



The Richmond Claddagh

<http://richmondias.org/>

The Richmond Irish American Society

DECEMBER 2011

[Click for the Calendar of Events](#)

****WE WILL AGAIN COLLECT NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR DONATION TO THE RICHMOND FOOD PANTRY – THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!!**

From the President's Desk:

Well, we survived the Highland Games once again despite the rain, snow, wind and mud! The mud is getting to be an annual occurrence that we can do without. Nearly everyone who worked in our booth had a great time and I know that I had lots of fun and met many new people.

I hope that everyone turns out for the Christmas Party at the Boat Club, and please don't forget the Silent Auction. If you don't make it to the Party, I will take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years.

Starting In January, we will be spotlighting our Board Members by having each one do a biography. The first one up will be mine and I hope that you enjoy the series and learning more about each of us. Sonya S. Moore



Contrary to popular thought – This is not a photo from the IAS Tent at the Highland Games. There was no public drinking at our tent – but wading boots were welcome! ☺.

Bad News/Good News - We are sad to report that long time IAS Board Member, Gloria Cahen has decided to step down from her position as Secretary. Gloria joined the Society in its very early months and has been on the Board for over nineteen years. We are sure that she will continue to support its efforts and that we will still see her at events.

Ann McGehee, currently serving as Treasurer, will move over to Secretary. Board member Kathryn O'Meara will assume the Treasurers duties. Sonya

The IAS Christmas Party! **December 3rd** – from 6:00 to 11:00 at Virginia Power Boat Club Association clubhouse. The boat club is at 4051 Old Gun Road East, Midlothian VA 23113. You can click for driving directions from your home <http://mapq.st/uRM5S9> or you can use these directions from the Huguenot Bridge Stay on Huguenot Road until you reach the intersection of Old Gun Road. There's a traffic light there.

****The Silent Auction starts at 6pm -ends at 8:30****

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**, Admission to the party is “**A Dish To Share**”(Dessert, Appetizer, etc) and this is a **BYOB** or **BYOG** (bring your own Guinness) party, but mixers will be available. Also don't forget to look for Irish themed items that can be donated for the Silent Auction.

Oh yes, volunteers for set up are most welcome please call Karon Bell 804-982-7835 to help. And if you are at the party at 11:00 please think about staying for just a bit to help with cleanup. It's always great when we can all get out of there at a good hour.

Do you need a ride to the Christmas Party? Frank Hardy (804-883-6230) and Dan Begley (804-982-7835) have volunteered to try and help. Thanks.

The IAS Silent Auction at the Christmas Party: IAS Auction Master, Kathryn O'Meara tells us that volunteers to help are **MOST WELCOME** & some donations have already been received for the Auction and she is encouraging our members to again donate Irish themed items for the auction and **we make it SO easy for you to donate** ☺.

- You may bring your items to the Christmas Party for addition to the auction.
- If you want to donate something, but you won't be able to make it to the Christmas party, you can also call Karon Bell (804-982-7835), Frank Hardy (804-883-6230), Dan Begley (804-740-5631) or Nancy Emig (804-323-6415) and these Board Members will make sure that the items are taken to the Christmas party.

Remember, you can donate an Irish themed item, service, or even anything that you can get someone else to donate! (Restaurant dinners, services, etc.) This is a great fund-raiser for us and really helps the IAS Treasury in meeting operating expenses - so let's do it again! **NOTE:** If you bring auction items to the Christmas party we'll prepare the auction bid card when you bring it **BUT** – you can Kathryn an email mungojerrie23@aol.com or call 804-745-1903 with:

*A short description of the item

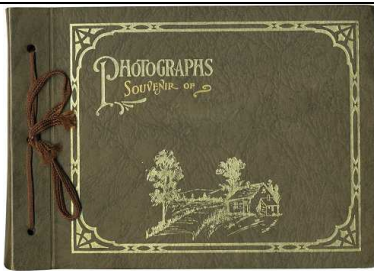
*The suggested opening bid -

Then we can have the Bid Sheet ready for your item!



