



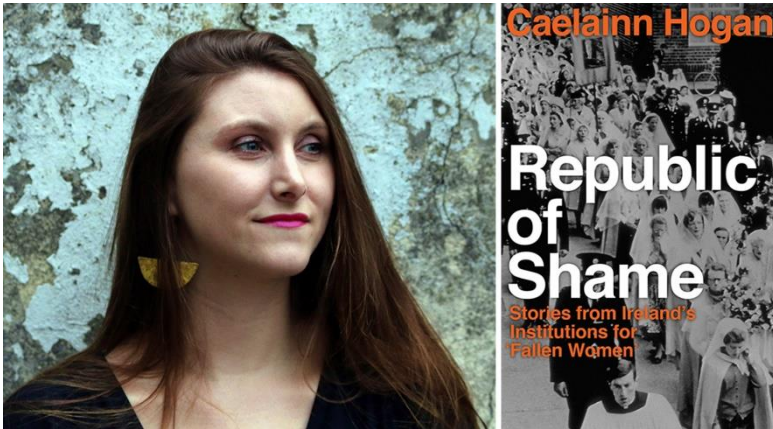
IRISH TIMES

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

JULY 2021

Note: Irish-American Society meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month, except during July and August (and for special events). In the Before Times, the meeting location was the Memorial Hall at the First Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle Blvd NE, SW corner of Comanche and Carlisle (where someday we may meet again).

Next Virtual Meeting: Saturday, July 10, 1PM



A Discussion of *Republic of Shame* with Author Caelinn Hogan

Caelinn Hogan (whose first name is pronounced Kay-lin) will be the Zoom guest at a special IAS online event on Saturday, July 10th at 1 pm MDT. Ms. Hogan will join us from Ireland (hence the early time). An Irish writer and journalist, her first book, *Republic of Shame*,

explores the ongoing legacy of religious-run institutions for "fallen women." She has reported internationally on conflict, migration, and marginalization. Her work has appeared in the *The New York Times Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *The Guardian*, *VICE Magazine*, and *The Washington Post*, among others. She lives in Dublin.

From Amazon's description: "Caelinn Hogan—a brilliant young journalist, born in an Ireland that was only just starting to free itself from the worst excesses of Catholic morality—has been talking to the survivors of the institutions, to members of the religious orders that ran them, and to priests and bishops. She has visited the sites of the institutions, and studied Church and state documents that have much to reveal about how they operated. Reporting and writing with great curiosity, tenacity and insight, she has produced a startling and often moving account of how an entire society colluded in this repressive system, and of the damage done to survivors and their families."

NOTE: As we have done for past Zoom meetings, the link to the event will be sent out shortly before 1 PM on July 10th. IAS members will be sent the link automatically. Feel free to forward the link to any friends who might be interested.

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Would you like to place a sponsorship in the *Irish Times* newsletter?

Business-card-sized ads are a mere \$5 a month. Larger-sized ads can be negotiated with the editor, Ellen Dowling (edowling@standuptrainer.com 307-1700).

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



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President's Message

By Ellen Dowling

“June is busting out all over . . .” Busting out and opening up, that is. We are so happy to report that we have booked the Kiwanis Pavilion at Elena Gallegos picnic area for Sept. 12, from noon to 4 PM for our annual family picnic! Details will come in the next newsletters, but for now, if you remember the drill, then you also remember that this is a joint event with the St. Andrew Scottish Society and that we alternate hosting duties every year. Last year it was the IAS' turn to host. So that means THIS year is our turn. The IAS will supply hot dogs and hamburgers and all accoutrements, including utensils, and we ask that you all bring a side dish or a dessert to share. (Also BYOB.) We're hoping that we'll also get a group of local Celtic musicians to come and play for us. Just imagine—an actual event with real people! I can't wait!

