



IRISH TIMES

Newsletter of the
Irish-American Society of New Mexico
www.irishamericansociety-nm.com

SEPTEMBER 2021

Note: Irish-American Society meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month, except during July and August (and for special events). In the Before Times, the meeting location was the Memorial Hall at the First Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle Blvd NE, SW corner of Comanche and Carlisle (where someday we may meet again).

Next Event: Sunday, September 12th

IAS/St. Andrew Scottish Society Annual Family Picnic!

Noon to 4 PM, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area

(Details on p. 5)



Note: These pictures are from the picnic several years ago (2018), so you can see what the Kiwanis Pavilion at Elena Gallegos Picnic Area looks like. Lots of open space and cool breezes!

You can also get more info here:

<https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space/facilities/rental-facilities>

<https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/documents/Elena.pdf>

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Would you like to place a sponsorship in the *Irish Times* newsletter?

Business-card-sized ads are a mere \$5 a month. Larger-sized ads can be negotiated with the editor, Ellen Dowling (edowling@standuptrainer.com 307-1700).

Your sponsorship will also appear on the IAS website (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com) at no extra charge.



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President's Message

By Ellen Dowling

Well, if I may borrow a phrase from our Celtic cousin, Robbie Burns, “the best laid plans o’ mice an’ men gang aft a-gley.” We mice and men had high hopes that by September 12, the date of our annual picnic (THAT WE CANCELLED LAST YEAR), this pandemic would be well on the downside. Sigh. Nevertheless, we think we can still put together a safe event (and actually get to see one another in actual life!), but only if we are all vaccinated. Hence the request on the flyer for when you make your RSVP. (I am aware that children under 12 are not YET eligible for the vaccine. Plan accordingly. Masks are welcome (but not required)).

As you can see from the pictures of past picnics, the site of our picnic is essentially outdoors (a roof for shade but no walls, so breezes can blow through). The food is all prepared and served outside too. So we feel it’s a pretty safe place (but even safer if we are all vaccinated). There’ll be burgers and hot dogs and some veggie options, like black bean burgers. We also provide all soft drinks and water. You are welcome to bring your own adult beverage, but please remember that no glass is allowed in the pavilion. (This is where flasks may come in handy.) It would be grand to see you all there!



In other news: We were just as disappointed as the other Zoomers on September 13 who tuned in to Dr. Maya Sutton’s presentation on Newgrange. What can we say but TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES! Maya will be rescheduling with us soon.

Membership Report

By Gwen Easterday

Céad Mile Fáilte: A hundred thousand welcomes to new member, John Petrone of Portales. And many thanks to those current members who have renewed for 2021.

As of August 15th, 2021, we have 52 individuals and 51 family (x 2) RENEWALS for a total of 154 members thus far in this start of the second year of the pandemic. Again, we’re still holding at 28 IAS members who have selected to be Associate Members of the German American Club.

Message from Norita Callahan:

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE STILL SEEKING PULL-TAB DONATIONS! The aluminum or steel pull tabs donated from beverage cans or ANY kind of canned food (6000 + pounds annually) generate funds to offset the House expenses. YOUR donations make a significant impact and are very much appreciated. Thanks this month to Doug & Carol Cowan, Barbara Nagey, and Bob Newman.

Treasurer's Report July 2021

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Membership—electronic (Square)	\$47.94	U-Stor-It monthly storage fee	\$40.00
		Ck# 245: Ellen Dowling (Elena Gallegos Rental for IAS/SASS picnic)	\$175.00
		Ck# 246: Larry Compton (June newsletter hard copies and mailing supplies)	\$44.66
		Ck# 248: ABQ Folk Festival (Duke City Ceili Band sponsorship)	\$200.00
		Direct/PayPal: Caelainn Hogan (July meeting speaker)	\$100.00
		Ck# 249: Gwen Easterday (Stamps and envelopes)	\$26.76
		Ck# 250: German American Club (GAC associate memberships)	\$155.00
		Ck# 251: Ellen Dowling (domain name renewal)	\$19.17
Total Income	\$47.94	Total Expenses	(\$760.59)
		IAS Account prior month's ENDING balance	\$9,926.19
		Plus Income (current month)	\$47.94
		Less Expenses (current month)	(\$760.59)
		Current month's Ending Balance	\$9,213.54

**Albuquerque
Open Irish Music
Session**

**EVERY
THURSDAY
7:00**

**HOPS
TAPROOM**

**Los Ranchos
7222 4th Street NW 87107**

What's your LEPRECHAUN name?



