



IRISH TIMES

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

MARCH 2023

Note: Irish-American Society meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month, except during July and August (and for special events). For all future meetings, we are back at the German American Club at 4821 Menaul Blvd NE.

Next Event:
Saturday, March 18
Noon to 4 PM at the GAC

Annual IAS St. Patrick's Day Party!
With music, dancing, and lots of great craic!
(Details on p. 6.)



2023 Board Members and Committee Chairs

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Board	Tom Garrity tom@garritypr.com	505-710-6567			
Past President	Karen Wall Logos68540@gmail.com	909-583-1545			

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 505-307-1700). Your sponsorship will also appear on the IAS website (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com) at no extra charge.

President's Message

By Caren Garcia

Happy March to Everyone-

For the IAS, March is very special—the whole country admits to being just at least a little bit Irish. In fact, about 32 million Americans identify with their Irish ancestry; that's 9.7% and 5x the number of people actually in Ireland. I believe that figure to be on the low side. From the Kennedy family to Bruce Springsteen, Irish-Americans have enhanced the lives and culture of all Americans and in March the nation pays tribute in the person of Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Let's spread a bit of cheer this month by coming to the St. Patrick's Day Party on March 18 from 12-4 PM at the GAC. There will be *craic* a-plenty with a great slate of entertainment. Please bring a dish to share and join in the celebration.

For those of you who are creative, please submit a tee-shirt design by the 10th of March, and if you are free on the 8th, join us at the NM State Capitol (the Roundhouse) at 11 AM for a brief program we have been invited to present in St. Patrick's honor.

Thanks to the wonderful eclectic Irish band Saoirse, who performed at our last general meeting. They were awesome. You should be looking forward to our next General Meeting in April when we will be treated to a program by a genuine Irish storyteller!



Membership Report

By Molly Martin

Cead Mile Failte: We would like to welcome back some members to the IAS. Jeffery and Susan Hagemann, Jim and Karen Twohig, and Gloria Bolek renewed their memberships for 2023 after being gone for a little while. We are glad to have you back!

As of February 15th, we have 2 students, 40 single, and 36 family memberships that are active for a grand total of 97 members. Our numbers are down from last month. I didn't include the folks who haven't renewed their membership for 2023. So, on that note—get your renewals in for 2023! You can renew at the St Patrick's Day Party on the 18th in person or anytime online at www.irishamericansociety-nm.com.

Message from Norita Callahan: RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE STILL SEEKING PULL-TAB DONATIONS! But also a message from the Ronald McDonald folks: **“A REMINDER: only aluminum pull tabs are a part of this program. Please make sure your donation does not contain steel tabs. Thank You!”** Thanks this month to Lee & Patricia Dickens.

Treasurer's Report As of January 31, 2022*

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Membership—cash/checks	\$385.00	U-Stor-It monthly storage fee (electronic payment #985049)	-\$40.00
Membership—electronic/Square (less fees—see expenses)	\$330.00	Square fees: memberships	-\$14.55
Donation: cash/checks from Bill Weber and Joanne Connolly	\$100.00	Square fees: donations	-\$0.29
To defray cost of send hard copy newsletter	\$5.00	Check #301: Patrick McDermott, talk/presentation at IAS January General Meeting	-\$100.00
Donation—electronic/Square (less fees—see expenses) from Suzanne Taichert	\$10.00	Check #302: Katherine Wimmer, reimburse for PO box fee for 6 months	-\$116.00
GAC associate memberships	\$65.00	Check #303: James Crowley—reimburse for ½ of Super Ceili expense	-\$125.00
Newsletter sponsorship—electronic/Square: Frankie Davis (less fees)	\$60.00	Check #304: German American Club—hall rental for monthly events 2023	-\$825.00
		Check #305—German American Club—GAC associate memberships August 2021 thru January 2023	-\$205.00
Total Income	\$509.00	Total Expenses	-\$1,425.84
		IAS Account prior month's ENDING balance	\$7,017.15
		Plus Income (current month)	\$1,135.00
		Less Expenses (current month)	-\$1,425.84
		*Ending Balance as of date of report	\$6,726.31

