



IRISH TIMES

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

APRIL 2019

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.

Next Event: Friday, April 12th, 7 PM

Musical Performance by *Friends Forever!*

At our April meeting, we will be entertained by *Friends Forever*, a duo consisting of husband and wife team Michael and Donna Coy from Albuquerque, NM. Michael and Donna have been playing both as a duo and with other groups since the early 90s. As a twosome (sometimes joined by friends) they play and sing folk tunes and songs from various traditions such as Celtic, Gospel, Old-Time, Bluegrass, Cowboy, and traditional Southwestern, as well as Singer/Songwriter Covers and Originals. With a focus on vocal harmonies, they accompany themselves on guitar, fiddle, mandolin, octave mandolin, and bodhrán (Irish drum).



[**Note for New Members:** There is no charge for any of our monthly meeting/programs and you are welcome to bring guests.]

We hope to see you there and we hope you will bring a sweet or salty snack to share!

2019 Board Members and Committee Chairs

President	Ellen Dowling edowling@standuptrainer.com	307-1700	Health & Welfare	Don Hardy frananddon@aol.com	259-3348
VP	Bob Bryers tccrrb5@aol.com	792-2026	Newsletter	Ellen Dowling edowling@standuptrainer.com	307-1700
Treasurer	Kathy Wimmer Kmillemimm@comcast.net	249-7012	Hospitality	Laura Banks & Maureen Riley	
Secretary	Joanne Connolly jnagelc@gmail.com	615-3581	Web Manager	Ellen Dowling edowling@standuptrainer.com	307-1700
Membership	Brynn Cole 505.auntie@gmail.com	350-3686	Telephone	Beth Baker adamsonbb@gmail.com	994-0443
Board	Paul McDonough penthormul@aol.com	294-8205	Audio Services	Jim Brauer rkeating14@comcast.net	352-2195
Board	Open: Volunteer Needed				
Board	Laura Banks LLBanks64@comcast.net	582-4333			
Board	Maureen Riley mriley6918@yahoo.com	884-0731			
Board	Open: Volunteer Needed				



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

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



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(575) 706 4923
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www.frankiesirishshtours.com



President's Message

By Ellen Dowling

Dear IAS Members:

If you heard a loud WHOOSHING sound around 10 PM Saturday, March 16th, that would be the IAS board members' collective "whew!" as we closed down what turned out to be a really wonderful St. Patrick's Day Party at the (lovely, bright, spacious, non-smoking) Jewish Community Center. Aside from a mathematical miscalculation that caused us to run out of beer too early (we will do better next year, we promise), the event proved to be a night of grand craic indeed, with lively carousers still dancing to the infectious tunes of the Rye Creek Band at closing time. Two weeks before the party, there were only 64 reservations; by March 12th, we had completely sold out. We think maybe the uptick in attendance was due, in part, to the fact that we could actually advertise the event to the public (which we could never do at the GAC because it's a private club). We got some new members, too, and a whole slew of people "liked" us on our [Facebook page](#) (422 people!) and shared the notice about the party, so we hope to get many more!

Of course, the success of the party was due to the IAS members who stepped up to help: Laura Banks, who oversaw the online sales, created the ticketing system, managed the budget, set up advertising (with help from Joanne Connolly) and worked the door; Laura's son Nathan Banks, who helped with the sound equipment; Ken Callahan and his granddaughter Ally McEnhill (visiting from England!), who helped with set up; Lizzy Callahan, who helped decorate and also worked the door; Gloria Bolek and Maureen Riley, who helped decorate and un-decorate (Maureen also worked the door); Joanne Connolly, Brynn Cole, Carol Williford, Gene & Edie Brooks, Gwen Easterday, and Dave Barnaby, who all worked the door; and the amazing Norita Callahan, who not only led the lively Ceili dancing, but also provided all the colorful Irish decorations. Most special thanks goes to these folks who saved the day when the original people in charge of beer and wine procurement dropped out: Jim Larkin, who got the beer from Quarter Celtic, and Paul and Kimberley Fahey, who got the wine and ice. (And get this—Paul and Kimberley are brand new members!) And of course thanks to the awesome duo of Rose Marie Keating and Jim Brauer for providing the sound.

We were also fortunate to have face painter Amanda Kexel on deck to add some Irish flourishes to many attending faces. And by the way, if you did get your face painted at the party (or someone in your group did) and you took a picture, Amanda asks if you might be so kind as to send her the pic: akexel@gmail.com. If you didn't get to come to the party, I've posted videos on our Facebook page. Check them out!