The first letter of your name:

A - Adorable	H - Helpful	O - Outgoing	V - Vibrant
B - Bubbly	I - Itchy	P - Playful	W - Witty
C - Cheerful	J - Jolly	Q - Quiet	X - X-tra Special
D - Dreamy	K - Kind	R - Restless	Y - Youthful
E - Eager	L - Lucky	S - Silly	Z - Zany
F - Fussy	M - Musical	T - Timid	
G - Grouchy	N - Noisy	U - Useful	

The month you were born:

Jan. - McCheesy	May - McWiggles	Sept. - McBlarney
Feb. - O'Gratin	June - O'Lucky	Oct. - O'Doodles
March - McMuffin	July - McNoodles	Nov. - McWobbles
April - O'Really	Aug. - O'Wacky	Dec. - O'Goofy

www.LearningStationMusic.com

It's the Irish-American Society's and the St. Andrew Scottish Society's Annual Combined Family Picnic!



at
Elena Gallegos Picnic Area
Kiwanis Pavilion
Sunday, September 12
12:00 noon to 4 PM
With malarkey and musicians!



The IAS will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, plates, plastic ware, cups, napkins, condiments, and charcoal. BYO coolers with ice and beverages of your choice (sodas and water will be provided).

PLEASE: NO GLASS CONTAINERS ARE ALLOWED!

Potluck: Please bring a casserole, salad (potato, pasta, fruit, green, etc.) or dessert. Please remember to bring serving implements and remember to

PUT YOUR NAME ON ALL IMPLEMENTS AND DISHES!

So we will have an approximate count for meat and bun purchases and so we can be sure to have a safe and healthy picnic:

PLEASE RSVP TO Ellen Dowling by September 5

(edowling@standuptrainer.com 505-307-1700)

and tell her how many in your party and what each person's vaccination status is. (If you are eligible to be vaccinated, but have chosen not to, we hope to see you next year.)

The Kiwanis Reservation Area is nestled in the picturesque Elena Gallegos Picnic Area (located east of Tramway, south of Paseo del Norte and just a little north of Academy). It is an outdoor facility with a sheltered picnic area that can accommodate up to 250 people. It is outfitted with three large coal grills; a recreation area with a volleyball net and a horseshoe pit; running water; electricity; restrooms; and access to the Elena Gallegos trails.



Note: The IAS has already paid for the facility, so just tell the ranger at the gate that you're with the IAS.

Irish Movie Review: *Once*

By Larry Compton

Once is a 2007 Irish film written and directed by John Carney. It stars Glen Hansard as a scruffy street busker who plays a beat-up guitar on Grafton Street in Dublin (in real life Hansard had been a busker for years). He has a hard time attracting listeners, unless he plays covers, because “during the day people wanna hear the songs they know.” One slow day he even has to fend off a drug addict who tries to steal his meager earnings. Every evening he plays his original songs to nobody, until an attractive young woman (played by Marketa Irglova) comes along who appreciates them. She asks him why he doesn’t get a job in a shop since he’s been struggling as a songwriter, and he says he does have one—in his father’s Hoover (vacuum cleaner) repair shop. This delights her, as she has a vacuum that needs fixing.

