



The Richmond Claddagh

<http://richmondias.org/>

The Richmond Irish American Society

[Click for the Calendar of Events](#)

December 2010

How to Say Merry Christmas in Gaelic:

Merry Christmas – To an individual

Nollaig Shona Duit

(NO-ligh HO-nuh ghwich)

(Always with emphasis on the capital letters)

Merry Christmas to a group, then it would be:

Nollaig Shona Daoibh

(NO-ligh HO-nuh JEEV)

Happy New Year – to an individual

Athbhliainfaoi Mhaise Duit

(AH-vlee-ihn fwee WAH-shuh wich)

Happy New Year To A Group

Athbhliainfaoi Mhaise Daoibh

(AH-vlee-ihn fwee WAH-shuh HEEV)

The common response to all of the above -is:

“The same to you”

“Go mba hé duit”

(Guh may hay wich)

If you have tried to learn these phrases in Irish, and all earnest attempts have failed, just try the universal greeting...

Lift a pint, thrust it forward in the internationally accepted toast, and you will be a hit in any language.

(Especially if you buy the house a round.)

Anyway-----



The Irish Kids and Santa – this is a darling video of some kiddies in Dublin talking about the visit from Santa. Especially listen to what the first lad is going to leave out for Santa. Just click the link or copy and paste into your browser bar

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XlkIs0rWNY>

If you can help - Karon Bell will be at the Boathouse at 4:00 on the 4th to set up for the party. Could also use some clean up help after the party too! It won't take long with helpers!

SEE YOU AT THE World Renowned IAS Christmas Party/Silent Auction - December 4th

from 6:00'ish to 11:00'ish. The party will be held again at the [Virginia Power Boat Association](#) clubhouse, a warm and festive setting and plenty of parking too! The Boat Club is located at 4051 Old Gun Road East, Midlothian, VA. 23113. Directions from the Huguenot Bridge: Stay on Huguenot Road until you reach the intersection of Old Gun Road. There's a traffic light there. Turn right. The road will twist & turn. **Go 1.7 miles**. The boat club is on the right. There's a sign, but caution—it's not very large or well lit. Attendance is free – but we ask that you bring a “Dish to Share” – a dessert, an appetizer, your specialty. **It's BYOB** – but we'll have the mixers available. There is also some Irish music from Turf Fire. This is our major Party of the year and we hope to see you there!

One more thing, in the true spirit of Christmas, we request donations of canned goods or other non-perishable foods for an IAS donation to the Central Virginia Food Bank. It's a pretty tough time for a lot of people this year –so just bring what you can – It always feels good to do for others who need some help.

(NO PARKING ON THE GRASS, & DRIVE SAFELY!)

Now.. about that Silent Auction - -Here are some last minute enticements for you.. We have on deck –

- John Hanley (made in Ireland) Irish Tweed Cap
- Green baseball cap – Ireland Imprint on brim
- 5 pence Irish Coin Cufflinks
- Irish Brigade 'Fighting 69th' coin
- Celtic Myths & Legends – Book and Pin
- **Irish Shillelagh!**
- Irish Sailors Dice Game
- Celtic Pearl Trinity Earrings
- Guinness Cap (very sporty)
- **Belleek** Ornaments & a **Waterford** Cross Pendant
- Irish Knick-Knacks
- Irish Shamrock Kitchen Trivet
- A Wonderful Collection of Irish Books
- Irish Music CD's
- The Shenandoah Cabin Get-Away

And there's even more to tempt you – So bring your checkbook – Bid on & Buy some Irish goodies and help support your IAS at the same time! Don't forget to bring your Auction Donations to the Party. And if you are bringing something – send me an email description and we'll have a Bid Sheet all ready for your Irish goodie

DRIVING DIRECTIONS FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

- To the Virginia Power Boat Clubhouse - 4051 Old Gun Rd E, Midlothian, VA. 23113. From Chippenham Parkway – Turn onto Huguenot Road – heading towards Chesterfield Town Center (away from the city of Richmond) Continue on Huguenot (past Old Stony Point Shopping Center) Drive 2.3 miles

At the stop light at the intersection of Huguenot Road and Old Gun Road – Turn right onto Old Gun Road. Continue 318 ft. on Old Gun, and then turn left to stay on Old Gun. Drive 1.7 miles. (You'll pass the intersection of Cherokee Road)

The Boat Club will be on the right hand side of the road.

Just a note - At the stoplight – the Huguenot Road Baptist Church is past the intersection on the left. If you are driving and see St. Edward's Catholic Church – you have gone too far

DID YOU KNOW??? 2012 WILL BE THE 20TH

Anniversary of our IAS organization. You know what that means.... **PARTY!!!** Sonya Moore planned a wonderful party for the 15th anniversary, so we need to start thinking about that – you KNOW how fast time goes!

