



IRISH TIMES

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

APRIL 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, April 13th, 7 PM

Lecture: "Modern Ireland: A Nation Once Again?"

In this multidisciplinary talk, Dr. Sarah Townsend of the UNM English Department and Dr. Caleb Richardson of the UNM History Department will explore the literature and history of Ireland. Starting with the concurrent rise of Irish political and literary nationalism in the late 19th century, Drs. Townsend and Richardson will tell the story of Ireland's movement towards partial independence in 1916.

Dr. Caleb Richardson is an Assistant Professor in the History Department at UNM, and teaches courses in Modern Irish and British history, Historiography, and the history of WWII. Dr. Sarah Townsend is an Assistant Professor in the English Department at UNM, and teaches courses in Irish and postcolonial literature, fiction and drama. They co-direct UNM's study abroad course in Ireland.



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

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Would you like to place an ad in the *Irish Times* newsletter?

Business-card-sized ads are a mere \$5 a month. Larger-sized ads can be negotiated with the editor, Ellen Dowling (edowling@standuptrainer.com 307-1700). Your ad will also appear on the IAS website (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com) at no extra charge.



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President's Message

By Ellen Dowling

Dear IAS Members:

Wow! What a wonderful—and festively decorated—St. Patrick's Day party we had! At one point I was a little worried that we might exceed the GAC's occupation limit (299), but we had room for everyone and everyone seemed to have a great time. Thanks to all our wonderful entertainers: The Celtic eclectic band Saiorse, who kicked off the party in grand style; Norita Callahan and her Ceili dancers (with amazing participation from the audience!), backed by the remarkable Duke City Ceili Band; the accomplished and energetic Celtic Steps Irish step dancers; the phenomenal NM Fire and Police Pipes and Drums; and the lovely Irish song stylings of Derek Swinson and Jim Brauer, who really rounded out the whole wonderful evening.

As for the folks behind the scenes who worked so hard to make the evening a success, special thanks to Miguel Mata, chef extraordinaire and his helpers in the kitchen, including Gerry Muisener Sheri Kraemer, and Bruce and Cindy Miller; as well as to all the others who helped out at the door, bussed (and cleaned tables), helped set up the hall before the party, and overall made the event such a success: Norita Callahan, Beth Baker, Kathy Wimmer, Gwen Easterday, Dave Barnaby, Maureen Riley, Brynn Cole, Laura Banks, Don Baker, Pete McKenna, Bob Bryers, Paul McDonough, Carol Williford, Kari Laverty, Jim Brauer, Rose Marie Keating, Jim Larkin, Elena Gallegos, Norita's grandson Jacob, and Barb Durner. If I have overlooked anyone, please know we all very much appreciate you—we couldn't have pulled off the party without you all!

And lastly, one more big THANK YOU to those of you who kindly brought an Irish soda bread (or two!).

We're planning to do it again next year, also on a Saturday night, but on the eve of St. Patrick's, March 16, 2019. Let us know if you have any suggestions for improvements.

Membership Report

By Norita and Ken Callahan

Céad Mile Fáilte (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes) to our newest members: Jeremy & Juana Channell and Jim & Siobhan Shannon. And welcome back to Linda Stephens and Robert Patterson.

Membership: As of March 26th, there are 66 single members, 65 (x 2) family members and 4 students. This is a total of 200 renewals and new members for the 2018 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 Jeanine Blair, Bob & Vikki Bryers, Steve & Kari Laverty and family, Joe & Elena Gallegos and boys, Mary & Brian Monaghan, and a few "no name" baggies. And to Felicia Dooley, I could hardly lift the huge bag of pulltabs!! :)

To the IAS and GAC volunteers who helped me decorate (and un-decorate) for the 3/17 Paddy's Day **function**): the GAC hall, Baurenstuben, and bar looked very festive. THANK YOU to Laura Banks, Ken Callahan, Joanne Connolly, Don & Fran Hardy, Rose Marie Keating, Sheri Kraemer, Elena Gallegos, Heidi Meisen, Maureen Riley, and Patti Sugg.

Treasurer's Report February 2018

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Membership (check or cash, including \$15 reimbursed by member for bounced check fee)	\$225.00	U-Stor-It (Feb. rental)	\$35.00
Membership (electronic)	\$158.39	Disputed Square charge	\$20.00
NL sponsor (Jim McCabe)	\$60.00	Check #3266 Norita Callahan (reimbursements thru 1/18 for stamps, etc.)	\$44.67
St. Pat's Dinner/Door (check or cash)	\$110.00	Check #3265 Ellen Dowling (reimbursement for tri-fold brochures)	\$71.98
St. Pat's Dinner/Door (electronic)	\$317.43	Check #3263 Catherine Carter, Feb. entertainment	\$50.00
Celtic Nights Tickets Drawing	\$80.00	Check #3309 Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival booth rental	\$100.00
Brown Bag auction at January meeting (9 items bid on)	\$37.00		
T-shirt sale	\$20.00		
Book sale	\$2.00		
Total Income	\$1,009.82	Total Expenses	\$321.65
		IAS Account Jan. Ending Balance	\$8,968.33
		Plus Income (Feb)	\$1,009.82
		Less Expenses (Feb)	\$(321.65)
		January Ending Balance	\$8,968.33



Derek Swinson and Jim Brauer
lilting away at the St. Pat's Party!