She brings her Hoover by the next day and they head to his dad’s shop. Along the way they talk, have lunch, and get to know each other better. He learns that she is a Czech immigrant, sells flowers on the street, and is happy to finally get a job cleaning houses. (The main characters are never named; in the cast credits they are called Guy and Girl. I think this actually makes the movie more intimate and authentic). The Girl tells him that she is a musician as well; she plays the piano and has written some songs; sadly she has no piano in Ireland. She learns that the Guy is still carrying a torch for an ex-girlfriend who broke up with him years before. Wounded, some of his songs are very angry: “You have broken me.” They stop at a music store where the owner lets the Girl play the pianos. The Guy gets out his guitar to play one of his songs, “Falling Slowly.” Teaching her the chords, they sing it together, a passionate and beautiful song. Listening, the shop owner smiles. They then arrive at the repair shop, where his dad is able to quickly fix the vacuum. In his upstairs bedroom, the Guy clumsily invites the Girl to spend the night.

Spoiler alert: The Girl is shocked and leaves upset; as it turns out, she not only has a daughter and lives with her mother, but is married to a man back in the Czech Republic. The romance quickly turns bittersweet. She does care for the Guy, however, and accepts his apology the next day. She convinces him to win his ex-back, and agrees to help him make a demo recording of his songs, with a talented but inexperienced street band. In real life as it turns out, Glen and Marketa did have a brief relationship after the film’s release.

I loved this movie and its music, as did many critics. It’s a charming little romantic story. Shot with a hand-held camera, documentary style, I was fooled when I saw it first in a theater, thinking it was a true story. Although it’s fiction, it is authentic—it was written by a musician, and stars two musicians (Glen Hansard had only acted in a movie once before, playing a musician). Hansard and Irglova had performed as the folk duo The Swell Season; their song “Falling Slowly” won an Academy Award for Best Original Song, and the *Once* soundtrack was nominated for a Grammy.



The Irish Book Club

One of the best things about being an online book club is that there need be no interruptions during this trying time. If you are on Facebook, just type The Irish Book Club into the search bar (or click on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2022642747761043/>) and you'll find us. Our book for August was *White City*, by Kevin Power, and for September, we'll be discussing *Malarky*, by Ankana Schofield.

The Last September, by Elizabeth Bowen

Amazon's description: "*The Last September* is Elizabeth Bowen's portrait of a young woman's coming of age in a brutalized time and place, where the ordinariness of life floats like music over the impending doom of history.

In 1920, at their country home in County Cork, Sir Richard Naylor and his wife, Lady Myra, and their friends maintain a skeptical attitude toward the events going on around them, but behind the facade of tennis parties and army camp dances, all know that the end is approaching—the end of British rule in the south of Ireland and the demise of a way of life that had survived for centuries. Their niece, Lois Farquar, attempts to live her own life and gain her own freedoms from the very class that her elders are vainly defending. *The Last September* depicts the tensions between love and the longing for freedom, between tradition and the terrifying prospect of independence, both political and spiritual."

And as you can see from the book cover on the right, it was also made into a movie starring Maggie Smith, Michael Gambon, Jane Birkin, and David Tennant (of Dr. Who fame). [You can rent the movie on Amazon Prime for \$3.99.]



Ellen's take: "I found this book to be somewhat tedious—interminable descriptions of what people are wearing, what the weather is like, inane conversations, people sitting around being wealthy and bored. (These people need to get themselves an IPAD, I kept thinking to myself. Or at least a TV. ;-)) But then, every once in a while, a bit of the trouble lurking outside creeps in to disrupt the shallow goings-on at a country estate in Ireland in 1921. This passage, to me, highlights the discrepancies of life in a war zone, as the aristocratic Denise tries to plan a dance party with a sufficient number of male dancers despite receiving bad news from a newly arrived adjutant: "And another thing: I'm afraid you won't have Dobson of the Rutlands, I've just met him—he's to be out on patrol." "Oh, but he said he'd get out of that! Oh, but he promised me—" "He'd no business to; he's been due for patrol for ages. Their C.O.--" "He spoils everything. Captain Dobson is one of my best dancers." She stopped short and turned off the gramophone. "Listen, Percy!" They're sending Captain Dobson out on patrol at a moment's notice. Now I'd like to know what I'm supposed to do?"

