



# IRISH TIMES

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

JANUARY 2018

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, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM

### A Performance by the Bardic Sisters!

*Bardic Sisters* Gwen Easterday and Kathy Wimmer have been sharing their Celtic harp music with audiences for over fifteen years. With the groups *Children of Lir* and *Anam Cara*, they combine the music of harps with storytelling and perform at such locations as the Irish-American Society, Albuquerque and Rio Rancho libraries, and The Cell Theatre. They have performed with the early music quartet *Cantores Festivi* at the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and the Cherry Hills Library with their program, "Over the Hills and Far Away: Music and Tales of Celtic Lands through the Ages." They've also performed with *Cantores Festivi* at the Santa Fe and Albuquerque Renaissance fairs, and for the Institute of Medieval Studies, with their program of music of medieval Spain.



They formed the duo *Bardic Sisters* in 2017 to create and perform "The Music and Lore of Ireland: A St. Patrick's Day Celebration" to entertain guests with music and stories at the St. James Tearoom. They will reprise that program at our January IAS meeting!

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

### A Friendly Reminder:

Your dues are now due for the 2018 membership year. We are excited to announce that for the first time ever, the IAS will be accepting credit cards for membership dues! See p. 3 for information on how to pay by card, or check, or cash! (If your current membership card says "2018," your membership is good till Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.)

## 2018 Board Members and Committee Chairs

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Board	Volunteer needed!				
Board	Maureen Riley <a href="mailto:mriley6918@yahoo.com">mriley6918@yahoo.com</a>	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](mailto:edowling@standuptrainer.com) 307-1700). Your ad will also appear on the IAS website ([www.irishamericansociety-nm.com](http://www.irishamericansociety-nm.com)) at no extra charge.



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## President's Message

By Ellen Dowling

Dear IAS Members:

Happy New Year to all! Wishing you the best of all the Irish blessings for a happy and prosperous 2018! My first order of business here is to thank all of you who helped make our Christmas Party such a success: Bob Bryers (who MC'd the event) and his wife Vikki (who helped run the Silent Auction), Norita Callahan (who provided most of the items for the Auction), Pete McKenna (who helped set up the Auction), Maureen Riley (who ran the raffle), Don Hardy (Santa), Rose Marie Keating (who helped with the potluck), Jim Brauer (who helped with sound), our wonderful performers (Michael and Donna Coy, the Coleman Academy step dancers, and the Singing Pilgrims), and all of you who brought pot luck offerings and cakes for the cake walk!

We are looking towards an entertaining 2018, with lots of fun events scheduled so far, including the Bardic Sisters on January 12<sup>th</sup> (see the front page of this newsletter), Catherine Carter speaking on "The Ancient Sacred Sites of Ireland" on February 9<sup>th</sup>, and of course our annual St. Patrick's Day Party on actual St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>! We've already got the entertainers lined up and Miguel Mata has agreed to work his wonders on the corned beef and cabbage as he did last year, but we are also going to need a lot of help from you. **If you can volunteer, please let me know.**

### New! Now there are 3 convenient ways for you to pay for and/or renew your IAS membership!

1. Come to any meeting or event (like our January meeting) and give Norita a check or cash with the application form filled out.
2. Use the application form on the last page of the newsletter, fill it out, and mail it to our PO box with your check.
3. Go to the IAS website ([www.irishamericansociety-nm.com](http://www.irishamericansociety-nm.com)) and click on **Join the IAS!** **Get your membership here!** You will then be directed to a secure website where you can use a credit card to pay for your membership (family, individual, or student).

## Membership Report

By Norita and Ken Callahan

*Céad Mile Fáilte* (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes)! Welcome back to Ed Cole and Finan Gavahan!

Membership: As of December 17<sup>th</sup>, there are 101 single members, 89 (x 2) family members and 3 students. This is a total of 282 renewals and new members for the 2017 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 Jan Nielsen and Lottie McDonald.