Lúnasa Will Bring Its Fiery, Joyous Irish Music to New Mexico This March

By IAS member Bill Nevins

Lúnasa, “the hottest Irish acoustic band on the planet,” will play two New Mexico concerts on and just after St. Patrick’s Day this year: March 17th at The Lensic in Santa Fe (<https://lensic.org/events/lunasa/>) and March 18th at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque (<https://tickets.ampanconcerts.org/tickets/406978?tc=hmt>).

Named for an ancient Celtic harvest festival in honor of the Irish fire-god Lugh, Lúnasa was formed in 1997 from members of some of the greatest Irish traditional music groups, an “Irish music dream team.” The band’s complex arrangements and unique sound reshaped the boundaries of traditional music and energized audiences the world over.

Lúnasa has toured the world, won multiple awards and is one of the most influential bands in the history of traditional music. Collaborations with singers Natalie Merchant, Mary-Chapin Carpenter, and Tim O'Brien, and high-profile concerts at The Hollywood Bowl, New York's Carnegie Hall, Glastonbury Festival, and Bercy Arena Paris helped broaden the band's audience and cement their place at the forefront of contemporary Irish music.

Currently the band is touring their most recent CD, *Cas*. Lunasa's lineup features Trevor Hutchinson, famed as the bassist with The Waterboys; piper Cillian Vallely, a member of Riverdance, who recorded with Bruce Springsteen; Kevin Crawford, one of Ireland's greatest flute players; award-winning fiddler Sean Smyth, who performed with Donal Lunny's legendary Coolfin and accordionist Alan Kelly; Colin Farrell, a multiple award winning fiddler; guitarist Patrick Doocey; Dave Curley from Galway on bodhran and guitar; and surprise guests likely to join the band in shows along the way.

We spoke with Lúnasa's piper Cillian Vallely by phone in late January. We recalled that we had last seen Cillian perform in October 2019, at poet Paul Muldoon's famous "Picnic" variety show and in a session at the Dead Rabbit Restaurant, both in Manhattan. Cillian laughed, "Ah yes, both were grand craic, and you got home safely in one piece from the Dead Rabbit!"

About his musical roots, Cillian explains that he grew up in a rural town in the north of Ireland in a family steeped in Irish traditional music—both his parents were music teachers and he himself teaches piping to students now. "I began playing the pennywhistle at a time I barely remember, about the same time I began to walk. And I started on the *uilleann* (Irish) pipes when I was eight years old." Cillian also notes that he attended university and studied classical music for many years, giving him the skills of reading music and being able to appreciate and work within a very eclectic musical milieu. He has played with jazz groups, orchestras, and American folk bands, and he has recorded with Bruce Springsteen and other rock and pop stars, as well as being featured on movie soundtracks.

Asked if he's seen *The Banshees of Inisheerin*, Cillian laughs and says he has not yet seen it because his children are quite young and the movies he gets to see are generally "kiddie films."

Cillian cites Planxty, the Bothy Band and Moving Hearts as the earlier ground-breaking Irish bands which inspired him coming up and which he still sees as pioneer models for what Lunasa does in exploring new ways to interpret Irish music today. He also mentions his admiration for the piper "Blackie," who holds forth in the pubs of Doolin, County Clare, and is famed in Ireland.

Cillian, who released his acclaimed solo album "The Raven's Rock" in 2018, and who has long made his home in New York City, says that he's been exploring playing with East European, African and other musicians outside the traditional Irish music world, and he finds it "a grand adventure," noting that the next Lunasa album may well bring a bit of that adventurous musical adventuring into the band's mix. "Each of us in the band have our own separate projects going on, and we come back together and bring some of that freshness and creativity to the group. I think that's how we have kept going these twenty and more years."