Lastly, we've lost two board members in the last month and are desperately in need of more help. Won't you come join us? We work hard, but we have a lot of fun, too. Let me know.

Membership Report

By Brynn Cole

Céad Mile Fáilte (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes) to our newest members: Bernadette LeBlanc, Susan Weller, James Prendergast, Kathleen Voight, and Barbara, Karl & Ryan Rosazza. And welcome back to Colm, Joy, Katelyn & Emalee Matthews; George and Nohemi VanStry; and Susan and Liam O'Connor.

As of 3/22, there are 5 students, 74 individuals, and 55 families for a total of 189 renewals and new members for the 2019 membership year.

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 Bruce and Cindy Miller.

Treasurer's Report February 2019

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Membership (check/cash)	\$325.00	U-Stor-It monthly storage fee	\$35.00
Membership (electronic)	\$292.52	Ck #132: Norita (stamps)	\$11.00
St. Pat's Party sales (electronic)	\$1,049.59	Ck#133: Laura Banks (supplies for mailing newsletters)	\$94.76
St. Pat's Party income (cash/checks)	\$225.00	Ck#136: Casey Mraz February meeting entertainment	\$50.00
Newsletter sponsorship (Frankie Davis)	\$19.12		
Amazon Smiles: Quarterly donations	\$5.41		
Cakewalk proceeds from Xmas party	\$51.00		
Total Income	\$1,967.64	Total Expenses	\$190.76
		IAS Account prior month's ENDING balance	\$9,912.50
		Plus Income (current month)	\$1,967.64
		Less Expenses (current month)	(\$190.76)
		Current month's Ending Balance	\$10,969.38

Join us for the 2nd Annual Mary Power Lecture

Thursday, April 25, 2019

7pm

Room TBD



David Emmons

Professor Emeritus of History, University of Montana
Presents:

"The 'Fissiparous' Irish:
Peter Yorke, Garrett McEnerney, and
Irish and Irish-American Responses to the First World War"

IAS Outreach to Young Adults:

IAS member Colm Matthews would like to see if there are any young adults who may be interested in getting together to form an Irish-American Society for Young Adults (IASYA) group. At this point it is an avenue he would like to explore. If you are a young adult or if you know of any young adults who might be interested, please email Colm at irishcolm6@yahoo.com or phone 505-717-9887 and leave a message. Thanks everyone!



Flowers of the Forest

Longtime IAS member Irene O'Connor Navarre passed away on February 13 at the age of 101. She came to NM over 50 years ago to help establish the Dental Hygiene Program at UNM, and was involved in many local organizations, including the IAS and the Scandinavian Club. She is survived by many nephews, great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews.

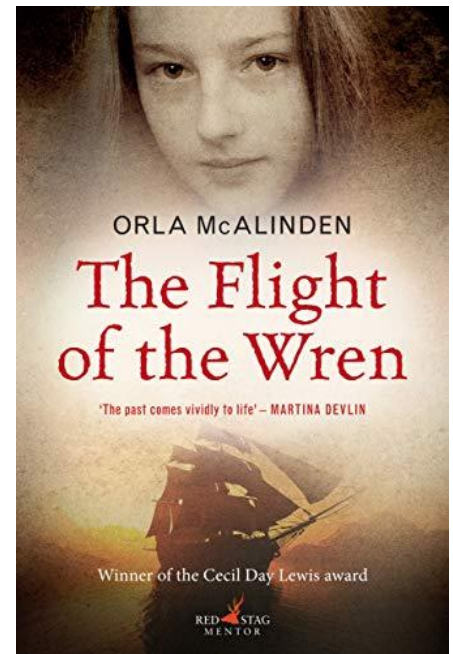
May she rest in peace.

The Irish Book Club

The Irish Book Club is now online! 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. In February, we read *The Flight of the Wren*, a novel by Orla McAlinden. For March, we're doing something a little different and reading a play—*The Ferryman* by Jez Butterworth. (It's now on Broadway, getting rave reviews, and book club member Kathy Wimmer is making arrangements for us to do a staged reading at the end of this month. If you'd like to join us, visit us on Facebook!)

