



IRISH TIMES

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

SEPTEMBER 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, September 14th, 7 PM

Musical Performance by the Duke City Ceili Band and Fiddler Dylan Foley!



We are delighted to announce that our September meeting will include not only our own delightful Duke City Ceili Band but also the amazing Dylan Foley. A 4-time All-Ireland Fiddle Champion, 23-year-old Dylan (who lives in New York) was a student of the great Rose Flanagan (the original fiddler in Cherish the Ladies). He is a vibrant stylist whose playing has been called “impeccable and spirited.” He has performed at Lincoln Center, Joanie Madden’s Folk N’ Irish Cruise, the Austin Celtic Festival, at Gracie Mansion for NYC Mayor Bloomberg, and he has been featured on Irish Television. At age 12, Dylan made an appearance on the HBO special “The Music in Me.” He has also performed with Mick Moloney, Joanie Madden, Bobby Hicks, Matt Molloy, and Sharon Shannon. In 2012, he released his debut solo album, *Hup!* Since then he has released two stellar albums with the award-winning quartet The Yanks. (You can check out his [videos](#) here.) He now teaches privately, and plays concerts and sessions around the greater NY area and abroad. What a treat to have him visit us in NM—you won’t want to miss this! [Note: Dylan Foley’s performance is co-sponsored by the Sliabh Sandia New Mexico branch of *Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann*.]

Our September meeting will NOT be held at the German-American Club. We will meet at NOTZ pub, located at 6132 4th St NW, upstairs in Lucky 66 Bowling Alley, where the original Sadie’s restaurant was. (See map on p. .) NOTZ is a great little place, with a space for performers and even some dancing. They provide a selection of wine and beer (Guinness included!) at reasonable prices (also iced tea), as well as a menu that includes appetizers (chips & salsa), salads, burgers, sandwiches, Mexican plates, and fried ice cream for dessert! NOTZ can hold up to 75 people, and we will be sending out an RSVP by email so as to get a headcount before the event. [Note: We will be at NOTZ for the September meeting ONLY. For our October and November meetings, and our Christmas party in December, we will be back at the GAC.]

2018 Board Members and Committee Chairs

President	Ellen Dowling edowling@standuptrainer.com	307-1700	Health & Welfare	Don Hardy frananddon@aol.com	259-3348
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Board	Maureen Riley mriley6918@yahoo.com	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 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

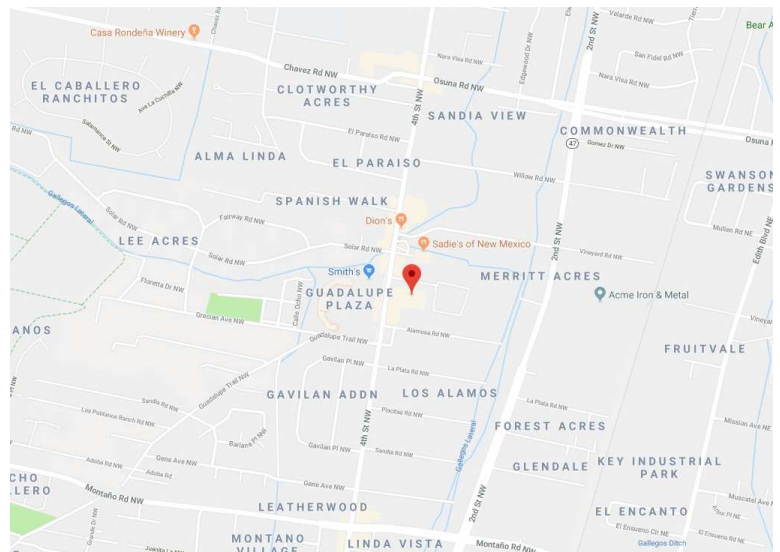
Dear IAS Members:

Last month I told you all that the Board had discussed and analyzed the results of the survey that we sent out several months ago. (Thanks to all who responded!) One major point of consideration was our current meeting and event venue, and particularly the issue of smoking. More than 50% of you said you would be more likely to attend our activities if they were held at a location that does NOT permit smoking. 20% of you also indicated that you had children, and so we discussed how we would be able to add more child-friendly activities to our regular entertainment lineup.