- **Go raibh maith agaibh,** (guh rev mah ah-gwi). To everyone who braved the rain, snow, mud and all-round muck to help with Friday night set-up, Sunday afternoon take down and also work in the IAS tent over the Highland Games weekend – a heartfelt thank you to each and everyone of you – Sonya Moore, Sharon O’Brien, Renee Carroll, Gloria Cahen, Karen Ide, Denis Maguire, Kerry Dermady, Dave Beugelsdyk, Kathryn O’Meara, Ann McGehee, Kate Malloy, Nancy Emig, Frank Hardy, Pam Hardy, Marie McGranahan, Ray Gallagher, Dan Begley and last – but certainly not least – our own Finn McCool – Jim Bandelean.

The IAS could not do these festivals without your help- Thanks! **Karon Bell – Special Event Chairman**



I know – I know – you’ve been anxious to do something to help the IAS and have just been waiting for an opportunity to pop up. Well, here is that Golden Moment for you! There are multiple scrapbooks of photos, articles and memorabilia of the IAS that are all set and they only need a guardian to maintain the historical record. Gloria Cahen has collected the material for the IAS over the years and now would like to pass on the task to a new **“Keeper or the History”**. The position of IAS Historian – entails just adding new photos, articles, correspondence and the like – to our historical records and keeping the records, safe and intact. This is not a time consuming or laborious task --- so be the first to take the opportunity to contact President Sonya Moore at 804-272-4137 or sonyasmoore@comcast.net if you can lend the hand the IAS needs. (Thanks!)

“Ireland, thou friend of my country in my country’s most friendless days, much injured, much enduring land, accept this poor tribute from one who esteems thy worth, and mourns thy desolation.”
 ...George Washington (speaking of Ireland's support for America during the revolution.)

January 2nd - A Celtic Gathering in Richmond

-Richmond’s Most Active Celt – **Tim Batten** is hard at work planning an event to increase & enhance the



local Celtic community. Starting at 6pm and ending at 9 pm – the members and friends of all Celtic organizations are invited to a “Potluck/Bring a Dish-To-Pass Dinner” at **Benedictine Abbey** (click link for directions) 12829 River Road, Richmond, 23238 804-784-3508

There is no cost for the evening other than the dish to share. This evening is to support the organization of a Pipe and Drum Corp at Benedictine High School. Benedictine already has a “Drum Corp” and they along with 7 cadet pipers are working with Tim and the St. Andrew’s Legion Pipe to organize the corp.

Besides the fun of having dinner with your Celtic friends - the movie “Walk For Wallace” will be shown. William Wallace – the legendary ‘Braveheart’- was murdered at the butcher yards of Smithfield in London, and this DVD is a tribute to Wallace, on the 700th anniversary of his death.

In the movie, the late David Ross, Scottish author and historian and conveyor of the Wallace Society, walks in the footsteps of William Wallace along the same lonely path to London city, where Scotland's hero was hung, drawn and quartered to the amusement of a mass English crowd. This story is not a historical record but a tribute to the spirit of Wallace by his supporters from around the world - It is inspired by David Ross and his followers, who carry Wallace's coffin home to Scotland where his spirit is finally laid to rest.

If you wish, you will have a chance to purchase a raffle ticket for a Claymore Sword, once the mainstay of the Highland warriors; this sword typifies the style of weapons used by the Scottish and Irish in the late 15th and 16th centuries.



The raffle proceeds go to the Society of William Wallace. – Click here for the website – <http://www.thesocietyofwilliamwallace.com/index.html>

An Irish Christmas



- **Christmas whitewashing:** Around Christmastime, you'll still find the odd farm building out in the Irish countryside that looks like it's just been whitewashed. Long ago, farm families cleaned and then whitewashed every building on the farm in December. They were covered in white paint or limewash, to symbolically purify them for the coming of the savior. The tradition traces back thousands of years, not just through Celtic culture, but through other Central European cultures as well.



- **Before Christmas trees:** Having an evergreen-type Christmas tree is a relatively new phenomenon in Ireland. Years ago, whole families went out to find holly bushes and ivy to decorate the mantelpiece and other parts of the house. Finding a holly bush with lots of berries was considered a harbinger of good luck in the coming year. Holly was also used because it allowed poor people to decorate their homes in the same way as those who were better off. The bush was so common in Ireland in winter there was plenty for everyone.