The University of New Mexico • College of Arts and Sciences
Institute for Medieval Studies

Thirty-Third Spring Lecture Series

Sacred Objects and Places of the Middle Ages

April 23–26, 2018 • Woodward Hall, Room 101, with a concert in Keller Hall



Monday, April 23, 7:15 p.m.

“The Book of Kells—Seen and Unseen”

Bernard Meehan, Trinity College Dublin

Tuesday, April 24, 5:15 p.m.

“Places to Go, Things to See: A Medieval Bucket List”

Concert by the UNM Early Music Ensemble directed by Colleen Sheinberg (in Keller Hall, UNM Center for the Arts)

Tuesday, April 24, 7:15 p.m.

“Sacred Worlds in the Medieval Hebrew Book”

Adam S. Cohen, University of Toronto

Wednesday, April 25, 5:15 p.m.

“The Dome of the Rock and Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem: An Exploration”

Jennifer Pruitt, University of Wisconsin

Wednesday, April 25, 7:15 p.m.

“Vessel, Quest, Prize, Test, Threat: The Many Faces of the Grail”

Janina P. Traxler, Manchester University

Thursday, April 26, 5:15 p.m.

“Irish Manuscripts before 800 A.D.”

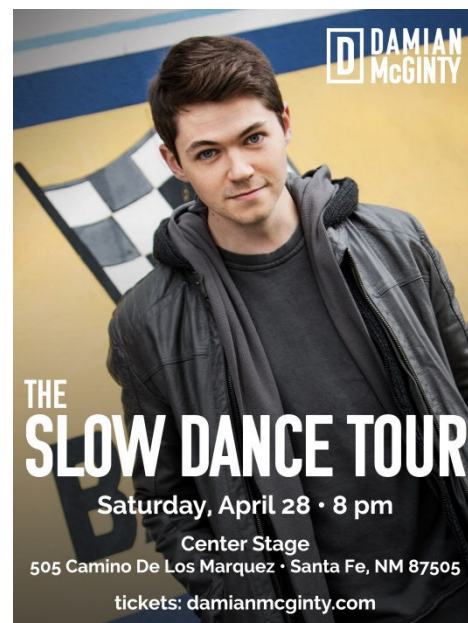
Bernard Meehan

Damian McGinty (Glee, Celtic Thunder, Santa Fake)
Coming to Santa Fe on April 28!

This spring, join Irish singer, songwriter, and actor Damian McGinty in Santa Fe on April 28 at Center Stage for his biggest solo tour to date. The community of Santa Fe may recognize Damian's name as he is in town now filming the upcoming family Christmas film, *Santa Fake!*

Fans know Damian as one of the original performers with the international hit group Celtic Thunder, as well as from his role as Rory Flanagan on Glee. His upcoming film, *Santa Fake*, is currently in production and will be released November 2018.

Information about Damian, the tour dates, and ticketing can be found at www.damianmcginty.com.



A Tour of the British Isles!

Take a tour of the isles with the harp playing and song of Kelly Brzozowski. Come and join us for an evening of music from Scotland, Ireland, and Wales and experience the love, strength, and drama of traditional music.

Friday, April 6th, 7 PM
St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church
425 University Blvd. NE
Albuquerque

\$15 at the door/payable by cash, check or venmo



2018 Research Days

Genealogy at the Library

Searching for your Ancestors?
We want to help!

FREE one-on-one help with your family research at the Library on Research Days!
Two hours free parking available in the garage SE of the Library when you get your ticket stamped at the front desk!

Experienced volunteers and members of the Albuquerque Genealogical Society are there to help you!