Outside, the Black and Tans are rounding up and disappearing Irish people fighting for their freedom. Inside, they're worried about having enough guys for all the gals.

Member Spotlight: Erin Flynn

By Elena Gallegos



I would like to introduce one of our newest members to the IAS, Erin Flynn. She joined during COVID, so she has not been to any in-person meetings, but hopefully many of us will have a chance to meet her in person at the upcoming picnic.

How long have you been an IAS member and how did you find out about us?

I was so very excited to discover the IAS online and joined right away. I've been a member since May. I'd like to thank everyone for the kind

welcome! I look forward to meeting everyone in person!

How long have you lived in New Mexico?

I've been in New Mexico for four years. I grew up as an Air Force brat, moving around the country. I went to college in Colorado and earned a PhD in Tasmania, Australia. I moved to New Mexico in Aug. 2017 to become the Mammal Curator at the ABQ BioPark.

Erin is such a lovely name. Would you please tell us about your Irish roots?

My Irish heritage has been a core part of my family and my self-identity. I get a lot of comments on my name and how with a name like that, I must be Irish. My middle name was chosen in honor of three of my great-grandmothers and my sister's middle name was chosen in honor of our Irish second cousin. My dad's side of the family is strongly Irish and my mom's side of the family is strongly Scottish, so we are very into Celtic culture. In college I attended the Scottish Highland Games in Estes Park, CO, where my family members representing Clan Hay teased me for wearing my Ireland rugby jersey and representing Ireland at Scottish games. My paternal grandparents both lived in Ireland at different points in their lives. I remember my grandpa bouncing me on his knee as a little kid, softly singing Irish ditties. St. Patrick's Day has always been a big holiday in our house. To this day, I always send my mother the song "Dear Boss" by the Clancy Brothers—a favorite of ours—on St. Pat's. As an adult, I've invited and adopted friends into my celebration and appreciation of Irish culture. It was a huge deal for me to learn to cook corned beef and cabbage—I've introduced many reluctant people who are pleasantly surprised to discover that they like it. I love how food connects people, as well as the rich history behind it.

Have you been to Ireland?

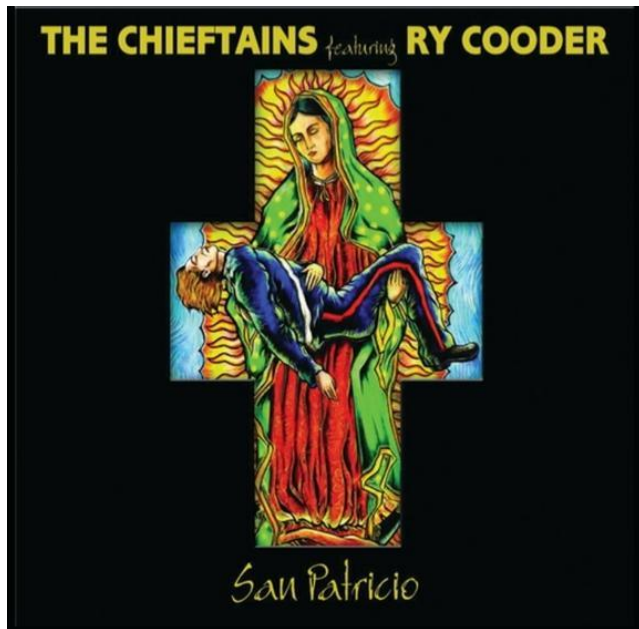
I was lucky enough to visit Ireland with my family the summer after high school graduation. My grandfather sent us a list of places and people to visit that were important to him and our family. As we toured around Ireland, my dad introduced me as "She's named for the country," and introduced my sister Kerry as "She's named for the county." We met our Irish second cousins, whom I am still in close touch with today, and my grandfather's siblings. I learned from my great aunt that my ability to sleep like the dead is a well-known family trait—"Flynn's can sleep on a clothesline." We visited the family church and my great-grandparents' graves, as well as the dairy that used to be in my great-grandfather's family, Knockaun. (My parents' hobby farm in Iowa is named Knockaun Woods after the dairy in Ireland.) I absolutely loved the culture and friendly people we met in Ireland. I very much look forward to going back for my next trip!

