



IRISH TIMES

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

NOVEMBER 2022

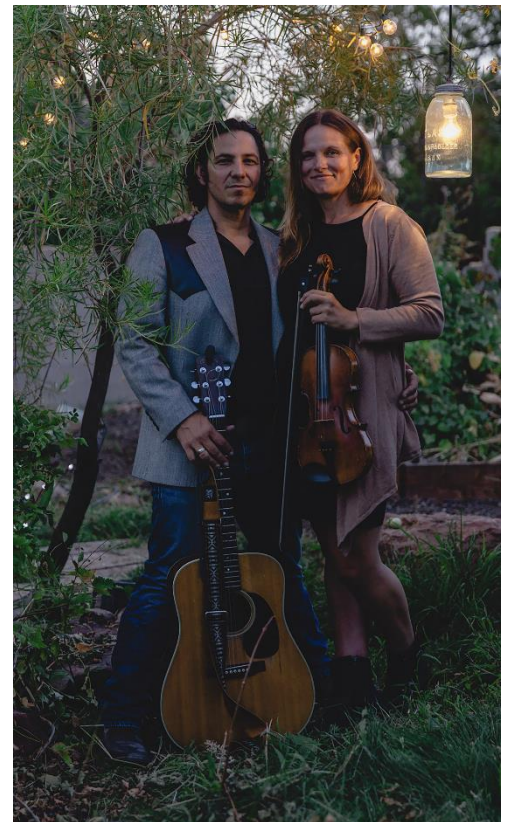
Note: Irish-American Society meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month, except during July and August (and for special events). For all future meetings, we are back at the German American Club at 4821 Menaul Blvd NE.

Next General Meeting: **Friday, November 11th** **7 PM at the GAC** **A Musical Performance by** ***Two Leaf Clover!***

Two Leaf Clover consists of wife/husband duo Nikelle and David Garcia, performing a delicate blend of Irish, Scottish and Cape Breton-inspired music. The couple poetically navigates between swiftly moving jigs and reels, beautiful, heartfelt airs, and a few sprinkles of well-known Irish drinking songs that are often crowd favorites.

Nikelle developed an interest in Celtic music at a very young age and has continued to be inspired by greats such as Martin Hayes, Alasdair Fraser, and Natalie McMaster. After graduating college, Nikelle traveled to Ireland where she worked as a bartender at O'Conner's Pub in Doolin Co. Clare for a year. Her free time was spent sitting in on local Irish music sessions.

David Climaco Garcia is a songwriter, guitarist, and composer, who was greatly influenced by classic 70s singer/songwriters like Paul Simon, Bob Dylan, and Tom Waits. David joined Nikelle on guitar shortly before they wed in 2017. The couple plays for Sunday Brunch at Two Fools Tavern every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 11 AM – 2 PM.



**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 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.



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President's Message

By Karen Wall



[Editor's Note: Our President Karen has been under the weather for a while and we wish her a speedy recovery and lots of healthy days to come!]

Membership Report

By Caren Garcia

Céad Mile Fáilte: A hundred thousand welcomes to our new members Michael Butler, Dan Casey, and Roger & Lisa Garza. As of October 1st, we have 55 individual, 2 student, and 50 (x 2) family memberships, for a total of 157 members.

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 Desi Garcia & Family, and Steve & Kari Laverty and Family.

Treasurer's Report As of September 30th, 2022*

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Membership—electronic/Square (less fees—see expenses)	\$35.00	U-Stor-It monthly storage fee	-\$40.00
Membership—cash/checks	\$45.00	Square fees (memberships)	-\$1.62
Amazon Smile Quarterly donations`	\$16.07	Check #293: ABQ Folk Festival sponsorship for Duke City Ceili Band	\$200.00
		Check #294: State Farm Ins. Premium	\$325.00
Total Income	\$96.07	Total Expenses	-\$566.62
		IAS Account prior month's ENDING balance	\$8,019.18
		Plus Income (current month)	\$96.07
		Less Expenses (current month)	(\$566.62)
		*Ending Balance as of date of report	\$7,548.63

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 September was *The Glorious Heresies* by Lisa McInerney; for November, we'll discuss *We Don't Know Ourselves* by Fintan O'Toole; and for December we'll chat about *Antarctica* by Claire Keegan.

