



IRISH TIMES

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

OCTOBER 2017

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, October 13th, 7 PM

Memorial Performance by Celtic Band *Iscuma*!

From *Iscuma* band member Kathy Wimmer:

Bill McCoy may have passed away, but his band, *Iscuma*, lives on. One week before he died, in July, I sat in Bill's living room and he asked for a promise. He didn't think he would be able to perform with *Iscuma* as the entertainment for the October 13th IAS meeting. In fact, he wasn't even sure he'd be alive then. Promise me, he said, that you'll do the gig in my memory. "I'd rather do it in your honor," I said. "In fact, I'd rather you felt well enough to do it with us."

I'd met Bill through his music almost 20 years ago. Back then, we were with a group called *Heirlooms* – a band many of you may be familiar with from the past, headed by Jeanne and Shane Page. Members moved on, the band morphed into other incarnations and spawned other groups. Bill formed *Iscuma*. Then in 2014 I got a phone call from Bill. He said *Iscuma* needed a guitar player. Would I like to join? I enlisted the help of hammered dulcimer player George Miles to fill in with us to make up a set while we worked to build a repertoire. Shortly thereafter we were aided by Lauri Rigler (also once with *Heirlooms*). Although we did perform as a duo at the Shamrock Festival a couple of times, we looked for someone who could join us on a more permanent basis. Marc Roberts, a fellow band member also from the *Heirloom* days, was wanting to get back into music, and was ready to add fiddle and voice into the *Iscuma* mix. We prepped for last May's Celtic Festival. And then Bill's health took a nosedive and we became A duo again – this time without Bill.

Iscuma will perform at the October 13th IAS meeting the same set of tunes we played at the Celtic Fest. We had to adjust some of the tunes where Bill was to have taken the lead on the pennywhistle, so we invite Bill's musician friends to join us for those tunes, including "Off to California Rosin the Bow" and "Star of the County Down." And we invite everyone to join us in the chorus of a newer tune that he enjoyed singing, "All God's Creatures." Bodhran players are welcome to sit in, as Bill often did.

Bill came up with the name *Iscuma* (which means "it doesn't matter" in Irish) when he grew frustrated with trying to come up with a name. *Iscuma* may mean it doesn't matter, but Bill McCoy DID matter.

[Note: IAS member Laura Banks will also be at the meeting, bearing a treasure trove of vinyl LPs from Bill McCoy's extensive Celtic music collection. She is giving them away to anyone who wants them.]



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

2017 Board Members and Committee Chairs

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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:

Several rounds of thanks to give out this month. First, I want to thank Angel de Cervantes for giving a most interesting and engaging presentation on the San Patricios at our September 8th meeting. We watched a very interesting documentary about the heroes/traitors (depending on how you look at them) of the Mexican-American War, and then Angelo led a most spirited discussion of the reasons why Irish-American soldiers would change their allegiance to the Mexican army. He also touched on various aspects of genealogy research (his actual field of study) and the members who attended made me promise to ask him back again next year for more on the subject.

Second, thanks to everyone who helped make our Annual Picnic such a success. The St. Andrew Scottish Society was in charge of the hamburgers and hotdogs this year (we switch off with them each year) and kudos to SASS president Bruce Greene for sweating in the sun and flipping burgers and dogs with aplomb. And how blessed we were to have so many wonderful musicians performing! Thanks to Harlow Pinson, many of the Thursday night Joliesse Chocolates Irish session players were there, and we were beautifully serenaded by the NM Celtic Singers. (Special thanks to Jim Brauer for setting up the sound system.)



On a sad note: Back in February of 2017, Bill McCoy talked with me about scheduling another performance of his Celtic band, *Iscuma*, in the fall. We agreed on October 13th and he was really looking forward to performing. As you know, Bill passed away in July, but before he left, he made band mate Kathy Wimmer promise that she and Marc Roberts would keep the gig. And so they will, at our October 13th meeting, when I know Bill's spirit will join us.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our October meeting and/or at our Halloween Party on October 28th!

