



# IRISH TIMES

Newsletter of the  
Irish-American Society of New Mexico  
[www.irishamericansociety-nm.com](http://www.irishamericansociety-nm.com)

SEPTEMBER 2020

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

## A Most Amazing Trip

By Kathy and Ken Wimmer

[Editor's Note: In the late spring of 2017, IAS members Ken and Kathy Wimmer (Kathy is also the IAS treasurer) took the "Journey Through Ulster" with Mick Moloney's Irish Cultural Tours. (Google Mick Moloney and you can find a wealth of information about him.) Their trip packed in a lifetime's worth of experiences; each day was worth the entire trip. Kathy promised Ellen she would write about their tour of the North of Ireland, never imagining that she would find it impossible to tackle it whole. Instead, she'll take one day at a time, plucked from ten amazing days.]



### *Day One: Armagh*

I start with the amazing trip to Armagh, which included a hunger striker's memorial, a graveyard of famous poets, two St. Patrick's Cathedrals (including where Brian Boru is buried) and the spectacular, amazing Armagh Rhymers—famed for their dramatic reenactments of Ireland's literary and folk drama heritage—who took us up to Navan Fort where we were invited to jump over a bonfire if we so wished.



The day began on the grounds of The Ballymascanlon House Hotel, located in County Louth in the Republic of Ireland and where we had spent the night. The hotel itself is lovely, but its most interesting feature is the proleek dolmen on the property. It's a stone-age portal tomb from around 3000 BCE, so called for the two large upright stones which support the highest end of the capstone and act as a portal or doorway into the burial chamber. Folklore has it that such structures were beds for giants. The dolmen was a ten minute walk from the hotel and a perfect way to start the morning.

After loading our tour group onto the bus, we travelled out of the Republic and into South Armagh to visit the Hunger Strike Memorial at Ford's Cross, located at a junction of two main roads.

[Continued on p. 4.]

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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](mailto:edowling@standuptrainer.com) 307-1700).

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



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## President's Message

By Ellen Dowling

Hello, everyone! Hope you are all weathering this unusually hot and dry summer. (On the other hand, we're not experiencing hurricanes, so there's that to be thankful for. Wouldn't mind a little of the rain that comes with a hurricane, though. ☺)

I am also immensely thankful that so many members stepped up to give me all kinds of copy for this newsletter this month: a travel piece (Kathy Wimmer), a movie review (Larry Compton), a Member Spotlight (Gwen Easterday), and a Board Member Spotlight (Maureen Riley). We hope to keep all of these articles on repeat in the coming months. I'm especially jazzed by the member spotlight articles, as I feel this is an excellent way of us continuing to "socialize" with our membership, by getting to know each other in more detail. The Board will be meeting again (by Zoom) on August 27, and we'll keep you posted on any upcoming activities.

In the meantime, stay cool and stay safe!

***This month's question to the members: What is your favorite Irish movie?***

Last month's question ("What can you tell us about your first and/or favorite Irish music recording?") gathered these responses:

"Wow! So many songs to love. I guess if I have to pick just ONE, the one that keeps coming to my mind and finds me humming it a lot is Secret of Roan Inish. It is so haunting and makes me think of being on that island and watching the waters. I think on my next trip to Eire, I might see about going to the island in person." (Karen Wall)

"I can't tell you my first favorite recording, but I am currently listening to Julie Fowlis's modern folk mostly Gaelic album 'alterum' on repeat. The melancholy seems appropriate for these times." (Katherine Clark)

## Membership Report

By Brynn Cole

***Céad Mile Fáilte***: No new members this month. As of 6/24 we have 3 students, 61 individuals, and 53 families (x 2), for a total of 170 members.

***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. Special thanks this month to Mary Cathren Harris Barger, Sheri Kraemer, and Barbara Nagey.

