

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

OCTOBER 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 Meeting: Friday, October 11th, 7 PM

Musical Performance by Mountain Road

At our October meeting, we will be entertained by local group *Mountain Road*, featuring Dain Forsythe on flute, Scott Estes on guitar, and guest fiddler, Jim Crowley. The trio will offer a few rakes of tunes, a contemporary history of the bodhrán, and perhaps a story to take home.



Dain Forsythe (flute and bodhrán) has been teaching and performing Irish traditional music for over 20 years. He established himself as a flute player as part of the trio *Finn's Thumb*, and has provided bodhrán accompaniment for several world-class Irish traditional musicians over the years, including Randal Bays (fiddle), Roger Landes (mandolin, banjo, bouzouki), Turlach Boylan (flute), and John Skelton (flute).

Scott Estes' (guitar) first gig was playing the "Skye Boat Song" on his recorder in the third grade play. Since then, he has played some larger gigs, including French horn in the 1984 Olympic Band, and some smaller gigs playing both Irish and Scottish music in and around New Mexico and west Michigan. He really likes playing guitar accompaniment in alternate tunings.

Jim Crowley (fiddle) hails from county Cork and took a circuitous route through metal, pop, and electro pop before coming to rest in traditional Irish music. He has a forthcoming album entitled, "Far From the Old Country," on which Forsythe provides the bodhrán work.

We hope to see you there and we hope that you will bring a sweet or salty snack to share! (Coffee provided; please bring water and other beverages.)

2019 Board Members and Committee Chairs

President	Ellen Dowling	307-	ŀ
	edowling@standuptrainer.com	1700	1
VP	Bob Bryers	792-	Ì
	tccrrb5@aol.com	2026	
Treasurer	Kathy Wimmer	249-	l
	Kmillewimm@comcast.net	7012	1
Secretary	Joanne Connolly	615-	I
	jnagelc@gmail.com	3581	
Membership	Brynn Cole	350-	Ĭ
	505.auntie@gmail.com	3686	1
Board	Gwen Easterday	400-	,
	greasterday@aol.com	2585	
Board	Laura Banks	582-	
	LLBanks64@comcast.net	4333	
Board	Maureen Riley	884-	
	mriley6918@yahoo.com	0731	
Board	Open: Volunteer Needed		

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Health &	Don Hardy	259-
Welfare	frananddon@aol.com	3348
Newsletter	Ellen Dowling	307-
	edowling@standuptrainer.com	1700
Hospitality	Laura Banks & Maureen Riley	
Web	Ellen Dowling	307-
Manager	edowling@standuptrainer.com	1700
Telephone	Beth Baker	994-
	adamsonbb@gmail.com	0443
Audio	Jim Brauer	352-
Services	rkeating14@comcast.net	2195



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.







President's Message

By Ellen Dowling

Dear IAS Members:

Nice to see all of you at the Celtic Family Picnic on Sept. 8th and/or the general meeting on Sept. 13th. Thanks to the St. Andrews Scottish Society for putting on the picnic (it will be our turn next year) and arranging for the wonderful entertainment (Celtic Steps step dancers and the Celtic Singers of NM, among others). The movie we showed at the general meeting ("Out of Ireland") was very interesting—a good summary of the past events that brought most of our ancestors here.

Next up in October we've got our monthly meeting on Oct. 11th, featuring a performance by a newly formed (I think) local traditional Irish music group. (See the front page for details.) Thanks to Dain Forsythe for putting the evening together for us.

On Oct. 19th, we will be participating in the Edgewood Celtic Festival. (See p. 7 for details.) This is a smaller event than the annual Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival, but no less fun! We will be there all day and can always use helpers to run the IAS booth. It's a great way to attend the festival because you always have a place to sit down! Let me know if you want to help out. (We can also carpool there.)

Our most important task at the moment is getting a slate together for the 2020 Board of Directors. See the message below from Gwen Easterday and Maureen Riley. Please respond directly to them.

Wanted: Friendly Brainstormers

We have been assigned the task of organizing a nominating committee to select prospects for serving as officers and board members of the IAS-NM whose terms would begin in 2020. We need at least two additional IAS members who are amenable to help us find willing officer candidates. Don't worry—you won't have to "cold call" anyone and new members of the Society are **most welcome** to participate in this endeavor, too! We have over 220 members—surely there are folks out there who have some thoughts they'd like to share! We would like to conduct nominating committee "meetings" electronically but are open to suggestions of meeting in person, should meeting only electronically not appeal to you.