Membership Report

By Norita and Ken Callahan

Céad Mile Fáilte (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes) to our newest member, Nyle Lightfoot.

Membership: As of September 20th, there are 101 single members, 83 (x 2) family members and 3 students. This is a total of 270 renewals and new members for the 2017 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 David & Jennifer Barnaby, Lizzy Callahan, Don & Fran Hardy, Steve & Kari Laverty, and Rosalie & Dennis Pfeiffer.

Treasurer's Report August 2017

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
No activity		U-Stor-It (Aug rental)	\$35.00
		E. Dowling: GoDaddy.com domain renewal	\$30.34
		E. Dowling: IAS brochures	\$123.52
		B. Bryers: paper (for mailed newsletters)	\$8.78
		B. Bryers: stamps	\$57.40
		B. Bryers: cartridge ink	\$62.00
Total Income	\$0	Total Expenses	\$317.04
		IAS Account July Ending Balance	\$8,189.34
		Plus Income (Aug)	\$0
		Less Expenses (Aug)	\$(317.04)
		August Ending Balance	\$7,872.30*
		*Note: Ending balance includes \$5,000 from Heritage Acct. funds	

Interested in Learning Irish?

Irish language expert available to give private lessons (online); provide translations; help with your research; and provide solutions to all your Irish language needs.

For info, contact Dr. Séamus Dillon at irishlanguagecres@gmail.com or visit his website: <https://irishlanguage.wixsite.com/ilcres>

Frankie Davis
Owner/Tour Guide

(575) 706 4923
frankiesirishtours@yahoo.com
www.frankiesirishtours.com




Join the Jazz Workshop
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October 26 - November 4, 2017
From **\$3,499** Air & Land

10 days, 8 nights including hotels, meals, day trips & airfare from JFK, NY
Featuring: Cork Jazz Festival, Ring of Kerry, Dublin, Galway and much, much more!

For more info: Brochures available at NMJW Table during summer concerts
nmjazz.org/corkjazzfestival 505-255-9798 x4 vicki@nmjazz.org

Space is limited. Sign up now.






**Hallowe'en
AKA
Celtic New Year Celebration**

**Saturday, October 28th, 2017
at the German-American Club
4821 Menaul NE
7 to 11 PM
Variety Dance Music By
*Hit Squad***

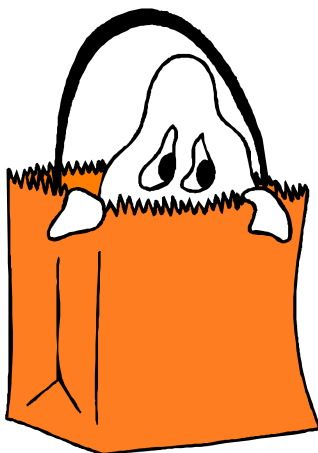


**\$7 Adults – 21 & under free
Costume Prizes - Judging at 8:00 PM
(Costumes always optional! We need folks to be judges, too!)**

**Door Prizes & Sur-prizes!
Please bring a salty or sweet snack to share
Coffee/Tea Provided – Cash bar**

**Sponsored by
The Irish-American Society
The German-American Club**

Bring all your friends for some howlin' good craic!

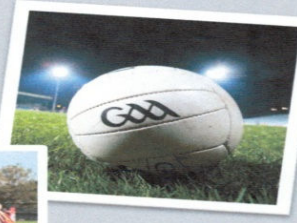


**For more information,
contact Norita Callahan
(noraabq@yahoo.com, 298-2708).**



Albuquerque Gaelic Football Club

Wednesdays, 6pm at Bullhead Memorial Park



No Experience Needed!

Albuquerque G.F.C. is looking for new recruits to play Ireland's Gaelic Football. Elements of soccer, rugby, even basketball and volleyball are included in this fantastic and challenging sport.