Will Cillian and his band mates possibly join in an after-concert session in a pub in Santa Fe and Albuquerque? Cillian laughs and says there are no such specific plans as of yet, "But one can never tell—we like to play if we're welcome and there's an interested crowd and perhaps a pint or two on offer!"

Looking forward to hearing and seeing Lunasa in New Mexico in mid-March! Lunasa's webpage is at <https://www.lunasamusic.com>





Come Join Us!
The Annual IAS
St. Patrick's Day Party

Saturday, March 18th, 2023

Noon-4:00 PM

At the German-American Club
 4821 Menaul Boulevard NE



Entry Fee

\$10 Adults; \$5 Children (5 to 12 years); free for under 5 years

(The entry fee is used to pay the performers and the GAC hall rental.)

Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.irishamericansociety-nm.com
 or at the door with cash, check, or credit card.

Featured Entertainment

12:30 PM: *Duke City Ceili Band*

Audience Participation Ceili Dancing with Norita

2:00 PM: *Brightburn Academy Irish Step Dancers*

2:30 PM: *Highland Piper Suzanne (Aden) Kemp*

3:00 PM: *Celtic Band Jug O'Punch*

Silent Auction with Lots of Cool Celtic Things!!

(Please arrange for donations with Caren Garcia (careng225@msn.com))

Pot Luck!!

Please bring a dish to share and mark your utensils with your name.

Cash bar provided by

the German-American Club

(Coffee and tea provided by the IAS; no outside drink allowed.)

Reservations required: Email (edowling@standuptrainer.com) or call (505-307-1700) Ellen Dowling and tell her how many are in your party and what dish you will be bringing. (Reservations are also needed so the GAC will know how much Guinness and Jameson's to order! 😊)

Member Spotlight: Belinda Martorelli

By IAS Member Elena Gallegos

I had the pleasure of interviewing our new board member, Belinda Martorelli, for this month's spotlight.



How long have you been a member of the IAS? Who or what inspired you to join?

Mom and I joined in November of 2021. Mom's maiden name is Mitchell. I had been exploring my Scottish heritage for a while and thought it was time to explore my Irish heritage to learn more about my family background.

How long have you been serving on the IAS board?

I was invited to join the board, so they could "get some new blood." I became an official member of the board as of the January 2023 meeting. I had been on the board of the St. Andrew Society some years back for a while but my life changed directions for a bit and I needed to step down (college and helping Mom with Dad who had Alzheimer's).

Have you traveled to Ireland and/or have relatives in Ireland?

I've traveled to Scotland, but not Ireland. I don't know if I have any living relatives in Ireland at this time. I would love to visit, and take Mom with me if I could.

Are you originally from NM/Albuquerque or how long have you lived here?

We were born in New Jersey. I lived in Massachusetts for a number of years and moved to Santa Fe. Went to massage school there. Lived in Las Cruces for a short while, Rio Rancho and then Albuquerque. It would be a total of 30 years if I add all my time here together. I did move to Florida for three years to help Mom take care of Dad. (He passed in 2018.) We moved here in 2019 and enjoy our home, which we share with Fiona, our 9-year-old shelter friend. She's a shepherd/hound/cur mix and keeps us good company.

Would you like to talk about your work/career/retirement?

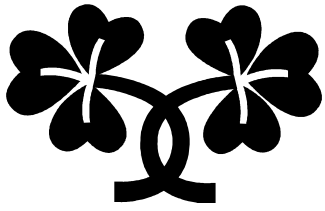
I retired before I went to live in Florida. I worked for NM Motor Vehicle Department for 17 years and decided I'd had enough when they wouldn't let me use my language skills at work anymore. (I have an ear for languages and know a few words in a number of different ones. I used that to help my customers feel more comfortable when I was helping them.) My main focus now is being here for my mom, although I do some things for myself as well.

What are some Celtic things you like to do (Irish pubs, Ceili dancing, festivals, etc.)?