With all this in mind, the Board has decided to seek a new venue (or venues) for our 2019 meetings and events, and we are seeking suggestions from you. For our monthly meetings, we need a space that could accommodate 35-40 people (our average attendance) and have room for dancing, musical performances, and lectures (AV equipment, such as a projector and screen, would be a plus). For our annual events, such as our St. Patrick's Day Party, Halloween Party, and Christmas Party, we would need a space that could hold up to 300 people. For St. Patrick's Day in particular, we would also need a bar and a kitchen, so we could sell Jameson's and Guinness and corned beef and cabbage (for example). (Interestingly, 70% of you said that you didn't care if we could serve alcohol or not, but we feel that havin' a pint on St. Patty's Day is a must. ☺) It would also be grand to have our functions in a space that is open to the public (i.e., not a private club), so that we could advertise and attract new members.

Do you know of any meeting place(s) in the Albuquerque area that would meet our needs? (50% of you live on the eastside of Albuquerque.) If so, please let us know—email me at edowling@standuptrainer.com or call me at 505-307-1700.

In the meantime, hope to see you at the Picnic on August 26 and at our September meeting (at NOTZ, remember, not the GAC) on September 14th. (Map to NOTZ is at right.)



From 4th Street, between Osuna and Montañito, turn east at the Lucky 66 Bowl sign, right next to Kelly Liquors. (Lucky 66 Bowl is right behind Kelly's.) Enter through the bowling alley on the ground floor and then go up the stairs to NOTZ, or enter up the ramp outside directly into NOTZ.

Membership Report

By Norita and Ken Callahan

Céad Mile Fáilte (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes) to our newest member: Royce Reano.

As of August 15th, there are 81 family members (x 2), 87 single members, and 7 students. This is a total of 256 renewals and new members.

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.

Treasurer's Report July 2018

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Membership (check/cash)	\$45.00	Ch#104: Bob Bryers (newsletter mailing supplies)	\$86.27
Membership (credit card)	\$23.97		
Donation (credit card)	\$50.00		
Total Income	\$117.22	Total Expenses	\$86.27
		IAS Account prior month's Ending Balance	\$9,486.48
		Plus Income (current month)	\$117.22
		Less Expenses (current month)	(\$86.27)
		Current month's Ending Balance	\$9,517.43

Did Saint Patrick banish all the snakes from Ireland? It turns out the story is a bit more complicated than that.

By Sheila Langan, [Irish Central](#)



Legend tells it that in addition to introducing Christianity to Ireland, St. Patrick banished all the snakes from the Emerald Isle, chasing them into the sea from atop a cliff where he had undertaken a 40-day fast. As beloved as this element of St. Patrick's story may be, a brief scientific inquiry and look back through history – such as the one National

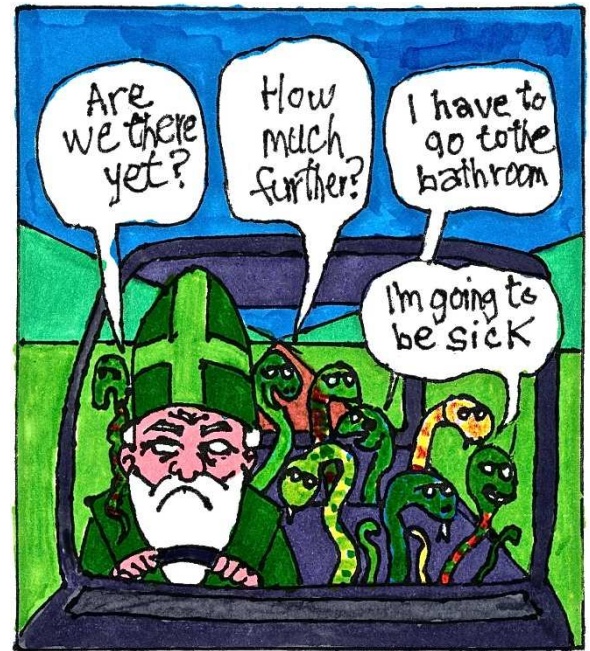
Geographic conducted in 2014 – reveals what while St. Patrick did a great many things, sending snakes slithering away from Ireland was not one of them.

Snakes never came to Ireland.

The truth is that there were never any snakes in Ireland to begin with. There are no signs of snakes in Ireland's fossil record. In fact, it's likely that for millennia there weren't any snakes in either Ireland or Britain, though Britain eventually gained three species of snakes: the Grass Snake, the Adder Snake and the Smooth Snake.

So, how did that happen?

