■IRISH TIMES

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

MAY 2016

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, May 20th, 6:00 PM

Kickoff to the 28th Annual Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games!

In place of our regular monthly meeting, the Irish-American Society is pleased to host the traditional **Pot-Luck Kickoff Party** to the annual Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival (May 21st and 22nd at Balloon Fiesta Park.) [See information in the brochure included in the hard-copy newsletter or attached to the electronic version.] The party will start at 6 PM, with food being served at 6:30 PM. Donation at the door: \$3 per person (for hall rental and musicians).

Please bring a tasty dish for about 12+ people. The IAS will supply all paper goods, as well as coffee and tea. The GAC bar will be open. (Please be sure to mark your dishes and serving utensils so they will find their way back to you.)



Фау 21 6C 22, 2016 АВД Balloon Fiesta Park 505.275.6633 ишш.CeltFestABQ.com

Musical entertainment:

6:00 PM: Iscuma (Irish music with Bill McCoy and Kathy Wimmer) 6:45: Mac-Tíre of Skye Pipes and Drums 7:30: Coleman Academy of Irish Dance Step Dancers

Everyone is invited—IAS members, guests, Festival sponsors and volunteers! Spread the word to everyone you know! (Just remind them to bring a dish to share.)

Irish Times

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	edowling@standuptrainer.com	1700
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Services	rkeating14@comcast.net	2195



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

Business-card-sized ads are a mere \$5 a month. Largersized 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

Dear IAS Members:

A special thank you to Aleja Allen, our speaker for our program on April 8th, whose presentation on the history and impact of the Easter Rising of 1916 was (as the Irish would say) both grand and brilliant. (And thanks again, as always, to Jim Brauer and Rose Marie Keating for the tech help.) As I type this, we are still looking forward to our Rising commemoration at O'Niell's Pub on April 24. If you want to learn more about the Rising, please visit our web site, where I have listed many different online resources (mostly videos) that explain in great depth what this seminal event means to the establishment of the Republic of Ireland. (You can find the resource page here: <u>http://www.irishamericansociety-nm.com/the-easter-rising-of-1916.html</u>.)

We hope to see all of you at the Kickoff to the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival on May 20th and then at the Festival itself the following two days. We sent a sign-up sheet around at our April 8th meeting, asking for volunteers to help work the IAS booth at the Festival for a couple of hours, either day. It's not too late to sign up if you're interested—just let me know.

Our next program will be June 10th, when we will have a musical performance by local band A Jug O' Punch, and then we'll be off for the summer. (No meetings in July and August.) In the meantime, check out the new IAS Book Club (info on p. 5) and let me know if you're interested in joining us (so far me, Kathy Wimmer, Maureen Riley, Kay Kelly, and Dave Walsh).

Treasurer's Report March 2016					
Membership (March)	\$515.00	Cash for St Pat's Party	\$150.00		
Door St. Pat's Day Party	\$816.00	Tir Conaill Academy	\$75.00		
IAS Cash (from party)	\$150.00	Mac-Tíre of Skye Pipes and Drums	\$75.00		
Shamrock Festival sales	\$22.00	Nikelle and Matthew, musicians	\$125.00		
Riverdance at Popejoy sales	\$70.00	Singing Pilgrims	\$125.00		
		Supplies and stamps	\$107.00		
Total Income	\$1,573.00	Total Expenses*	\$657.00		
		Previous checks cashed in March	\$916.19		
		Total March checks cashed	\$1,498.19		
		IAS Account Mar Beginning Balance	\$2,623.74		
		Plus Income (Mar)	\$1,573.00		
		Expenses (Mar)	\$657.00		
		Uncashed checks (*)	\$75.00		
		Subtotal	\$2,698.55		
		IAS Heritage Fund Account	\$5,000.00		
		Mar Ending Balance	\$7,698.55		

By Ellen Dowling

Membership Report

By Norita and Ken Callahan

Céad Mile Fáilte (*A Hundred Thousand Welcomes*) to our newest members, Samantha Valkenburg and Mary Ann & Skip Eckel.