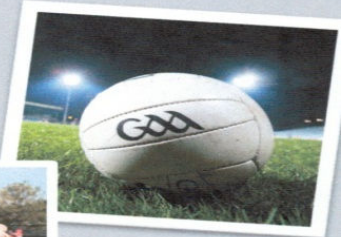
## Treasurer's Report November 2017

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Membership	\$137.06	U-Stor-It (Nov. rental)	\$35.00
Two Fools: Newsletter sponsorship	\$60.00	Norita Callahan: Reimbursement for Halloween party	\$70.02
O'Niell's Pub: Newsletter sponsorship	\$30.00	Susi Wolf: November entertainment	\$50.00
Amazon Smiles: donation program	\$10.51		
Ellen Dowling: donation to test Square online payments	\$0.81		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$238.38</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$155.02</b>
		IAS Account Oct. Ending Balance	\$7,345.33
		Plus Income (Nov)	\$238.38
		Less Expenses (Nov)	\$(155.02)
		November Ending Balance	\$7,428.69

# Albuquerque Gaelic Football Club

Wednesdays, 6pm at Bullhead Memorial Park



### No Experience Needed!

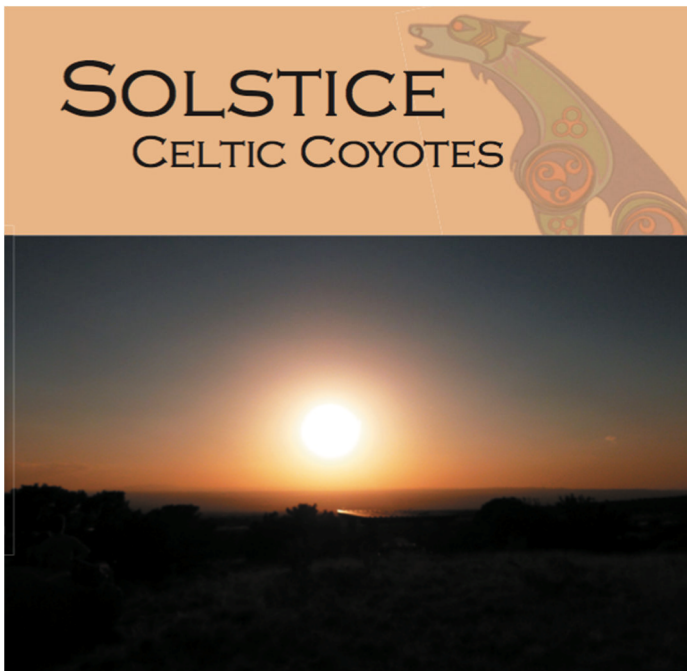
Albuquerque G.F.C. is looking for new recruits to play Ireland's Gaelic Football. Elements of soccer, rugby, even basketball and volleyball are included in this fantastic and challenging sport.

- \* FREE to join for the 2017 Season
- \* All are welcome
- \* Bullhead Memorial Park  
1606 San Pedro Boulevard, SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87108

For more information contact  
us at [abqgfc@gmail.com](mailto:abqgfc@gmail.com)

**IAS Raffle!**

IAS Board members Bob and Vikki Bryers have donated two tickets to **Celtic Nights: Oceans of Hope** for the IAS to raffle off as a fundraiser. The performance will take place at Popejoy Hall on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 3 PM. Raffle tickets for the middle of the mezzanine will be sold for \$5/ticket (for the pair of tickets) and 3 for \$10. (The tickets are worth \$48 each.) Raffle tickets can be bought at our January and February meetings. (You need not be present to win.)



The event of the Winter Solstice generates inspiring music for humanity. This CD captures the spirit of the season. The Celtic Coyotes trio perform on this CD with a few tracks that include percussion by Roger Hailstone, our emeritus drummer. Anita Amstutz, Doug Cowan, and Stephen Miller play traditional holiday selections along with some original songs written by Stephen.