The Flight of the Wren, by Orla McAlinden

From Amazon's description: Ireland, 1848. Orphaned Sally Mahon has a choice to make. Lie down and die on the graves of her parents, or join the throngs of the dispossessed on the highways of Ireland. She turns her steps to the nearby town of Newbridge in Kildare, where she will carve a future for herself or die trying. Tasmania, 1919. Spanish Flu sweeps through Hobart, travelling across the oceans with the soldiers returning from the war in Europe. Saoirse Gordon sits by her Grandmother's sickbed. As the old woman cries out in her delirium, will the secrets Saoirse learns bring her peace, or destroy her forever? Have her grandmother, her great-aunt and her mother been lying to her all her life? Saoirse races against time, and her grandmother's illness, to unravel the secrets of her family. Inspired by true events, the tales of real Irish women and girls weave throughout this poignant blend of fact and fiction. *The Flight of the Wren* explores the impact of the Irish famine of 1845-1849 on the women of Ireland. Acts of desperation, betrayal, courage and love illuminate this dark chapter of Ireland's history in a complex and beautiful novel. Winner of the Cecil Day Lewis award 2016 and joint winner of the Greenbean Novel Fair 2016 at the Irish Writers Centre.



Ellen's take: "I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It's the harrowing (and sometimes just too heartbreaking) story of Sally Mahon, a 14-year-old girl living in Clonsast Parish, Co. Offaly, in 1848 in such horrible conditions that the word 'squalid' doesn't begin to describe her potato-blighted surroundings. After Sally witnesses the death of her typhus-stricken parents, she begins an astonishing quest for survival, one that will eventually take her to Tasmania with her fellow 'felons.' And it is there, in 1919, that we meet the 85-year-old Sally, dying from the Spanish flu, and trying to tell Saoirse, her granddaughter, the story of her life. The book alternates between 1848 and 1919, as little by little Sally's story emerges, much to the dismay of Saoirse. Loved all the characters, especially the evil (but oddly sympathetic) Nellie Gordon."

About the author: Born in Portadown, Ireland, Orla McAlinden is an emerging voice in Irish writing. Her first book, *The Accidental Wife*, won the 2014 Eludra Prize from Hidden River Arts in Philadelphia, PA, and is published on their Sowilo Press imprint. Martina Devlin, Northern Irish author of 20 novels, including *The House Where it Happened*, has described Orla's work as "visceral and authentic" and Anthony J. Quinn, king of Northern Irish Noir says she displays a "remarkably mature depth of voice and narrative range."

Orla was sent to school at three years old, to prevent her from falling out of any more windows, and she has had a book in her hand ever since. She reads widely, with a strong emphasis on Irish authors, and regrets the time spent eating and sleeping, which interferes with her reading.

Please Join Us
31st Annual RGVCF
Rotary Park in Bernalillo



May 4th and May 5th
There Will Be :

Strong Man, Piping, Dance,
Clans, Food, Microbreweries,
Vendors, Beard Competition,
Craft Distillery, And The
Kids Corner!

370 Rotary Park Rd Bernalillo NM

31st Annual Celtic Fest Promises to be Better than Ever

What started as a fun, little get together has become one of New Mexico's most anticipated festivals of the year. This year the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival celebrates its 31st anniversary with a two-day celebration, May 4th and 5th at the Rotary Park (370 Rotary Park Dr.) in Bernalillo.

The family friendly Fest features the culture of the 7 Celtic Nations. There will be live music, exciting athletic competitions, animal exhibits (Please leave your own pets at home.), interactive children's activities, and of course, some of the best food and drink found east of Dublin.

The Fest is open to the public from 9 AM until 6 PM, Saturday, May 4th and 9 AM to 5 PM Sunday, May 5th. Adult daily admission is \$10 cash or \$11 credit card, with free parking. Tickets will be available at the gate.



Every year the Festival brings in some of the world's best Celtic musical acts. This year features main stage performances by the Spirited Lads and Indigent Row. The small stage will feature the area's favorite local Celtic musicians. Strolling throughout the park will be various bagpipe players and bands.

Many in the crowd believe the highlight of the Fest is the annual "Heavy Athletic" competition. Men and women will compete in traditional Highland Games, including the Caber Toss, the Scottish Hammer Throw, the Sheaf Toss, and the Stone Put. Returning this year, the Strongman competition for both women and men will be on Sunday at 9 AM.