## Treasurer's Report July 2020

**Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer**

Category	Income		Category	Expenses
			U-Stor-It monthly storage fee	\$35.00
			Ch# 214: Gwen Easterday (May and June newsletter supplies)	\$51.66
Total Income	\$0.00		Total Expenses	(\$86.66)
			IAS Account prior month's ENDING balance	\$8,382.26
			Plus Income (current month)	\$0.00
			Less Expenses (current month)	(\$86.66)
			Current month's Ending Balance	\$8,295.60

### *A Most Amazing Trip, continued:*

A large marble stone reads: "In Memory of the Volunteers Who Died on Hunger Strike in H-Blocks 1981" and lists the names of the dead. On the grassy slope in front, ten Celtic crosses form the letter "H." We were met there by historian Anne Hart, poet and dramatist Dara Vallely, and two other members of the Armagh Rhymers, who closed out our visit with the traditional Irish song *Oró 'Sé Do Bheatha 'Bhaile*, about pirate Gráinne Mhaol (Grace O'Malley), which came to be known as a rebel song in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



The bus then took us to the small village of Creggan, where our next stop was the Creggan Church Yard, the final resting place of three 18<sup>th</sup> century Irish poets: Art Mac Cumhaigh, Pádraig Mac Aliondain, and Séamus Mór MacMurphy. Before our walk around the graveyard in the drizzling rain, we were entertained by a church historian who told us colorful stories about some of its "residents." Most memorable were tales about MacMurphy, who was a highwayman in addition to being a poet. He apparently had the reputation of being extremely handsome, and was known to hold up stagecoaches by first announcing, "Come out and rejoice in the fact that you are being robbed by the handsomest man in Ireland!"

After wandering through the gravestones, it was time to go to the city home of the Armagh Rhymers and be enchanted. As Mick Moloney said later, he thought our group really bonded that day when "we were all packed in and surrounded on all sides by the magnificent costumes and headgear and the Rhymers suddenly made their grand noisy entrance."

Photos only give a glimpse into the magic of this celebrated traditional music and theatre ensemble. The Armagh Rhymers' website states that their bright costumes and woven wicker masks "evoke a sense of tradition and history and encapsulate the spirit of the Wren boys and the ancient house visiting traditions of Ireland, where the kitchen floor became the stage. The Rhyming tradition is a celebration of the 'theatre of the people' and has inspired many poets such as Seamus Heaney, Brendan Kennelly, John Montague and John Hewitt."

We were treated to the Rhymer's comical version of a mummers play, which included an appearance by St. Patrick, recognizable by his shamrock-adorned bishop's miter and the colorful snakes hanging from his green robe. By the end of the performance I had gained the nickname "bucket master," after one of the Rhymers asked who in the audience "would like to make an eejit out of themselves?" I, of course, volunteered. I was





some beautiful stained glass windows and is surrounded by a lovely garden. It also has an underground area that holds a collection of pre-Christian carved figures. The cathedral stands on the hill from which the city of Armagh derives its name – *Ard Mhacha* – the Height of Macha. Macha was a legendary pre-Christian tribal princess/goddess who is also linked with nearby Emain Macha (Navan Fort), which we would explore later with more help from the Rhymers.

Before going across the valley and onto another hill to visit the other St. Patrick's church, we first went to the Armagh Robinson Library. This library and museum houses many gems that rival the Long Room at Trinity College. Especially impressive is the first edition of *Gulliver's Travels*, complete with annotations by Jonathan Swift himself.



St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral's twin spires can be seen from the first church. A short ride brought us all there, but the bus needed to park near the bottom of the hill. We had to endure the steep climb to get to our destination; like penitents on a pilgrimage, we had to suffer hardships to reach glory. The cathedral does contain some glorious features, including stunning mosaic tiling throughout.

