

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

SEPTEMBER 2024

Note: Irish-American Society meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month, **except during July and August** (and for special events), at the **Ramada Plaza** (2020 Menaul Blvd NE).

# Next Meeting September 13, 2024 7 PM In the Ramada Plaza Atrium Ballroom

# The Music of Modern Irish Poetry, From Yeats to Lankum By Poet and Irish Scholar Bill Nevins



At our first get-together after the summer break, Bill Nevins, MA, will take a look at some of the Irish poets who've given the world a century of wild, weird, and wonderful lyrics, epics, and songs. He will touch upon works by Seamus Heaney, Sinead McClure, Thomas Kinsella, Radie Peat, Eavan Boland, Christy Moore, Shane MacGowan, and maybe even those "Belfast bad-boyz" Kneecap, in a light-hearted introductory trip through contemporary "Celtic" verse in the new *Eire*.

Bill is a New Mexico poet and journalist who has enjoyed Irish poetry and songs ever since he first heard his Tipperary-born great-grandmother singing "Molly Malone." Bill graduated from Iona College, did graduate work in literature at the University of Connecticut and UC Berkeley, and worked as a magazine reporter visiting Ireland during the "Troubles" and in more recent, happier times. Along the way, he's enjoyed concerts by and spoken with The Clancy Brothers & Tommy Makem, The Pogues, Christy Moore, Sinead O'Connor, Terence Winch, and Paul Muldoon, among many others. He's taught at UNM and other schools, and he's always known that Irish/Celtic poetry and music are joyously ever-intertwined. Bill will also give this presentation at the Spanish Peaks International Celtic Music Festival in Colorado, September 19-22.

This event is free and open to the public, so invite your friends! Coffee and tea will be provided; there is a cash bar adjacent. We ask that you bring a sweet or salty snack to share.

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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 (<a href="mailto:edowling@standuptrainer.com">edowling@standuptrainer.com</a> 505-307-1700). Your sponsorship will also appear on the IAS website (<a href="www.irishamericansociety-nm.com">www.irishamericansociety-nm.com</a>) at no extra charge.

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## President's Message

By Caren Garcia

I hope you all have had a great summer and are all set for a busy fall! I am looking forward to getting together again soon. September is going to include a wonderful evening hearing and learning about modern Irish poetry on the 13<sup>th</sup> and socializing at the annual Irish/Scottish Picnic on the 21<sup>st</sup>. We had a great turnout last year and it was a blast. Bring the whole family and a side dish or dessert to share. This year the St. Andrew Scottish Society will be responsible for the main entrée. Please support both our organizations and have a great time to boot. [Note: Watch your email for a flyer with details about the picnic!]

Speaking of supporting local talent, those who attended the Ceili event at the GAC on August 17<sup>th</sup> had a great time with the opportunity to learn some of the dances. Anyone interested in Ceili dancing is invited to come by the GAC on Wednesday nights 6:30-8:30 and learn for \$5!

We hope you all have enjoyed our newsletters throughout the summer break, as we continue to keep lines of communication open, and your Board of Directors continues to work on future events, membership and finances year-round. See you all soon!



# **Membership Report**

By Molly Martin

**Cead Mile Failte:** No new members this month. I don't know about everyone else, but I'm looking forward to sweater weather and some good books by the fire. Summer is not giving up easily this year, though. Hope everyone is staying cool and looking forward to our general meeting this month. It will be good to see everyone again. We have a grand total of 125 members, which includes 1 student membership, 38 single memberships, and 86 family members.



### Flowers of the Forest

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Rogene Faulkner Henderson, mother of long-time IAS member Edie Henderson Brooks. A tireless advocate for cleaner air and a pioneering scientist whose work helped advance the study of air pollution and its control, Dr. Henderson died August 5, 2024, at the age of 91. A memorial service is planned for 2 PM September 14<sup>th</sup>, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque.

After earning her doctorate in chemistry at the University of Texas, she joined the newly established Lovelace Inhalation Toxicology Research

Institute in Albuquerque, where her work on biomarkers in lavage fluids helped advance the field of inhalation toxicology. As chairwoman of the US Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, she oversaw critical recommendations for revised ozone and particulate emissions, regularly testifying in Congress about the need for cleaner air. In 2021, the Society of Toxicology awarded her the Merit Award, calling her "a groundbreaker in chemistry and biochemistry and a leader for women in science during a time when gender diversity in the sciences was uncommon and the scientific world was composed mostly of men."

