

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

MARCH 2020

Note: Irish-American Society meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month, except during July and August (and for special events). The meeting location is the Memorial Hall at the First Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle Blvd NE, SW corner of Comanche and Carlisle.

Next Event:

St. Patrick's Day Party Sunday, March 15th, Noon to 4 PM



Piper Suzanne "Aden" Kemp

The Duke City Ceili Band

With Celtic harp, Highland Pipes, Ceili Band (and Dancing), Irish Step Dancers

And so much more!

Details on p. 6.

Get your tickets soon! (Last year we sold out.)







Celtic Harper Miranda Rensburger

Brightburn Academy of Irish Dance

A Friendly Reminder:

If you haven't renewed your membership, this will be your last newsletter. You can pay by credit card on our website (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com), or mail a check to our P.O. Box (address on last page of this newsletter), or give a check or cash to our Membership Chair at the St. Patrick's Day Party.

2020 Board Members and Committee Chairs

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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 (edowling@standuptrainer.com 307-1700).

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



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President's Message

By Ellen Dowling

Dear IAS Members:

And now it's almost March, that most Irish time of the year! Lots going on in the month (see the Calendar on p. 11), but most important is our **ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY** on March 15th! (Details can be found on p. 6.) Thanks again to the committee members for putting this all together (especially the amazing Kathy Wimmer!). And also special thanks to Tom Garrity (of The Garrity Group PR) for sponsoring the party's entertainment! With Ceili dancing, Irish step dancing, Irish songs, and lots of tasty Irish food (Irish stew, corned beef and cabbage, and Irish soda bread)—the party promises to be a full afternoon of good craic and malarkey! But be advised that seating is limited, and last year we sold out, so **GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

If you are planning to go to the party and can get there before noon, we need folks to help us decorate. Let me know if you can help.

I heard that Natasha Coffing put on a wonderful performance at our February meeting. It's really amazing how much talent can be found in our area. (When I tell folks in other places that there's an Irish club in Albuquerque, they are usually very surprised—New Mexico has an Irish club???) We also have an Irish Consul General nearby (in Austin, TX) and Claire McCarthy (she's the CG) will come to visit with us at our April 10 meeting.

I'd like to send another special shout out to Caren Garcia, who submitted the wonderful article on Irish history for this newsletter. Any other members out there have any kind of writings about things Irish that you'd be willing to share with us? Stories, poems, reviews of movies or plays, historical accounts, description of your own adventures in Ireland—as long as it's something Irish, we'd love to read them. Contact me for word limits and such.

Membership Report

By Brynn Cole

Céad Mile Fáilte (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes) to new members Gary Carter and family, Becky Meadows, Karen Wall, and students Emily Crutchfield, Ian Laverty, and Shawnae Tillitson! And a welcome back to Ernestine Chacon & Rory Tanuz and Maryann Fiore. Also a special welcome to Tom Garrity and family, sponsor of our St. Pat's Party entertainment!

It's March, which means it's the last chance to renew before your name gets taken off of the newsletter list. So be sure to get renewed! As of 2/20 we have 56 individual memberships, 3 students, and 44 (x 2) family memberships, for a total of 147 members. Good job to all of you the have renewed! Be sure to say hello to our new and recently returned 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 GAC bartenders Alicia, Ilin, Linda & Nyle, and also Barbara Nagey, Bob Newman, and Dennis & Rosalie Pfeiffer.



Treasurer's Report January 2020

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Electronic/Square: membership	\$71.91	U-Stor-It monthly storage fee	\$35.00
		Ck#164: First Unitarian Church (hall rental	
		for 2020 for monthly meetings)	\$390.00
		Ck#171: Norita Callahan (Christmas party	
Cash/checks IAS memberships	\$855.00	supplies \$8; stamps \$11)	\$19.00
Cash/check GAC associate		Ck#172: Gwen Easterday (newsletter	
memberships	\$65.00	printing)	\$43.81
		Ck#173: ABQ Party Space (reservation	
Electronic/Square donation	\$23.97	deposit for Mar. 15 St. Pat's party)	\$100.00
		Ck#174: Cian Fulton (party favors for kids	
Christmas Party: cakewalk	\$30.00	at Christmas party)	\$31.58
		Ck#201: ABQ Party Services (deposit for	
		catering at St. Pat's party)	\$200.00
Total Income	\$1,045.88	Total Expenses	(\$819.39)
		IAS Account prior month's ENDING	
		balance	\$7,917.74
		Plus Income (current month)	\$1,045.88
		Less Expenses (current month)	(\$819.39)
		Current month's Ending Balance	\$8,144.23