Celtic culture will also be on display, with dog exhibits and parades, traditional foods and clothing, a gathering of Clans and Celtic Societies, pipe and drum bands, and a hugely popular Beard Contest sponsored by Col. Conk. New this year on Sunday will be the Bonnie Knees competition. Award-winning beers and craft cocktails will be available from New Mexico's microbreweries and distilleries. There will be fun for the entire family with plenty of activities for the kids. The IAS will also have a booth at the Festival and we would love to have members join us to hang out and schmooze with Festival attendees!

Ireland's Musical Instruments

By Edyth Preet for Irish America magazine

For every country there is an iconic image that immediately brings the nation to mind. The United States has the Statue of Liberty. Dragons evoke thoughts of China. The Fleur de Lis is quintessentially French. While national symbols range the gamut from mythical beasts, crowns, and statues to insignias, monuments, buildings and more, music is conspicuously absent. Except in one case.

Of all the world's nations, only Ireland's state identity is linked to a musical instrument. The harp. As the country's official emblem, it is found on the presidential seal, passports, the five-cent euro coin, official documents, the flag of Leinster, and the seal of Ireland's National University. Businesses, too, use the harp in their logos as a way to brand their "Irishness." Ryan Air shows the instrument on the tail of its airplanes, and as anyone who's ever visited an Irish pub knows, the harp is imprinted on every glass, can, bottle, and barrel of Guinness Stout.



When the harp arrived in Ireland is uncertain, but its history dates back at least 1,000 years. Legend holds that the first harp was owned at the dawn of time, by Dagda, a chief of the Tuatha de Danaan. Lost temporarily during a war with the evil Formorians, when it was recovered the harp had the ability to call forth winter and summer. And thenceforth, whenever the Dagda played it, he could produce melodies so poignant, sweet or calming that the music would make his audience weep, smile, or sleep.

During Medieval times, the retinue of every Irish king and chieftain included a resident harp player whose music was the principal entertainment at feasts, as well as accompanying poetry recitations and the singing of psalms. With a sounding chamber carved from a single log, usually willow, and brass strings, the Irish harp when plucked with the fingernails produces a clear melodic sound. The oldest example of the Irish harp is housed at Dublin's Trinity College. Some claim it belonged to the last High King of Ireland, Brian Boru (d. 1014), who is said to have been an accomplished harpist.

Through the centuries the harp stood as such a cultural Irish icon that during the Cromwell Era it became a symbol of resistance to England, and Queen Elizabeth I issued an order to hang all Irish harpists and burn their instruments. The edict gave rise to the famous poem, "The harp that once through Tara's halls the soul of music shed, now hangs as mute on Tara's walls, as if that soul were fled. So sleeps the pride of former days, so glory's thrill is o'er, and hearts that once beat high for praise, now feel that pulse no more." Thankfully, a new generation of Irish harpists is bringing back the sweet sound of Ireland's most symbolic musical instrument.



Two other time-honored Irish musical instruments are the tin whistle and bones. One of my father's favorite recitations went like this: "When I was a child my Ma gave me a wooden whistle, but it wooden whistle; then she gave me a steel whistle, but it steel wooden whistle; then she gave me a tin whistle and now I tin whistle!" A simple six-holed woodwind, the tin whistle is a flute-like instrument found in most cultures, the earliest example of which dates from the Neanderthal era. While the oldest whistles were made from wood or bone, during the Industrial Revolution they began being manufactured from rolled tin. Often called a "penny whistle," the term doesn't refer to the instrument's cost but rather the fact that whistlers were once paid a penny a tune. Today, the tin whistle is a popular instrument that often introduces the start of a reel, and handmade examples can cost several hundred dollars.

Of all Irish traditional instruments, Bones are the most ancient. In their most elemental form, bones are exactly that: sections of animal rib bones or leg bones. They are usually 5-7 inches in length and somewhat curved. Played by being held loosely between the fingers, their distinct sharp sound provides a rhythmic clacking background to a tune's melody. While some really adroit bones players can hold a set in each hand and create contrapuntal rhythm, Irish bones players are unique in that they use only one set.



Culture All Around

Dance Classes:

♣ **Coleman Academy of Irish Dance.** Saturdays, 8 AM to 1 PM at the Lloyd Shaw Dance Center, 5506 Coal SE. Call 866-5867 for information or visit our web site at www.irishdancenm.org and www.colemanacademy.com.

♣ **Celtic Steps Arizona/New Mexico (formerly Tir Conaill Academy of Irish Dance),** at the McDermott Athletic Center, 801 Loma Colorado, Rio Rancho. Call 505-415-4390 or visit <http://celticsteps.org/albuquerque/> for further information.