She is survived by three children and five grandchildren. May she rest in peace.

#### Treasurer's Report July 1 - 31, 2024\*

Kathy	Wimmer,	, Treasurer
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			Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer		
Category	Income	come Category		Expenses	
Membership: electronic/Square (less fees;					
see expenses)	\$30.00		Square fee: membership	-\$1.17	
<b>Total Income</b>	\$30.00		Total Expenses	-\$1.17	
			IAS Account prior month's		
			ENDING balance	\$5,500.17	
			Plus Income (current month)	\$30.00	
			Less Expenses (current month)	(-\$1.17)	
	Loss/Gain		+\$28.83		
			*Ending Balance as of date of		
			report	\$5,529.00	



#### More about the ABQ Folk Fest:

Canadian fiddler April Verch, Irish band the Consequences, and Ceili dancing are featured at this year's Albuquerque Folk Festival, Sunday, September 29, at the National Hispanic Cultural Center.

The festival is a full, one-day event with 100 hours of activities in musical performances, workshops, jams, dance, sing-alongs, storytelling and more and features musicians from international, national and regional locales and traditions.

We emphasize participatory sessions such as teaching instruments and styles, songs, jams hosted by the artists, sign-up stage and community music performance.

More information at: www.abqfolkfest.org

#### The Irish Book Club

If you are on Facebook, just type The Irish Book Club into the search bar (or click on <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/2022642747761043/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/2022642747761043/</a>) and you'll find us. Our book for July was *Days without End* by Sebastian Barry; for August, we're discussing *The Valley of the Squinting Windows* by Brinsly McNamara; our book for September is *The Searcher* by Tana French.

#### Days without End, by Sebastian Barry

Amazon's description: "From the two-time Man Booker Prize finalist Sebastian Barry, 'a master storyteller' (*Wall Street Journal*), comes a powerful new novel of duty and family set against the American Indian and Civil Wars

Thomas McNulty, aged barely seventeen and having fled the Great Famine in Ireland, signs up for the U.S. Army in the 1850s. With his brother in arms, John Cole, Thomas goes on to fight in the Indian Wars—against the Sioux and the Yurok—and, ultimately, the Civil War. Orphans of terrible hardships themselves, the men find these days to be vivid and alive, despite the horrors they see and are complicit in.

Moving from the plains of Wyoming to Tennessee, Sebastian Barry's latest work is a masterpiece of atmosphere and language. An intensely poignant story of two men and the makeshift family they create with a young Sioux girl, Winona, *Days Without End* is a fresh and haunting portrait of the most fateful years in American history and is a novel never to be forgotten."

Book Club reviewers: "I really, really liked it. I didn't think it possible to put a fresh spin on the Wild West stories, but he sure did. A very smooth, conversational style of writing, with some eloquent phrases thrown in at unexpected times." (Kathleen Stanton)

"Such an amazing story about two Irish teenagers (I think they were around 16 when they came to America) Thomas McNulty and 'Handsome' John Cole (as Thomas, who is also the narrator, always describes him) and oh, what adventures these two have! From the beginning, when these two 'very pretty' youths find themselves dressing up in women's clothes to be dancing partners for lonely women-less men, to fighting in the Indian wars before the Civil War, then fighting in the War itself, surviving a confederate POW camp ('Men so sick they are dying of death'), then setting up house with an Sioux warrior's daughter (they call her Winona), and even going so far as to get married! (Timothy puts on a gown and signs his name on the certificate as 'Thomasina' and he and Handsome John Cole get married by a nearly blind justice of the peace, LOL.)" (Ellen Dowling)

Sebastian Barry is an Irish novelist, playwright and poet. He was named Laureate for Irish Fiction, 2018–2021. Barry has been twice shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize for his novels *A Long Long Way* (2005) and *The Secret Scripture* (2008), the latter of which won the 2008 Costa Book of the Year and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. His 2011 novel, *On Canaan's Side*, was longlisted for the Booker. In January 2017, Barry was awarded the Costa Book of the Year prize for *Days Without End*, becoming the first novelist to win the prestigious prize twice.