We enjoy the live music concerts and playing Irish music at home, albums as well as CDs. We both enjoy all the presentations the IAS puts on, have enjoyed the picnics and the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Games as well.

What are some of your favorite Irish movies and/or bands that you like to watch or listen to?

We aren't too familiar with many Irish films. Our number one favorite is *The Quiet Man* with John Wayne and Maureen O'Sullivan. We have a few travel CDs that tour Ireland. As for music, I love Loreena McKennitt, The Irish Rovers, Celtic Woman, and The Clancy Brothers & Tommy Makem.



Flowers of the Forest

We were surely destroyed to learn of the passing of our dear friend and

Society member, Frances McGinnis Hardy, on January 27th, after a long battle with dementia. She was 69. Fran grew up in Pennsylvania, and met her husband Don when she was just 17. They were married August 23, 1975. Fran retired from a 17-years stint with the USPS when she and Don moved to Albuquerque in 1994. Over the years they enjoyed traveling, and in 1985 they took Fran's dream trip of visiting Ireland, where they spent two weeks. Fran was an active member of the IAS and the Albuquerque Rose Society (of which she was president, 2002-2004). And at every IAS Christmas Party, there she was as Mrs. Claus, smiling away with her Santa (Don). Fran is survived by her husband Don, sister-in-law Marian McGinnis of Sewickley, Pennsylvania, sister-in-law Marlane McGinnis of Moon Township, Pennsylvania, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Lovely Fran and handsome husband Don with their dear friend Emmet O'Sullivan at a St. Pat's Day party in happier times.

A Celebration of Life for Fran will be held Sunday, March 26, 2023 starting at 12:00 PM at the Albuquerque Garden Center located at 10120 Lomas Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112. Donations in memory of Fran can be made to the Albuquerque Rose Society, the Irish-American Society, or the Alzheimer's Association.



Celtic Concert

Sunday, March 12th, 1:30 - 3:00
Free Admission
Central and Unser Library
(8081 Central Ave NW, ABQ)

Music by the Sandia Celtic Ensemble:
 Bob Deaver, Dain Forsyth, Mike Maulsby, Ariane Pinson, Susan Sponar, and the Bardic Sisters (Kathy Wimmer, Gwen Easterday)

Instruments include harp, octave mandolin, mandolin, fiddle, flute, bodhran, and guitar.

The Irish Book Club

If you are on Facebook, just type The Irish Book Club into the search bar (or click on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2022642747761043/>) and you'll find us. Our book for January was *Haven* by Emma Donohue; in March we'll talk about *Mary Lou McDonald: A Republican Riddle*, by Shane Ross; and in April we'll be discussing *The Marriage Portrait*, by Maggie O'Farrell.

Haven by Emma Donohue

From Amazon's description: "In seventh-century Ireland, a scholar and priest called Artt has a dream telling him to leave the sinful world behind. Taking two monks—young Trian and old Cormac—he rows down the river Shannon in search of an isolated spot on which to found a monastery. Drifting out into the Atlantic, the three men find an impossibly steep, bare island inhabited by tens of thousands of birds, and claim it for God. In such a place, what will survival mean?"

How many of you have seen Star Wars? Do you remember seeing Skellig Michael, which has risen to dramatic prominence due to its starring role as Luke Skywalker's Island Sanctuary on the planet Ahch-To in both *Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens* and *Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi*? Or

