



IRISH TIMES

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

NOVEMBER 2015

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 usual meeting location is the Edelweiss Am Rio Grande German-American Club (GAC), 4821 Menaul, NE (west of San Mateo).

Next Event: Friday, November 13th, 7 PM

Musical Performance by the Red Light Ramblers!

At our November meeting we will be entertained by the Red Light Ramblers, a local band specializing in "good ol' toe-tappin', foot-stompin', hummin'-alongin', old-timey, bluegrassy, Irish, Cajun mountain music." The band members include Barb Belknap (mandolin, accordion), Mike Hill (fiddle, guitar), and Marc Robert (banjo, bass, guitar).

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



Are you interested in performing at one of our monthly meetings?

We are looking for entertainers for our monthly meetings in 2016. If you would like to give a musical performance, a lecture, a dramatic recitation, a dance exhibition, or anything that is Irish- or Celtic-focused, please let us know by contacting Ellen Dowling at 307-1700 (edowling@standuptrainer.com).



2015 Board Members and Committee Chairs

President	Bob Bryers tccrb5@aol.com	792-2026	Health & Welfare	Fran Hardy frananddon@aol.com	259-3348
VP	Chris Kinlen oldtowncelticshop@aol.com	328-7408	Newsletter	Ellen Dowling edowling@standuptrainer.com	307-1700
Treasurer	Vikki Bryers TCCVRB@netzero.com	792-2026	Hospitality	Luisa Gignac lgdancer@BasicISP.net	881-4847
Secretary	Jerri Campbell Jcampbell3124@live.com	554-5286	Web Manager	Ellen Dowling edowling@standuptrainer.com	307-1700
Membership	Norita & Ken Callahan noraabq@yahoo.com	298-2708	Telephone	Beth Baker adamsonbb@gmail.com	994-0443
Past President	Paul McDonough penthormul@aol.com	294-8205	Audio Services	Jim Brauer rkeating14@comcast.net	352-2195
Board	Jay Vandersloot JayVandersloot@yahoo.com	362-1733			
Board	Christine Philips Christine.ann.Philips@gmail.com	710-3972			
Board	Maureen Riley mriley6918@yahoo.com	884-0731			



Would you like to place an ad 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 ad will also appear on the IAS website (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com) at no extra charge.

**Irish Food Delivered to
Your Door Monthly!**
<http://www.irishtasteclub.com/>



Old Town Celtic Shop
Specializing in Authentic Celtic Jewelry & Gifts
323 Romero Street NW, Suite 12
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104
www.oldtowncelticshop.com

Chris Kinlen 328-7408
Lisa Kinlen 999-9219



**Coleman Academy
of Irish Dance**

Classes - Performances - Workshops

(505) 720-6979
(505) 720-7068

Jennifer London, TCRG
Kimberly Coleman, TCRG
www.ColemanAcademy.com

President's Message

By Bob Bryers

Dear IAS Members:

This is the month in which we hold our annual elections for the President and all the Board of Directors for your Society. As I look back on the low percentage (12%) for the last election in Albuquerque last month, I really would appreciate that we show up the city with a really good turnout for voting in next year's group of trusted people to guide this Society along. Remember, those people that you elect are those whom you will entrust with the capability to lead and help your Irish-American Society flourish; so every vote should be thought out with care and due diligence.

We are also on the cusp of the Holiday season: Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner, along with the winter wonderland that can only be found in the Southwest. Be well and I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Annual Elections

Our November meeting, along with the usual entertainment, snacks and camaraderie, will be start with the Annual Election of our President and Board of Directors. Anyone *present* can put their name in for any position; we are always looking for "new blood" to give their opinions and thoughts to help lead your Society toward a rewarding future. If more than one person wishes to vie for a position, ballots will be passed out by our Secretary, Jerri Campbell, tallied up by our Board of Directors, and a winner for that position announced before moving on to the next.

Our current board consists of the following, all of whom will be asked whether they wish to continue in that function or wish to pass.

President - Bob Bryers
Vice President - Chris Kinlen
Secretary - Jerri Campbell
Treasurer - Vikki Bryers
Membership – Vacant
Board – Jay Vandersloot
Board – Christine Phillips
Board – Maureen Riley



So come out and vote at our next meeting!!