## **Team Ireland Wins Big at Paris Olympics**

By Elena Gallegos

The 2024 Paris Olympics has come and gone and for Ireland it marks 100 years since joining the Olympics as an independent state.\* It also marks a series of milestones for the Emerald Isle and the athletes that represented her.

Team Ireland brought home four golds, making it the first time four different Irish athletes have won gold at the same games. In addition, Team Ireland earned three bronze, for a total of seven medals (besting their previous Olympic high of six medals won at the 2012 London games). This number seems miniscule compared to U.S. medal numbers, but while Ireland's medal count is not breathtaking, here's what her athletes accomplished:

- Mona McSharry kicked off the medal count with a bronze in the Women's 100m Breaststroke. The last time an Irish swimmer medaled in the Olympics was in the 1996 Atlanta games, when Michelle Smith won three golds and a bronze. Mona McSharry also holds six Irish national records.
- Swimmer Daniel Wiffen won gold and bronze in the 800m freestyle and 1,500m freestyle, respectively. It is the first time that Ireland has medaled in men's swimming. He also set a new Olympic record in the 800m freestyle with a time of 7:38.19.
- In artistic gymnastics, Rhys McClenaghan brilliantly executed the gold medal routine on the Men's Pommel Horse. He becomes the first gymnast to win a medal for Ireland with a score of 15.533.
- Kellie Harrington defended her title to become a two-time
   Olympic gold medal champion in Women's Light Boxing. Johnny
   Waterson writes from Paris, "In doing so Harrington made history
   by becoming the only Irish boxer ever to contest back-to-back
   Olympic finals in boxing, and the first Irish woman to win medals
   at two Olympic Games."



- In Rowing, Fintan McCarthy and Paul O'Donovan defended their 2020 Olympic champion title and won back-to-back gold in the Lightweight Men's Double Sculls, another first for Ireland. O'Donovan, now a three-time medal winner, previously won a silver at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro games in the same event with his brother Gary.
- Phillip Doyle and Daire Lynch outsprinted the Americans for the bronze in Men's Double Sculls. It is the first time an Irish crew medaled in the heavyweight double sculls.

An honorable mention must be made for the women's 4x400 relay track team. Led by Sophie Becker, with Rhasidat Adeleke, Phil Healy, and Sharlene Mawdsley on the final leg, they are the first women's relay team ever to make an Olympic final. In an edge-of-your-seat race, the Irish women finished in a bittersweet fourth place, beaten by Great Britain by less than two-tenths of a second and by the Netherlands by four-tenths of a second. To put things in perspective, with the exception of the 1988 Seoul Olympics, their time of 3:19.90 would have medaled silver in every past Olympics and would have won them gold in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Their split times were incredible and they smashed Ireland's National record of 3:24.38. In a brilliant first showing, they proved they belong on the world stage.

\*The 1924 Olympics was also held in Paris and Ireland won two medals in the Art Competition: Jack Butler Yeats won the silver for his painting and Oliver St. John Gogarty won the bronze for Literature.



## **Member Spotlight: JoAnn Rice**

By Elena Gallegos

I had the pleasure of interviewing JoAnn Rice for this month's member spotlight. JoAnn has been a member of the IAS for two years. She learned of the society from neighbors who are also members. You may have seen her playing the tenor drum with Sandia Peak Scottish Pipes and Drums (SPSPD) at the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival in May.

She started playing drums with SPSPD this past spring and is still working on getting her mallet flourishes waving just right, but her musical ambition does not begin here. JoAnn earned a band scholarship to Tulsa University and has an undergrad degree in organ performance. She also has an M.A. in sacred music and conducting from Union Theological Seminary in NYC. To complete her resume, she taught conducting at the Jewish Theological Seminary in NYC and was the

conductor of the Florilegium Chamber Choir and Orchestra. She plays almost all keyboard, percussion and brass instruments, and five years ago she began to learn to play the bagpipes.