- **Ancient Celts believed that mistletoe had tremendous healing powers – (I know it's fun to collect the kisses!).** Christians saw it as such a strong symbol of paganism, in fact, that they banned it until the so-called "revival of Christmas" in the Victorian era.



- **"Little Women's Christmas,"** on January 6th, is a traditional day for Irish women to leave their housework behind and go out with each other to have fun. It's a very old holiday, kept alive today by a few enthusiastic Irish ladies.



- It is considered **bad luck to take down holiday decorations** before "Little Women's Christmas" (sometimes simply called "Little Christmas") on January 8th.



- **A Welcoming Candle:** A Christmas candle in the window, still popular not just in Ireland but here in the US, was long displayed as a symbol of hospitality.

Window candles in Ireland were a symbol that the homeowner would welcome the Holy Family – unlike the innkeeper in Bethlehem who bore the guilt of having turned them away. During times of intolerance for Catholicism in Ireland, window candles also were meant to announce that it was safe to say mass in a home.



- **leaving a mince pie and a bottle of Guinness out on Christmas Eve was once popular in Ireland.** It was meant to be a snack for Santa Claus.

**We Wish You a Happy Christmas
Nollaig Shona Duit (null-ig hun-a dit).**



**From your IAS Officers and Board
(This might be at Glendalough?)**

The Wexford Carol is a beloved traditional Irish Christmas carol, also known as "The Enniscorthy Carol", as it was originally collected by a folklorist named Grattan Flood in Enniscorthy, a town in Ireland's County Wexford. The lyrics date back to the 12th century.

The Wexford Carol – Lyrics

Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending his beloved son
With Mary holy we should pray,
To God with love this Christmas Day
In Bethlehem upon that morn,
There was a blessed Messiah born

The night before that happy tide
The noble Virgin and her guide
Were long time seeking up and down
To find a lodging in the town
But mark right well what came to pass
From every door repelled, alas
As was foretold, their refuge all
Was but a humble ox's stall

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep
To whom God's angel did appear
Which put the shepherds in great fear
Arise and go, the angels said
To Bethlehem, be not afraid
For there you'll find, this happy morn
A princely babe, sweet Jesus, born

With thankful heart and joyful mind
The shepherds went the babe to find
And as God's angel had foretold
They did our Savior Christ behold
Within a manger he was laid
And by his side a virgin maid
Attending on the Lord of Life
Who came on earth to end all strife

There were three wise men from afar
Directed by a glorious star
And on they wandered night and day
Until they came where Jesus lay
And when they came unto that place
Where our beloved Messiah lay
They humbly cast them at his feet
With gifts of gold and incense sweet.

To hear a lovely version of this old Irish carol – just click on this link -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAc5UeKAwCw>

THINGS TO DO FOR THE NEW YEAR.



In a small fishing village in County Kerry called Portmagee they go against the grain and celebrate the Old Year! This is a very popular event and they celebrate everything that happened that year with music and dance. If that doesn't tickle your fancy, why not make your way to the beautiful Achill Island off the coast of County Mayo as this is the best place to watch the last sunset of the year fall over Europe, (I think that sounds so cool!) watch it go down from Minaun Heights and afterwards enjoy the pipe bands playing in the village at midnight. After a hard night's celebrating you can take a dip in the ice-cold waters of the Atlantic and join in on the traditional New Year's Day swim, which takes place on Silver Strand at around 1pm. (Don't you love the look of this place?! And really - **Except** for the part about the freezing swim... I think this sounds like a perfectly wonderful way to spend Christmas/New Years – may have to add to my “bucket list” – Nancy)

This note is from one of our new members – Dan Lynch and many thanks to Dan for sharing this link with us.