You might also be thinking, I thought the IAS didn't hold programs in July and August? Ah, but this is no ordinary year, yes? And because of zoom, we are able to digitally congregate without the need for a physical space. And then our Programs Director, Bill Nevins, just kept contacting folks who wanted to share with us . . . and the rest is history. (Maya Sutton will be our speaker on August 13, talking about Newgrange.) Please do pop in on Saturday, July 10, at 1 PM for our chat with author Caelinn Hogan. She has written a most important book about a most tragic occurrence in Irish history.

See you (literally?) in September

Membership Report

By Gwen Easterday

Céad Mile Fáilte: A hundred thousand welcomes to new member Erin Flynn and, after a couple years absence, returning member Carol Williford. And many thanks to those current members who have renewed for 2021.

As of June 17, 2021, we have 51 individuals and 49 family (x 2) RENEWALS for a total of 149 members, thus far in this start of the second year of the pandemic. 28 IAS members have selected to be Associate Members of the GAC.

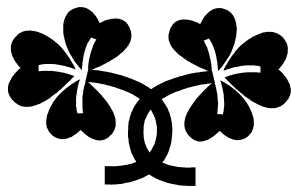
Message from Norita Callahan: RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE STILL SEEKING PULL-TAB DONATIONS! The aluminum or steel pull tabs donated from beverage cans or ANY kind of canned food (6000 + pounds annually) generate funds to offset the House expenses. YOUR donations make a significant impact and are very much appreciated.

Thanks this month to Barbara Nagey (by USPS as always 📮) and Lee & Patricia Dickens.

Treasurer's Report May 2021

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Donation from Bev Coleman/Coleman Academy. (At the liquidation of the nonprofit Irish dance academy, the board decided to gift the remaining funds to the IAS.)	\$1,884.92	U-Stor-It monthly storage fee	\$35.00
Membership—electronic (Square)	\$67.06	Ck# 238: Niambh McCann (May general meeting speaker)	\$70.00
Membership—cash/checks	\$25.00	Ck# 239: Annemarie Ni Churreain (May general meeting speaker)	\$70.00
GAC membership	\$10.00	Ck# 240: Larry Compton (newsletter mailing supplies)	\$21.04
Amazon Smile quarterly donation	\$20.04	Ck# 241: Ellen Dowling (GoDaddy Website annual renewal)	\$189.10
Total Income	\$2,007.02	Total Expenses	(\$385.14)
		IAS Account prior month's ENDING balance	\$9,061.22
		Plus Income (current month)	\$2,007.02
		Less Expenses (current month)	(\$385.14)
		Current month's Ending Balance	\$10,683.10



Flowers of the Forest

We were saddened to learn of the death of long-time IAS member Betty Wylie, who passed on May 10, 2021. A Wells Fargo advisor for 20 years, Betty also loved knitting, crocheting, paper crafts, making jewelry, and genealogy. She will be missed by her daughters, Michelle and Stephanie, and son James, as well as her six grandchildren.



May she rest in peace.

Albuquerque
Open Irish Music
Session

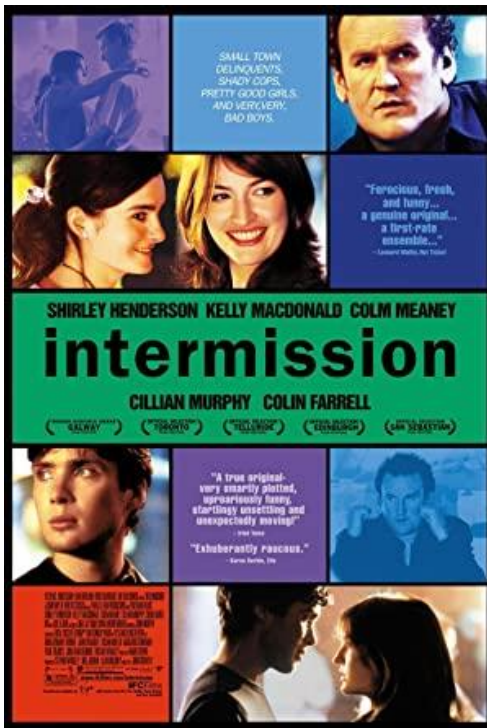
EVERY
THURSDAY
7:00

HOPS
TAPROOM

Los Ranchos
7222 4th Street NW 87107

Irish Movie Review: Intermission

By Larry Compton



Intermission is a 2003 Irish film, written by Mark O' Rowe and directed by John Crowley. A “black comedy,” the film is a satirical send-up of both sentimental romantic comedies and police detective shows. Shot in a mock documentary-style, the plot is actually an interweaving of no fewer than eight different storylines that all intersect in the end.