She recalls that at four years of age she wanted to play the organ. As a 6th grader she wanted to play the snare drum, but a male teacher told her, "Girls don't play drums." Instead, he offered her the glockenspiel (the bells). This incensed her and she refused to play it, but persisted in looking for another instrument she could play. She pointed to the trumpet and asked to play that. Again, the answer was, "NO!" because there were already twelve trumpeters. As a last resort, the director finally suggested the euphonium! Many years later, she also tried her hand at the violin. After all, she thought, a conductor should know how to play strings, too. Her cat, however, decided that enough was enough and literally sliced her throat when she jumped out the window to escape from all the racket. The cat was ok, but this effectively ended JoAnn's career as a violinist.

JoAnn is originally from Okmulgee, Oklahoma, but she is not a stranger to NM. Her father's family lived in El Paso and owned a summer house in Ruidoso, so JoAnn and her family would spend summers there visiting them. In the late 80s she had an extended stay with some friends in Santa Fe and would frequently drive down to Albuquerque, which she decided she liked better. After living in the flat plains of OK, she now enjoys the view of the majestic Sandia mountains and the rolling plains of the volcanic rift, as well as our ethnic diversity.

JoAnn's maternal grandmother was from Dunmanway, Co. Cork, "Hurley" being the family surname. The Hurleys came to America about 1840. Her maternal grandfather was a descendent of the original British Plymouth Colony settlers. Like her mother, JoAnn identifies with her Irish side the most. As a child she remembers wearing her little kilt and the Irish phrase "Erin Go Bragh" frequently declared in the household. Green décor and greenery from the flower shop her mother owned also decorated the house. Before St. Patrick's Day, fingers and nails would become green too with all the flowers her mother would dye for the special occasion.

Her father was of Scots-Irish and Welsh descent. His ancestors emigrated from Northern Ireland to Pennsylvania in the 17th century, and then settled in Virginia where the surname "Rhys" was changed from the Welsh spelling to "Rice."

JoAnn was raised Presbyterian but converted to Judaism because she felt that the ethos of Judaism fits in more with her life philosophy. Her love of the Jewish faith inspired her to become a cantor. She studied Hebrew for five years and attended a four-year graduate program to become a cantor.

Since living in Albuquerque, she has been involved in various music organizations. She played the euphonium in the Albuquerque Concert Band for about seven years. For several years, she was the pianist at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, and she recently became the music director and organist at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

## **Governing the Republic**

By Caren Nicholson Garcia

The Republic of Ireland's type of government is called a Unitary Parliamentary Republic. The executive or Head of Government is the Taoiseach, similar to a Prime Minister (currently Simon Harris, elected April 9 of this year.) The President, currently Michael D Higgins (since 2011), is the Head of State and the principal representative of the country with foreign governments, and he also carries out ceremonial duties. The Dail Eireann is the lower house of the Legislature (see more below), which nominates a Taoiseach who is then appointed by the President. Confused yet?

In a Parliamentary-style government, there are several parties and normally no party will get over 50% of the vote, so the leading party will form a coalition with one or more other parties who agree on at least some major issues, and then choose a leader to represent them. Their name will be submitted to the President, in the case of Ireland (and the King in the case of the UK). The Head of State will then appoint that individual to lead the government. A little clearer?

The Oireachtas is the Legislative Branch of government and is bicameral (two part) like ours, but includes a third party, the President (who is not the executive), as well. The two houses include an upper house (Senate) Seanad Eireann, and their House of Representatives, the Dail Eireann. Their powers and duties are derived from the Constitution of Ireland established July 1, 1937. There are 160 TDs or Deputies representing districts and 60 Senators who meet in Leinster House in Dublin. Getting easier?

The Dail must dissolve (return home) and a new election is held at least every five years. The Seanad election is held up to 90 days after the Dail has dissolved. The number of seats per party is determined by the proportion of the vote that they receive. If someone resigns or dies in office, a by-election is held to replace them.

The Dail is an elected body. Citizens 18 and older may vote for their representative. The Seanad is not directly elected and has a mixture of members (11) chosen by the Taoiseach, (6) appointed by the two state Universities, and (43) chosen by counsellors and parliament members. The President is elected every seven years with a maximum of two terms.



The President generally must sign all the bills passed by the Oireachtas, but may refer some to the Supreme Court to determine if they are constitutional.