The link is to a friend of Ireland (and I am proud to call him my friend) Jesse Owens' website. In Dublin he had a radio show in the fifties and sixties where he made the Irish ballad a mainstay of Irish radio. Jesse played at the birthday parties of three Kennedy brothers and became famous in the New York Irish tavern scene. I met him on his annual tours to Ireland with his band and some 80/100 loyal fans from Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. He gave me a link to all of his records. When on the link, if music doesn't start, go to Music link and press #1-
<http://www.mjesseowens.com/>

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

And ALWAYS click the links below to get the latest updates on upcoming events

<http://richmondias.org/events.php> or for a full month calendar of current events click here. **IAS Calendar**

<p>Nov 25 – 27th 7:30 - 9:00 PM Coyote Run: A Celtic Solstice Celebration</p>	<p>The winter solstice takes many shapes and has been celebrated in many forms throughout the generations. Join internationally renowned band Coyote Run as they revisit Yuletide legends and traditions from prehistoric Celtic lands to Christmas not so long ago. This rollicking concert is a family favorite, blending mystery and myth, sacred and irreverent, all in an unforgettable journey through the unique Celtic rock stylings of one of the hottest bands on the circuit today. Family Friendly. – Williamsburg Library. Kimball Theater - - Tickets \$20 adults, \$17 seniors/students, \$14 children under 12. Reservations or additional tickets required. Call 1-800-HISTORY for prices and reservations.</p>
<p>December 3 6-ish to 11-ish IAS Xmas Party</p>	<p>IAS Christmas Party & World Famous (well our IAS world anyway) Silent Auction - a. Power Boat Club 4051 Old Gun Rd East – Midlothian, VA 23113 – Please - Be planning to attend and also think about an Irish themed donation for the auction. Again this year, we will be collecting non-perishable foods for the VA. Food Bank.</p>
<p>December 3 8:00 – 9:30 A Celtic Night In Williamsburg</p>	<p>AT Kimball Theatre in Williamsburg’s Merchant Square. "A Celtic Night at the Kimball with Poisoned Dwarf, Handsome Molly and Edsall Road." Tunes, Songs and Dances from the Celtic/Irish Tradition! 8 pm. Click on the links below to hear the groups. Adults \$15 – Students \$12 http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/kellykennedy http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/poisoneddwarf2 http://edsallroad.com/</p>
<p>December 11th IAS Board Meeting</p>	<p>All IAS members are welcome to attend any Board meeting. Meetings start promptly at 7pm. Please call 804-272-4138 for directions.</p>
<p>Dec 17th & 18th A Celtic Christmas 6 pm FREE</p>	<p>Huguenot Road Baptist Church The ancient comes to life as the story of the birth of Christ is retold through Celtic music, worship and dance. Free and open to the public. 10525 W. Huguenot Road Richmond. 804-272-2072 for ticket information http://hrberichmond.org/celtic-christmas</p>
<p>December 17th IONA Celtic Concert 7:30 – 10pm Williamsburg.</p>	<p>Iona’s music is a unique, acoustic weave of the traditional music of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany (France), the Isle of Man, Asturias and Galicia (Spain), as well as their transplants in America. Blending songs, dance tunes, and airs into a rich and stunning tapestry, their style is outstanding in an arena where these traditions are seldom intertwined. http://www.wrl.org/events/iona Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland St. Williamsburg VA 23185 Phone: 757.259.4040</p>
<p>January 2nd Celtic Potluck Supper For All Richmond Celtic Groups 6-9pm</p>	<p>Benedictine Abbey – bring a Dish to share and meet other members of our Richmond Celtic Community. There is a free Showing of the movie “Walk for Wallace – tracing the last steps of Scottish hero William Wallace – Braveheart. Raffle tickets will be available for a chance to win a Claymore Sword – This program is to raise awareness of the efforts to start a Pipe Band for the cadets at Benedictine. What a great way to start off the New Year on a Celtic note. Please contact Tim Batten with Questions. 804-502-7046 Or pipesofargyll@aol.com</p>



LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY – DON'T FORGET –

***YOUR SILENT AUCTION DONATION,**

***YOUR DISH TO SHARE,**

*** AND FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY**

***AND OF COURSE YOUR BEVERAGE OF CHOICE -**

(Not to worry – we'll help you carry it all in!!!)