As of April 16^{th} , there are 108 single members and 77 family members (x 2). This is a total of 262 members for the 2016 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 Dee Stukas.

IAS General Meeting Minutes April 8th, 2016

Ellen opens the meeting at 7:10. She then greets the membership and reintroduces this year's Board; all Board members are present. Ellen then calls for new members and first-time attenders to be recognized. We have three first time attendees: Aleja Allen (our speaker), Dana Conrise, and Dave Walsh. New member Ross McNiel is introduced.

Treasurer's Report: Vikki reports that we drew in \$1,573, \$515 from memberships, \$816 St. Patrick's Day party, and \$92 between the Shamrock Festival and Riverdance sales. We spent \$657. Our March ending balance, including the \$5,000 in heritage funds, is \$7,698.55.

Membership Report: Norita tells us we have 107 single and 76 family members for a total of 259 members to date.

Elena Gallegos of Tir Connail Academy of Irish Dance is introduced. Elena says that Tir Connail is an Irish dance company that teaches all ages, sizes, and interests in the art of Irish Dance (do come by). Each year they host a dance show to raise money for their program. This year's show will be at the American Pavilion at the Fair Grounds on April 23rd starting at 2:30PM. Tickets are \$15, please get them early as the performance was sold out last year and interest is brisk this year too. Ellen points out that the IAS has donated a free IAS membership to Tir Connail's raffle to help support their fundraiser.

Ellen talks of upcoming events: The first will be our Commemoration of the Rising event that we will be hosting at O'Niell's pub on Central and Washington NE on April 24th starting at 2PM. She mentions that she has been posting lots of website information on the Rising on our website and encourages the membership to use the website to further investigate the history of the Rising.

The next is the IAS involvement with the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival in May. We host the Celtic Festival Kick-off party on Friday May 20th. Dancing, piping, and music will be featured at this pot-luck opener. We will be working the IAS booth during both days of the Festival (May 20 & 21) and need volunteers to help out. Bob Byers has the sign-up sheet so please see him and pick an hour to help in the booth.

Tonight we will be having a 50-50 raffle to help defray the cost of the Kick-off Party.

We are starting a Celtic/Irish-oriented book club. May meet once every two months. Please see Ellen if you are interested.

No new business. Meeting was adjourned for snacks at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Peter McKenna, Secretary

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Irish Times





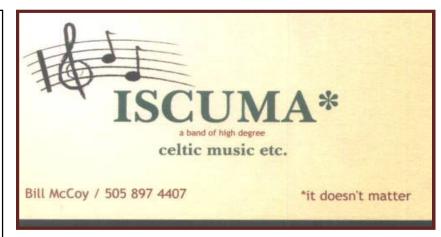
IAS member (and past board member) Edie Henderson was married to Gene Brooks on April 3rd. May you both live as long as you want, and never want as long as you live. (Irish blessing)

The IAS Book Club is Up and Running!

We are delighted to announce that the IAS Book Club is now a real thing! Our first meeting will be on May 19th (Thursday) at 7:30 at the Quarter Celtic Brew Pub on San Mateo and Lomas. At this meeting, we will discuss *Ireland, A Novel*, by Frank Delaney. It's not too late to join us! If you're interested, read the Delaney book and meet us on May 19th. Any questions? Contact Ellen at 307-1700 (edowling@standuptrainer.com).

Cans for Celts

Help raise funds for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games in 2016! 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!





The OASIS Entertainers (on the left) were featured in the ABQ Journal on April 17, as they prepared for their performance of "The Golden Age of Radio and a Musical World War II Retrospective" on April 22. That's our own Darlene Komula on the right (with the red scarf).

Book Review: The Dirty Dust, by Maírtín Ó'Cadhain

English Translation 2015, Yale University Press. Reviewed by Ellen Dowling.

Imagine you died, but instead of going to heaven, you found yourself confined and complaining in your grave, surrounded by all the other folks you had known—and pretty much despised—in your lifetime.