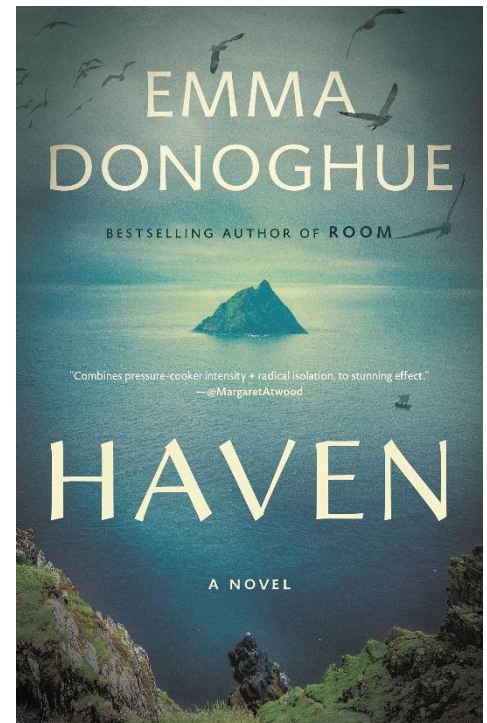


maybe you have seen it for yourself—a twin-pinnacled crag 11.6 kilometres (7.2 mi) west of the Iveragh Peninsula in County Kerry, Ireland. The island is named after the archangel Michael, with "Skellig" derived from the Irish language word *sceilig*, meaning a splinter of stone. Now imagine that it's around 600 AD, and three disillusioned but passionate monks decide to make this totally inhospitable place their new monastery. That's the plot of *Haven*, by Emma Donohue, who also wrote the claustrophobic but ultimately illuminating novel *Room*. (Have you seen the movie?)

From *The Washington Post*: "*Haven* creates an eerie, meditative atmosphere that should resonate with anyone willing to think deeply about the blessings and costs of devoting one's life to a transcendent cause."

From *The Guardian*: "This is a miniature created with a muted palette, sombre in aspect but crowded with quietly beautiful details. And its subject, of course, is a universal one: we're all stuck on this rock, trying to keep hold of simple moral truths while quietly losing our minds. As poor young Trian puts it, in one of his darkest moments: 'Even this unbearable life is still sweet.'"

From *The Chicago Review of Books*: "Much like in *Room*, *The Wonder*, and *The Pull of the Stars*, *Haven*'s plot action is limited, allowing instead for the story's focus to be placed fully on the volatile dynamic escalating between the three characters as they confront life-threatening circumstances. The novel's tension reaches its peak with the painful revelation of Trian's secret, propelling the narrative to its dramatic if predictable end. Most striking in *Haven*'s conclusion is the emergence of Cormac—a self-effacing latecomer to Christianity—as the real leader and man of God, and a pointed message from Donohue about what 'true fellowship' really means in the face of Artt's religious fanaticism."



Movie Review: *The Banshees of Inisherin*

By IAS member Bill Nevins



"There are no banshees on Inisherin!" declares one character in this film. Or are there? Well, when you watch this intriguing new Irish movie, you'll have to decide for yourself. And as you watch it, you may well want to have a pint of stout, a glass of strong spirits, or your rosary beads close at hand. It's a wild, unholy and disturbing ride, and no mistake! Yet there is a profound gentleness to this movie that is, in the end, very touching.

The Banshees of Inisherin is in the running to win big at the Academy Awards March 12th, and it is now available for home viewing on HBO. I've seen the movie once in a theater, and several times now on my home TV screen. It is a fine film, both comic and tragic, but it is definitely not a realistic movie. *The Banshees of Inisherin* is, in many aspects, a fantasy, albeit one with an unsentimental, realistic hard edge to it.

Among the fantastical features of this film: On an Irish island in 1923, it never rains except at night; there are NO TOURISTS; the pub is nearly hanging over a cliff; the porter is only bottled and not on draft; a fiddler goes to the most extreme ends imaginable out of annoyance, yet composes a lovely tune; a vegetarian donkey tries to eat some dreadful "meat." The Irish Civil War is raging on the mainland, but it barely disturbs the islanders' peace although it does provide grisly employment; the island eejit comes a-courting in the kitchen to the most intelligent woman on the island; guys slug down poteen like it's Coca-Cola; the local constable beats innocent law-abiding citizens in public; Colin Farrell's eyebrows mercilessly upstage him; there are NO mermaids, leprechauns, fairies, or selkies in evidence, etc.