We hope to have a slate of candidates for the general election of officers by **November 8**th so that elections can be held before the end of this calendar year; thus, the nominating committee's **task** will be **finished** at that time. Can you spare a bit of your time over the next several weeks to help us find new officers for the IAS? If you can't help the nominating committee, can you at least provide input regarding potential officers for the board? Communications will be kept confidential among the nominating committee. Please email or call us!

Gwen Easterday: (505-400-2585) greasterday@aol.com Maureen Riley: (505-884-0731) mriley6918@yahoo.com

Treasurer's Report August 2019

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

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Category	Income		Category	Expenses	
Cash/Check: membership	\$65.00		U-Stor-It monthly storage fee	\$35.00	
			Ck#152: Ellen Dowling (GoDaddy website		
Electronic/Square: membership	\$19.12		renewal)	\$18.17	
Total Income	\$84.12		Total Expenses	(\$53.17)	
			IAS Account prior month's ENDING		
			balance	\$8,938.30	
			Plus Income (current month)	\$84.12	
			Less Expenses (current month)	(\$53.17)	
			Current month's Ending Balance	\$8,969.25	

Membership Report

By Brynn Cole

Céad Mile Fáilte (A *Hundred Thousand Welcomes*) to Cian & Charlie Fulton, Joseph & Geoffrey Hutton, Debra Erekson, Patricia Monaghan & David Grammer, and Barbara Ferguson!

As of 9/20, we have 5 students, 82 individuals, and 69 families for a total of 225 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. Thanks this month to Bob & Vikki Bryers, Carol & Doug Cowan, and Phyllis Martinez & Terry Heslin.

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann 2019 Raffle!

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann (pronounced Col-tas Col-tu-ri Ei-ran) is an international non-profit organization based in Dublin with 400 branches throughout the world. Comhaltas' purpose is to promote traditional Irish music, dance, song, and culture. The Sliabh (pronounced Sleeve) Sandia NM CCE branch is participating in this raffle. 80% of each raffle ticket sold will go to Sliabh Sandia, who are here in Albuquerque. (80% WOW!!!) The money will be used for venue rentals, gas, food for visiting Irish musicians, dancers, singers, storytellers, poets, etc.

Tickets (\$5 each) can be purchased at the October IAS meeting, from Norita Callahan or Laura Banks. First prize is 5,000 euros (about \$5,628).

Information about the *Comhaltas* international organization can be found here: https://comhaltas.ie/about/ Information about the local *Sliabh Sandia* group can be found here: https://www.ccenm.org/about/

IAS General Meeting Minutes September 13th, 2019

Meeting called to order shortly after 7 PM by President Ellen Dowling. Board members present introduced: Gwen Easterday, Laura Banks, Maureen Riley, and Board Member Emerita: Norita Callahan.

Ellen welcomed new members Susan Berry, attending her first meeting, and also visitors Patricia Maureen Monaghan and David Grammer, Deborah Erekson, Cian Fulton, and Dierdre Anderson. (Patricia, David, Deborah, and Cian became members! ①)

REPORTS:

- ♣ Treasurer: Ellen gave the treasurer's report in place of Kathy Wimmer, WHO IS IN SCOTLAND. Income: \$84.12; Expenses: 53.17; Balance: \$8969.25.
- ♣ Membership: 222 members, including one new family membership.

COMHALTAS Raffle Tickets: Laura Banks and Norita Callahan presented information about the raffle, which will benefit Comhaltas (COL-tas), an international and local organization that promotes Irish dance, music, singing, and language. Tickets are \$5.00 each and the drawing will be held in December.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ♣ Sept.14: Dublin vs. Kerry: All Ireland Gaelic Football Final Replay
- ♣ Sept. 15: Great River Irish and Scottish Music Festival
- Sept. 18: Celtic Festivals (RGV and Edgewood) Fundraiser at Grassburger restaurant
- ♣ Through Sept.22: Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching towards the Somme, a play at the Vortex
- Oct. 11: Next monthly meeting: Bodhran performance and demo by Dain Forsythe

OTHER BUSINESS:

Gwen Easterday spoke on the IAS' need for new board members. A Nominating Committee will be established and two members are needed to help with this committee. Please contact Gwen Easterday or Maureen Riley for more information. (See their contact info on p. 3.)

Housekeeping: Buss tables and fold up your chair after the meeting. We adjourned for refreshments and enjoyed a very informative video: "Out of Ireland."