The most important person at the present, appointed Taoiseach this year, is Simon Harris of the Fine Gael Party. He began as a Deputy for Wicklow in 20ll and a Minister of State in 2014. At 37, he is the youngest person appointed to this high office. His appointment followed the resignation of long-time politician Leo Varadkar. Initially a member of Fianna Fail, he was converted to Fine Gael Party where he has been a golden boy, nicknamed the "Tik-Tok Taoiseach" for his mastery of social networking. The other major party is Sinn Fein, however there is still a lot of resistance to their inclusion in leadership due to residual fallout from their association with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) during The Troubles.

That's it in a nutshell. It all makes sense now, right?

Due to the fact that both Irish Gaelic and English are national languages, everything, including street signs, are written in both languages, except in the specially dedicated areas known as the Gaeltecht, where Gaelic alone is permitted. These zones are intended to preserve both the language and other traditional practices for future generations. Many families send their children to camps during the summer to learn more about their heritage and be immersed in the language. The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) is also a government body and it promotes and manages athletic teams and competition in traditional sports such as football (soccer) and hurling (which I've heard described as ice hockey without the ice). GAA sports are very popular and represent their communities with dedicated followings, like New Mexico United does here.

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

#### **Bardic Sisters**

Storytelling, narratives, readings and poetry with and through musical accompaniment. Gwen Easterday and Kathy Wimmer on Celtic harps, other folk instruments, and vocals. Contact Kathy at kmillewimm@comcast.net (505-249-7012).

#### Colleens and Lassies

Featuring Irish and Scottish songs and tunes with Mary Templeton and Kathy Wimmer on fiddle, Celtic harp, and other instruments. Contact Kathy at <a href="mailto:kmillewimm@comcast.net">kmillewimm@comcast.net</a> (505-249-7012).

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

Celtic music from Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, and Galicia, spiced with jazz and world beat.
Contact: John Brinduse: jbrinduse@swcp.com

#### A Jug O'Punch

A trio playing Irish music galore! Contact Suzanne Taichert: <a href="mailto:suzannetaichert@gmail.com">suzannetaichert@gmail.com</a>

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

Michele Buchanan, Harper 765-1288 (tmbuchs@gmail.com)

#### Rye Creek

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

#### Celtic Coyotes

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

#### Friends Forever

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

# Sullivan & Forsyth: Irish Traditional Fiddle & Flute

Eileen Sullivan and Dain Forsyth's classic combination of fiddle and flute is rare these days, and these two deliver from the heart. Contact: Dain at dleeforsythe@gmail.com.

#### Irish Setters

A Celtic folk band playing traditional Irish tunes and songs on fiddle, banjo, guitar, and bass. Contact: Erika Gerety (erika@unm.edu)



#### **Culture All Around**

#### Dance Classes:

Brightburn Academy of Irish Dance (formerly Celtic Steps Arizona/New Mexico), at the McDermott Athletic Center, 801 Loma Colorado, Rio Rancho. Call 505-415-4390 or visit <a href="https://www.brightburnacademy.com">https://www.brightburnacademy.com</a> for further information.

*Ceili dance classes* are held every Wednesday at the GAC. The **new** time is 6:30 - 8 PM, \$5.00. No experience necessary! (For info, call Steve Laverty at 505-688-4756.)

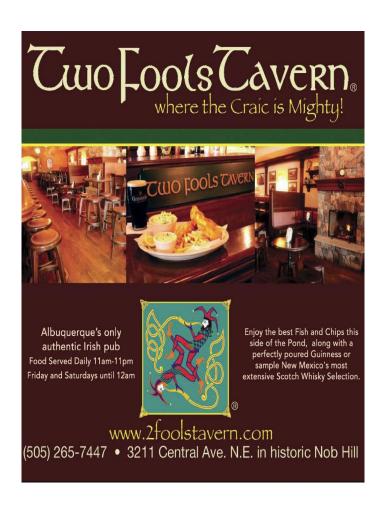


FOR INFORMATION ON CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AGES 4 & UP, AS WELL AS ADULTS,
SEE OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT KATE PADILLA, MSW, AT
(505) 415-4390
OR BRIGHTBURNACADEMY@GMAIL.COM

https://www.brightburnacademy.com

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

- ♣ The Thistle and Shamrock program, featuring Fiona Ritchie, airs on KANW 89.1 FM, Sundays at 12:00 noon.
- ♣ Celtic and Beyond, with co-hosts Ellie Blair and Kelly Clement, 7:00 PM each Wednesday on KTAOS 101.9 FM. (Also broadcast on the Web at www.ktao.com.)