Set in Dublin, the first scene introduces us to Lehiff (played by Colin Farrell), a low-life, petty criminal who charms an attractive cashier solely with the intent of robbing her. He is endlessly pursued by detective Jerry Lynch (played by Colm Meaney), whose obsession is to clear the streets of such “scumbags.” Later, sparring in a boxing gym, Lynch tells a colleague that he’s “too extreme” for standard police procedures, adding that his father taught him to “hate your opponent, and you’ll give 100 percent.”

Next, we meet John (played by Cillian Murphy) who, along with his slacker friend Oscar, works in a supermarket. The two spend most of their time goofing off, much to the consternation of their grouchy boss. John is upset by the recent breakup with his girlfriend Deirdre (played by Kelly Macdonald).

In the next scene Sam, a middle-aged bank manager, is packing his bags as he’s leaving his wife of 14 years, Noeleen, for a younger woman. Distraught, she pleads with him not to go, without success. Then there’s Ben, an aspiring film-maker who is bored with filming “soft” news stories, like a local rabbit race with painfully slow rabbits. Unfortunately his manager is unwilling to produce anything “edgier.” Dierdre’s sister Sally (played by Shirley Henderson) boards a city bus, driven by the morose Mick, who is very unhappy with his position. A plain, homely girl, Sally is very self-conscious of her looks, and sullen because of her mother’s fussing about it. A neighborhood brat throws a rock, causing the bus to crash. Mick is unfairly blamed for the accident.

Noeleen’s girlfriend tries to convince her to forget about Sam and go out and have fun. Likewise, Oscar talks John into getting over Deirdre by taking him to a dance at a “singles bar” – but to their dismay nearly all of the lonely hearts are middle-aged.

Lehiff plans one final heist, a kidnapping and extortion plot. Naturally, it goes hilariously wrong. Meanwhile, Lynch convinces Ben to do a documentary on his “maverick” style, as he pursues Lehiff for a final showdown.

Characters from each of these scenes meet up with characters from one or more of the other situations, until the stories all intersect for the finale. Most of the conflicts are resolved, new relationships are begun, couples are reunited, and one or two get their just desserts.

Film critic Richard Roeper described Intermission as “a likable film about nasty people.” Although I felt empathy for most of the characters, they are on the whole either cynical or sad. The movie trailer says it is “a story about doing whatever it takes, even when you don’t know what you’re doing.” Intermission has more violence than the average Irish film (that I’ve seen, anyway) and lots of vulgar language (numerous “F” bombs). Much of the humor is of the “sick” variety, but it’s best to remember that it is a farce.

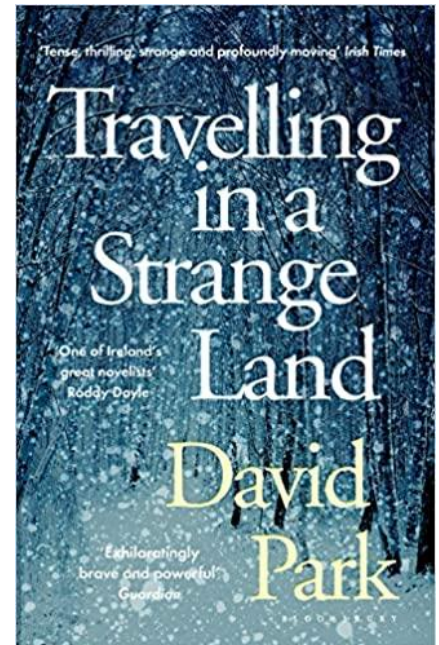
The Irish Book Club

One of the best things about being an online book club is that there need be no interruptions during this trying time. 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 discussion in June is *Republic of Shame* by Caelinn Hogan (who is also our guest speaker on July 10th.) For July we'll be reading *The Last September*, by Elizabeth Bowen.