During the Ice Age, Ireland and England were too frigid to be suitable habitats for cold-blooded reptiles such as snakes. But then, 10,000 years ago, when the glaciers shifted and land emerged connecting Europe, England and Ireland, allowing for migration, animals that did make it to Ireland during this time period included brown bears, lynx, and wild boars.



Saint Patrick Driving the snakes out of Ireland

When the glaciers began melting, the land between Ireland and England was covered over 8,500 years ago, but the land between Britain and Europe went underwater 6,500 years ago, allowing more time for snakes to slither over.

Ireland is one of many countries where there are no snakes.

Ireland is not the only place in the world without snakes – there are no native species of snakes to be found in Iceland, Greenland, Hawaii, New Zealand, parts of Canada, northern Russia, or, not surprisingly, Antarctica . . . meaning St. Patrick would have been a very busy fellow.

Rather, it seems that the snakes have served as an allegory for paganism, which St. Patrick “banished” when he brought the Catholic religion to Ireland's shores.

"At no time has there ever been any suggestion of snakes in Ireland. [There was] nothing for St. Patrick to banish," says Nigel Monaghan, keeper of natural history at the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin.

Or, as Mark Ryan, director of the Louisiana Poison Center at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, said, “There are no snakes in Ireland for the simple reason they couldn't get there because the climate wasn't favorable for them to be there.”

The only courageous reptile that did make it all the way to and populate Ireland was the common lizard. The Slow Worm, a non-native species of lizard that does not have legs, is often mistaken for a snake even though it was not one.



Interestingly, during the Celtic Tiger period of economic expansion, owning exotic snakes became something of a status symbol in Ireland. But when the Irish economy collapsed, many snakes wound up abandoned due to the high cost of care.

For St. Patrick's Day 2013, the *New York Times* reported on the phenomenon and talked to Kevin Cunningham, founder of the National Exotic Animal Sanctuary, which took in many abandoned snakes.

He said that he believes Irish people have an inbred fear of snakes: "We have it deep inbred in us that they're evil and nasty and tempted Eve and were led out of Ireland. One six-foot snake ended up with us recently after its owner lost his job and had to move in with his parents. Being a good Irish mother, she said, 'Of course I'll take you back home — but I'm not taking your boa constrictor.'"

Irish Culture Society Now Back in New Mexico!



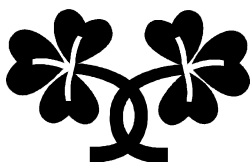
COMHALTAS

A message from IAS Board member Laura Banks:

Everyone is welcome! *Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann* (pronounced "kol-tus kyol-tori air-in") is an international non-profit organization based in Dublin, Ireland, with 400 branches worldwide. The name translates to "a gathering of Irish musicians." Started in 1951, *Comhaltas'* purpose is to preserve and promote the traditional Irish arts of dance, music, singing, and language.

The *Sliabh Sandia New Mexico branch*, originally formed in 1994, has been re-established with a mission to connect and support those who enjoy Irish arts through performance, participation, or patronage, and encourage a new generation of Irish cultural artists in New Mexico. The name of the branch (pronounced "sleeve san-dee-a") joins the Irish name for mountain with the Spanish name of a beautiful New Mexico mountain range that famously glows red at sunset (like a *sandia* or watermelon).

Membership is open to anyone in New Mexico who enjoys Irish music, dance, singing, poetry, and storytelling, or wants to learn more about Irish arts. We welcome experts and explorers, and members of all heritages and histories. Members of the local branch automatically become members of the international *Comhaltas* organization and receive discounts on registration at national and international events, as well as the quarterly publication, *Treoir*. By joining *Sliabh Sandia New Mexico*, you will be supporting musicians, dancers, singers, and poets, and helping to establish a framework for youth in New Mexico to develop creative skills and become ambassadors for Irish traditions. *Sliabh Sandia New Mexico* partners with other Irish cultural organizations in New Mexico, including the Irish-American Society and the UNM Irish Studies Program, to support local, national and international Irish cultural artists. To join online, click here: [Comhaltas New Mexico Membership](#) or contact Laura Banks at LLBanks64@comcast.net (505-249-5063).



Flowers of the Forest

We recently heard of the passing of Joan Oller, at 90 years of age, on August 12th. A member of the IAS since 1999, Joan had attended many of our functions in past years.