But perhaps most importantly, this visit to the two St. Patrick's cathedrals—one Protestant and one Catholic—emphasizes the purpose of the Northern Ireland tour: the work-in-progress called peace. We were told that on St. Patrick's Day in 1999, then-Archbishop Brady preached in the Church of Ireland Cathedral, the first Roman Catholic archbishop to do so since the Reformation. Now, the two churches alternate yearly to hold a joint service marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

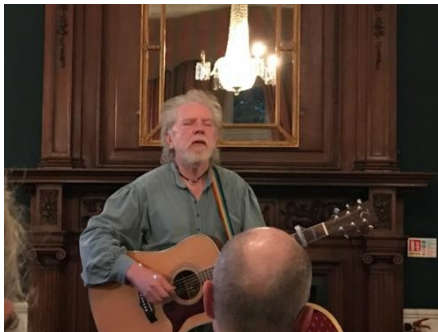
As reinforcement for the purpose of our trip, we met up again with the Armagh Rhymers, noted for their cross-community work. Of their ensemble, they write: "The Armagh Rhymers have been committed to promoting peace, tolerance and reconciliation for over 40 years. One of the main concepts underpinning all of our work is the importance of understanding and acceptance of different cultures, ideas and languages. We see this as key to maintaining a peaceful and prosperous society. We continue to work with people of all backgrounds, cultures and nationalities to promote this ideal."

Then came the most exciting part of the day for me, as we joined the Rhymers at Navan Fort (Irish name *Eamhain Mhacha*), a ceremonial site occupied from late Neolithic/early Bronze Age times. It is regarded as having been the ancient royal center of Iron Age Ulster. The site is steeped in Irish mythology and is associated with several tales in the Ulster Cycle, including stories of Cú Chulainn, Queen Medb, and "The Cattle Raid of Cooley." As Anne Hart led us up to the top of the hill, she told us the story of the goddess Macha, who was forced by her husband to run a race (she is associated with horses) while heavily pregnant. She won, but

immediately after the exhausting race, died while giving birth to twins. As we stopped just before reaching the hilltop clearing, we heard music up ahead and Anne donned her horse headdress and costume and became Macha, leading us upward.

We were met by a full ensemble of Rhymers, and there was music and storytelling and a bonfire (albeit a very small one) that we were welcomed to jump over, echoing a ritual handed down through the mists of time. There was more to see around Navan Fort, and we explored the grounds and Navan Centre, but visiting the site without the Rhymers would have diminished the experience considerably for me.

The day had been chock-full of wonders, but it wasn't over yet. Back at the hotel, our evening concert featured legendary singer, songwriter, and activist Tommy Sands (from the musical Sands family and no relation to Bobby Sands, I believe), a man who fights hard for peace through music.



Born in County Down,

Tommy Sands is best known for his song "There Were Roses," based on a true story of two friends—also friends of his: one Catholic and one Protestant. His Protestant friend is killed by Republican paramilitaries, and in retaliation, Loyalist paramilitaries seek a Catholic to kill in revenge. The man they choose to "even up the score" is, ironically, the close friend of the first victim. "There Were Roses," has been described as one of the best songs ever written about The Troubles. Tommy Sands' performance that evening not couldn't have been a better choice to top off an incredible day. [To be continued next



month!]

## What's in an Irish Name?

[Editor's note: This will also be a monthly feature, in which we learn the history and meaning of various Irish names. If you want your own Irish name featured, just let Ellen know.]

**Riley** comes from the Irish O Raghallaigh, "grandson of Raghallach" thought to be from *ragh* meaning "race" and *ceallach* meaning "sociable." The family were part of the Connachta tribal grouping and the particular Raghallach from whom the name is derived is said to have been a descendant of the O'Connor kings of Connacht. He died at the battle of Clontarf in 1014.

The name is extremely common and widespread throughout Ireland, ranked 8<sup>th</sup> most common in 1890 and 11<sup>th</sup> in 1996. Its origin is in the old kingdom of Breffny, which included areas now in counties Cavan and Longford, where the O'Reillys were long the dominant family, despite many attempts by their main rivals, the O'Rourkes, to make it otherwise. The inauguration place of the family was the hill of Shantemon in Castleterra parish. They were renowned in medieval Ireland for their involvement in trade; their success may be gauged by the fact the "reilly" was at one point a colloquial term for money in Ireland. What use they made of their prosperity can only be conjectured, but the phrase "the life of Riley" is suggestive.