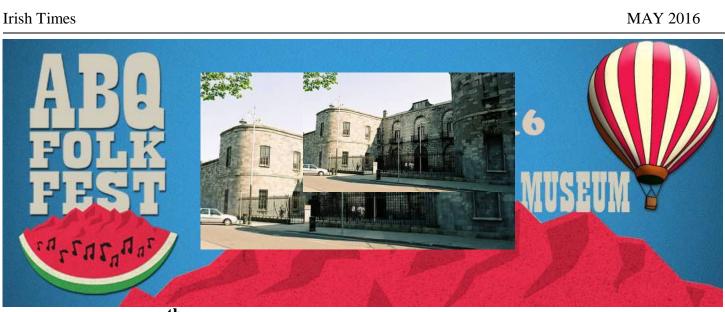
This is the premise of *The Dirty Dust*, a bawdy and uproarious tale told by Maírtín Ó'Cadhain (pronounced "O'Kine") about a crabby clutch of Irish folk who used to be alive in Connemara in the west of Ireland in the early 1940s but now lie interred among the craggy stones of a rather large graveyard; large enough to have different sections, depending on how much you—or your surviving family members—were willing to pay for your internment. (And believe me, there is much wailing and gnashing of teeth over whose family members followed one's last wishes most specifically.)

The chief complainer of the bunch is Catriona Paudeen, newly buried and frantic with worry whether anyone will remember that she requested a cross of Connemara marble to top her grave. (Catriona is described by another townsfolk as having "a face as miserable as a wet week." Death has not improved her personality.) Among Catriona's many nemeses are her own sister, Nell (their relationship is described as "The Battle of the Bitches") and her son Patrick's mother-in-law, derisively referred to as "Toejam Nora" by Catriona. Many of the characters have equally amusing names: "Jack the Lad," "Blotchy Brian," "Fireside Tom," "Huckster Joan," and (my favorite) "Tim Top of the Road." Some of these folks are already dead when Catriona comes to join them; others show up periodically throughout the story, giving Catriona (and us) the opportunity to find out what's new in the topside world. (There's that pesky Hitler guy causing trouble, for example.)

There's not much else in the way of plot in *The Dirty Dust*. Indeed, the novel reads more like a stage play, a sort of perverse and scatological *Our Town*. Here, for example, is how one of the characters reacts to the perceived perversities of another: "May you be seven thousand times cursed tonight and tomorrow and a year from tomorrow, you Communist you, you Fascist, Nazi, atheist, spawn of the red Antichrists, you perfect pustule of the plebeian pricks, you dirty dregs of the dingy damned, you fester of fever, you fly's fart, you maggot's mickey, you earthworm's slime, you belching bollocks that even frightened death himself so he had to send you a disease in the end, you muck muppet, you clap of crap, you rusty wreck of a useless git!" Ah, the lovely lilt of the Irish.

Written in the Irish language, this book was first published (in Irish) in 1949, and among the Gaeltacht speakers it was met with immediate acclaim and became a best seller (despite a few negative reviews, including one that protested that "such conversation should be put into the mouth of a dog"). Ó'Cadhain was born in 1906 in the west of Ireland, and claimed that he never heard English spoken until he was 6 years old. After a career as a school teacher and a political dissident (for which he was briefly imprisoned during WWII), he wrote many short stories, novels, lectures, tracts, translations, and satires. His prodigious literary output earned him a lectureship in Irish at Trinity College, Dublin, and later the chairmanship of the Irish Department. (He died in 1970.)

Filled with fierce poetry and hilarious insults, *The Dirty Dust* assures us that the inhabitants of 1940's Connemara are just as infuriating and funny as any of our own neighbors might be, if we actually had to spend eternity listening to them. "Ababoona!" as Catriona would say. "I'm going to burst!"



18th Annual Albuquerque Folk Festival

Saturday, June 4th, Albuquerque Balloon Museum grounds (2 blocks south of Balloon Fiesta Park). Free parking and on-site camping, Friday, June 3rd, 4:00 PM through Sunday, June 5th, noon. Official one-day music festival: Saturday, June 4th, 10:30 AM to 11:00 PM.

