

Visit our new IAS Website –

<http://www.rvairish.com/>

Our Web Manager, Bill Riddell has put together a great new website for our group. Please click on the link above to visit and see all the good things he has posted for us. Lots of photos – and speaking of photos – please email any photos that you might like added to Bill at - wjridell@verizon.net.

Here’s hoping we ALL resemble this!



NOTE* - To All Members -- GET READY!

The Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games will be here before we know it! The dates are October 25th & 26th – at the Richmond Raceway Compound. (Yeah!)

I noticed on their Facebook page that Charlie Zahm is coming back this year. I know that will make a few folks very happy!

The IAS will again have their booth open for all visitors and hopefully potential members. **So of course, we are hoping for volunteers from our members to help out in the tent.**

Its easy work, people just want to talk to someone who shares their Irish heritage. We help them look up their family name in our Genealogy books ... and we make new friends along the way. The weather is usually great, the Celtic music is wonderful and you’ll never regret volunteering some time.

Think about – our President, Karon Bell will be handling the manpower, so please call her at

804-982-7835 or email her at
irishmom1958@gmail.com

Visit the Festival Website at

<http://vacelticfestival.com/>

A Word to The Wise - **Never** get one of those cheap tin whistles. It leads to much harder drugs like pipes and flutes. (Unknown)

Filmmaker to Develop Film On the 1916 Uprising



Once upon a time it seemed as if everyone and their granny was in the GPO during the 1916 Easter Rising. But times changed and so did attitudes. What some saw as a heroic event, started being portrayed as a mindless bloodbath, and imposed on an unwilling population. "It got more challenging" agreed filmmaker Kevin McCann who is about to embark on a €4.5 million project, provisionally entitled "**The Rising**" about the events of 1916. The focus will be very much on Leitrim man Seán Mac Diarmada, who he sees as the mastermind of the event.

McCann admits he too "pontificated around dinner tables" about the rights and wrongs of this most dramatic period in Irish history but with the centenary hurtling towards us, he says it's time to stop averting our eyes. "The Irish people must stop looking at each other out of the corner of our eyes whenever 1916 is raised," said the Cavan man.

The producer and writer who has spent six months in the US garnering support for the film, believes that while Pearse and Connolly took center stage, there would have been no Easter Rising without Mac Diarmada who he says spent years planning an insurrection. Only 33 when he was executed alongside James Connolly, Mac Diarmada was born on a small farm near Kiltyclogher, Co Leitrim, the eighth of 10 children.

"He was the only full time revolutionary," said McCann. "Most of the others were important cultural figures – poets, teachers, barristers. But Tom Clarke who had a tobacconist in Parnell Street, had been in prison for 16 years and Mac Diarmada and Clarke were thick as thieves. From the early 1900s Mac Diarmada was spreading the gospel that a revolutionary movement was needed in Ireland."

McCann has raised over €100,000 to develop the film which is already attracting a lot of interest. He has discussed the project with Minister for Arts

Jimmy Deenihan while US lobbyist Tom O'Neill son of legendary Irish American politician Tip, has, he says, been very supportive. Hollywood actor Josh Brolin (*No Country for Old Men* and *Milk*) has been sent the screenplay which McCann co-wrote with New York-based writer Colin Broderick. McCann says the star is interested in the project but at 48 is possibly too old to play the central role.

He does have someone in mind for the Mac Diarmada part, but he is staying mum for the moment. (Many thanks to our IAS member Kathy Mincz for this item)

The Sligo Memorial



In 1997, **The Faoin Sceach**, (Under the Hawthorn), sculpture by Fred Conlon was erected by the County Sligo Famine Commemoration Committee. More than 2000 famine victims were buried at the Famine Graveyard of St. John's Hospital in Sligo. Conlon chose 'a lone bush as a suitable memorial for the famine dead. The lone tree was held in a position of high importance from early Celtic Mythology. This bush was regarded as a sacred object in rural Ireland. No farmer would cut it down lest it would upset the spirits. During famine times many starving people lay down under it to die or were buried there. The tree was a sacred marker or protector the unnamed dead'.

The plaque beside the statue reads:

"Reilig an Ghorta Mhóir. You are entering a long abandoned Famine Graveyard. Here ends 'Casan na Marbh', Pathway of Death, so named because unnumbered thousands perished following its grim passage from rotted fields to odious workhouse to ignominious burial.

**

May they feel the warmth of a tear!
May they hear the piper's lament.
May they know we, the survivors, keep vigil.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS – IRISH FUN IS COMING UP!!
CHECK OUT ALL THE WAYS TO ENJOY YOUR IRISH HERITAGE!**

AUG 29 - Fri	Pub Supper – O’ Toole’s Meet us at 6:30!
SEP 4th	Irish Poetry Night – Tuckahoe Library... A Great Time! Feel free to dress in costume that reflects the poem these. And bring a Friend... Group will retire to a local pub for more discussion after the program.
SEP 5 – 7	<u>Pittsburgh Irish Festival</u> – Pittsburgh PA – (been to this one – its great -)
SEP 12-14	<u>Indy Irish Festival</u> - Indianapolis, IN – (been here too - Also a great time!)
OCT 25 & 26	Richmond Celtic Games
NOV TBA	IAS Tour & Program at Maymont Richmond
DEC 13	IAS Christmas Party – Shenandoah Community Center – Details Coming!

IAS OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

President & Special Events	Karon Bell	804-982-7835	irishmom1958@gmail.com
Vice President & Programs Chair	Dan Begley	804-740-5631	begley55@hotmail.com
Secretary & Sunshine	Ann McGehee	540-894-7284	annmcgehee7@gmail.com
Treasurer	Kathryn O’Meara	804-745-1903	k.omeara007@comcast.net
Board Member, Membership	Denis Maguire	804-739-0429	maguired@comcast.net
Board, Email & Newsletter	Nancy Emig	804-323-6415	bearfan46@verizon.net
Board Member	Frank Hardy	804-883-6230	fenway7@msn.com
Board Member	Joy Caporale	804-253-5894	plants1230@aol.com
Board Member – Pub Master	Mike Kane	804-270-2828	MikeKane@KW.com
Board Member – IAS Website	Bill Riddell	804-262-4226	<u>wjridell@verizon.net</u>
Historian Chair	OPEN		
Publicity Chair	OPEN		
Awards and Memorials	OPEN		

DON’T FORGET TO VISIT YOUR IAS WEBSITE!

<http://www.rvairish.com/>

There are tons of new and old IAS photos. Bill also posts the dates of upcoming events... just in case you misplace your newsletter or forget to mark your home calendar.

Please note those open spots on the board where we could use some volunteers. The jobs are not time consuming, but your participation would be a big help to our Board members who are doing “double duty”. Thanks for considering!