HEY!!! Did you know that you can order some IAS themed items from our website. T-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs and more – are available and every purchase gives the IAS a little cut for the treasury.

<http://richmondias.org/store.php>



How Cool Is This!

HMMMM...Did you know that most people in Ireland have never eaten **corned beef and cabbage**?

Who Knew? The Lisbon Earthquake on November 1, 1775 generated a large **tsunami that hit Ireland**, partially destroying Galway's Spanish arch and carrying away many people

What's Coming Up For the IAS in 2011? What Do We Need to Do? What Can You Do To Help?

1. What plans/ideas/suggestions do you have for the IAS for 2011?
2. What kinds of programs would you like to see in 2011?
3. What location would you suggest for an IAS meeting?
4. What facilities near you might be available to the IAS for meetings/events? Your neighborhood Community Center? Your library? Other local facilities?
5. Would you contact some facilities near you to see if the IAS could use them for meetings? Find out the costs? Times Available?
6. What suggestions do you have to make the IAS more accessible for all members? Ride Sharing? Telephone Tree?
7. What office or board position would you like to run for in 2011 to help the IAS remain strong?
8. How often will you visit the IAS website in 2011?
9. Would you be able help in planning IAS events – the Christmas Party, the Annual Picnic, etc?
10. Do you have some free time that you might contact the President to offer help with projects?
11. Could you pick a month – contact one of our Hospitality Folks and offer to bring a “dish” for one of the monthly meetings?

This isn't a “Nagging Item”, just a request for help and the opportunity to give some ideas/suggestions for our members. The IAS is **OUR** organization and we can all do a little something to help. If you see ways we can improve – let us know. As space permits, we try to publish the Officer Contact Information in every newsletter and you can also find it at our website where you can click the link and send them an email message.

<http://richmondias.org/iasBoard.php>

Yet another reason to work on that Irish brogue...

A survey of 5,000 women from around the world confirms that **Irishmen have the sexiest accent**, beating out Italians and Scots for the top spot.

And on that note – Dan Begley tells me that a Professor at VCU has contacted him about conducting some Gaelic Classes. Please call or email Dan (see contact info at the end of this newsletter) if you are interested and he will keep you posted, as more information is available. I'm thinking we might see lots of our IAS males look into this possible class – I'm just saying.... Look at the survey results... ☺

Irish Traditional Christmas Carols

The Wexford Irish melody is one of those Irish traditional Christmas carols that were first performed during the 1200s by Irish people and various Christian groups in reverence to the birth of Jesus Christ. This song was amongst the most popular Irish traditional Christmas carols during the ancient times, and it is among the Irish traditional Christmas carols or melodies that originated from the history and cultural heritage of Ireland. This song, amongst a number of Irish traditional Christmas carols, is also considered a melody that had originated from the Irish region known as Country Wexford.

Curoo, Curoo is another one of those ancient Irish traditional Christmas carols or holiday melodies. This old Irish traditional Christmas carol literally means the holiday melodies of Birds. This traditional Christmas melody is said to originate from the 1800s. This Irish traditional Christmas melody was performed and sung by the popular Irish singers known as The Clancy Brothers, and the album that featured this single was known as the Clancy Brothers Christmas.

Once in Royal David's City is another famous Irish traditional Christmas carol. This Irish traditional Christmas melody was written and performed by then popular songwriter and singer Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander, and this single was recorded during the early 1850s. Then famous musical choreographer Henry John Gantlet did the musical arrangements for the songs in this album release.

Irish Christmas Traditions, Blessings, and Toasts

Are you looking for a warm and heartfelt Irish blessing for Christmas? Try this Irish old Christmas Blessing.

“The light of the Christmas star to you,
The warmth of home and hearth to you,
The cheer and good will of friends to you,
The hope of a childlike heart to you,
The joy of a thousand angels to you,
The love of the Son and God’s peace to you.”

In Ireland, fall is the time of the year to make the house ready for the upcoming holiday celebrations. An Irish home is cleaned top to bottom. Special holiday Irish Linens are brought out of storage. Once all is clean it is ready for festive Christmas decorating and a cozy turf fire!