After the collapse of Gaelic power in the seventeenth century, large numbers emigrated to serve in the armies of France, many in Colonel Edmund O'Reilly's regiment of foot. The connection with the original homeland is still strong, however; even today (O')Reilly is the single most numerous surname in both Cavan and Longford. The return of the prefix has been spectacular. Less than 10% gave their name as "O'Reilly" in 1890, but almost 60% in 1996.

## 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 discussion in August is *The Irish Inheritance* by MJ Lee, and in September we'll be discussing *The Graves are Walking* by John Kelly.

### *The Tide between Us*, by Olive Collins

From Amazon: "1821: Among the thousands of Irish deportees to the Caribbean British Colonies is a 10-year-old Irish boy, Art O'Neill. As an indentured servant on a sugar plantation in Jamaica, Art gradually acclimatizes to the exotic country and the unfamiliar customs of the African slaves.

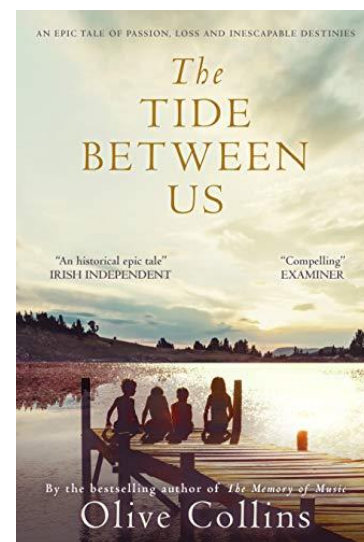
When the new heirs to the plantation arrive from Ireland they resurrect the ghosts of brutal injustices against Art. He bides his time and hides his abhorrence from his new master by channeling his energy into his work. During those years he prospers, he acquires land, and he sees his colored children freed after emancipation as he takes us on a multi-generational historical saga. Eventually Art is promised seven gold coins for seven decades of service. He doubts his master will part with the coins. The morning Art sets out to claim his gratuity, he ignores his sense of foreboding that he may not return home alive.

Ireland 1991: One hundred years later a skeleton is discovered beneath a fallen tree on the grounds of Lugdale Estate. By its side is a gold coin minted in 1870. Yseult, the owner of the estate, watches as events unfold, fearful of the long-buried truths that may emerge about her family's past and its links to the slave trade. As the skeleton gives up its secrets, Yseult realizes she too can no longer hide from her past.

Inspired by the real story of 2,000 Irish children deported to Jamaica and the statistics that 25% of Jamaican citizens claim Irish ancestry, *The Tide between Us* is a powerful novel documenting true historical events and the resilience of the human spirit."

The Book Club's take: "I have to admit I just finished it today, rushing through the last 5% on my kindle because I couldn't wait to find out who was buried under the tree with the gold coin in his hand. This is quite an ambitious novel, stretching from 1821 to 1991, from Jamaica to Ireland, with lots of inter-related characters to keep track of. (The two family trees at the beginning of the book are helpful.) I found it to be much fun and enlightening, too, as I had never known that so many Jamaicans (Olive Collins says 25%) can trace their Irish ancestry." (Ellen) "The story begins in 1821 in Ireland when young Art O'Neill's father is hung by the order of Col. Starford-Rice and Art is deported to Jamaica. I read this book about a year ago and loved the plot as it evolved through the descendants of these two ancestors into the 1990's." (Eileen Dwyer-Berthelsen) "I wish the plot had stayed more with Art and his family in Jamaica. I thought the book would be more about how the Irish and African slaves made lives together throughout the generations. I recently watched a YouTube video about today's Jamaican people who can trace their roots back to an Irish ancestor(s). Fascinating!! When I was young, my grandmother told me that the lilting speech of the Caribbean came from Irish slaves, who taught English to the African slaves, and I've been interested since." (Maryann Fiore)

And from Olive Collins herself: "In my novel, the Irish are indentured servants, they could travel freely (unlike the Africa slaves) in Jamaica. Once the indentureship term expired, the Irish were free. I was surprised to find some Irish had slaves and had no issues with slave-trading. It was necessary to include the political element of the time because that was the backbone of society. It dictated our lives, oppression and rebellion went hand-in-hand both in Ireland and in Jamaica."