Travelling in a Strange Land, by David Park

From Amazon's description: "Winner of the Kerry Group Irish novel of the year and an *Irish Times* Book of the Year: The world is shrouded in snow. With transport ground to a halt, Tom must venture out into a transformed and treacherous landscape to collect his son, sick and stranded in student lodgings. But on this solitary drive from Belfast to Sunderland (in northeast England), Tom will be drawn into another journey, one without map or guide, and is forced to chart pathways of family history haunted by memory and clouded in regret. *Travelling in a Strange Land* is a work of exquisite loss and transformative grace. It is a novel about fathers and sons, grief, memory, family and love; about the gulfs that lie between us and those we love, and the wrong turns that we take on our way to find them."

The Irish Book Club members loved the poetry of this book. But let David Park speak for Tom (a professional photographer) himself: "Perhaps it's to do with the closeness to the Pennines and I'm grateful that I don't have to venture further south towards them because in my imagination they have taken on the feel of something akin to the Himalayas. And I never think of snow and mountains without seeing that photograph of George Mallory and his wife with their eyes wide and slightly startled as if something unexpected has crossed their vision, and the side of her hair is a darker shadow separating their faces, making it easy to think of it as a portent, and there are times when I've looked at someone my camera is focused on and I believe in that moment, just as it did for them, the subject's future life has flickered across their consciousness. He carried a photograph of her in the pocket of his tweed jacket to leave on the summit and when they found that desiccated body with the frozen skin bleached white like alabaster there was no trace of it. So I like to think that just maybe against all the odds he did reach Everest's summit and that disaster happened on his descent, but even though I don't want to, sometimes, despite my best efforts, I think too of that fall—the sudden spinning into darkness away from the solidity of rock and into the nothingness of frozen air. Did he see her face in those final moments or was everything just a plunging fear-blinded loss of consciousness and loss of self? I guess it's no longer possible that they'll find that image but I believe it's still there, formed out of particles of memory and love, existing in some place where time can't ever annihilate it." Tom is on his way to pick up one son, Luke, who is sick at school in England, but his constant companion on his journey is his other son, Daniel, who died of a drug overdose. Here's Tom explaining it: "I pass a man on skis, both poles working like pistons as he snow-walks to wherever the hell he's going. I know that I have to hold Daniel's story close, not let anyone else find a different narrative, impose a different reading, because I'm the one who needs to make sense of it. I'm still trying every day, every single day to do that, and perhaps in time, even though I can't easily imagine it, it might become a story that can be shared because I don't need a shrink to tell me that holding it so close will be corrosive and stop me being fully what I need to be for my children. These are things I know in my head but have not yet felt in my heart, or being, or wherever it is you need to experience them. I'm travelling in a strange land."



Member Spotlight: Emmett O'Sullivan

By Elena Gallegos



I had the pleasure of speaking with long-time IAS member Emmett O'Sullivan by phone. I know him as Mr. O'Sullivan, but I will refer to him here as Emmett for the reading enjoyment of his friends and family. Further, any errors are made by me due to the nature of phone conversations and not by Emmett himself.