Did you know that “Holly and Holly Wreaths” were Irish traditions too? No Irish home would be complete without the holly. Holly grows wild in Ireland and is used to decorate the entire house. The Celts believed holly represented life and rebirth. The evergreen leaves

symbolized life during a time when all else was bare and the red berries represented the coming of Spring. With the coming of Christianity to Ireland the berries took on a new meaning, new life in Christ. One charming piece of folklore says holly is put out as a kind gesture to tiny fairies that might use it as a hiding place to come in out of the cold. Holly wreaths as a door decoration can be traced to North American Irish immigrating to the US during the Great Potato Famine.

The ancient Celts believed that mistletoe had healing powers. Its powers were so great that its presence encouraged a brief truce among enemies. And from this grew, the Victorian era custom of kissing under the mistletoe.

Do you put a candle in the window at Christmas time as part of your decoration? Well, guess what that’s an Irish Christmas tradition too! Candles in the window date back to ancient time’s laws of hospitality towards stranger. To have a light in your window on Christmas Eve to welcome the stranger meant that you were welcoming the Holy Family too. To have no light meant that you shared the guilt of the Innkeeper at Bethlehem who said, “No Room”!

In Ireland they have traditional holiday foods. The Irish Christmas cooking usually starts early with the making of plum pudding, fruit cakes, breads, and spiced beef. A traditional Irish Christmas meal might consist of roasted goose, potatoes, cranberry sauce, vegetables, sausages, puddings, and yummy fruitcakes. Don’t forget you can always start your own Irish Christmas traditions”. Most of all don’t forget to toast your family and friends on Christmas. Impress your family and friends with a “Wee Bit -O- Irish” this holiday season. Try this Irish Christmas Toasts In Gaelic, “Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi shonas duit.” It means “A prosperous and happy Christmas to you.”



A **Paraprosdokian** (from the Greek meaning "beyond" and "expectation") is a **figure of speech** in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect.

Isn't it amusing that someone used Greek terms to explain the Ages Old Irish Way of expressing the meanings of life – or as we Irish Call it ---- Murphy's Other Law! Which ones remind you of YOU!?

1. I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked God for forgiveness.
2. Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
3. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, it is however still on the list.
4. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
5. I'm not saying it is a stupid idea, what I am saying is that if I agreed with you we'd both be wrong.
6. We never really grow up - we only learn how to act in public.
7. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
8. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
9. The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
10. Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
11. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research. (Please! Your lowly editor only slightly resembles this low blow of a remark! ☺)
12. A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a workstation.
13. How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
14. I thought I wanted a career, turns out I just wanted paychecks.
15. A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it.
16. Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says "If an emergency, notify:" I put "DOCTOR".
17. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a baldhead and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

18. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
19. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
20. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
21. The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas!
22. Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back.
23. Irish diplomacy is the ability to tell a person to go to hell in such a way that they will look forward to the trip.
24. Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.
25. Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.
26. Some cause happiness **wherever** they go. Others **whenever** they go.
27. There's **a fine line** between cuddling, and holding someone down so they can't get away.
28. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.
29. When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.
30. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
31. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
32. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
33. Some people hear voices. Some see invisible people. Others have no imagination whatsoever.
34. A bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you are *after* it as when you are *in* it.
35. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
36. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
37. I always take life with a grain of salt, thrown over my shoulder as I down my Guinness.

**HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS BIT OF CHEER AND WE HOPE
IT GIVES YOU A GOOD LAUGH TO CARRY OVER INTO THE NEW YEAR**

And many thanks to our IAS member and prolific Joke-Sharer,
Jim McGroarty for sending this along for our enjoyment and allowing me to make some minor Irish changes!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Click on links in calendar and you can hear song selections from the artists

And **ALWAYS** click the link directly below to get the latest updates on upcoming events