## Movie Review: The Nightingale

By Larry Compton

With the social distancing and restrictions of the ongoing pandemic shutdown, we're all spending a lot more time at home—time that can be spent watching movies! So, the newsletter will be including reviews for movies that may be of interest to Irish-American Society members.

*The Nightingale* is an Australian film that tells the story of Clare Carrol, a 21-year-old Irish convict woman living on the island of Tasmania in 1825 during Australia's Black War, a period of violent conflict between white soldiers and settlers, and the aboriginal people, which nearly resulted in elimination of the native population from the island. Although Clare has completed her seven-year sentence, three years later her abusive master British Army Lieutenant Hawkins will not release her from his charge; she is forced to continue working as his servant for very low pay and put up with his abuse.

Clare's nickname is "nightingale," for her beautiful singing voice. She lives on a farm near the fort with her Irish husband Aidan and their newborn infant. Fed up, Clare confronts Hawkins and demands to be released. But he mockingly refuses. An officer visits the camp one day to inspect Hawkins and his motley troops; he is unimpressed by Hawkins' incompetent mishandling of the apathetic, undisciplined troops under his command. (The soldiers are definitely not the British Empire's finest, sent to this remote outpost far from home.) After observing the crude behavior of Lt. Hawkins and his leering officers in the mess that evening, where Clare was forced to sing and endure lewd abuse, the inspector decides he is unfit for promotion to captain. He informs Hawkins, whose disappointment turns to anger.

Hawkins soon sets off with two of his men for the coastal town of Launceston, hoping to secure his promotion from the commanding officer in person. Clare learns of this plan, and decides to set out herself, head off Hawkins, and seek justice for herself and her husband who was killed trying to protect her. Clare is determined, hell bent on revenge and starts to leave with a horse and her husband's gun, but other Irish servants convince her that a journey through the rugged bush alone would be too dangerous. She tries to hire a local young aboriginal named Billy, and despite offering him generous pay he refuses at first, as he wants "no trouble" and hates white people for what they did to his family and village. But he reluctantly agrees.

Resting one evening after a day's arduous trek through dark forests, the tension eases when she convinces Billy that she is Irish and hates the English as much as he does. He then tells her that he sings and his nickname is "blackbird." At night Clare sometimes dreams of a nightingale. Along their journey they witness more acts of brutality committed by British soldiers. With Billy's help, Clare finally reaches Launceston. Will she get justice?

This film is rated R. Definitely not a family film, it contains graphic violence that may be disturbing to some, including scenes depicting rape, lynching, and several murders. I will add that the violence in *Nightingale* is not for prurient interest, like one sees in Hollywood "slasher" and crime movies; rather, it is a gritty, realistic depiction of racist, colonial oppression and the justifiable rage of its victims.

Transmission Films, Australia (2018) <https://www.transmissionfilms.com.au/films/the-nightingale>

Written and directed by Jennifer Kent. Cast: Aisling Franciosi, Baykali Ganambarr, Sam Claflin, and Michael Sheasby. Available on Netflix.





## Member Spotlight: Lottie McDonald

By Gwen Easterday

Despite being retired for a number of years, Lottie McDonald is still one very busy lady. Recently, Lottie has had family here helping her with a project she has wanted to do for maybe the last ten years or so, to organize and divest herself of many books that she and her late husband Ben had accumulated over the years. (If you are a book collector or are interested in chatting with Lottie about what other kinds of books she has available, she would be glad to accept a telephone call to discuss.)