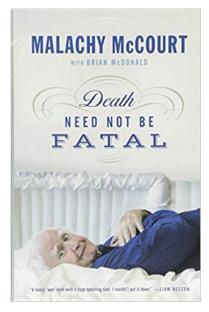


A Garda recruit was asked during his qualifying exam: "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He answered: "Call for

He answered: "Call for reinforcements."

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. Our book for discussion in September is *Death Need Not be Fatal*, by Malachy McCourt. In October, we'll be reading *Borstal Boy*, the classic memoir by Brendan Behan. All the books we read are available on Amazon, and many are also available in local libraries.



Death Need Not be Fatal, by Malachy McCourt

After a long spate of rather grim and depressing novels (mostly wonderfully written, but still somewhat on the grim side), we chose for our September read an hilarious, often laugh-out-loud memoir by Frank McCourt's (he of *Angela's Ashes* fame) younger brother Malachy. From Amazon's description: "During the course of his life, Malachy McCourt practically invented the single's bar; was a pioneer in talk radio, a soap opera star, a best-selling author; a gold smuggler, a political activist, and a candidate for governor of the state of New York. It seems that the only two things he hasn't done are stick his head into a lion's mouth and die. Since he is allergic to cats, he decided to write about the great hereafter and answer the question on most minds: What's so great about it anyhow?

In *Death Need Not Be Fatal*, McCourt also trains a sober eye on the tragedies that have shaped his life: the deaths of his sister and twin brothers; the real story behind Angela's famous ashes; and a poignant account of the death of the man who left his mother, brothers, and him to nearly die in

squalor. McCourt writes with deep emotion of the staggering losses of all three of his brothers, Frank, Mike, and Alphie. In his inimitable way, McCourt takes the grim reaper by the lapels and shakes the truth out of him.

As he rides the final blocks on his Rascal scooter, he looks too at the prospect of his own demise with emotional clarity and insight. In this beautifully rendered memoir, McCourt shows us how to live life to its fullest, how to grow old without acting old, and how to die without regret."

Here's Malachy himself on his gift of the gab: "One of the reasons I was successful on the radio and television was my lack of the verbal editor most people have in their brains. When a thought wanders through my cranium, more times than not it finds its freedom past my teeth and through the slot in my face commonly called the mouth. This ability, if you can call it that, thrilled me to no end. I simply could not wait to hear what I had to say next."

And one of the many great stories he tells is about the actor Richard Harris (and singer—remember "MacArthur Park" and that cake left out in the rain?), who seems to have been a real character: "Dickie Harris could be hilarious and, as I understand, was so to the end. Before he was hospitalized, he was living in a 2,000 pounds-a-week suite at the Savoy Hotel in London. The story was told that when the ambulance men were moving him on the gurney, they were asked not to take him through the front door, so they had to push the gurney through a packed dining room. In the middle of the crowd eating dinner, Harris raised himself up on his elbows and shouted, 'It was the food!'"

And lastly a recommendation from a reader who listed to the book on Audible: "If you can get the audio version of this book, by all means do. Malachy does his own reading along with singing—it's a total delight but not without the reality of where age and a hard life has brought this man. You don't have to be Irish to appreciate the songs and poetry and the magic of Malachy McCourt!"

Irish/Celtic/GAC Things to do in October!



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
For more information, contact Libby Casarez 505-453-0053

It's No Blarney:

The Edgewood Celtic Fest celebrates Music, Food and Culture

(EDGEWOOD, NM) The East Mountain community of Edgewood, NM will host the area's 2nd Annual Cettic Festival on Saturday, October 19. The festival, a production of the Rio Grande Valley Cettic Festival Association, will take place in Edgewood's Soccer Field Park from 9:00 am until 6:00 pm. Tickets are available at the door for just \$5, with children under 12 admitted for free. Cash only gate.

Headlining the event will be a huge variety of Celtic music, local craft breweries, traditional "heavy games" competition, great food, merchandise vendors, kids areas, and a celebration of the Celtic culture and arts.

The main stage will feature Celtic music and dance. On the musical schedule are the Celtic Singers, Apple Mountain Strings & Things, The Celtic Coyotes, the Apple Mountain Scottish Session, The Duke City Ceili Band and Rye Creek. Please join Michele Buchanan at her tent for an intimate harp performance throughout the day. In between these performances will be bagpipe bands including Shrine Pipes & Drums, Mac-Tire of Skye Pipes & Drums and Thistle Pipes & Drums.