<http://richmondias.org/index.php?content=upcoming>

December 3rd 7:30 Danú Christmas In Ireland An Nollaig in Éirinn U of R Modlin Center 804 289-898	This acclaimed Irish ensemble celebrates a traditional Irish Christmas and continue to thrill with virtuoso players on fiddle, flutes, button accordion, percussion, and the gorgeous voice of Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh. Danú returns to the Modlin Center with dancers and other special guests. Bring the entire family to enjoy this glorious Irish celebration of Christmas. Tickets – Adults - \$34, Seniors - \$32, Children \$17 –Click on the link below for a taste of their music It is the best 4 minutes you'll spend this week.. Keep a sharp eye for the dancing couple at the end. Tickets on Sale – October 22nd http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0RIInGkoMQk&feature=related
December 4th IAS Christmas Party 6-ish to 11-ish Va. Power Boat Club 4051 Old Gun Rd East – Midlothian, VA 23113	The party will be held again at the Virginia Power Boat Club Association clubhouse, a warm and festive setting for us. The boat club is located at 4051 Old Gun Road East, Midlothian, VA. 23113. Here are directions from the Huguenot Bridge: Stay on Huguenot Road until you reach the intersection of Old Gun Road. There's a traffic light there. Turn right. The road will twist & turn. Go 1.7 miles. The boat club is on the right. There's a sign, but caution—it's not very large or well lit. NO PARKING ON THE GRASS, & DRIVE SAFELY! Attendance is free – but we ask that you bring a “Dish to Share” – a dessert, an appetizer, your specialty... it's all good! It's BYOB – but we'll have the mixers available. PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM TO DONATE TO THE VIRGINIA FOOD PANTRY.
Dec 4th – Irish Music Session Finn McCool's 8pm	Bernard Farrell invites all to the Irish session. Finn McCool's is located in The Shoppes at Innsbrook at the corner of West Broad and Cox Road. You can visit their website at (www.finnmccoolsrichmond.com)
December 18th, Richmond Folk Music Congregation Or Ami 9400 Huguenot Road Richmond, VA	Celebrate the Holiday Season with dance music by Richmond's favorite Klezmer ensemble - Klezm'Or'Ami'm , and rousing traditional Irish party music by Turf Fire . What is "Celtic Klezmer"? Well, described by Mick Malone -imagine if the Kellys and the Cohens were to put on a block party! Although it might seem a strange combination, these were two groups who not only came to America to build a better life, but really felt they had no homeland to go back to". Ticket pricing to be announced. It will be worth it to hear “Danny Boy” in Yiddish!

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**And All of Your Board Members Wish You A Wonderful Christmas Season
and The Best of Good Irish Fun in the Coming New Year!**

Jan. 5th 2011 – 7 pm Williamsburg Library Celtic Film Series Free	<u>P.S. I Love You (2007, rated PG-13)</u> Williamsburg Library Theatre, 515 Scotland Street In this romantic comedy based on the novel of the same name, a young widow (Hilary Swank) discovers that her late husband (Gerard Butler) has left her 10 messages intended to help ease her pain and start a new life.
Feb 25th & 26th Williamsburg Library Coyote Run – Concert \$15	Coyote Run - The Thinking Person's Celtic Rock Band - A powerful and compelling blend of Celtic legend, literature and song. "Coyote Run is one of the hottest bands on the Celtic music circuit today" http://www.coyoterun.com/
March 2011	Cultural Arts Center in Glen Allen – is Advertising an as-yet unnamed “Celtic Night!”
<u>March 2, 2011 – 7 pm</u> Williamsburg Library Celtic Film Series “ BOXED ” Free	<u>Boxed (2002, not rated)</u> Williamsburg Library Theatre, 515 Scotland Street This powerful drama set in Northern Ireland centers on a young Catholic priest fresh from seminary, full of idealistic beliefs and faith. He is mistakenly taken to an isolated house where an IRA group is holding a suspected informer awaiting execution. The priest is expected to hear the informer's last confession but refuses to go along with this and locks himself in a room with the victim, threatening to expose the IRA members. The terrorists are now faced with the possibility of having to kill a priest, a decision none of them can make.
<u>April 6, 2011 – 7 pm</u> Williamsburg Library Celtic Film Series FREE	<u>Black Irish</u> (2007, rated R) Williamsburg Library Theatre, 515 Scotland Street. In South Boston, where Irish roots run deep and Catholic tradition reigns, two brothers face similar hardships but lead far different lives.
<u>May 4, 2011 – 7 pm</u> Williamsburg Library Celtic Film Series FREE	<u>A Love Divided</u> (1999, not rated) Williamsburg Library Theatre, 515 Scotland Street Based on a true story this is the moving and dramatic love story of a marriage between a Catholic and a Protestant in 1950s Ireland.
May 21, 2011 Ulster Spirit Richmond Folk Music Congregation Or Ami 9400 Huguenot Road Richmond, VA 804-647-7856	Musical Journey from the Glens of Antrim to the Hills of the Blue Ridge with Chris Caldwell and Steve Mulholland, founding members of the Traditional Irish Group – Killultagh - who last visited us in 2002 and so impressed IAS members with their the vibrant energy and spirit in their renditions of the traditional music of their native Ulster. Workshops will be announced in conjunction with this appearance. More information to follow! Tickets \$12 advance / \$15 door
<u>June 1, 2011 – 7pm</u> Williamsburg Library FREE Celtic Film Series	<u>Bloom</u> (2004, rated R) Williamsburg Library Theatre, 515 Scotland Street On the morning of the 16th June, 1904, Leopold Bloom (Stephen Rea) set out on a journey that was to become one of the greatest tales of the 20th century.

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