I asked Lottie how she got involved in the Irish-American Society. She told me that sometime in the late 1980s, a lady dressed all in green came out of grocery store as Lottie was going into the store. The fact that the woman was all in green and had been engaging in bubbling discourse with others as she was leaving intrigued Lottie, and they struck up a conversation about the IAS and how Lottie needed to get involved. That lady in green was Norita Callahan. I told Lottie that I, also, joined the IAS because Norita had made it seem so fun when I attended a few of the Wednesday evening dances at the German-American Club.



Of course, when I asked Lottie about her family and her roots, we discovered we have a lot in common. Like me, Lottie describes herself as having more German ancestry than Celtic ancestry. She knows her father's father came from Frankfurt but there the information seems to stop. Her mother's people were Scots-Irish and Welsh. But her late husband Ben had more Irish ancestry than she does, so they joined both the IAS and GAC. [Lottie and Ben were also very involved in The Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland, an organization that promoted peace in Northern Ireland by sending pairs of NI teenagers—one Catholic, one Protestant—to host families in the US during the summer. The program was disbanded in 2008.]

When asked if there was something about herself that might surprise others, she laughed and said she did not think there was anything surprising. She began her work career with Mountain Bell and also worked for the US West phone company, but took a fifteen-year "break" to raise children. She's been retired for some time now, but as I learned when we first began our telephone conversation, she does keep busy.

Lottie misses the monthly IAS meetings and the Celtic music at many of those meetings but she especially misses Norita's Wednesday night Ceili dance classes. Since we're trying to get members to let Ellen Dowling know our favorite Irish bands or CDs for the newsletter, I asked Lottie if she has a favorite Irish band. She said she really likes all the Irish music she's heard over the years but she treasures an event where several IAS members hosted a group of professional Irish dancers and musicians visiting the USA. She mentioned Tom and Áine Quinn as part of this group that came in the early 1990s. She still keeps in touch by exchanging Christmas cards with Áine. Lottie said they were really congenial folks and invited her to come to Ireland and they'd host her. She had previously told me about visiting Ireland a couple of times but I didn't know then to ask if she took them up on their offer.

I asked Lottie if she had a favorite Irish dish or if she had ever made a food considered *strictly Irish*. She didn't know about a favorite dish but she has made Irish Soda Bread more than once for one of the IAS parties or events.

To end our conversation for the day, since I know I was taking her away from her busy schedule, I asked Lottie if there was anything she wanted *others* to know about the IAS. She replied folks should know the IAS is a wonderful group of people and she wouldn't change a thing about the organization. She always felt welcome to the parties and looks forward to a time, in the not too distant future, when we'll be able to safely have our events once again.

## Board Member Spotlight: Suzanne Taichert

By Maureen Riley

This is Suzanne's first year as a member-at-large on the IAS Board of Directors. She is a talented (but shy) musician and piano/Celtic harp instructor at the New Mexico School of Music and privately with her own business, ABQ Piano Lessons. She enjoys singing, recording, and studying classical piano.

She received her BA in Music from the University of Southern California (Los Angeles) in 1979. Before Covid, she performed with local Celtic band Jug O' Punch (Cleve Sharp, Scott Ware, and Grace Broadbent), who were all set to play at Solid Grounds and for seniors around St. Patrick's Day 2020. ☺

Suzanne is a pianist at St. Stephens United Methodist Church, performing live on Facebook and YouTube. She plays for both the Traditional and the Contemporary services. She also sings soprano in the choir. (Fortunately, the choir is gathering remotely.) In 2017, she received a Jazz award from the NM Music Awards for "Paulo's Run" (with pianist Todd Lowry and drummer Cal Haines). The melody was written by a young piano student she taught back in the early 80's. I asked her the following questions:



### ***How did you first get involved with the IAS?***

The IAS was a natural extension of discovering the ABQ Celtic music scene. I took one of Harlow Pinson's classes (Celtic Slow Session), at UNM Adult Education in 2007, and realized I love Celtic music! I joined Harlow and John Brinduse's band, Saoirse (Seer-Sha, "freedom" in Gaelic) for five years. (They continue on). We played for many events in Albuquerque and Belen, including the National Hispanic Cultural Center for a combined concert celebrating San Patricio Day, and several times for the IAS. I researched my family heritage and found that I'm 61% Celtic, 27% Slavic, and 12% unknown. On my mother's side I have French, Norwegian, Scottish, and possibly Irish. My maternal grandmother's name was Sawin, which coincidentally is the word meaning Celtic New Year (or Halloween). My father's side is Lithuanian.