When: 10:30AM – 1:30PM Third Saturday of every month
 10:30AM – 3:30PM Last Tuesday of every month

Military Days:
 10:30AM – 2:30PM First Tuesday of every month

Genealogy Center, 2nd Floor, Albuquerque Main Library
501 Copper NW, Albuquerque, NM - (Corner of 5th & Copper)
Library Phone: 505-768-5131, Genealogy Desk

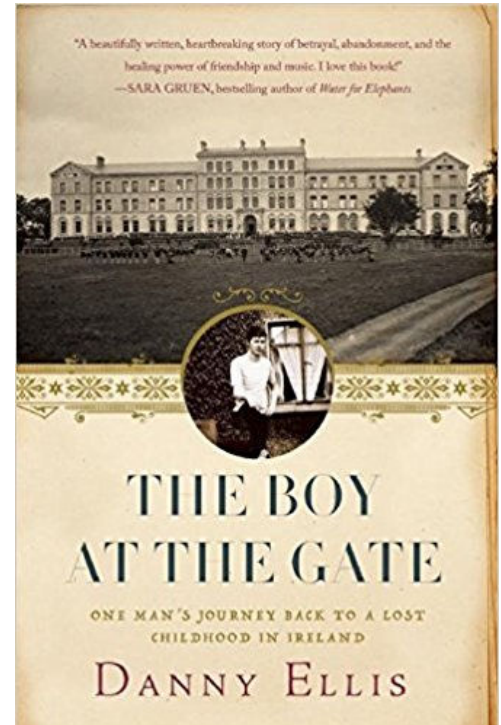
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The Irish Book Club

The Irish Book Club is now online! If you are on Facebook, just type The Irish Book Club into the search bar, and you'll find us. Right now we're finishing up March's book, *Haunted Ground*, by Erin Hart. If you want to join us, just jump right in. (If you want to plan ahead, our selection for April will be *The Twelve*, by Stuart Neville.)

Our book for February was *The Boy at the Gate*, by Danny Ellis. Subtitled "One Man's Journey Back to a Lost Childhood in Ireland," the book is a memoir of Danny Ellis' rather sad and difficult childhood growing up in the slums of Dublin in the 1950s, being abandoned by his mother, and sent to the notorious Artane Industrial School, where he was alternately encouraged and terrorized by the Christian Brothers.

From Amazon's description: "Danny Ellis is a survivor, strong and resilient. A proclaimed singer-songwriter, he is proud of the way in which he handled his difficult past: poverty in the 1950s Dublin slums and the brutality of the notorious Artane Industrial School. He felt as though he had safely disposed of it all, until one night, while writing a powerful song that would launch his commendable album, *800 Voices* ("A searing testament." —*Irish Times*), Danny's past crept back to haunt him. Confronted by forgotten memories of betrayal and abandonment, he was stunned to discover that his eight-year-old self was still trapped in a world he thought he had left behind. Although unnerved by his experience, Danny begins an arduous journey that leads him back to the streets of Dublin, to the tenement slums, and, ultimately, to the malice and innocent mischief of the Artane playground."



From our Facebook discussion: (Me) I myself found this memoir of growing up in Ireland to be far more interesting (albeit heartbreaking) than the other two memoirs we read—Joe O'Toole's *Looking Under Stones* and Alice Taylor's *To School through the Fields*—both of which I thought interesting, but very sentimental and idealized. I really like Danny Ellis' story of coming to terms with a boyhood informed by cruelty and loss. Kate Killbrew liked it too, finding it "somehow not too depressing. Music saved [the author], and he learned it there and was able to make it his livelihood. Also made some fast friends, unusual in those circumstances." Pete McKenna went into more detail: "I have to say I sort of enjoyed the book BUT I am getting a little winded by the bipolar character of Irish biopics of the first half of the 20th Century. Mr. Ellis finds redemption (via music) for the destruction of his childhood by damaged and deserting parents and the inflicted horrors of 'Christian Brothers' during his school years. After reading one or two of these brutal tales, who would ever want to claim they were or wanted to be a 'Christian.' I think this sort of damage and stop-gap measures are common in systems of extreme poverty—and these stories can be easily replicated here in New Mexico. Mr. Ellis does a nice job of weaving his theme of '800 Voices' as a recapture and revival of memory and feelings about his youth—but it's still all very sad—and coming to terms with how he got to where he is today. Better off, but still deeply damaged with the end of the book sort of doing a 'head-in-the-sand' stance. I've had enough—I don't think I'll be dipping into anymore of the *Angela's Ashes* genre and just hope this period of Ireland's history is waning. If Ellis, who seems to feel the past is behind him and he isn't going to pass judgments, and thinks he's just hunky-dory now he's probably fooling himself." And Edie Brooks said, "It is a touching story and more so because it's real. It is quite sad, but tolerable for me as it's from a whole different world than mine."

IAS Sponsors Local Irish Step Dancers!