List of Children Attending Needed for this Year's IAS Christmas Party!

Our annual Christmas Party will be held this year on Sunday, December 13th, from 1 to 5 PM. As usual, there will be a visit from Santa, and the IAS will have gift bags for all children who attend. If you are planning to bring a child (or two or three or more!), let Bob Bryers know so we can prepare enough gift bags. (Contact Bob at tcrrb5@aol.com or 792-2026.)

Treasurer's Report August 2015

Victoria Bryers, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Membership	\$45.00	Print Express	\$319.62
Misc Sales	\$35.00	State Farm Insurance	\$475.00
		Sept. Entertainment	\$50.00
		Booth at Aztec Celtic Games	\$50.00
Total Income	\$80.00	Total Expenses	\$894.62
		IAS Account Sept. Beginning Balance	\$2811.78
		Plus Income	\$80.00
		IAS Account Sept. Ending Balance	\$2891.78
		IAS Heritage Fund Account	\$5000.00
		Subtotal	\$7891.78
		Less Expenses	\$894.62
		Sept Ending Balance	\$6997.16

Membership Report

By Norita and Ken Callahan, Membership Directors

Céad Mile Fáilte: A hundred thousand welcomes to our new members: Rex & Rickisue Daly and Ryne L. Eversgerd.

As of October 18th, there are 99 family members (x 2), 140 single members, and a college student. This is a total of 339 IAS members for the 2015 membership year.

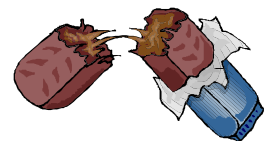
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE STILL SEEKING PULL-TAB DONATIONS! The aluminum or steel pull tabs donated from beverage cans or ANY kind of canned food (6000 + pounds annually) generate funds to offset The House expenses. YOUR donations make a significant impact and are very much appreciated.

Cans for Celts

Help raise funds for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games in 2016! 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 this time or large appliances. I don't have room for them.) For pick up between meetings – contact Paul McDonough @ 505-294-8205 and leave a message. Thank you!

Candy Bars for Celts!

Besides the Cans for Celts fundraiser for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival, we are now also trying to raise money by selling candy bars at \$1.00 each. Candy can be purchased at any meeting from Paul McDonough.



Celtic Music Sessions at Apple Mountain Music:

- ♣ Slow Celtic Session, 10 AM to 12 noon, first Saturday of every month.
- ♣ Scottish Session, 2 PM to 4 PM, second Sunday of every month.
- ♣ Open Irish Session, 2 PM to 4 PM, third Saturday of every month.



For info, contact Apple Mountain Music, 10301 Comanche NE, 505-23-2048.

St. Andrew Scottish Society Annual Burns Night Dinner



January 23rd, 2016 5 - 9 PM
Hotel Cascada, 2500 Carlisle Blvd NE
Formal Dress or Formal Scottish Kilt required

Ticket Prices:
November 1 - 30
\$50 / Member, \$60 / Non-Member
\$475 for a Table of 10*
December 1 - January 17
\$55 / Member, \$60 / Non-Member
\$500 for a Table of 10*

*When purchasing a table, the whole table (10 seats) must be purchased. No exceptions.

Tickets can be purchased Online [HERE](#), or by mailing in a check to SASSNM: Burn's Night, P.O. Box 37288, Albuquerque, NM, 87176. If mailing a payment in, please ensure that payment is received by the deadlines above for the proper prices to remain in effect. Also include a list of those Members attending, and whether they want the Meat Dish, or the Vegetarian Dish.

If you have any questions contact Jacob Wilson at 505-289-0577 (jacobawilson@hotmail.com)

Two New Courses Coming Soon from 3Lmusic!

We are delighted to announce that we are in the process of preparing two new courses. These are the improver courses that follow on from the beginner's tin whistle and flute courses already available on the 3lmusic.com website. Each of these new courses will contain 10 well-known Irish tunes, which you will hear played at any Irish music session. Now you can join in instead of just listening!! We have also received quite a number of emails from people asking the difference between a jig and a reel, so we've decided to prepare a short course explaining how jigs, reels, hornpipes, and polkas differ from one another. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to be kept updated on when these new courses are launched.