- * FREE to join for the 2017 Season
- * All are welcome
- * Bullhead Memorial Park
1606 San Pedro Boulevard, SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

For more information contact
us at abqgfc@gmail.com

*The family of
William Francis McCoy, Jr.
gratefully acknowledges
your kind expression of sympathy
during this difficult time*

*To the Albuquerque Irish-American
Society Members,
My brother Bill touched the lives
and hearts of many with his art,
music & kindness. His absence from
our lives will be felt deeply.*

*In Loving Memory
Your prayers and thoughts are
very much appreciated.
Susan & John LaForgia
& Family*



OCTOBER 7 & 8 , 2017

AZTEC , NEW MEXICO

Riverside Park, 500 S. Light Plant Rd., Aztec, NM

<https://www.aztechighlandgames.com/>



Brian Conway
Irish Fiddle Workshop and Concert
Sunday October 1st, 2017
Workshop 4:00 - 6:00 PM: \$30
Concert 7:00 PM: \$20
Concert & Workshop: \$45

This house concert and workshop will be held at Apple Mountain Music, 10301 Comanche Rd NE in Albuquerque. Please call 505-237-2048 in advance to reserve as space is limited.



Brian Conway is one of the premier Irish fiddle players living in America. He performs with a skill, grace and force that are steeped in tradition but distinctively his own. New York born, Brian is a leading exponent of the highly ornamented Sligo fiddling style made famous by the late Michael Coleman and passed on to him by legendary Martin Wynne and fiddle great Andy McGann. Brian remains faithful to the rich tradition handed down to him. The distinctness of his tone, the lift of his playing, and the deft ornamentation he brings to the tunes have placed him among the finest Irish fiddlers of any style, Sligo or otherwise. His talents have also been enthusiastically received all over North America and throughout Ireland and the rest of Europe. Brian has won numerous All-Ireland fiddling competitions, including the prestigious All-Ireland senior championship. He is also a noted instructor who has mentored many fine fiddle players, including several who have gone on to win All-Ireland championships. If you are a lover of Irish music, Brian's concerts and workshops should not be missed! (Note: Brian will also be available for private instruction on Monday morning, October 2nd from 9am-12pm. Cost is \$40/half hour and \$80/hour. Contact Harlow Pinson at (505) 994-2135 to schedule.)

New Brewery in Town (and We Know the Brewer!)



Hops Brewery has recently opened at 3507 E. Central in the Nob Hill area. The Hops house brewer is Ken Wimmer, husband of IAS member, *Iscuma* band member, and IAS treasurer Kathy Wimmer. A home brewer since the 1980s, Ken joined the Hops crew back in January. His signature brews include a honey wheat ("a terrific summer drinking beer"), The Chica (an American pale ale), Dad Joke (a Kentucky rye-style beer, so called "because it's corny and rye"), Topsy Cow milk stout, English Tan (a bitter), and Warm Scottish Nights (a Scotch ale). They also serve food. For more information, including hours of operation, call 369-1378.

And Then There's This:

Dr. O'Mahony tells his patient: "I have bad news and worse news, John."
 "Oh dear," John replies. "What's the bad news?" asks the patient.
 The doctor replies: "You only have 24 hours to live."
 "That's terrible," says the patient. "How can the news possibly be worse?"
 Dr. O'Mahony replies: "I've been trying to contact you since yesterday."



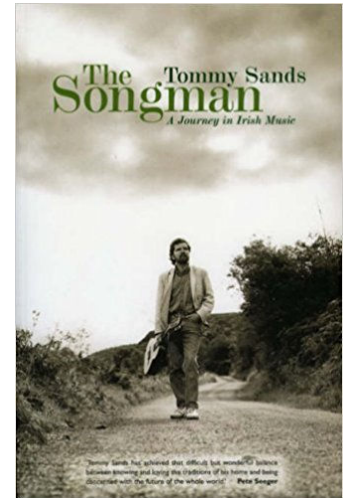
The Irish Book Club

The Irish Book Club meets at O'Niell's Pub at Washington and Central at 7:30 PM, usually on the last Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be on October 26, when we will discuss *The Secret Place* by Tana French. If you're interested in joining us, contact Ellen at 307-1700 (edowling@standuptrainer.com).