As reported in our March newsletter, we are sponsoring local Irish step dancers who will compete in two competitions this year: the World Irish Dancing Championships in Glasgow, Scotland, in March and the North American Irish Dance Championships in Orlando, Florida, June 30 – July 4. The IAS has paid the entry fees for the dancers, four of whom sent us these lovely thank you notes:

Dear Ellen Dowling,

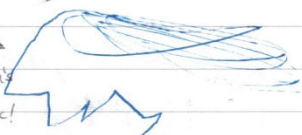
Thank you so much for the gift to go towards Nationals! It will help a lot. I am so grateful for your generosity. I love performing and you are helping me to do that. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Magdalena Padilla



Sorry! the baby decided that Magdalena's note needed some artwork! my fault!



Dear IAS,

Thank you for the money towards my entry fees for the North American Dance Championships.

Love Garnet

Dear, I AC thank you for Paying \$50 for my National entry Fees. I will do my best to make New Mexico Proud!!!

thank you!

— Gwendyln Noreen
7th place WRO (World Qua

Dear Ellen Dowling,

Thank you so so so much for your generous donation towards my competition! I really appreciate it! Thanks to your donation I am able to get into my competition. Your help has given me the chance to dance!

Thanks again!
Sincerely,
Clare

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 and www.colemanacademy.com.
- ♣ **Celtic Steps Arizona/New Mexico (formerly Tir Conaill Academy of Irish Dance)**, at the McDermott Athletic Center, 801 Loma Colorado, Rio Rancho. Call 505-415-4390 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.)



Come learn to be a Rio Grande Riverdancer!

Irish Dance Lessons

at

The McDermott Athletic Center
801 Loma Colorado, Rio Rancho



Classes for beginner dancers - ages 4 to adult!

For more information and to sign up now

Contact:

Christopher McGrory, ADCRG
Director, Celtic Steps Albuquerque
520-991-3605 or christopher.mcgrory@gmail.com
or Kate Padilla at 505-415-4390



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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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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.

Carol Benson

Strolling café fiddler, vocalist, Suzuki teacher, and symphony violinist. Contact: 505-268-0906 (carolbens@gmail.com)

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



IAS T-Shirts for Sale!

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

Michele Buchanan and Shanachie Harpers

765-1288 (tmbuchs@gmail.com)

Rye Creek

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

Celtic Coyotes

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

Friends Forever

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

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

The Singing Coyote Sisters

Donna Coy & Michelle Palmer perform Celtic, Folk, Gospel, and Sing-A-Longs. Contact: 296-2017 or 730-1985 mmcoy3@msn.com

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
April 3	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
April 13	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program , 7 PM at the GAC. Lecture on "Modern Ireland in History and Literature" by Caleb Richardson and Sarah Townsend.
May 1	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
May 11	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program , 7 PM at the GAC. Program will be a dramatic performance of The Celtic Queens, with Maya Sutton.

Celtic/GAC Events

[GAC hours are Mon, Tues, Wed: 4 to 10 PM; Thurs, Fri, Sat: noon to 10 PM; Sunday: noon to 5 PM]
The GAC phone number is 888-4833.

April 5, 12, 19, 26	Thursdays	Irish Music Session , every Thursday night at Joliesse Chocolates, in the North Valley at 6855 4th Street NW, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, 7 to 9 PM. For more info, contact Harlow Pinson at hpinson@indepthl.com .
April 6	Friday	A Tour of the British Isles with harper Kelly Brzozowski. Friday, April 6th, 7 PM, St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church, 425 University Blvd. NE. More info on p. 6.
April 8	Sunday	Rye Creek Band playing at O'Niell's Pub Heights (3301 Juan Tabo NE), 4 to 7 PM.
April 14	Saturday	Vienna Ball at the GAC with Jim Brauer's Schunkel Bub'n playing from 7 to 11 PM. Cost \$10.
April 15	Sunday	Jazz Sunday at the GAC, 2 to 5 PM. Cost to IAS member \$5.00.
April 23	Monday	Lecture on The Book of Kells—Seen and Unseen , 7:15 PM Woodward Hall, room 101, UNM. More info on p. 5.
April 28	Saturday	Damian McGinty in concert , Center Stage, Santa Fe. More info on p. 6.

A Message from the GAC:

The Edelweiss Am Rio Grande German-American Club (GAC) is a private club and as such cannot solicit by advertising or otherwise participation in its events and activities to the general public. The IAS is an associate club of the GAC and all IAS members and their bona fide guests are welcome at all GAC events and IAS events held at the GAC.





**The Irish-American Society
of New Mexico**

P.O. Box 13435
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87192-3435

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Irish-American Society of New Mexico

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Please check one: New Membership Application_____ Renewal_____

If this is a renewal, has your contact information changed? Yes _____ No_____

Please make checks payable to **The Irish-American Society**
and mail to: P.O. Box 13435, Albuquerque, NM 87192-3435

Individual _____\$20.00 Family_____ \$25.00

Student _____\$10.00

Name_____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone _____ E-mail_____

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