You might even consider it a fantasy/horror film, of sorts. And yet, and yet, it is a damn fine Martin McDonough movie! Funny and horrid and with much to say! Cynical as sin! And shocking! Oh, very, very shocking. But funny, though you may feel guilty laughing! I did. (If you want a more "realistic" movie about Ireland, try *The Secret of Roan Inish* or *The Quiet Man*—I am joking!)

What is this movie "about," really, and why is that question important? Well, I think the answer is partly historical and local to Ireland, but I also think that, philosophically, the film's questions are universal, and thus its wide appeal. The Irish Civil War, brief and atrocious as it was, took place 100 years ago, and yet "The Troubles" (as they are quaintly and euphemistically called) still haunt Ireland, just as the characters in this movie—and perhaps many of us fellow humans to this very day—still are haunted by an incurable discontent.

Just my opinion, mind ye: *The Banshees of Inisherin* is a fine film. The film's principal appeal is its actors, every one of whom in a small ensemble brings a richness of humanity to characters who range from a despairing fiddle player (Brendan Gleeson) and nice but dull farmer (Colin Farrell) to his sister (Kerry Condon) and a mentally-challenged abused teenager (Barry Keoghan). The story is quirky: On a desolate island off Ireland, Farrell suddenly finds his old pub buddy Gleeson wants nothing to do with him because he's so dull. Farrell is heartbroken and tries again and again to get his friend back, which leads to a shocking reaction (no, nobody is murdered) by Gleeson. That's about it, but within five minutes you really care about these people, all of them victims of age-old prejudices and superstitions. The landscape, however bleak, has a quiet, stark beauty, and the movie's script never lags. (You'll need to turn on the closed captions because the Irish accents are as thick as the fog.)

I have been to the areas of Western Ireland where this film was shot—the Aran Island of Inishmoor and Achill Island on the coast of Connemara—and I can attest to the beauty and the strangeness of that part of Europe's Atlantic edge. Surely, there are hidden secrets of history there, and lovely, mad stories to be told. *The Banshees of Inisherin* is one of those lovely mad stories. I highly recommend it to you! You will love it or hate it, and maybe have trouble deciding which, I guarantee you. But don't say you weren't warned!

The Irish and their Horses

Excerpted from [Irish America Magazine](#), by Edyth Preet

It is spring. The foals are being born. In their gawky, long-legged honor, I give you the saga of the Irish and their horses. It is a history that stretches across centuries. It is a tale of friendships and working partners. It is a romance born of the land, nurtured by necessity, and fastened by ancient bonds. It is one of the oldest love stories on earth.

Horses arrived in Ireland long before it became an island. At the end of the last ice age, a land bridge connected Derry to Scotland and another joined England with France. From the Asian steppes where the horse originated, herds migrated west across Europe and into Ireland. Remains found at Lough Gur, County Limerick, and Newgrange, County Meath, indicate that the Irish had domesticated horses before 2000 B.C.

In the Táin Bó Cúailnge (literally “The Cattle Raid of Cooley,” found in the Book of Leinster), the great warrior Cú Chulainn rode a chariot pulled by two horses that were equal in size, beauty, and speed. The right-hand horse was grey, broad in the haunches, fleet, and wild. The other was jet black, his head firmly knit, his feet broad-hoofed and slender. The swiftness of these steeds was so superior that even the best Ulster horses could not catch them.

But Irish horses are much more than the stuff of legend. Like tourism and whiskey, bloodstock breeding is one of Ireland’s most important industries. This vital economic resource centers on three breeds: the Connemara pony, the Irish draught, and the thoroughbred.

The Connemara is the oldest pure Irish breed. Small native ponies called “breakers” were crossed with two imports, Welsh mountain ponies, which arrived with traders in the seventh century A.D., and Spanish Andalusians brought in a thousand years later. The Connemara’s size and sure-footed agility made them ideally suited for harvesting and hauling turf from the bogs of west Galway. In recognition of their historical importance, the Irish government provides a £500 grant for every pure



Connemara foal born.