When I write that he is a long-time member, I mean 25 plus years long! He joined the IAS shortly after moving to the Albuquerque area after living in Hawaii. That seemed odd to me. Why would you want to leave paradise? Turns out Emmett has travelled all over the world. As a young man he served in the U.S. Navy for ten years as an aviation technician in the time between WWII and the Korean War. He even served on the famous USS Kitty Hawk. Some of his travels during his Navy years included Japan, Midway, Hawaii, and the Philippines. After his Navy career, Emmett worked for TWA airlines until his retirement. One of the perks of working for an airline is the cheap tickets. His travels included numerous trips to visit family in Ireland, an uncle in Wales, and some of his wife's family in Scotland. He was born and lived in Brooklyn but has settled here. He's seen and lived in many places but he

chooses to live here because he likes the weather and he thinks it's an overall great place to live. He also has a son and daughter that live near him and he is blessed to see his two granddaughters frequently.

Emmett is first generation Irish. His family has proudly kept the O' (meaning "son of") in the surname O'Sullivan through the generations. His father, one of nine children, is originally from Mountcharles in County Donegal, and was the first to leave Ireland. His mother is originally from County Leitrim and it's his favorite place to visit while in Ireland. He still has cousins living in Donegal and another cousin in Dublin who owns a profitable construction company.

Emmett likes to read western books by Louis L'Amour and the Alex Cross novel series by James Patterson. He has served on the IAS board and has volunteered at his community senior center. Unfortunately, his doctor has ordered him to stop driving due to health concerns so he finds it hard to do the things he used to do. He is also wary about travel now and the last time he was in Ireland was five years ago.

Emmett misses the IAS meetings and parties with Norita's ceili dancing (which he would participate in after an adult beverage or two). Most of all he misses his good friends from the IAS that have passed away. He says he will be happy to see them in the hereafter.

Brightburn Academy Irish Step Dancers Take on Nationals Competition!

[Editor's Note: The IAS is pleased to support the efforts of the Brightburn Academy Irish Step Dancers as they prepare to go to the US National Irish Dance Championship July 11 (normally it is the North American Championship, but due to Covid restrictions, it is limited to dancer in the US and Mexico, and Canada is having their own Championship this year only) and is being held in Phoenix, AZ. The IAS gave \$100 to each of the dancers displayed here, to help with their registration fees. We will let you know how they made out in the next newsletter!]



Alison Chavez

Alison is a 10-year-old girl who fell in love with Irish dance almost two years ago because of her obsession with the movie Titanic and the scene where Jake and Rose decide to party with the third class passengers and the band Gaelic Storm. In the summer of 2019, she was able to see Gaelic Storm in concert with real Irish dancers. The next week she joined Brightburn Dance Academy and has never looked back. Alison began to *feis* (compete) in September 2020; since then, she is now Prelim Champ in almost every dance. She is extremely excited to be competing in the Nationals competition and we look forward to seeing what the future of Irish dance holds for her.



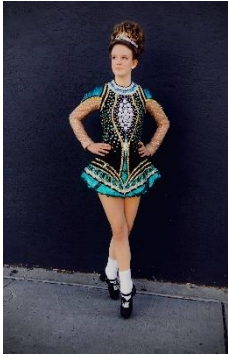
Ciara Dusenbery

I am 11 years old and going into 6th grade. My dream job is to be an animal rehabilitator because I love all animals and I enjoy being around them. My favorite colors are pink, mint, and light blue. I have been Irish dancing with Brightburn Academy of Irish Dance for three years. My goals for Irish dance are to be prelim in at least two dances and get out of my last novice dance. My plan to achieve those goals is to do more *feiseanna* in the future and to practice more. It is an honor to go to my first National Irish Dance Championship.



Clare Padilla

I am a 17-year-old Open Championship-level Irish Dancer. I am currently working hard to prepare for Nationals, as I am hoping to place within the top third of the dancers in the country in my age category. To do this, I am training daily, increasing my stamina through running, and have just finished competing (and placing in!) four competitions locally. I have had so many great memories from being a part of the Irish Dance world for the past 11 years, but my favorite memory is qualifying for the Irish Dance World Championship at the Western US Regional Oireachtas in Denver 2019. It was a moment that I was truly humbled and thankful for and that I will never forget. Since Worlds have been cancelled due to COVID for the past two years now, it is my hope and dream to dance on the big stage at Worlds this next spring. Thank you so much, IAS, for supporting me and my fellow dancers during our journey to Nationals this year! This will be my second Nationals that I have attended and I couldn't do it without your support.