A participatory family-friendly event, with national, regional, and local musicians and performers, an instrument petting zoo, and workshops for children and adults. Performances, dances, workshops, music jams, crafts, local food trucks, beer from a local brewery. Two dance venues and dance workshops all day! Evening international folk and contra dancing. Stage performers include Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum, Growling Old Men, The Mike + Ruthy Band, Ryanhood, and regional and New Mexican bands, including The Bill Hearne Trio, Noseeums from Taos, Antonia Apodoca, and others.

At the gate, ticket prices are \$20 for adults, \$5 for kids 12-17, \$15 seniors and military spouses and students 18-25 with ID. Children under 12 free. <u>http://abqfolkfest.org/</u>.

Kilmainham Gaol

Kilmainham (pronounced Kill-main-um) Gaol in Dublin, site of most of the executions of the leaders of the 1916 Rising, opened in 1796, closed in 1910, reopened in 1914, and closed for the last time in 1924 – a total of 124 working years. During much of that time, this small county prison dominated and had an inordinate influence on Ireland and its developing history.

Designed by a Scottish engineer and architect, John Trail, the foundation stone was laid in 1787. It finally opened with great hopes in 1796, after nine years of frustration,



argument and design changes. It was a new, reform jail, based on the ideas of such great prison reformers as John Howard and Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, who were proposing the separate system of incarceration as a replacement for the crowded dens of iniquity which had preceded it, and Jeremy Bentham.

But events outside the prison were to adversely affect it – a series of rebellions (including the United Irish rebellion of 1798, just two years after it opened) and the Great Famine (1845-1850) all pushed the capacity of the jail to its limit – and beyond.

Political prisoners were to be regular inmates. Thomas Addis Emmet and Robert Emmet (to name but two from two different rebellions) inhabited its cells, as did many of their followers. But others, too, were incarcerated there – common criminals, debtors, lunatics.

Under these extreme circumstances, with overcrowding frequently the norm, changes were gradually made to the prison. It was enlarged and modified, first by Architect Parke Neville's three rows of cells c.1845 and then the magnificent Panopticon or East Wing in 1862, with its 96 cells, by John McCurdy. But these changes could not save the prison and it was finally closed in 1910, when the last 17 male prisoners were moved to the younger (1850) Mountjoy Jail.

These bare facts tell little about this building and about why it should be a National Monument. One must look to the inmates for the reasons for that honour. Already mentioned were the Emmet brothers, but also in Kilmainham Gaol were Anne Devlin, Thomas Russel, Charles Stewart Parnell, Michael Davitt, and hundreds of other high- and not-so-high-profile political prisoners.

Scottish readers might recognise the name of David Haggart (subject of the film "Sinful Davey"), who was to spend time there before being brought back to Scotland to be executed for killing a prison guard. There, too, were incarcerated many of the condemned prisoners after the failed Easter Rising of 1916, fourteen of whom were executed by firing squad in the Gaol's Stonebreakers' Yard, the pivotal event that changed public opinion in Ireland and led, eventually, to the Irish War of Independence and the establishment of the Irish Free State (forerunner of the Irish Republic) and the Irish Civil War, which provided the last prisoners for this iconic place.

Over the years, 150,000 prisoners had been held there, including men, women, and children from all walks of life and all strata of society. Here you had beggars, thieves, murderers, debtors, lunatics, and innocents. Age, sex, or religion were no bar to admission to the Irish Bastille. Young or old, male or female, fit or ill – all were" welcome." The staff, too, were to influence this Gaol's existence. For 40 years Dr. Edward Trevor, medical inspector of the Gaol, ruled with impunity, backed by the British Secret Service. His protégé, George Dunne, first Governor, was to continue his reign for another five years until 1842, when the baton of governorship was passed on to a series of men who all left their mark in more ways than one.

The Gaol was to the forefront in many innovations, and not just architecturally. Thomas Flewitt, Assistant Governor, was one of the first practitioners of the art of the "mug shot." capturing images of the prisoners on film and sending them to other prisons for identification.