At our August 31st meeting, we discussed *The Songman: A Journey in Irish Music*, by Tommy Sands, which was published in 2005. This book was brought to our attention by our own Kathy Wimmer, who met the author on her latest musical tour of Ireland and even got him to autograph a copy of his book for our book club!

To be honest, I myself had never heard of the Irish Tommy Sands—the “Tommy Sands” I remembered was the teeny bopper pop singing heartthrob of the late-50s and early 60s, singing partner of Annette Funicello, and short-lived husband of Nancy Sinatra. Tommy Sands, the Songman, is of course a completely different—and much more memorable—musical ambassador for peace in Northern Ireland.

From the Tommy Sands official [web site](#): “Tommy Sands, County Down's singer, songwriter, and social activist, has achieved something akin to legendary status in his own lifetime. From the pioneering tours with the highly influential Sands Family, playing Carnegie Hall to Moscow's Olympic Stadium, he has become one of Ireland's most powerful songwriters and enchanting performers. He enjoys celebrity status in many parts of the world, tempered by artistic integrity and the sorrow of personal tragedy in his war-torn homeland.



Walking the road between two cultures, he dreams of an Ireland at peace with itself. Indeed, his songs speak to all that Ireland is, from its troubled past to its indomitable spirit and a vision of ‘a land of dreaming.’ And his work around the globe speaks to our common heritage, using music to bridge cultural differences. In this way he shares a vision with songwriters instigating social change such as Phil Ochs, Joan Baez, and close friend the late Pete Seeger.”

And here are some reviews of the book, which we all agreed was quite a wonderful (and enlightening) read:

“Tommy Sands has achieved that difficult but wonderful balance between knowing and loving the traditions of his home and being concerned with the future of the whole world.” (Pete Seeger)

“In his book Tommy Sands shows the rare gift of combining objectivity with passion. He is - and the world knows this - the bard of peace, loved by both sides. His book is a journey through his life and the recent history of his own place, the North. It's the kind of book you want to read under a tree with a glass of wine by your side because that is what his writing is, a fine mellow prose, that sparkles with humour and compassion. Keep it by your bed. It's that kind of book - and you know what I mean.” (Frank McCourt)

“Not just the story of one of Ireland's finest songwriters and performers, it is also the story of growing up and living in Northern Ireland during the troubled decades at the end of the twentieth century. Tommy Sands' strong belief in human rights, and in the importance of forgiveness and respect, shines through the book. There are passages of enormous humour in the book as well as of enormous pathos. It is wonderfully entertaining and anyone who loves music and Ireland will adore this beautifully written and easily read autobiography.” (Dowry Square Books)

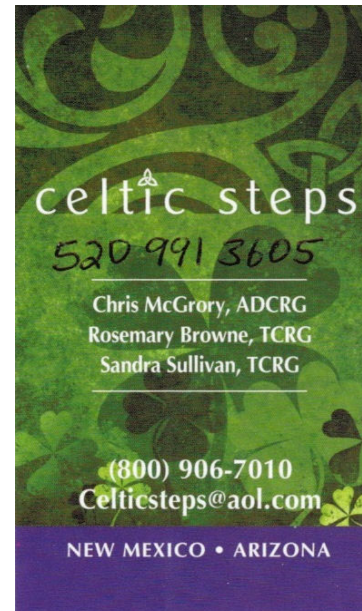
Culture All Around

Dance Classes:

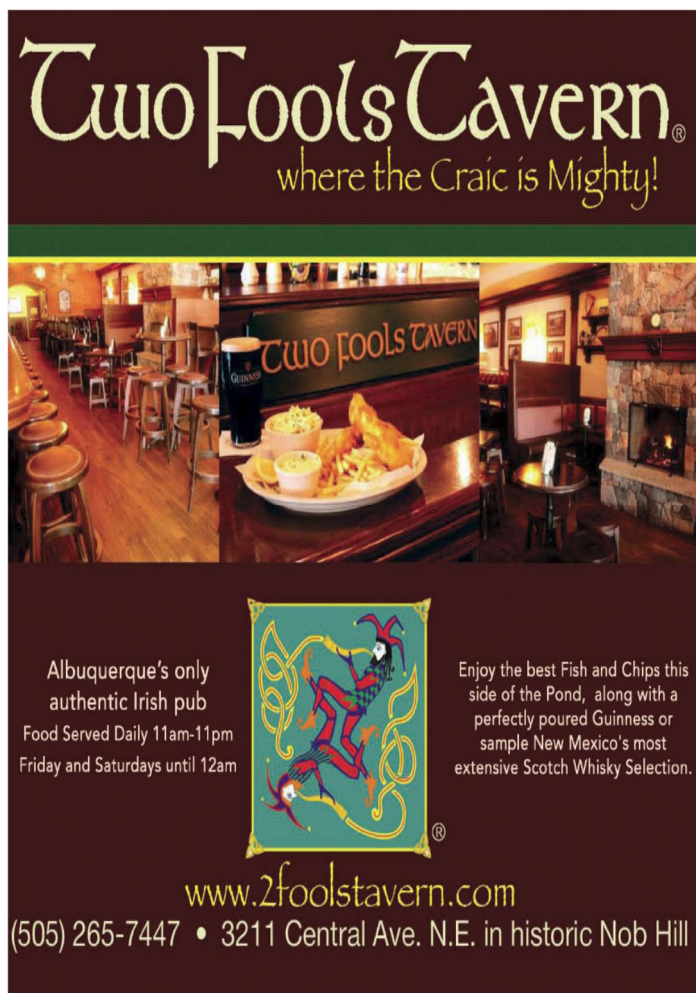
- ♣ **Coleman Academy of Irish Dance.** Saturdays, 8 AM to 1 PM at the Lloyd Shaw Dance Center, 5506 Coal SE. Call 866-5867 for information or visit our web site at www.irishdancenm.org and www.colemanacademy.com.
- ♣ **Celtic Steps Arizona/New Mexico (formerly Tir Conaill Academy of Irish Dance),** Saturdays at the New Mexico Irish Dance Company, Suite 3, 12700 San Rafael (Quail Run Shopping Center), Albuquerque. Call 379-3753 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>



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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 Galacia, 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
October 3	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
October 13	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program , 7 PM at the GAC. Program will be a memorial performance by the band <i>Iscuma</i> .
October 28	Saturday	Halloween (AKA Celtic New Year) Party at the GAC. See p. 5 for more info.
November 7	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
November 10	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program , 7 PM at the GAC. Program will be a storytelling performance by Susi Wolf.

Celtic/GAC Events

October 1	Sunday	Rye Creek Band performing at O'Niell's, 3301 Juan Tabo NE, 4 to 7 PM.
October 1	Sunday	Brian Conway Irish Fiddle Workshop and Concert at Apple Mountain Music. For details, see p.7.
October 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 .
October 7	Saturday	Slow Celtic Session at Apple Mountain Music, 10 AM to 12 noon. (For more info, contact Apple Mountain Music, 10301 Comanche NE, 505-237-2048.)
October 8	Sunday	Scottish Session at Apple Mountain Music, 2 PM to 4 PM.
October 9 & 23	Mondays	The Singing Pilgrims present Ceilidh at the Crossroads at The Blue Grasshopper Pub (at its new Westside location at 6361 Riverside Plaza Lane NW, near Coors and Montano) from 7 PM-9 PM.
October 14	Saturday	Folk Music Jam , led by IAS member Michael Coy, at Apple Mountain Music, 2 to 3:30 PM.
October 15	Sunday	Jazz Sunday at the GAC, 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Cost to IAS member \$5.00.
October 22	Sunday	Hungarian Revolution Event at the GAC. Call Steve at 265-7088 for details.

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_____