Eva Campbell

Eva has performed Irish dance for three years. In her free time she enjoys hanging out with friends, reading, practicing dance, singing, and playing piano. Other hobbies include volleyball, skiing, hiking, puzzle building, and travelling. Eva toured much of Ireland in 2018 experiencing dozens of cultural and historical sites. As a Slovak American, she was fortunate enough to spend an entire year living and schooling in Central Europe. Eva's dance dream is to compete at the World Championship.



Jillian Sanders

Jillian Sanders is 11 years old and started dancing ballet when she was three years old in Roswell, New Mexico. Her passion for dance went beyond ballet to include jazz, tap, and nontraditional Irish dance. After moving to Rio Rancho two years ago, she began dancing for Brightburn Academy of Irish Dance. Her favorite hard shoe dance is the hornpipe and her favorite traditional set is Miss Brown's Fancy. When she laces up her ghillies, she feels like she can fly! In the future, she wants to be a veterinarian.



Jossilyn Sanders

Jossilyn Sanders is 9 years old and loves Irish dancing and competing as a Level 4 gymnast. Jossilyn started dancing ballet at three years old and began Irish dancing for Brightburn Academy of Irish Dance two years ago when her family moved to Rio Rancho. Jossilyn's favorite soft shoe dance is the Reel because she loves the music, the gracefulness of the dance, and any opportunity she can to do a throw! Her favorite hard shoe dance is the hornpipe. Her favorite traditional set is Garden of the Daisies because of all the clicks she gets to do in her hard shoes. She wants to be a pilot in the Air Force when she grows up.



Magdalena Padilla

I am an Irish Dancer with the Brightburn Academy. I am a 13-year-old Catholic homeschooler, and I am going into 8th grade. I have been dancing for about nine years, and I really enjoy it. In college, I'm hoping to get a Bachelor's degree in theatrical arts, and in literature, then continue on to get a Master's degree in Children's literature. After college, I hope to write and publish my first children's book. At Nationals this year, I would like to recall and place in the top 20s.



Max Padilla

My name is Max Padilla and I am a 10-year-old Preliminary Champ-level Irish Dancer. I will be starting the 5th grade this fall as a homeschool student. Eventually, I would really like to be an engineer, like my oldest brother and my dad. In the meantime, I enjoy riding bikes and playing with my friend who lives down the street from me. One of the best moments that I have had because of Irish Dance was when I placed 2nd at the Western Regional Oireachtas as a U8 dancer in 2019. I am hoping to be on the podium at the US National Championships coming up in July! Thank you so much, Irish-American Society, for your support of me and other Irish Dancers like me. We really appreciate it!

Support Your Local Irish/Scottish/Celtic Musicians/Performers! (Especially Now!)

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.

A Jug O'Punch

A trio playing Irish music galore! Contact Suzanne Taichert: suzytmusic@earthlink.net

The Duke City Ceili Band will entertain you with fast paced jigs and reels, lilting waltzes, and rousing sea shanties from the Irish traditional repertoire. Find them on Facebook or contact Jim Crowley: jabbas40@yahoo.com.

Michele Buchanan, Harper

765-1288 (tmbuchs@gmail.com)



Rye Creek

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

Celtic Coyotes

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

Friends Forever

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

The Singing Coyote Sisters

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



Culture All Around

Dance Classes:

♣ **Brightburn Academy of Irish Dance (formerly Celtic Steps Arizona/New Mexico)**, at the McDermott Athletic Center, 801 Loma Colorado, Rio Rancho. Call 505-415-4390 or visit <https://www.themacsports.com/brightburn-irish-dance> for further information.

♣ **Ceili dance classes** are held every Wednesday at the GAC at 7:15 PM, \$4.00. No experience necessary! Call Norita Callahan at 298-2708. [Indefinitely postponed. ☹]

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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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

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? _____