IAS General Meeting Minutes February 14th, 2019

Tracee Edwards, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10 p.m. by Larry Compton, Vice President. Larry introduced visitors and welcomed visitors and members. Happy Valentine's Day!

Introduction of the Board Members who were present: Larry Compton, Vice President; Kathy Wimmer; Treasurer; Tracee Edwards, Secretary; Board Members Maureen Riley, Molly Martin, and Gwen Easterday.

BUSINESS

Time to renew your IAS membership for 2020! Renewal may be done on-line or by seeing Norita this evening.

Time to purchase your tickets for a fun-filled St. Patrick's Day Party on March 15, 2020! Tickets may be purchased online or you can buy this evening from Kathy. Ticket prices are \$25 for admission and dinner; \$15 for admission without dinner. Performers will be \$20 for admission and dinner. Alcohol will be served - \$5.00 a drink.

UPCOMING EVENTS

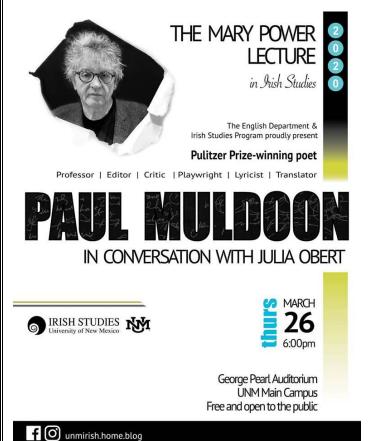
*March 7th, Saturday: Performance by Irish band Saiorse at Solid Grounds Coffeehouse, 4601-4699 Juan Tabo Blvd NE from 7-9 PM.

*March 15th, Sunday: IAS St. Patrick's Day Party at Albuquerque Party Space; 300 Menaul Blvd. NW, Suite 200 from 12-4. Buy tickets online or see Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer.

*March 26th, Thursday: The Mary Power Lecture in Irish Studies at UNM featuring Paul Muldoon, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet at George Pearl Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public. (March 7th, Saturday, IAS member Bill Nevins will be hosting an introduction to Paul Muldoon at Jules Poetry Playhouse in Placitas from 11-2.)

REFRESHMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Housekeeping reminder: Please pitch in at end of evening to help tidy up (no rush) and put up table and chairs. Thank you. Meeting was adjourned for delicious refreshments and a wonderful performance by the talented Natasha Coffing!



Poet Paul Muldoon will Visit NM!

Paul Muldoon, the great Irish poet, will be making several public appearances in New Mexico this March. Muldoon is one of the most famous living Englishlanguage poets, yet his best work is rooted in a distinctly Irish (Gaelic) sensibility. On March 19th, at 6 PM, Paul Muldoon and his wife, novelist Jean Hanff Korelitz, will attend a book-signing at Bookworks in Albuquerque. On March 22nd, he will read his poetry at Albuquerque Chatter Sunday, 10:30 AM, and at Santa Fe Teatro Parguas, at 6 PM. On March 26th, at 6 PM, he will read and be interviewed as part of the Mary Power lecture series at the UNM Irish Studies program (see box on left).

Paul Muldoon was born in Portadown, County Armagh, Northern Ireland in 1951. His father was a farmer, his mother a school teacher. Mulsoon's mentor and friend was the late Irish poet Seamus Heaney. An immigrant and now a US citizen, Paul Muldoon has taught at Princeton University for more than thirty years and served as Poetry Editor of the New Yorker magazine.