Scottish Highland Dancing is a celebration of the Scottish spirit, a spectacular combination of movement, music, and costume. Generally danced solo, the dances are great fun. Come see the fabulous demonstration of Celtic Dancing.

The all-participant parade begins at 11:30 with pipe bands, clans and Celtic dogs on the field to celebrate the opening ceremonies.

Another Edgewood Celtic Festival highlight is the Scottish Highland Games. Nine events will be contested by both men and women throughout the day, including Braemar Stones, Open Stones, light and heavy Weights for Distance, light and heavy Hammer toss, Sheaf Toss, Weight Over Bar, and the exciting Caber toss. For kids of all ages we will have an area set up for you to learn some of these amazing feats of strength!

Joining us, we have three of New Mexico's favorite breweries (Starr Bros Brewing Co., 377 Brewery and Red Door Brewery) will be serving their finest, and food will be available from Big B's Grubb Shack. Nomad's BBO. Chili Hills and Cabra Coffee.

The Festivities end with a huge Bonfire beginning at 6 pm.

The Edgewood Soccer Field park is located north of I-40 on NM344. For more information, visit www.celtfestaba.com.





Comhaltas New Mexico, Sliabh Sandia Branch, Presents



Brian Conway and John Whelan

"All-Ireland Champions"

October 5, 7pm Tortuga Gallery, Albuquerque Tickets \$20 at the door.

Master fiddler Brian Conway returns to Albuquerque, along with the ferociouly entertaining button box player John Whelan.

Join them for a night of Irish musical fun, steeped in the traditions of the past, but distinctivly their own.



Torgtuga Gallery is located at: 901 Edith Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Sean Nós Traditional Irish Dance Workshop with Lisa Maloney

Saturday, October 19 9-11 am Lloyd Shaw Dance Center Albuquerque, NM

Sponsored by Coleman Academy or Irish Dance and Comhaltas, Sliabh Sandia Branch



INTRODUCTION to Sean Nós dance. Learn to play Irish music with your feet: sean-nos dance is traditionally done solo, improvised on the spot, and is musical and joyful. It is less demanding than competitive Irish step-dance. It's what you jump up and do when the tunes are so good, you just get "stuck" on them and can't help yourself.

Shoes with smooth soles made of leather or hard rubber are best, but even worn-down sneakers or boots will do if you can easily slide your foot across the floor in them. Please, no tap shoes or Irish hard shoes.

Class size limit 20. RSVP to Harlow Pinson to reserve a spot hpinson@indepthL.com

Admission \$5. Please bring exact change. No credit cards please



GAC Halloween Dance Saturday, October 26th 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM

GAC, IAS, SASS, Jazz & Hungarian
Members & Guests Welcome

Door Fee \$10 Music By: Hit Squad Costume Prizes

(Judging during the first music break)

Please bring a salty or sweet snack to share

Costumes are always optional!

Culture All Around

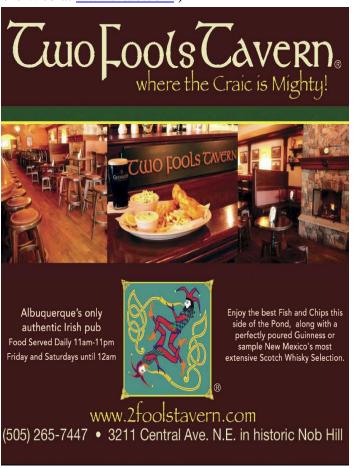
Dance Classes:

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.)





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.

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.

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, 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

Cans for Celts

Help raise funds for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games in 2020! 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
October 3	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting, 7 PM at the GAC. All members are
		invited to attend.
October 11	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program: Traditional Irish music performance
		by Mountain Road. (See first page.)
November 7	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting, 7 PM at the GAC. All members are
		invited to attend.
November 8	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program: Musical performance by Canterbury
		Harp Ensemble.

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. For info about GAC events, call 505-888-4833 during open hours.

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More info on p.
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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 Member	ership Applicat	ion	_ Renewal	
If this is a renewal, has your co	ontact informati	ion changed	d? Yes	_No
Please make checks payable to and mail to: P.O. Box 13435, A Individual\$20.0	Albuquerque, N	M 87192-3	3435	iety
Student\$10.00				
NameAddress				
City	State	_Zip		
Phone	E-mail			
How did you hear about us?				