The Glorious Heresies by Lisa McInerney

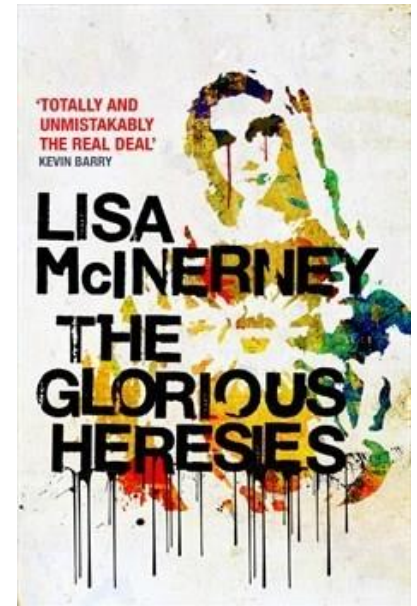
From Amazon's description: "From Lisa McInerney, hailed by *The Irish Times* as 'arguably the most talented writer at work in Ireland today,' comes *The Glorious Heresies*, a searing debut novel about life on the fringes of Ireland's post-crash society.

When grandmother Maureen Phelan is surprised in her home by a stranger, she clubs the intruder with a Holy Stone. The consequences of this unplanned murder connect four misfits struggling against their meager circumstances. Ryan is a fifteen-year-old drug dealer desperate not to turn out like his alcoholic father, Tony, whose feud with his next-door neighbor threatens to ruin his family. Georgie is a sex worker who half-heartedly joins a born-again movement to escape her profession and drug habit. And Jimmy Phelan, the most fearsome gangster in the city and Maureen's estranged son, finds that his mother's bizarre attempts at redemption threaten his entire organization. Biting and darkly funny, *The Glorious Heresies* presents an unforgettable vision of a city plagued by poverty and exploitation, where salvation still awaits in the most unexpected places."

Winner of the 2016 Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction and the Desmond Elliott Prize; shortlisted for Best Newcomer at the Irish Book Awards; longlisted for the 2016 International Dylan Thomas Prize; awarded *The Irish Times* March Book of the Month and *the New York Time's* Book Review's "10 Best Crime Novels" of the year; *The Glorious Heresies* struck some of our Irish Book Club readers as grim but also hilarious. Ellen's take: "My favorite part of the book is Chapter 10, in which Maureen goes to Confession. Here's how she begins: 'Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It's been decades since my last confession.' 'Decades?' 'Oh, aeons. Can you imagine what a burden it's been, Father? Carrying all that sin around, like saddlebags on the back of an ass?' And later in that same Confession, the priest doesn't think Maureen is sufficiently contrite. 'If you are truly repentant, God is always here to hear you.' 'God is great that way. He has massive ears and a mouth sewn shut,' Maureen retorts."

Book Club member Pete McKenna was not so easily amused: "*Glorious Heresies* is a brutal and nasty jolt of the same old Irish domestic violence and hopelessness. But I'm not done. Maybe Jesus will come down and grant them a sense of humor and perspective; the characters but likely not the author . . ."

Book Club member Kathy Wimmer had a more nuanced reaction: "I 'read' it as an Audible book, narrated by Shelley Atkinson. The book was well-written, and the narrator was excellent. Perhaps too good. Perhaps if I had read and not heard the book, the relentless self-destruction of just about all of the characters in the book may not have been so depressing. I, like Ellen, loved Maureen and laughed a lot when her scenes appeared, but by the end of the book I had stopped caring about the fates of the main characters and was only really interested in Maureen. The ending had a really worthwhile payoff, but I was so weary of all the violence (least of all the being the "murder" around which the whole book revolves) that I almost didn't appreciate it."



Member Spotlight: John and Carol Conoboy

By IAS Member Elena Gallegos

I had the pleasure of interviewing long-time IAS members, John and Carol Conoboy via email.



1. How long have you been a member of the IAS and who or what influenced you to join?

We joined around 1997 or 1998. I had been interested in playing Irish tunes and I got a mandolin as a present from Carol and started to try to learn some tunes. I saw an announcement about folks getting together to play tunes at Steve Nickell's house and I responded. Other folks who responded were Pam Morden, Andrew Post, Cleve Sharp, and Scott Estes. We would play and learn tunes and eventually we formed a band called Beyond the Pale. (Historically, the Pale was the enclosed area around Dublin under English tyranny, and beyond the Pale were the wild, free Irish people.) Anyway, because of all this, we learned about the IAS and joined. Beyond the Pale played at a number of IAS events.