♣ **Ceili dance classes** are held every Wednesday at the GAC at 7:15 PM, \$3.00. 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.)

Celtic Steps Irish Dance Classes

50% off Regular Tuition prices for first month!!

Classes for beginner dancers age 4 to adult!

The McDermott Athletic Center

801 Loma Colorado Dr., Rio Rancho, NM

For Information and to sign up now

Contact: Christopher McGrory, ADCRG,

Director, CelticSteps, Albuquerque

520-991-3605 or

Christopher.mcgrory@gmail.com

Or Kate Padilla at 505-415-4390 or

khpadilla2001@yahoo.com

<https://www.themacsports.com/celtic-steps-irish-dancing>



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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

Support Your Local Irish/Scottish/Celtic Musicians/Performers!

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.

The Anslovers: Teenagers Emily, John, and Jamie on violin, guitar, and upright bass. Contact: John & Lorraine Anslover at anslovernavy@comcast.net.

Carol Benson

Strolling café fiddler, vocalist, Suzuki teacher, and symphony violinist. Contact: 505-268-0906 (carolbens@gmail.com)

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 Cleve Sharp at 507-9915 or clevelans@comcast.net.

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.

Michele Buchanan and Shanachie Harpers

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

Cans for Celts

Help raise funds for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games in 2019! 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!

Calendar of Events

IAS Events

Date	Day	What
April 4	Thursday	<i>IAS Board of Directors meeting</i> , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
April 12	Friday	<i>IAS monthly meeting and program</i> , 7 PM at the Unitarian Church hall, Comanche and Carlisle. Musical performance by Friends Forever.
May 2	Thursday	<i>IAS Board of Directors meeting</i> , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
May 10	Friday	<i>IAS monthly meeting and program</i> , 7 PM at the Unitarian Church hall, Comanche and Carlisle. Lecture on Irish genealogy by Robert Harper

Celtic/GAC Events

GAC hours are Mon, Tues, Wed: 3 to 8 PM; Thurs, Fri: noon to 10 PM; Sat: noon to 11 PM; Sunday: noon to 6 PM.

April 5 – 26	Fridays	<i>Intermediate and Advanced Bodhrán Class</i> , 6 to 7:30 PM, Albuquerque Meeting House for the Religious Society of Friends (the Quakers) 1600 5th St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102. Class taught by Dain Forsythe (dainfl@gmail.com).
April 6	Saturday	<i>First Saturday Open Irish Music Session</i> , from 12 to 2 PM at High and Dry Brewing, 529 Adams St. NE, ABQ. (Contact Jim Crowley jabbas40@yahoo.com) For beginning to intermediate musicians and music lovers.
April 7	Sunday	<i>Rye Creek Band</i> performing at O’Niells Pub, Washington and Central, 4-7 PM.
April 4, 11, 18, 25	Thursdays	<i>Albuquerque Traditional Irish Music Open Session</i> from 7- 9 PM at ABQ BBQ, 7520 4 th St. NW, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque. Reels, jigs, hornpipes, waltzes, set dances, and occasional singing. All are invited to participate or just listen. Food, non-alcoholic beverages, beer and wine, are available. 7 to 10 PM. For more info, contact Harlow Pinson at hpinson@indepthl.com .
April 20	Saturday	<i>Third Saturday Open Irish Music Session</i> , from 1 to 3 PM at High and Dry Brewing, 529 Adams St. NE, ABQ. (Contact Jim Crowley jabbas40@yahoo.com) For intermediate musicians and music lovers.
April 25	Thursday	<i>Second annual Mary Power Lecture on Irish Literature</i> , 7 PM, UNM. David Emmons, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Montana, will speak on "The 'Fissiparous' Irish: Peter Yorke, Garrett McEnerney, and Irish and Irish-American Responses to the First World War." For more info, contact Sarah L. Townsend, Professor of Irish Studies at sltownse@unm.edu



**The Irish-American Society
of New Mexico**

P.O. Box 13435
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87192-3435

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Irish-American Society of New Mexico

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Please check one: New Membership Application_____ Renewal_____

If this is a renewal, has your contact information changed? Yes _____ No_____

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

Individual _____\$20.00 Family_____ \$25.00

Student _____\$10.00

Name_____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone _____ E-mail_____

How did you hear about us? _____