*Happy Holidays!*



Information about the Celtic Coyotes and Stephen J. Miller can be found at [www.stepjml.com](http://www.stepjml.com). Contact: [celticcoyotes@yahoo.com](mailto:celticcoyotes@yahoo.com)

*St. Andrew Scottish Society of N.M. invites you to CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR - SCOTTISH STYLE !*

**HOGMANAY !**

**WHEN : SATURDAY, JANUARY 6. 2018  
POT LUCK - BRING A DISH TO SHARE !**

**TIME : 6 PM UNTIL THEY THROW US OUT !**

**WHERE - Albuquerque**

At a Private Club ( We've had it there before ), so...If you plan on going, contact Paul McDonough (505-294-8205) or any one else on the SASSNM Board  
**SEE YOU THERE !!!**

*The Celtic Coyotes have a New CD!*

*Solstice*, by the Celtic Coyotes, is a compilation of traditional holiday songs as well as original tunes written by Stephen Miller.

The 22 tracks on the CD include:

- ♣ Sussex Carol
- ♣ Holly & Ivy
- ♣ We Three Kings & I Saw Three Ships
- ♣ Brigid on the Rio Grande
- ♣ I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
- ♣ Mist Covered Mountains
- ♣ Coventry Carol
- ♣ Auld Lang Syne

To order your copy, contact [celticcoyotes@yahoo.com](mailto:celticcoyotes@yahoo.com)

## **Robbie Burns Dinner 2018 The Red, Red, Rose**



**The Saint Andrew Scottish Society of New Mexico invites you to the  
Annual 2018 Robbie Burns Dinner,  
celebrating the immortal works and life of Scotland's poet laureate.**

**Best Western Plus Rio Grande at Rio Grande and I-40  
January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Registration/Social Hour begins at 5:00 PM**

### **Gourmet Buffett Dinner Menu**

Mushroom Salad  
Field Green with Choice of Two Dressings  
Chef Carved Roasted New York Strip  
Salmon with a Black Bean Mango Salsa  
Chicken Breast with a Honey Piñon Cream Sauce  
Steamed Asparagus  
Oven Baked Baby Red Potatoes  
Baked Assortment of Dinner Rolls with Butter  
Freshly Brewed Coffee and Iced Tea  
Chef's Choice of Dessert

### **Entertainment Features and Activities**

High Desert Pipes and Drums, Celtic Steppers, Celtic Harpist, Scottish Toasts  
Robbie Burns Trivia, Silent Auction, Door prizes  
Drawing for a free night's stay at the Best Western Plus  
(Good for 2018, excluding the dates of the 2018 International Balloon Fiesta)

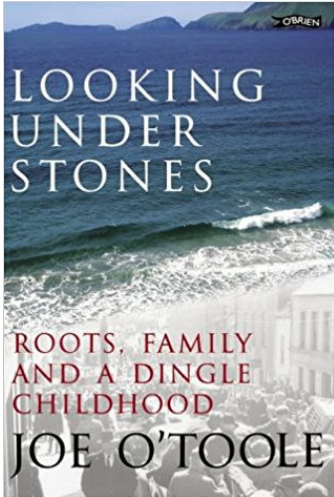
**Ticket sales available now at [www.SASSNM.org](http://www.SASSNM.org)**

Advance ticket prices;  
October 1st through November 30<sup>th</sup>: \$45.00  
December 1st through December 31<sup>st</sup>: \$50.00  
January 1st to January 20<sup>th</sup>: \$55.00

We have to provide the hotel with a firm count, therefore  
NO reservations accepted after January 20th  
NO last-minute reservations  
NO reservations at the door

## The Irish Book Club

The Irish Book Club meets at O’Niell’s Pub at Washington and Central at 7:30 PM, usually on the last Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be on January 25<sup>th</sup>, when we will discuss *Himself, A Novel* by Jess Kidd. If you’re interested in joining us, contact Ellen at 307-1700 ([edowling@standuptrainer.com](mailto:edowling@standuptrainer.com)).