2. Would you please tell us the history of the Conoboy surname and, Carol, if you wish to share some history about your maiden name as well?

Conoboy is a name from County Mayo. My grandfather, Martin Conoboy (or Conaboy), was born around 1854 or so in an area called Shanvallycahill (Tourmakeady). I have seen the name as O'Conobhuidhe, and I was told that it means "yellow dog." My aunt told me that Martin was from Leenane, which is now in County Galway and is south of Shanvallycahill. My grandmother was Brigid Coyne, and she came from County Galway and lived in an area a bit east of Maam (not to be confused with Maam Cross). Her father was John Coyne and I have a family portrait of him. My grandmother was in her 90s when she died in the 1960s. She did not talk about her time in Ireland, and I was too dumb to ask. A few years ago, I learned that when she came to the US in the late 1800's, she only spoke Irish.

Carol's maiden name is Nelson on her father's side, which was derived from the Scandinavian Neilsen. On her mother's side she is a Cook; her grandmother was from England. The rumor in the family is that they were related to the Stewarts, but that is apparently not the case.

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

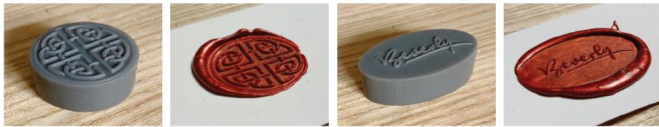
My first trip to Ireland was in 1972. My father, my brother, and I went over and spent time mostly in Dublin and Galway, where my grandmother's sister, Nora Duffy (née Coyne) lived. We met her son and his wife and our cousins Patrick and Barbara. Nora was very old and she had not seen her sister since Brigid left Ireland. It was very touching as she was sitting near the fireplace (a turf fire) and she kept looking at my father and saying, "You're Brigid's son?" as if she couldn't believe it. At the time the Duffys lived in a house in Cloughbrack, which is east of Cong.



In 2008, my brother and I went to Ireland. He was doing family genealogy and I wanted to play music. We spent some time with our cousin Patrick and saw the remains of the house our grandmother was born in and the nearby stone house that was owned by the Duffy family. We also got together with our cousin Barbara and her husband Pat Creaven. My brother went home before I did, so I took a trip down to County Wicklow and stayed in Avoca. I liked the TV show *Ballykissangel*, which was filmed in Avoca, so it was fun to walk around the town seeing places from the show and having a pint in the evening at Fitzgerald's pub, which was central to the show. Carol and I went to Ireland in 2019 and traveled around for almost a month. We spent many days exploring Dublin and Galway and wandered about visiting places in Counties Donegal, Sligo, Galway, Clare, Kerry, and Meath. I got to play in a number of Irish sessions and visit with several Irish musicians that I had the good chance to meet over the years. We spent time with Patrick and Barbara and Pat. (About a year after we came home, cousin Patrick died.)

4. *Where are you originally from and how long have you lived in NM?*

Carol and I both grew up in the Cleveland, Ohio area. I lived in Cleveland Heights and Carol lived in Shaker Heights. Our schools were arch rivals, but we did not meet until college, at Case Western Reserve University. Carol and I both taught at Sandy Spring Friends School, a Quaker boarding school outside of Washington DC, but I eventually got a job as National Park Ranger. Then I took a job in Santa Fe working on National Historic Trails. Carol continued in education and worked with gifted students, especially American Indians at Southern Utah University, the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, the College of Santa Fe, and Bernalillo Schools. We are now both retired.



Create Something This Year!

When my lovely wife Beverly asked for a custom seal for her correspondence, it took just a day to create the examples you see here.

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I came to New Mexico in late 1989 and was living in Santa Fe. Carol and our kids, Heather and Brendan, did not move here until 1991. In Santa Fe, I met folks who had a weekly folk club where we got together and sang folk songs from the British Isles and Ireland. There were a couple of people who played tunes and that spurred my interest eventually in learning to play Irish traditional tunes. In 1998, I also got involved in ZoukFest, a gathering of players of the Irish bouzouki, which evolved into a larger world music camp, but was still mostly Irish music-oriented. Carol has been part of the Celtic Singers group with Michele Buchanan since 2010. They regularly perform at various IAS and other Celtic events around town. We've met a lot of great Irish musicians whom we call friends and Carol and I have invited many of them to stay at our house when they came through town.