Some of you may remember the sweet lady who usually showed up late to the event, but always brought delicious deviled eggs (from her own chickens, I believe). She was a resident of the small NM town of San Pedro. Her funeral mass will be August 21st at Holy Child Church in Tijeras.

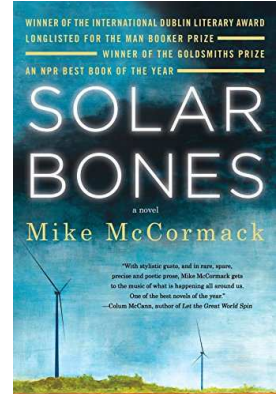
May she rest in peace.

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 (or click on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2022642747761043/>), and you'll find us. In July we read *Solar Bones*, by Mike McCormack, which won the International Dublin Literary Award. Our book for August is *The Ruin, A Novel*, by Dervla McTiernan, who lives in Cork. (All the books we read are available on Amazon, and many can be found in our local libraries, which is where I found *Solar Bones*.)

Solar Bones, by Mike McCormack

Here is my (Ellen's) first take on finishing this most amazing book: "A few days ago, I was gushing about this book to a friend of mine who, like myself, has a PhD in English. When I told her that the entire book is one sentence (not a period to be found), she said, 'Oh, no, I could never read it; it would be too distracting.' But here's the thing—the absence of periods is not distracting at all. On the contrary, it seems to push the prose along, adding to the suspense. I was initially afraid that reading *Solar Bones* might be like reading *Finnegan's Wake*, with its massive confusing paragraphs, but that's not the case at all. And the author uses lots of other stylistic techniques (paragraph breaks, dialogue) to keep the writing from getting bogged down. And then when I found out how it ended . . . oh, my, well, I just wanted to immediately start over, knowing what was to come."



Then, book club member Kathy Wimmer wrote, "I must write and talk more about the ending, but I knew from the very beginning that that kind of ending was inevitable. It says so in the blurb of the audiobook, apparently on the back cover of the book itself, and also the blurb that's up on Amazon's audio and non-audio version of the book. So we're told, at the beginning, of the end. I have a bunch of different reviews to share; only one that seemed to be surprised at the ending. The others all point to knowing "it" from the beginning. I'm sorry I'm being so cryptic, but I don't know if I should say it yet. Although knowing it from the beginning didn't spoil it at all for me."

Ellen again: "OK, cryptic time is over. 😊 I must have missed the info about the ending until I was halfway through the book, and then, for some unknown reason, I looked at the blurb on the inside cover of the library hard copy I was reading and saw this: "It is All Souls Day, and the spirit of Marcus Conway sits at his kitchen table and remembers." <insert sound of mind being blown> From then on, of course, I read even faster, now knowing that Marcus was going to die, but not knowing how. It reminded me of how I felt watching *The Sixth Sense* and *The Crying Game*, neither of which I figured out before their big revelations and was thus completely gobsmacked."

And then this from *Irish Times* (Dublin) reviewer Colin Barrett: "But it would, I think, be a mistake to valorize *Solar Bones* simply for its formal ingenuity: the single sentence, while of course a magnificently assured piece of showing off, isn't only a magnificently assured piece of showing off. As McCormack himself has explained it in an interview on writing, 'Once I realized that Marcus was dead, then his ghostly presence dictated the prose style, and it seemed obvious to me that the prose would proceed as a continuous outpour because that is the way a ghost would think . . . continuous, never stopping for fear that, as a ghost, he might dissipate or falter.' The single sentence is, in other words, the perfect form for the story's content, a textual correlative to the clichéd but powerful idea that as you die, your entire life must flash before your eyes, in all its unperiodicized multiplicities. *Solar Bones* is the encompassing flash of a life." [Note from Ellen: It's often hilariously funny!]

Walk East Until I Die: An Irishman's Account of his Journey from Co. Cork to Istanbul, Turkey

The impossible dream becomes a reality for Mike as he sets out alone at the age of 67 to walk the E8 European path. In this engaging book he begins the challenge on Dursey Island, County Cork in the Republic of Ireland and the first stage ends in Dublin city. Utilising an elderly camper van and a pushbike Mike shuttles along, experiencing injury, breakdowns and frequent loss of bearings. Along the way he delves into the depths of Irish history from ancient times until the formation of the modern Republic.

The walk will eventually traverse 12 countries and end in Istanbul, Turkey. If he makes it he will be 84 years old.