The Normans came to Ireland with large-boned horses which had been bred to carry armored knights. These huge mounts resembled massive Clydesdales and were bred with another small native horse, the Hobby. The cross-breeding produced an entirely new breed: the Irish draught. This hefty workhorse is tough, agile, intelligent, and well-mannered. It was ideally suited to farm labor, and, until tanks replaced cavalry, it was the preferred steed of Europe’s military units. Today, the Irish draught is prized as one of the world’s finest show jumpers.

The Connemara and the Irish draught have both left deep hoof-prints in Irish history, but it is the thoroughbred race horse which has become a multi-million dollar business. Part of the reason is environmental – the limestone rocks that pepper every Irish field leach calcium into the soil. Year-round rainfall produces lush grass. Horses raised in the calcium rich pastures develop exceptionally strong, healthy bones. The other half of the equation is simple. The Irish love a good horse race.

Two of the world’s most famous Thoroughbred races are scheduled in May and June: the Irish Derby at the Curragh (June) and America’s Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs (May). Both races date from the 19th century, both have million-dollar purses, both feature the best of Irish bloodstock, and both have strong food traditions. Everyone knows that the Kentucky Derby’s official drink is the mint julep. A lesser known racetrack treat is Ireland’s bookmaker sandwich. May I suggest that you consider pairing them? Like horses and the Irish, they go together supremely well. Sláinte! ♦



Elizabeth Austin and Steeped in Lace
CSI Grand Prix Freestyle
Tryon International Equestrian Center
April 2017

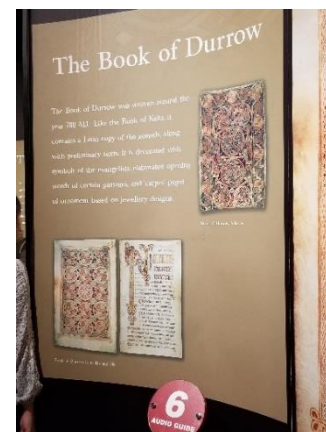
The Book of Kells

By IAS President, Caren Garcia

Almost everybody has heard of the Book of Kells, the beautifully illuminated manuscript of the four gospels and commentary dating to the 9th century CE and preserved at Trinity College in Dublin. It is believed by scholars that the work was always intended to be displayed (in a church, of course) rather than used as an educational document, because the monks were much less concerned about avoiding errors in the text, but rather focused on the beauty and elegance of the illustrations.

The Book of Kells was written by the monks of Saint Columba in Latin and magnificently embellished and illustrated. The order was based on the isle of Iona, Scotland, but abandoned the site for their second home in Kells, Ireland due to fear of Viking raids in about 806 CE. The Book was probably started at Iona and completed in Kells. It was stolen in 1007 and damaged, but was eventually returned to the Abbey until it was moved to Dublin to save it from falling into the hands of that scourge of knowledge, Oliver Cromwell, who captured Kells (1649-1653). In 1661, Bishop Henry Jones made a donation of the Book of Kells to Trinity College, Dublin where it has remained.

The Book is on limited display in the beautiful Library of Trinity College today, with a lavish educational gallery of reproduced pages and historical information in the hall leading to the more intimate and access restricted area where the artifact itself is preserved. Visitors exit through the architecturally striking and mind-boggling Long Room where the College's unparalleled collection of books are shelved. It's heaven on earth to bibliophiles. Below are a few of my non-professional photos from my own visit to this memorable place in the heart of the City of Poets.



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 kmillewimm@comcast.net (505-249-7012).

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.

A Jug O’Punch

A trio playing Irish music galore! Contact Suzanne Taichert: suzannetaichert@gmail.com

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)

Mountain Road

Featuring Dain Forsyth on flute, whistles, bodhrán, and vocals, and Scott Estes on DADGAD Guitar and Irish Bouzouki, Mountain Road provides gorgeous airs, driving reels and jigs, stories and songs for all occasions.