#### 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

# **Calendar of Events IAS Events**

Date	Day	What			
September 5	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting, 7 PM on Zoom. All members are invited			
		to attend. (Email Kathy Wimmer for the link.)			
September 13	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program: A talk about contemporary Irish			
		poetry with Bill Nevins. See p.1 for details.			
September 21	Saturday	Annual Joint Family Picnic with the St. Andrew Scottish Society!			
		[Watch your email for a flyer with details to come.]			
Celtic Community Events					
September 5, 12,	Thursdays	Albuquerque Traditional Irish Music Open Session from 7-9 PM at			
19, 26	-	Hops Brewery, 7222 4 <sup>th</sup> Street. For more info, contact Harlow Pinson at			
		hpinson@indepthl.com.			
September 1 & 15	Sundays	Two Leaf Clover (Nikelle Gessner and David Garcia) play for Sunday			
		Brunch at Two Fools Tavern every 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month from			
		11 AM – 2 PM.			
September 3 & 17	Tuesdays	<i>Irish Sessions</i> on the first and third Tuesdays at the Taos Ale			
		House/Burger Stand, 401 Paseo del Pueblo Norte (across from the Post			
		Office), from 7-9 PM. For more information, call Jamie at 575-779-			
		1018 (jaima@taosnet.com).			
September 3, 10,	Tuesdays	The Irish Slow Session meets Tuesdays at 6:30 PM in the Manzano			
17, 24		Mesa Multi-Generational center, near Central and Eubank. For info,			
		contact Kip Malone on Facebook.			
September 4, 11,	Wednesdays	Ceili Dancing Classes at the GAC, 6:30 - 8 PM, \$5.00. No experience			
18, 25		necessary! (Call Steve Laverty at 505-688-4756 for info.)			
September 4, 11,	Wednesdays	Celtic Music Session at the Singing Arrow Community Center (13200			
18, 25		Wenonah Ave SE) from 5:45-7:45 PM. This is a sheet-music-			
		discouraged (but not prohibited) format and the music is the High & Dry			
G . 1 20	G 1	list. For more info, contact Bob Deaver (bpdeaver@gmail.com).			
September 29	Sunday	Albuquerque Folk Festival! See details on p. 4.			
September 17	Tuesday	Sullivan & Forsyth: Irish Traditional Fiddle & Flute perform at Trail			
		Rider Pizza from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Trail Rider Pizza is located at 12165			
		State Highway 14 N, Suite B2, Cedar Crest, NM 87008.			

Here is what we are able do with your generous donations and membership dues:

On the right is a copy of the thank you note that McTeggart Irish Step Dancer Emily Snell sent to the IAS for our stipend of \$100 toward her competition in Worlds. Emily is an amazing dancer and performer overall, and an award-winning step dancer.

Dear Irish American Society,
Thank you so much for sponsoring me for
the 2024 World Irish Dance Championships.
I made it to the second day of congetition,
(tophalf of dancers), and while I did not make
the second at of competitors. I placed 24th
in my qualifying split and aclaimed marks as
high as 11th place.
It means so much to me to have your support
and belief in me, and I am so very grateful for
your kindness and generosity. Mike bujochas! of
Much Love,

Even

# Irish-American Society of New Mexico

# **Membership Application/Renewal Form**

Please Check One:  Membership Application  Membership Renewal
First Name: Last Name:
If this is a renewal, has your contact information changed? Yes
Address:
Please choose your membership level:
☐ Student (\$25) ☐ Individual (\$30) ☐ Family (\$35)
Optional) If you receive your newsletter by US mail (instead of electronically), please consider adding an extra \$5 to your annual membership to help offset the costs of mailing and postage.  Enclosed is a total of \$
Please make checks payable to "The Irish-American Society" and mail to: P.O. Box 13435, Albuquerque, NM 87192-3435 OR You can also visit our website (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com) and pay by credit card.
How did you hear about us?
You can also visit our Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/The-Irish-American-Society-of-New-Mexico-175569365825710">https://www.facebook.com/The-Irish-American-Society-of-New-Mexico-175569365825710</a>