In Kenmare Mike discovers the ruined house of a seventeenth century Protestant colony. In Killarney he tries to uncover the motives of a solicitor turned forger who was transported to Australia, whilst in Millstreet the atmosphere is alive with the spirit of the Volunteers that would become the IRA. The events of the War of Independence and Civil War are traced as the path winds its way through Fermoy and Clogheen to the village of Newcastle.

In Carrick-On-Suir the roots of Irish folk music link to Bob Dylan, whilst near Clonegal and Tinahely Mike finds evidence of the potato famine and the subsequent mass exodus of Irish to the United States and Canada.

This fascinating insight into the legendary and mystical land that is Ireland concludes amongst fairies, leprechauns, James Joyce and Guinness in Dublin city.

To purchase a copy of the book (there's a Kindle edition, too), and/or follow Mike on his journey (and see lots of beautiful pictures), visit his website:

<https://www.walkeastuntilidie.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.

There are experienced researchers available to assist you in the following areas of investigation:

- ♣ Revolutionary War Ancestors
- ♣ Mayflower Descendants
- ♣ Jamestown Research
- ♣ Huguenot Research
- ♣ Scandinavian Research
- ♣ German Research
- ♣ Hispanic Research
- ♣ Celtic Research (1-3 PM last Tuesday of the month)
- ♣ Assistance using the Internet for Research
- ♣ Assistance with DNA in Genealogy

Free, full access to the Library's Genealogy Computer Lab with the best genealogy sites.

Free parking for two hours at the parking garage on the SE corner from the library, just get your ticket stamped at the library.

This event is sponsored by the Albuquerque Genealogical Society. The research days are always

Third Saturday of the month,
10:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Last Tuesday of the month,
10:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Questions? Contact Robert Harper at robertharper48@comcast.net

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.irishdancencm.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.)



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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>



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.

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)

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 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
September 4	Tuesday	<i>IAS Board of Directors meeting</i> , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
September 14	Friday	<i>IAS Monthly Meeting</i> , 7 PM at Notz, (6132 4th St NW, Albuquerque), with performances by the Duke City Ceili Band and four-time All Ireland master fiddler, Dylan Foley. [See front page for info.]]
October 2	Tuesday	<i>IAS Board of Directors meeting</i> , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
October 12	Friday	<i>IAS Monthly Meeting</i> , 7 PM at the GAC. Program will be a lecture on Ireland by Frankie Davis of Frankie's Irish Tours. (Frankie is an Irishman living in Carlsbad, NM!)
October 27	Saturday	<i>Halloween (Samhain) Party</i> at the GAC. Details to come in the October newsletter.

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.

September 6, 13, 20, 27	Thursdays	<i>Irish Music Session</i> , every Thursday night at Notz, (6132 4th St NW, Albuquerque), 7 to 10 PM. For more info, contact Harlow Pinson at hpinson@indepthl.com .
September 8	Saturday	<i>Weinfest</i> , 6:30 to 10:30 at the GAC. Band will be Hit Squad. Cost: \$12.00.
September 10 & 24	Mondays	<i>Singing Pilgrims' "Ceilidh at the Crossroads"</i> at The Blue Grasshopper Brew Pub, 7-9 PM, north of Coors and Montano.
September 15	Saturday	<i>Apple Mountain Celtic Session</i> from 1 to 3 PM at High and Dry Brewing, 529 Adams St. NE, ABQ. (Contact Jim Crowley jabbas40@yahoo.com .)
September 16	Sunday	<i>Rio Grande Jazz</i> playing at the GAC from 2:00 to 5:30. Cost: \$10.00.
September 19	Wednesday	<i>Duke City Ceili Band House Concert</i> , 7 – 8:30 PM, to benefit the ABQ Folk Festival. Location is a private amphitheater in the NE heights near Supper Rock (E of Tramway, N of Central). To get directions and reserve your seat(s), please contact Erika at 505-294-6909 or erika@unm.edu or Cleve at 505-507-9915 or clevelans@comcast.net . Suggested donation: \$15.
September 23	Sunday	<i>Rye Creek Band</i> at O'Niell's Pub Heights, 3301 Juan Tabo NE, 4-7 PM.
September 29	Saturday	<i>Oktoberfest</i> , 6:30 to 10:30 at the GAC. Band will be Swingshift. Cost: \$12.00.



**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 _____

How did you hear about us? _____