And there's more: On Saturday, March 7th, from 11 AM to 2 PM, IAS member (and fellow poet) Bill Nevins will provide an introduction to Paul Muldoon's poetry at <u>Jules Poetry Playhouse</u> in Placitas. To register for the class, click <u>here</u>.

You are invited! The Annual IAS St. Patrick's Day Party!

Sunday, March 15, 2020

12:00 NOON - 4:00 PM

Prices:

Entry and Dinner - \$25.00

Adult Entry Only - \$15.00

Children 5-12 Entry Only - \$5.00

Children under 5 - free (parents may brown bag dinner for their children)

Dinner served from 12:00 noon until 3:00

Menu:

Corned Beef & Cabbage, Irish Stew, Soda Bread, Soft Drinks

Beer and Wine will be available for purchase at the venue from noon until 3:30!

Deadlines:

Limited Seating
Purchase Dinner tickets by March 11th

Entry Only will be sold through March 15th IF AVAILABLE

http://www.irishamericansociety-nm.com/

Entertainment:

(with time between acts for take down and set up; subject to minor adjustments)

12:00 - Celtic Harp - Miranda Rensberger

1:00 - Sing Along with Irish Favorites

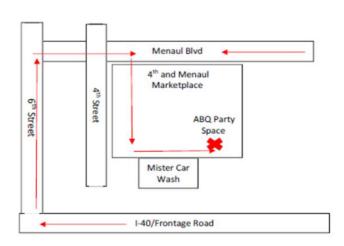
1:30 - Brightburn Academy of Irish Dance

2:15 – Pied Pipers! (Hear the music of different types of pipes)

2:45 and beyond – Duke City Ceili Band – music and audience participation for dancing with Norita Callahan and Ceili Dancers

Location:

ABQ Party Space 300 Menaul NW, Suite 200 In the 4th and Menaul Marketplace Look for the green balloons!



The First Hundred Years

By IAS member Caren Garcia

The Republic of Ireland is celebrating a "Decade of Centenaries" surrounding the Irish War of Independence, 1919-21. The infamous Easter Uprising of 1916 was the culmination of 700 years of British rule, which resulted in the execution or imprisonment of many separatists, but sparked a movement that would ultimately lead to the formation of the Republic.

Before I return to the current celebrations, a quick review is in order. Following the conclusion of what we in America call World War I, on January 21, 1919, Irish nationalists declared the independence of the isle. A group of 27 men formed the first *Dail Eireann* (Irish Parliament) and the *Sinn Fein* party. They asked that the "free nations of the world" recognize the Republic. The spark that lit this fuse also resonated with countries around the world that were under the thumbs of colonial powers and led to a globe forever changed.

Cultural and economic independence was the goal, finally putting the Irish people first in the use of indigenous resources, to include food security for the populace. Unmoved, the Protestant North remained loyal to the British crown, laying the foundation for the Troubles to come.

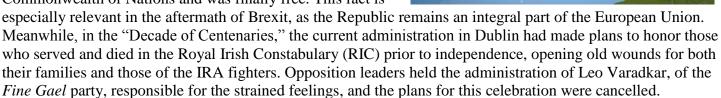
The new Republic sought financial and political support from its far-flung expatriate population, especially those in the U.S., where organizations were formed to answer the call. Support also came in the form of arms and ammunition and led to the formation of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

In December 1920, the British government enacted the Government of Ireland Act, which created the partition of northern and southern Ireland that remains to this day. Both entities were granted "Home Rule"—accepted in the north but rejected by the south in favor of moving forward with the call to independence.

With a bit of a push from U.S. political pressure and the continued resistance in southern Ireland, a truce was declared in the summer of 1921. The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 created a provisional government, but this did not fully resolve the issues that lead to the revolt; rather, it created division within the nationalist movement. In 1922, civil war broke out.

A cease-fire was declared in December 1922, and the Irish Free State was formed. In 1923, the state was recognized by the League of Nations, precursor to the United Nations (UN). In 1925, the division of the isle, leaving Northern Ireland behind, was accepted.