LEARN TO PLAY AN
INSTRUMENT AND
TRADITIONAL MUSIC
ONLINE

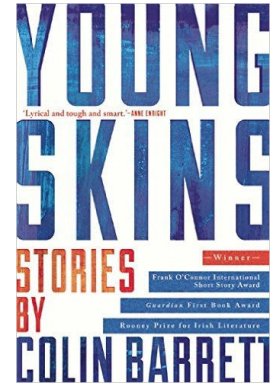
Book Reviews

Young Skins, by Colin Barrett

Reviewed by IAS member David M. Walsh

Colin Barrett is on a roll. The thirty-something writer from Knockmore, Ireland, has reaped piles of praise for his debut book, *Young Skins*, garnering multiple literary awards from across the pond. *Young Skins* has now made its way stateside to win over more readers – welcomed by a favorable New York Times Book Review in March of 2015.

Young Skins is a collection of seven stories that are set in a fictional Irish town. All the stories are separate tales unto themselves, though similar themes abound throughout the book. The characters in *Young Skins* are in a struggle to overcome their stagnant lives. Among others, there's the shy sidekick, the binge-drinking alcoholic, and the ethnocentric, small-town bouncer. All the while, the specter of tough circumstances looms as a would-be robber discovers his loot to consist of worthless Irish pounds, and a lonely, victimized gas station attendant finishes off a late night in the company of his aging mother.



Yet the players in *Young Skins* are not mere simplistic pawns; they are multifaceted and sometimes done in by squandered opportunities and misguided choices. The longest story of the book, “Calm with Horses,” features a former boxer aptly named “Arm,” who has an autistic son. Arm, who is the muscle for his drug-dealing partner, is interrogated about his retirement from boxing, “So that’s that. You do a good thing and you’re good at it, presumably, and then one day you . . . just . . . stop.”

Barrett’s prose is heavy with metaphors and apparent subtext. There’s the use of the term “skin” in its various forms. And in the final story, “Kindly Forget My Existence” (a title stolen from a James Joyce character), a coat is left behind and uncollected in a pub after two patrons try to muster up the courage to attend a former band-mate’s funeral.

Despite its tragedies, the stories in *Young Skins* also have a persistent clever wit. One protagonist declares, “I left the city with my connections scorched and my prospects blown, looking only for somewhere to batten down for the winter.” In the story “Bait,” an elderly pub’s customers are depicted as “mostly fat men with dead wives hefting pints into their bloated, drink-cudged faces.” Altogether, Barrett’s writing is superb and is what ultimately makes his book such an enjoyable read. One will want to revisit *Young Skins* to pick up what was missed the previous times around.

Bring Us Back an Owl’ Bucket of Ice, by Michael Collins

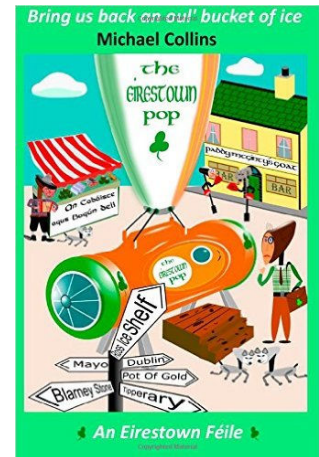
Reviewed by IAS newsletter editor Ellen Dowling

Sure, and isn’t this a grand sweeping novel, a kind of a mash-up of George Lukas, Steven Spielberg, Roddy Doyle (for the Irishness of it), James Joyce (for the incomprehensibility of it), and Doug Adams (for the future shenanigans).

The list of characters in this howl of an Irish adventure by Michael Collins is quite extensive and mostly robotic. They include a megalomaniacal villain, William McCoy The Third (not so fondly referred to by the Irish heroes as “William McCoy Da Turd”), an iShillelagh (a robotocized walking stick) named Malachy

Malarkey, a dark-skinned man named Donn-Dubh whose hat contains everything including two kitchen sinks, Seamus the green penguin who speaks with an Irish accent, and Paddy San and Mai-Ly, both robots and both ninjas. Oh, and did I mention the iShillelagh Irish Wolfhounds?