As more and more research is carried out on this magnificent and historic prison, its involved and wonderful history is gradually being uncovered. <u>*Kilmainham Tales Teoranta*</u> was established to encourage research not just into the Gaol and its prisoners, but to all allied and associated places, events, and people. It will be a neverending task, but undoubtedly a rewarding one as the results of some of this research is recorded and brought to as wide an audience as possible.

[Note: Kilmainham Tales Teo is a publishing venture dedicated to issuing "pocket money" books on all aspects of the history of Kilmainham Gaol and associated places, people and events. Visit their website here: http://kilmainhamtales.ie/.]

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.

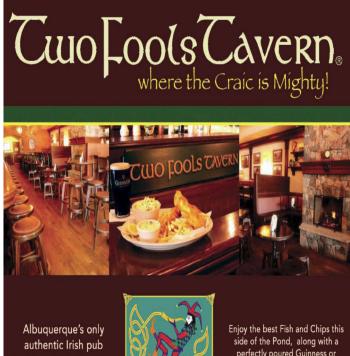
• *Tir Conaill Academy of Irish Dance*, Saturdays at the New Mexico Irish Dance Company, Suite 3, 12700 San Rafael (Quail Run Shopping Center), Albuquerque. Call 379-3753 or visit www.tirconaillacademy.org for further information.

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.)



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 Bill McCoy and Kathy Wimmer. For information, contact Bill McCoy at 897-4407.

Saoirse ("seer shih," Irish for "freedom")

Celtic music from Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, and Galacia, spiced with jazz and world beat. Contact: Harlow Pinson at <u>hpinson@indepthl.com</u> or 994-2135.

The Anslovers: Teenagers Emily, John, and Jamie on violin, guitar, and upright bass. Contact: John & Lorraine Anslover at <u>anslovernavy@comcast.net</u>.

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)

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 (<u>neomexicana@hotmail.com</u>) or Ron Trellue, 505-362-2551 (<u>trellue@swcp.com</u>) or visit <u>www.myspace.com/ryecreeknm</u>.

Celtic Coyotes

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

Friends Forever

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



IAS T-Shirts for Sale!

You can get yours at any IAS meeting, or contact Paul McDonough to arrange purchase (<u>penthormul@aol.com</u>, 294-8205). The Tshirts 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.

Candy Bars for Celts!

Besides the Cans for Celts fundraiser for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival, we are now also trying to raise money by selling candy bars at \$1.00 each. Candy can be purchased at any meeting from Paul McDonough.



Calendar of Events

IAS Events

Date	Day	What
May 3	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting, 7 PM at the GAC. All members are
		invited to attend.
May 20	Friday	Kickoff to the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival, 6 PM at the GAC. See
		front page of this newsletter for details.
June 7	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting, 7 PM at the GAC. All members are
		invited to attend.
June 10	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program, 7:00 PM at the GAC. Musical
		performance by A Jug O'Punch.

Celtic/GAC Events

May 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 <u>hpinson@indepthl.com</u> .			
May 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.)			
May 7	Saturday	Maifest at the GAC, 7 PM to 11 PM. Band: Swingshift. Cost \$10.00			
May 8	Sunday	Scottish Session at Apple Mountain Music, 2 PM to 4 PM. (For more			
		info, contact Apple Mountain Music, 10301 Comanche NE, 505-237-			
		2048.)			
May 15	Sunday	Jazz Sunday at the GAC, 2 to 5 PM. (\$5 for IAS members.)			
May 22	Saturday	Sock Hop at the GAC, 7 PM to 11PM. Band: Hit Squad. Cost \$10.00			
May 21	Saturday	Open Irish Session at Apple Mountain Music, 2 PM to 4 PM. (For more			
		info, contact Apple Mountain Music, 10301 Comanche NE, 505-237-			
		2048.)			
May 21 & 22	Saturday and	28 th Annual Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival, 9-7 Saturday, 9-			
	Sunday	Sunday, at Balloon Fiesta Park. See brochure included with the May			
		newsletter. For info, visit <u>www.CeltFestAbq.com</u> .			

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
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Would you like to receive the IAS newsletter electronically? YES/NO (Note: Student members automatically receive the online newsletter.)