Erin wanted to share her quick five favorite things with us. If you have some favorite things in common with Erin, please let her know at our next in-person meeting.

1. Place in Ireland: The Cliffs of Moher blew me away.
2. Irish movie: "Waking Ned Devine"
3. Irish-American movies: "Far and Away" and "The Boondock Saints"
4. Irish Band: Clancy Brothers
5. Irish Pub in Albuquerque: I don't have one yet, but I'm excited to hear your recommendations!

Irish Music Review: *San Patricio* by The Chieftains

By Elena Gallegos



In 2010, The Chieftains released their album *San Patricio*, featuring Ry Cooder, to honor the Batallón de San Patricio (St. Patrick's Battalion), who fought for Mexico during the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848.

The San Patricio Battalion was mostly composed of Irish who had immigrated to the U.S. They were conscripted into the U.S. Army where they faced abuse, discrimination, and prejudice because they were Irish and Catholic. They also perceived injustices done to Mexico, the Mexican people, and Catholic churches by the U.S. as equivalent to the treatment of Irish Catholics and Ireland by England. Thus, Mexico actively recruited these U.S. soldiers through leaflets citing their common religion and noting that the U.S. was provoking Mexico unjustly into war. As a result, these men (some 100 or so, accounts vary) deserted the U.S. Army and joined the Mexican Army. They fought bravely and fiercely, but at the Battle of Churubusco they were

captured. Many were hanged on September 12, 1847 for desertion during war time. Some were imprisoned and branded with the letter D on their faces. Under the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the San Patricio prisoners were to be left in Mexico. They are honored in Mexico through ceremonies, plaques, street names, and postage stamps.

The album *San Patricio* is a beautiful tribute that tells the story of the San Patricios through a collection of traditional Irish and Mexican folk songs with a fusion of indigenous instruments. It is a collaborative work with big names in music such as Linda Ronstadt, Moya Brennan (Clannad), Lila Downs, and Los Tigres del Norte, just to name a few. With his distinctive voice, Liam Neeson powerfully narrates a poem written by Irish songwriter Brendan Graham, and there is plenty of piping by the Galician piper Carlos Núñez. The album also features guitarist Ry Cooder, who collaborated with the Chieftains on *The Long Black Veil*.

Whether you believe they were heroes or deserters and traitors, I believe we can agree that this recording is a brilliant compilation of sorrow and celebration, triumph and tragedy. As the Chieftains so eloquently said, "Sometimes it is only in the music that the timeless nature of these stories can be completely understood."

[On the right, a commemorative plaque placed at the San Jacinto Plaza in the district of [San Ángel](#), [Mexico City](#) in 1959: "In memory of the Irish soldiers of the heroic St. Patrick's Battalion, martyrs who gave their lives to the Mexican cause in the United States' unjust invasion of 1847."]



Support Your Local Irish/Scottish/Celtic Musicians/Performers! (Especially Now!)

Shenanigans

Celtic and American Folk with a twist, variety of instruments and vocals. Contact: Kathy Wimmer (249-7012 kmillewimm@comcast.net)

Iscuma ("It Doesn't Matter")

Traditional Irish and Celtic music with Kathy Wimmer and Marc Roberts. For information, contact Kathy at 249-7012.

Saoirse ("seer shih," Irish for "freedom")

Celtic music from Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, and Galicia, spiced with jazz and world beat. Contact: Harlow Pinson at hpinson@indepthl.com or 994-2135.

A Jug O'Punch

A trio playing Irish music galore! Contact Suzanne Taichert: suzytmusic@earthlink.net

The Duke City Ceili Band will entertain you with fast paced jigs and reels, lilting waltzes, and rousing sea shanties from the Irish traditional repertoire. Find them on Facebook or contact Jim Crowley: jabbas40@yahoo.com.