If you think the inhabitants of this tale are astonishingly strange, so is the tale itself, which involves a nefarious plot set in motion by the aforesaid William McCoy Da Turd to promote his land acquisition company, GRABiT, by melting the Ross Ice Shelf (an actual thing, off the edge of Antarctica) and then, once the world was flooded (and Ireland itself disappeared into the sea), sell the available remaining high-ground land at exorbitant prices. A band of hardy (and hilariously inept) denizens of Eirestown (an unreal place in Ireland that, like Brigadoon in Scotland, can only be found by magic) sets out to stop Da Turd and save the world. Will they succeed? Perhaps only an old Irish granny knows for sure.



As for the meaning of the book's title, I'll leave that to you to discover for yourself.

[Editor's Note: Both books can be found on Amazon.]

What Will Happen to Ireland if the Polar Ice Caps Melt?

It seems that Michael Collins' premise in his book *Bring Us Back an Oul' Bucket of Ice* is not all that fantastical. An interactive map, produced by National Geographic, shows what the world would look like if all the ice melted and ran into the sea. Ireland, for a start, would be considerably more waterlogged.

Calculations indicating that the sea-level would rise by 66 meters mean that much of the west of Ireland would be lost to the Atlantic Ocean. Two-thirds of the region of Connacht would be submerged. National Geographic states "There are more than five million cubic miles of ice on Earth, and some scientists say it would take more than 5,000 years to melt it all. If we continue adding carbon to the atmosphere, we'll very likely create an ice-free planet, with an average temperature of perhaps 80 degrees Fahrenheit instead of the current 58."

Throughout the rest of Europe their maps show similar devastation. In the United Kingdom, London would be enveloped by the River Thames and the English Channel. Venice, Italy would disappear, while the Mediterranean and the Caspian Sea would swamp various nations' coastlines. As for North America, "The entire Atlantic seaboard would vanish, along with Florida and the Gulf Coast. In California, San Francisco's hills would become a cluster of islands and the Central Valley a giant bay. The Gulf of California would stretch north past the latitude of San Diego—not that there'd be a San Diego." The areas worst affected would be in Asia, where Bangladesh and a huge swathe of China would sink into the sea.

Just last week Evan Burgess, a PhD in geography and glacial expert living in Alaska, told KSL.com, "Each year Alaska is losing about 50 cubic kilometers of ice. That's (the equivalent of) about three full Great Salt Lakes draining out of these mountains every single year," he said. "So, that's a lot of ice going into the oceans."

You can find the interactive map here: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/09/rising-seas/if-ice-melted-map>

Learn to Play Gaelic Football in Albuquerque!



The Albuquerque Gaelic Football Club is looking for new recruits, with or without previous experience. Come and try out the most popular field sport in Ireland! You don't even have to be Irish! Just be ready to have a great time playing this fantastic sport.

Where: UNM Johnson Field, Redondo Drive, UNM campus

When: Wednesdays, 6.30 PM, and Saturdays, 10.00 AM

For more information, contact

Alan Markey: (505) 980-9658 liveitlad@gmail.com

John Whitney: (505) 382-8778 johnwhitney1181@yahoo.com

Graham Matthews: (303) 667 5010 ireland111@yahoo.com

Celtic Society of UNM



Contact: Jennifer DeMerritt @

Celticunm@unm.edu

Phone: 505-916-9172

Irish Music Session

There is an open Irish music session every Thursday night at Joliesse Chocolates, on 4th St, Albuquerque, 7-9. All are welcome to participate or just enjoy listening. We play mostly traditional Irish tunes, and do some singing as well. Musicians, please bring a chair as the venue may not have enough.

New from Apple Mountain Music! Slow Celtic Session

Tom Tunney, Host. Please join us from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM on *the first Saturday of every month*, for a guaranteed **SLOW Celtic session**. (Fee: Donation.) The tune list will be limited to about a dozen tunes at a time so we can learn them from memory. We will work on how to learn the tunes using recordings and sheet music as well as various resources available online. It's not necessary to know how to read music, but we will spend some time learning that if anyone is interested. All instruments are welcome, but you should be able to play at least at a beginner's level.

Apple Mountain Music
10301 Comanche NE, Albuquerque

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, and classes in Socorro on Saturdays, 3:30 - 6 PM at the Cottonwood Valley Charter School. Call 866-5867 for information or visit our web site at www.irishdancem.org and www.colemanacademy.com.