Contact: dleeforysthe@gmail.com
<https://www.tradbodhran.com/ensembles>

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

Thursdays at 6 PM Open Irish Music Session

Hops Brewery
7222 4th St NW, Los Ranchos De Albuquerque

Please support our venue, Hops Brewery. They are great people and brew some excellent beer. Food is available.

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.brightburnacademy.com> for further information.



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>

Ceili dance classes are held every Wednesday at the GAC. The **new** time is 6:30 - 8 PM, \$2.00. No experience necessary! Call Norita Callahan at 505-298-2708.

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.)

Two Fools Tavern
where the Craic is Mighty!

Albuquerque's only authentic Irish pub
Food Served Daily 11am-11pm
Friday and Saturdays until 12am

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.

www.2foolstavern.com
(505) 265-7447 • 3211 Central Ave. N.E. in historic Nob Hill

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

Calendar of Events

IAS Events

Date	Day	What
March 2	Thursday	<i>IAS Board of Directors meeting</i> , 7 PM on Zoom. All members are invited to attend. (Email Kathy Wimmer for the link.)
March 18	Saturday	<i>The Annual IAS St. Patrick's Day Party</i> , noon to 4 PM at the GAC. (Details on p. 6.)
March 26	Sunday	<i>A Celebration of Life for IAS Member Fran McGinnis Hardy</i> , 12:00 PM at the Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd NE.
April 6	Thursday	<i>IAS Board of Directors meeting</i> , 7 PM on Zoom. All members are invited to attend. (Email Kathy Wimmer for the link.)
April 14	Friday	<i>IAS Monthly Meeting and Program</i> , 7 PM at the GAC: A performance by storyteller Morris Peterkin

Celtic/GAC Events

The GAC phone number is 888-4833

(The Club is closed Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday—unless a special event is happening.)

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Wednesdays	<i>Ceili Dancing Classes with Norita at the GAC</i> , 6:30 - 8 PM, \$2.00. No experience necessary! (Call 505-298-2708 for more info.)
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Wednesdays	<i>Celtic Music Session</i> at the Singing Arrow Community Center (13200 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 list. For more info, contact Bob Deaver (bpdeaver@gmail.com).
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Thursdays	<i>Albuquerque Traditional Irish Music Open Session</i> from 6-9 PM at Hops Brewery, 7222 4 th Street. For more info, contact Harlow Pinson at hpinson@indepthl.com .
March 5 & 19	Sundays	<i>Two Leaf Clover (Nikelle Gessner and David Garcia)</i> play for Sunday Brunch at Two Fools Tavern every 1 st and 3 rd Sunday of the month from 11 AM – 2 PM.
March 7, 14, 21, 28	Tuesdays	<i>The Irish Slow session</i> meets Tuesdays at 6:30 in the Manzano Mesa Multi-Generational center, near Central and Eubank. For info, contact Kip Malone on Facebook .
March 12	Sunday	<i>Celtic Concert</i> , 1:30 - 3:00 PM at the Central and Unser Library, 8081 Central Ave NW, ABQ. (See p. 8 for list of performers.)
March 17 & 18	Friday & Saturday	<i>Lunasa in Concert</i> : March 17 th at The Lensic in Santa Fe (https://lensic.org/events/lunasa/) 7:30 PM, and March 18 th at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque (https://tickets.amponconcerts.org/tickets/406978?tc=hmt), also 7:30 PM.
March 19	Sunday	<i>Jazz Sunday at the GAC</i> , jam session and performance, hosted by the Rio Grande Jazz Society. Dancers welcome! \$5 Entry for non-members. Free for current members of the GAC. 2:00 to 5:30 PM.

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 No

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please choose your membership level:

Student (\$10) Individual (\$20) Family (\$25) *

(Optional) Additional Associate Membership to the German-American Club (\$5 per person)*

* If you opt to add the additional GAC fee to a family IAS membership, please indicate which members of your family should receive a GAC associate membership card (and add \$5 per person to your total dues):

(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: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Irish-American-Society-of-New-Mexico-175569365825710>