### ***I know you have a busy schedule, so why did you decide to serve on the IAS Board of Directors?***

I joined the board this year after being asked by Gwen Easterday, and encouraged by music associate Kathy Wimmer. I have enjoyed their Canterbury Harp and Early Music performances for years. I'm still hopeful that one day there will be a Celtic Center for education and socializing without smoking ☺.

### ***You began piano lessons at age 8 and had your first gig at the UNM Student Union building at age 15. When and where did your interest in music originate?***

When my mother, Zane, was pregnant with me, she and my dad were at a party in Santa Fe where John Crosby was talking about founding the Santa Fe Opera. My father, an attorney, drew up the paperwork. We attended way too many operas, church and symphony concerts. At age 8 I was encouraged by my mother to take piano lessons, and my mother and I played a lot of duets together. Music study can be a lonely endeavor, unless it is shared. That's the beauty of Celtic music and the "craic"—the laughs and friendships that develop.

### ***Who are your favorite Irish musicians?***

My favorite Celtic singer is Karen Casey. I love Solas, Lunasa, and De Danaan. Jug O' Punch has covered some of Barley Juice's songs, especially "Journeyman's Song." I love their energy and humor. We hope to record a CD soon.

### ***How are you coping with the Covid crisis, the economic downturn, and the civil unrest?***

Faith, music, and one day at a time. I am hopeful that this doesn't last for years, but am resolute that we will find a way through these obstacles. Clearly we can't go around any of them. So, as my dear departed mom would say, "Be of good cheer."

## Culture All Around

[Editor's Note: Although the organizations listed below are currently on hiatus, they will all be back when this is all over, so keep them in your thoughts! ]

### 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.

### Celtic Music on the Radio and the Web:

♣ **The Thistle and Shamrock** program, featuring Fiona Ritchie, airs on KANW 89.1 FM, Mondays at 6:00 PM.

♣ **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](http://www.ktao.com).)



**BRIGHTBURN ACADEMY  
OF IRISH DANCE**


[HTTPS://WWW.THEMACSPORTS.COM/BRIGHTBURN-IRISH-DANCE](https://www.themacsports.com/brightburn-irish-dance)

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OR KATE PADILLA AT  
(505) 415-4390

OR SANDRA INNISS, TCRG, AT  
(505) 620-2260.



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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 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:robertharper48@comcast.net)



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:hpinson@indepthl.com) or 994-2135.

### *A Jug O'Punch*

A trio playing Irish music galore! Contact Suzanne Taichert: [suzytmusic@earthlink.net](mailto: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](mailto:jabbas40@yahoo.com).

### *Michele Buchanan, Harper*

765-1288 ([tmbuchs@gmail.com](mailto:tmbuchs@gmail.com))

### *Rye Creek*

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

### *Celtic Coyotes*

Traditional music from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and Brittany. Contact: Doug Cowan [celticcoyotes@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mmcoy3@msn.com)

### *A Message from the GAC:*

The Edelweiss Am Rio Grande German-American Club (GAC) is a private club and as such cannot solicit by advertising or otherwise participation in its events and activities to the general public. The IAS is an associate club of the GAC and all IAS members and their bona fide guests are welcome at all GAC events and IAS events held at the GAC.

### *Cans for Celts*

Help raise funds for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games in 2021! Please bring your aluminum cans, pie plates, foil, etc. along with copper items, tubing, and small non-working appliances with electric motors to the IAS meetings for recycling. (No cardboard or paper or large appliances.) For pick up between meetings – contact Paul McDonough @ 505-294-8205 and leave a message. Thank you!