♣ **Tir Conaill Academy of Irish Dance,** Saturdays at the New Mexico Irish Dance Company, Suite 3, 12700 San Rafael (Quail Run Shopping Center), Albuquerque. Call 379-3753 or visit www.tirconaillacademy.org 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.)

An advertisement for Two Fools Tavern. The top half features the text "Two Fools Tavern" in a large, stylized font, with the tagline "where the Craic is Mighty!" below it. The middle section shows a collage of images: the interior of the pub with a bar, a plate of fish and chips, and a fireplace. The bottom section contains text: "Albuquerque's only authentic Irish pub", "Food Served Daily 11am-11pm", "Friday and Saturdays until 12am", a logo featuring a red devil figure, and "Enjoy the best Fish and Chips this side of the Pond, along with a perfectly poured Guinness or sample New Mexico's most extensive Scotch Whisky Selection." The website "www.2foolstavern.com" and phone number "(505) 265-7447" are listed, along with the address "3211 Central Ave. N.E. in historic Nob Hill".

Celtic Music at O'Niell's:

Music every Sunday from 4 to 7 PM at the "old" O'Niell's, 4310 Central Ave SE (Corner of Central & Washington in East Nob Hill) and the "new" location (3301 Juan Tabo NE, between Comanche and Candelaria). For more info, visit <http://www.oniells.com/>

An advertisement for O'Niell's. It features a large, stylized green "O'Niell's" logo at the top. Below it, the text reads "Award Winning Food", "Best Late Night Happy Hour", "Dog Friendly Patio", and "Good Food. Honest Drink". The background shows a dimly lit interior of the pub with a bar and patrons.

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 Bill McCoy and Kathy Wimmer. For information, contact Bill McCoy at 897-4407.

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

Celtic music from Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, and Galacia, 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)

A Jug of Punch, featuring triple distilled Irish-American fun! Flutes, accordion, mandolin, violin, and guitar. Contact: Cleve Sharp, 505-507-9915 (clevelans@comcast.net)

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

Eagle's Whistle: Same group, but also with Andy Moss on whistle and concertina.

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



IAS T-Shirts for Sale!

You can get yours at any IAS meeting, or contact Paul McDonough to arrange purchase (penthormul@aol.com, 294-8205). The T-shirts come in a variety of sizes, from small to XXL. There are also white shirts with a Celtic knot and the Zia symbol. T-shirts are \$15 for short sleeve; \$20 for long.

Calendar of Events

IAS Events

Date	Day	What
November 3	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
November 13	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program , 7 PM at the GAC, performance by the Red Light Ramblers.
December 1	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
December 13	Sunday	IAS Annual Christmas Party , 1 to 5 PM at the GAC. (Details in the December newsletter.)

Celtic/GAC Events

November 5, 12, 19	Thursdays	Irish Music Session , every Thursday night at Joliesse Chocolates, in the North Valley at 6855 4th Street NW, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, 7 to 9 PM. For more info, contact Harlow Pinson at hpinson@indepthl.com .
November 7	Saturday	Slow Celtic Session at Apple Mountain Music, 10 AM to 12 noon. (For more info, contact Apple Mountain Music, 10301 Comanche NE, 505-237-2048.)
November 8	Sunday	Scottish Session at Apple Mountain Music, 2 PM to 4 PM. (For more info, contact Apple Mountain Music, 10301 Comanche NE, 505-237-2048.)
November 11	Wednesday	Opening of Fasching Ceremony at 11:11 AM at the GAC.
November 14	Saturday	Opening Fasching Ball at the GAC from 7:00 to 11:00 PM. Music by the Swing Shift Band. Cost \$10.
November 15	Sunday	Jazz Sunday at the GAC, 2 to 5 PM. (\$5 for IAS members.)
November 21	Saturday	Open Irish Session at Apple Mountain Music, 2 PM to 4 PM. (For more info, contact Apple Mountain Music, 10301 Comanche NE, 505-237-2048.)

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.





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 _____

Would you like to receive the IAS newsletter electronically? YES/NO

(Note: Student members automatically receive the online newsletter.)

Birthday (Name) _____ Month _____ Day _____ (optional)

Birthday (Name) _____ Month _____ Day _____ (optional)

Anniversary Month _____ Day _____ (optional)