Although acknowledged as an independent state by Britain in 1931, it was 30 years later, April 19, 1949, when the Republic became fully independent of the British Commonwealth of Nations and was finally free. This fact is



Members of the RIC were officers who defended British colonial rule and had often formerly served in the British military. They included the Dublin Metropolitan Police, the Irish Constabulary, and the despised "Black and Tans," who were responsible for large numbers of deaths among the Irish rebels. (This is not to say there were no atrocities committed by the IRA; however, these men were considered traitors to the Republic, and as such, plans to honor them raise hackles for many citizens even today.)

Other commemorations of a sensitive nature that are still to come include Bloody Sunday, set for November 2020; the Easter Uprising, the election of the first *Dail*; and the partitioning of Ireland.

For many, the wounds are still too fresh, and nerves lie just below the surface; others wonder when it will be acceptable to honor all those of both sides who died in the conflict. To be honest, the American Civil War is much farther in the past and still holds landmines for politicians and others who seek to put it behind them.

[NOTE: Some of the details found in this article were derived from two pieces in the *New York Times*: an article by Ed O'Loughlin, Feb. 5, 2020; and an Op Ed piece by historian Christopher L. Pastore, Jan. 21, 2019.]



Flowers of the Forest (and a Bit of History)

(From Norita Callahan): Patrick "Pat" Joseph Vail, 76, passed away recently from complications of pneumonia. In 1973, Pat and his wife Ann (Co. Galway) were instrumental in the formation* of the Irish-American Society here in Albuquerque, with the help of mutual friends and acquaintances, many of whom were from Ireland. Ads

were put into local newspapers, church bulletins, and the TV Roadrunner, and a potential membership list was formulated with the response.

Organizational meetings were held in various homes, ice cream parlors, restaurants and the Edelweiss German American Club. Board members were elected, a noted artist designed the IAS logo, Pat wrote a bimonthly newsletter and in 1975, the bylaws were approved and the IAS became an official organization. Their first dance was held at the GAC.

The following paragraph is a quote from Pat Vail in an article from a 1990 Irish Times: "It can truly be said that the original goals of the club have been met. The preservation of Irish culture, the introduction of many who became close friends, the enjoyment of all who participated—these are the reasons the Society was founded, and they are the strength of our organization today."

Our deepest condolences to Pat's wife, Ann and other family members. May he rest in peace. *(In the 1960s, there was a group of Irish friends who met occasionally and socialized. They called themselves the "Little Green People" and often gathered at the GAC. This was the base for what would become the IAS.)

Irish Dancer Going to National Competition!

[Note: Every year, the IAS donates funds to the various Irish step dancing schools to help dancers defray costs of attending competitions. Garnet Waldrop is one of those dancers.]

Garnet Waldrop has been Irish dancing since the age of three. Now 14, Garnet has attended and placed at Regional and National Championships since 2013. She has also competed at the All Irelands in Belfast, bringing home a medal for soft shoe. She currently dances for Belisama Irish dance Company out of Santa Fe under Adrienne Bellis and Celia Bassett in partnership with Michael Patrick Gallagher School of Irish Dance. An 8th grade honor student at Ask Academy in Rio Rancho, Garnet competes internationally in robotics and brought home and 11th place award from China over the summer. She will be competing in Craon, France in June. She enjoys classical guitar and runs her own charity, called Ray



of Sunshine New Mexico. Recently, she gave a TED Talk at TEDxABQ Women's conference discussing how small actions have a huge impact. Her future goals include becoming a biomedical engineer with a focus in robotics and nanobot technology and to work for NASA as an astronaut.

Culture All Around

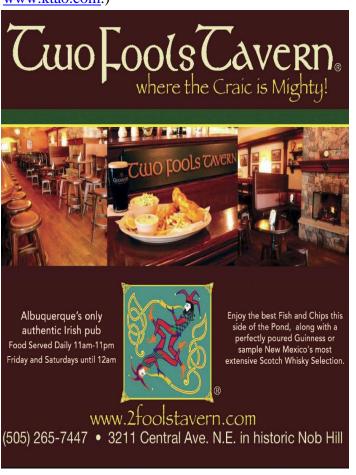
Dance Classes:

* 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 https://www.themacsports.com/brightburn-irish-dance for further information.