At our November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, we discussed *Looking under Stones: Roots, Family and a Dingle Childhood*, by Joe O’Toole, who is an independent senator and President of ICTU (Irish Congress of Trade Unions). A teacher by profession, he was formerly General Secretary of the INTO, Ireland’s largest teaching union. He grew up in Dingle, County Kerry, and this book is a memoir of his happy childhood. We all found this book to be quite charming, but also relentlessly cheerful and so without much conflict to keep up our interest. (We rated it “Meh.” 😊)

We should inform you that our method for picking our monthly books to read is quite random: We found a list on the web of “Contemporary Irish Authors You Should Be Reading,” and once a month we randomly pick a book from the list. Thus there will be a clunker every now and then, but mostly good reads (and sometimes grand new discoveries) overall.

## Bucket List Filled: The Shermans Go to Ireland

[Editor’s Note: On August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, IAS members Natalie Sherman and her husband Ash arrived in Dublin for their first-time-ever visit to the Emerald Isle. Ash kept a journal of their daily adventures, and I’m including here—and in subsequent newsletters—some of his particularly interesting observations of Irish life and culture. Also please note that after their return on September 8<sup>th</sup>, Natalie’s cancer came back big time and she is now in hospice but hanging in there (as of this writing), and really appreciates your good thoughts and prayers.]

### *The Streets of Dublin*

Every day in the paper there were stories about a housing shortage in the country, and the government’s failure to do anything about it. Dublin is an old town, typified by red bricks and grey stones. Much of it was built before the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century, which makes urban renewal a tricky beast. No one wants to disturb the historical nature of the place, and yet modern electrical and sewage needs are pressing. The result, I think is a hodge-podge of little fixes that don’t always suit the longer-term needs. Typical are the long row houses, some of which had no running water, much less an efficient and effective sewage system. That the streets are as clean as they are, even far back from the tourist attractions, is a testament to the city’s effort to supply the needs of a modern urban area. We got caught in one of those “little projects.” Trying to get to a particular place, our driver familiar with Dublin streets took a turn onto a small street that turned out to be cordoned off so that a connecting street could be torn up. The barricade was manned by a young fellow leaning against the barricade, who signaled our driver to go back. “Can’t do that, mate. One way, you know; besides there’s room to get over to that street I want.” They argued with one another for a few minutes before we were allowed to proceed. Within a dozen yards, men working on excavating equipment were shouting insults at us and shaking their fists at the barricade man. When we got to the street our driver wanted to get to, we found it to be a dead end. Back

up a twisted five yards, we found ourselves facing back the way we had come. More shouting and fist shaking, but then we discovered an even narrower “street” that took us back to the street we started from. No signs anywhere, and I suspect that some of the “streets” don’t appear on any city map. Given that kind of difficulty, modernizing housing has got to be frustrating for everyone.

### *The Irish Countryside*

Natalie’s cousin Betty Cleary arrived at our hotel early to drive us out into the countryside, specifically to Avoca in County Wicklow. Avoca is sort of like Knott’s Berry Farm without the roller-coaster and rides. It was, and is a large farm producing vast amounts of fresh produce and dairy products, then they branched out to tap into the consumer market. In their central building is an amazing variety of products aimed at weekend travelers and tourists. There are probably a dozen small specialty restaurants to serve most tastes, but even the most basic serves a far better quality than most restaurants. Betty took us to one of the best. The restaurant was in a large solarium whose walls were of glass windows (12 over 12, with double sashes). Table linens were thick and luxurious, and the dinnerware had the feel of silver, though it was stainless steel.