5. *Any Irish movie, book, or music recommendations?*

We are suckers for feel-good Irish movies and love to watch *Waking Ned Devine* and *The Secret of Roan Inish*. I would recommend a not-so-feel-good movie, *Nora*, about Nora Barnacle, James Joyce's wife. Interestingly, the surname Barnacle is an Anglicized version of the name Coyne. For music lovers, I recommend *The Boys and Girl from County Clare*. For music, I have so many recommendations that I would run out of ink if I was writing them down. My strongest recommendation is to encourage folks to listen to the older Irish musicians and groups. A single musician such as Kevin Burke or Frankie Gavin playing tunes without accompaniment is the purest form of Irish traditional music. We are used to the big Irish bands like Dervish, Lunasa, and Altan, and I love them, but when real traditional Irish music was born, it was at most a couple of folks with a fiddle, a flute, a harp, or pipes sitting in the kitchen and maybe some people dancing. I like to remember the roots of traditional music.

Have You Met the Sheep of Ireland?

By IAS Membership Chair Caren Garcia

Until I went to Ireland, I was not aware that there were many varieties of sheep that look very dissimilar from their cousins. Based on my childhood stories, I remember they were mostly white, with a few exceptions who were black, right? I visited a sheep ranch in Ireland where the owner put on demonstrations with his sheep dogs on how sheep were herded and how the dogs received commands. Below are a few photos and some information about sheep.



Few varieties of sheep have been in Ireland for very long, as the old breeds have been “outbred” over time, so most were imported. The loss of the indigenous breeds was also partly due to the years of The Great Hunger.

As of December 2018, there were 3.73 million sheep in Ireland. The most common types of sheep in Ireland are the Scottish Blackface and the Lowland or Suffolk varieties. There are also Leicester Border and Blue Face Sheep, Cotswold, and several others. The largest number are found in

Counties Donegal, Galway, Mayo, Kerry, and Wicklow. Galway and Kerry have their own breeds. Wool production and sheep meat are an important niche for the Republic of Ireland in the European Union economy. Their biggest customers are the United Kingdom and France. (These stats come from before the ill-conceived Brexit move by the UK.)

Now you know more than you ever thought you would about the sheep of Ireland. And for the dog lovers, the sheepdogs receive their orders via special whistles.



NOTE: The photos are mine. A source for most of the information is www.AskAboutIreland.ie, “Sheep Farming,” and the [Hillwalk Tours website](http://HillwalkTours.com).



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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.

Thursdays at 6 PM: Open Irish Music Session

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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

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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.

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.)



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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
October 29	Saturday	Halloween/Samhain Celtic New Year Celebration , co-hosted by the GAC and the IAS, 6:30-10:00 PM. For info, contact Norita (noraabq@yahoo.com).
November 3	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM on Zoom. All members are invited to attend. (Email Kathy Wimmer for the link.)
November 11	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program : A musical performance by Two Leaf Clover. (See p. 1.)
December 1	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM on Zoom. All members are invited to attend. (Email Kathy Wimmer for the link.)
December 11	Sunday	IAS Annual Christmas Party , potluck, noon to 3 PM. Dancers, singers, a silent auction, and a visit from Santa! More details to come.

Celtic/GAC Events

The GAC phone number is 888-4833.

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Tuesdays	The Irish Slow session meets Tuesdays at 6:30 in the Manzano Mesa Multi-Generational center, near Central and Eubank. For info, contact Kip Malone on Facebook .
November 6 and 20	Sundays	Two Leaf Clover (Nikelle Gessner and David Garcis) play for Sunday Brunch at Two Fools Tavern every 1 st and 3 rd Sunday of the month from 11 AM – 2 PM.
November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Wednesdays	Ceili Dancing Classes with Norita at the GAC , 6:30 - 8 PM, \$2.00. No experience necessary! (Call 505-298-2708 for more info.)
November 3, 10, 17	Thursdays	Albuquerque Traditional Irish Music Open Session from 6-9 PM at Hops Brewery, 7222 4 th Street. For more info, contact Harlow Pinson at hpinson@indepth1.com .
November 18	Friday	Super Ceili at the GAC with special short concert from The Southwest Ramblers and the Duke City Ceili Band . 6:00 – 9 PM. There will be Ceili dancing and also some set dancing. Entrance is \$5.
November 20	Sunday	Jazz Sunday at the GAC , 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>