Michele Buchanan, Harper

765-1288 (tmbuchs@gmail.com)



Rye Creek

Folk, Irish, western and good old mountain music. Contact Terry Ryan Axline, 293-8924 (neomexicana@hotmail.com) or Ron Trellue, 505-362-2551 (trellue@swcp.com) or visit www.myspace.com/ryecreeknm.

Celtic Coyotes

Traditional music from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and Brittany. Contact: Doug Cowan celticcoyotes@yahoo.com (710-0583).

Friends Forever

Michael and Donna Coy play Celtic, Folk, Cowboy and Originals. Contact: 296-2017 or 250-4429; mmcoy3@msn.com.

The Singing Coyote Sisters

Donna Coy & Michelle Palmer perform Celtic, Folk, Gospel, and Sing-A-Longs. Contact: 296-2017 or 730-1985 mmcoy3@msn.com

Celtic Singers of NM Looking for More Singers!

Celtic Singers of NM, which formed over 20 years ago, is a non-audition singing group that sings phonetically in Gaelic, Gaidhlig, Welsh, Broad Scots, English, and one in Manx, all Celtic songs. We do "waulking" the wool demonstrations at all the festivals, sing at retirement homes and most any venue that can hold a dozen or more singers. Everything is free, music, practice CDs, etc., and we normally rehearse every 2nd and 4th Sunday afternoons from 2 – 4 pm. Contact Michele Buchanan at 765-1288 or tmbuchs@gmail.com.

Culture All Around

Dance Classes:

♣ **Brightburn Academy of Irish Dance** (formerly *Celtic Steps Arizona/New Mexico*), at the McDermott Athletic Center, 801 Loma Colorado, Rio Rancho. Call 505-415-4390 or visit <https://www.themacsports.com/brightburn-irish-dance> for further information.

♣ **Ceili dance classes** are held every Wednesday at the GAC at 7:15 PM, \$4.00. No experience necessary! Call Norita Callahan at 298-2708. [Indefinitely postponed. ☹]

Celtic Music on the Radio and the Web:

♣ **The Thistle and Shamrock** program, featuring Fiona Ritchie, airs on KANW 89.1 FM, Sundays at 12:00 noon.

♣ **Celtic and Beyond**, with co-hosts Ellie Blair and Kelly Clement, 7:00 PM each Wednesday on KTAOS 101.9 FM. (Also broadcast on the Web at www.ktao.com.)





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Free Genealogy Research Days!

Interested in learning more about your family history but don't know where to start? Come to THE GENEALOGY CENTER at the ABQ Library (2nd floor), on the corner of 5th and Copper, where volunteers will help you one-on-one in your quest. Celtic Research is held from 1-3 PM on the last Tuesday of the month.

Free parking for two hours at the parking garage on the SE corner from the library, just get your ticket stamped at the library.

Questions? Contact Robert Harper at robertharper48@comcast.net

Irish-American Society of New Mexico

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Please Check One: ☐ Membership Application ☐ Membership Renewal

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

If this is a renewal, has your contact information changed? Yes ☐ No ☐

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please choose your membership level:

☐ Student (\$10) ☐ Individual (\$20) ☐ Family (\$25) *

☐ (Optional) Additional Associate Membership to the German-American Club (\$5 per person)*

* If you opt to add the additional GAC fee to a family IAS membership, please indicate which members of your family should receive a GAC associate membership card (and add \$5 per person to your total dues):

☐ (Optional) If you receive your newsletter by US mail (instead of electronically), please consider adding an extra \$5 to your annual membership to help offset the costs of mailing and postage.

Enclosed is a total of \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "The Irish-American Society" and mail to:
P.O. Box 13435, Albuquerque, NM 87192-3435
OR

You can also visit our website (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com) and pay by credit card.

How did you hear about us? _____