### *On to Waterford*

In Waterford, we were met by Natalie’s cousin Chris, who drove us to our hotel (The Marina Lodge). Chris waited (smart woman) while Natalie and I saw the town’s famous Viking Tower, and their museum devoted to the town’s historic past. Uphill and down over narrow cobbled streets whetted our appetites. Later, we visited Chris at her home. She lives in a very small, but very common row house that is only about sixteen



feet wide, with narrow stairs leading up to the bedroom above. Cozy, but a bit crowded with her many golf trophies and mementoes. “I come down in the morning, and go up at night.” Fading photos pinned to walls, and a large collection of Waterford crystal that she was rightly proud of. She gave Natalie one of her prized Waterford cups to add to our collection, and showed us more of her needlework. Gorgeous hardly describes the intricate designs and patterns she is able to achieve. Some of her white on white work has won her trophies in local competitions. It seems that Cousin Chris uses much of her time creating intricate needlework by the light from her small window onto the street. I was impressed by two of her chairs, and later when touring Muckross House saw two identical chairs on display. Well, the upholstery was different. It was a very pleasant visit, and more enjoyable than tramping from tourist attraction to tourist attraction.

That night, we ate at MacLeary’s Restaurant. Like everywhere else in Waterford, there was rising excitement over the town’s up-coming hurling team championship bout. We were honorary citizens of Waterford for that match, and we watched closely as the championships grew closer. MacLeary’s fish & chips was the best I tasted on the whole trip.

To be continued . . .



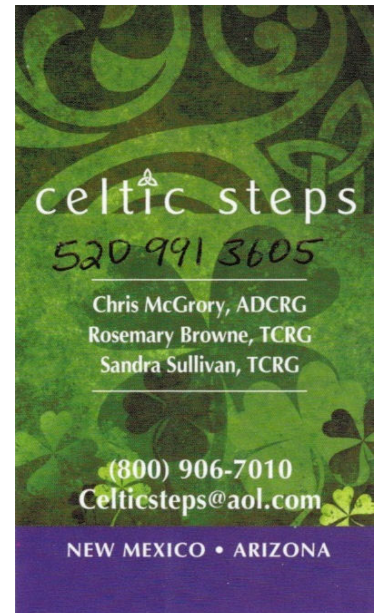
## Culture All Around

### Dance Classes:

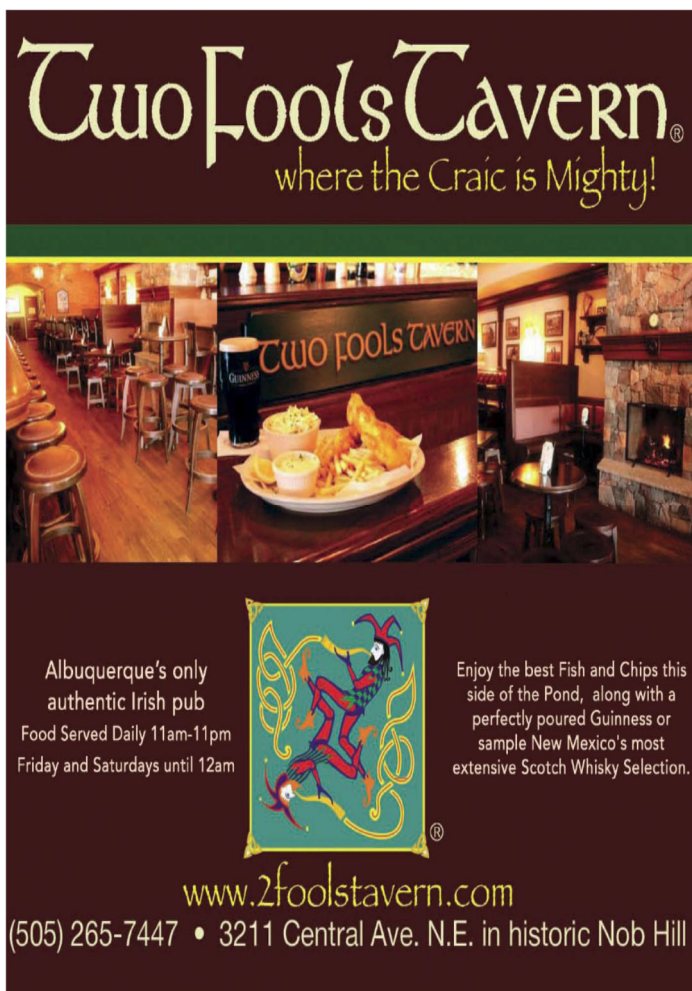
- ♣ **Coleman Academy of Irish Dance.** Saturdays, 8 AM to 1 PM at the Lloyd Shaw Dance Center, 5506 Coal SE. Call 866-5867 for information or visit our web site at [www.irishdancenm.org](http://www.irishdancenm.org) and [www.colemanacademy.com](http://www.colemanacademy.com).
- ♣ **Celtic Steps Arizona/New Mexico (formerly 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 <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](http://www.ktao.com).)