♣ *Ceili dance classes* are held every Wednesday at the GAC at 7:15 PM, \$4.00. 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
March 5	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting, 7 PM at the GAC. All members are
		invited to attend. [Note: There is no general membership meeting in
		March. Come to our St. Patrick's Day Party!]
March 15	Sunday	St. Patrick's Day Party, noon to 4 PM, ABQ Party Space. (Details on p. 6.)
April 2	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting, 7 PM at the GAC. All members are
		invited to attend.
April 10	Friday	IAS General Monthly Meeting and Program: Lecture on Celtic Animals by
		Maya Sutton.

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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March 7	Saturday	First Saturday Open Irish Music Session, from 12 to 2 PM at High and
		Dry Brewing, 529 Adams St. NE, ABQ. (Contact Jim Crowley
		jabbas40@yahoo.com) For beginning to intermediate musicians and music
		lovers.
March 5, 12, 19,	Thursdays	Albuquerque Open Irish Music Session, 7 PM at Hops Brewery Los
26		Ranchos Taproom on 4 th Street, 7222 4 th St. NW Rear, Los Ranchos De
		Albuquerque, just south of the old ABQ-BBQ location. For info, contact
		Harlow Pinson (<u>hpinson@indepthl.com</u>).
March 6	Friday	Karaoke at the GAC, 5:30 to7 PM.
March 7	Saturday	Saiorse Celtic Band performing at Solid Grounds Coffee House at St.
		Stephens Church, 4601 Juan Tabo NE, 7 to 9 PM. (Free)
March 8	Sunday	Rye Creek Band performing at O'Niells Pub Nob Hill, Central and
		Washington, 4 to 7 PM.
March 14	Saturday	Brightburn Academy of Irish Dance performing at 11:30 AM at O'Niell's
		Pub Nob Hill; at 1:00 PM at Quarter Celtic Brewpub; and at 6:30 at
		<u>Brewlab 101</u> .
March 14	Saturday	Rye Creek Band performing at Corrales Bistro Brewery, 4903 Corrales
		Rd, Corrales, 3:00 till 5:30 PM.
March 15	Sunday	Jazz Sunday at the GAC, 2 to 5:30 PM.
March 16	Monday	St. Andrew Scottish Society Showing of "The Quiet Man" movie, 6 PM at
		the Grill Restaurant, 3300 San Mateo Blvd NE #B2. Popcorn, chips and
		salsa provided; food and drink available for sale.
March 20	Friday	<i>Karaoke</i> at the GAC, 5 to 7 PM.
March 21	Saturday	Third Saturday Open Irish Music Session, from 1 to 3 PM at High and
		Dry Brewing, 529 Adams St. NE, ABQ. (Contact Jim Crowley
		jabbas40@yahoo.com.)
March 21	Saturday	A Jug O' Punch performing at Solid Grounds Coffee House at St.
		Stephens Church, 4601 Juan Tabo NE, 7 to 9 PM. (Free)
March 25	Wednesday	Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival Fundraiser, all day at the Flying Star,
		8000 Paseo Del Norte.
March 26	Thursday	Mary Power Lecture in Irish Studies, featuring Irish poet Paul Muldoon.
		(Info on p. 5.)

Irish-American Society of New Mexico

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Please Check One:	lication
First Name: I	Last Name:
If this is a renewal, has your contact information	ation changed? Yes No
Address:	·
Address: City: Phone: Email:	
Please choose your membership level:	
Student (\$10) Individual (\$20)	☐ Family (\$25) *
(Optional) Additional Associate Memb person)*	ership to the German-American Club (\$5 per
members of your family should receive a Gperson to your total dues):	to a family IAS membership, please indicate which AC associate membership card (and add \$5 per
Enclosed is a total of \$	
Please make checks payable to "P.O. Box 13435, Al	The Irish-American Society" and mail to: lbuquerque, NM 87192-3435 OR
You can also visit our website (www.irisl	hamericansociety-nm.com) and pay by credit card.
How did you hear about us?	