<p>February 10& 11th 2012 Celtic Concert Coyote Run 7:30 – 10pm Williamsburg Library</p>	<p><u>Coyote Run (click for their website)</u> Touring the country - Coyote Run presents sweeping soundscapes in concert halls, earthy Celtic vibes at highland festivals, and rollicking good times at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire. Now join them in story after story, whisking them away to march side by side with Joan of Arc, or to roll out the guns against Sir Francis Drake, invade the French city of Calais, snatch back a faerie abducted victim, or witness the cruelty of a witch trial in colonial Virginia. Tight harmonies and soaring vocals telling tales from legend, history and myth are the hallmark of this band. Come and experience the magic that is Coyote Run! Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland St. Williamsburg VA 23185 P hone: 757.259.4040 \$16 adults • \$14 Friends of WRL and students•\$8 under 16 http://www.wrl.org/events/coyote-run-1</p>
<p>Feb 12th 8pm Wolf Trap Vienna, VA Tickets \$22</p>	<p>SOLAS - A burst of Celtic vitality, this folk quintet uses catchy melodies and fast-fingered instrumentals to put a modern spin on traditional Irish classics. The internationally acclaimed Solas—meaning “light” in Celtic—incorporates several instruments including the flute, tenor banjo, mandolin, guitar, and accordion. The Washington Post raves, “Solas has established itself as one of the top Irish-folk groups on either side of the Atlantic.” Listen to Solas Music here</p>
<p>Feb 24th 8pm & 25th 7:30pm Wolf Trap Vienna, VA Tickets \$25</p>	<p><u>Cherish The Ladies</u> (←Click for their website)- Witness the dynamic vocals, instrumentals, and step dancing of this sensational ensemble as they celebrate Irish culture through music. In 1985 Cherish the Ladies became the first all-female Irish music ensemble and in 2009 they released their 11th album, The Girls Won’t Leave the Boys Alone.</p>
<p>March TBA</p>	<p>Kite Festival – Dorey Park – Henrico Co.</p>
<p>March 2nd POISONED DWARF AND HANDSOME MOLLY Cultural Art Center 2nd Stage 7 pm 804-261-2787 http://www.arts.glenallen.com/ Tickets \$10/Adv \$12 at door</p>	<p>What a great opportunity this is – Wonderful Irish music. If you can’t get to the pubs in Ireland – this might be just as good! Poisoned Dwarf – plays driving traditional Celtic music. Focusing primarily on Irish traditional music, and with acoustic instruments only, this band from Williamsburg, Virginia has entertained audiences in many different settings for years. Handsome Molly plays Irish music that is heard in pubs all over Ireland, in bars, at Irish dances and social events. Our IAS member Kelly Kennedy adds to the luster of this Irish group along with Andy Cleveland, Craig DuBose and Rachel Blake. To hear some music from these local and area talents – just click on the links. http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/poisoneddwarf2 http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/kellykennedy</p>
<p>March 15th CELTIC NIGHTS! 7:30pm University of Richmond Adults \$36 Seniors \$32 Group o 20+ \$32 each Children \$18 (Age 0 – 12)</p>	<p><u>Celtic Nights – “Journey of Hope”</u> Alice Jepson Theatre - click here Modlin Center for the Arts click here, University of Richmond - From the creators of Gaelforce Dance, the “two hour spectacular [that] has brought audiences to their feet all around the world” comes a brand new show in celebration of song. Celtic Nights expertly weaves together the lilting melodies and plaintive lyrics of the rich Celtic heritage to tell the story of a people. The audience is invited to travel along on a journey of hope, transported in time through traditional ballads, vivid choreography, and the story of a people struggling to find their place in a changing world. Celtic Nights features the finest male and female voices of the Celtic world, showcased against a thundering backdrop of expert dancing and musicianship. In this glittering production, six of Ireland’s most prominent vocal talents are complemented by six of its most accomplished step dancers, creating an exhilarating picture of a proud people who dared to dream big and doggedly carved out a home in the New World. In Celtic Nights, their story is told through the power and majesty of music and the hypnotic fury of dancing feet. http://modlin.richmond.edu/events/index.html</p>
<p>Birchmere Music Hall Alexandria, VA</p>	<p>Gaelic Storm – More Info coming... Two Days March 03, and 04... Might be a Fun Road Trip! Click Here to http://www.ticketmaster.com/Birchmere-tickets-Alexandria/venue/172043 - focus event table</p>