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### 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>



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## 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](mailto:kmillewimm@comcast.net))

### *Iscuma ("It Doesn't Matter")*

Traditional Irish and Celtic music with Kathy Wimmer and Marc Roberts. For information, contact Kathy at 249-7012.

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

Celtic music from Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, and Galacia, spiced with jazz and world beat. Contact: Harlow Pinson at [hpinson@indepthl.com](mailto: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](mailto:anslovernavy@comcast.net).

### *Carol Benson*

Strolling café fiddler, vocalist, Suzuki teacher, and symphony violinist. Contact: 505-268-0906 ([carolbens@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:clevelans@comcast.net))

### *Michele Buchanan and Shanachie Harpers*

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

### *Rye Creek*

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

### *Celtic Coyotes*

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

### *Friends Forever*

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

### ***Cans for Celts***

Help raise funds for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games in 2018! 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
January 2	Tuesday	<b>IAS Board of Directors meeting</b> , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
January 12	Friday	<b>IAS Monthly Meeting</b> , 7 PM at the GAC. Program will be a performance by <i>the Bardic Sisters, Irish Music and Lore</i> .
February 6	Tuesday	<b>IAS Board of Directors meeting</b> , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
February 9	Friday	<b>IAS Monthly Meeting</b> , 7 PM at the GAC. Program will be a lecture on "The Ancient Sacred Sites of Ireland" by Catherine Carter.

### Celtic/GAC Events

December 31	Sunday	<b>New Year's Eve Party</b> at the GAC with the Hit Squad Band. \$40 for dinner, champagne, and breakfast. (\$25 without dinner.) Call 888-4833 for reservations (when the GAC is open).
January 4, 11, 18, 25	Thursdays	<b>Irish Music Session</b> , 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 <a href="mailto:hpinson@indepthl.com">hpinson@indepthl.com</a> .
January 6	Saturday	<b>Slow Celtic Session</b> at Apple Mountain Music, 10 AM to 12 noon. (For more info, contact Apple Mountain Music, 10301 Comanche NE, 505-237-2048.)
January 6	Saturday	<b>Hogmanay</b> with the St. Andrews Scottish Society, 6 PM at the GAC. (See details on p. 5.)
January 13	Saturday	<b>Folk Music Jam</b> , led by IAS member Michael Coy, at Apple Mountain Music, 2 to 3:30 PM.
January 13	Saturday	<b>Krazy Ball</b> at the GAC. Dress in crazy costume. DJ Madie Mirabal. 7 to 11 PM, cost \$10.00.
January 14	Sunday	<b>Scottish Session</b> at Apple Mountain Music, 2 PM to 4 PM.
January 21	Sunday	<b>Jazz Sunday</b> at the GAC, 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Cost to IAS member \$5.00.
January 27	Saturday	<b>Masken Ball (Masquerade Ball)</b> at the GAC with the Hit Squad Band. 7 to 11 PM. Cost \$10.00.
January 27	Saturday	<b>St. Andrew Scottish Society Annual Burns' Night Dinner</b> . See p. 6 for details.

#### *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**  
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Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00

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How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_