



IRISH TIMES

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

MAY 2020

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 meeting location is the Memorial Hall at the First Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle Blvd NE, SW corner of Comanche and Carlisle.

In Place of Any Foreseeable Events, Here's a Poem by Seamus Heaney

Human beings suffer,
They torture one another.
They get hurt and get hard,
No poem or play or song
Can fully right a wrong
Inflicted and endured.

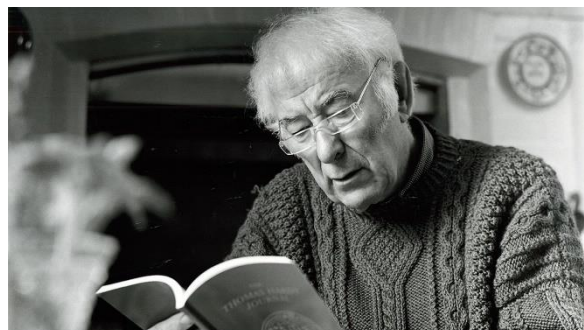
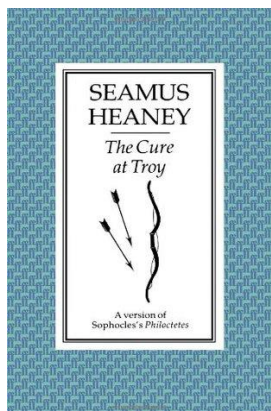
History says, *Don't hope*
On this side of the grave,
But then, once in a lifetime
The longed-for tidal wave
Of justice can rise up
And hope and history rhyme.

So hope for a great sea-change
On the far side of revenge.
Believe that the farther shore

Is reachable from here.
Believe in miracles
And cures and healing wells.

Call miracle self-healing,
The utter self-revealing
Double-take of feeling.
If there's fire on the mountain
And lightning and storm
And a god speaks from the sky

That means someone is hearing
The outcry and birth-cry
Of new life at its term.
It means once in a lifetime
That justice can rise up
And hope and history rhyme.



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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.



Frankie's Irish Tours
Frankie Davis
Owner / Tour operator
575-706-4923
frankiesirishstours@yahoo.com
www.frankiesirishstours.com

President's Message

By Ellen Dowling

Hello, everyone. I hope all of you are reading this from the safety and security of your own homes. If you have to go out to do essential work, we salute you and wish you well. Such strange times, yes? But I think it does help to realize that we are all in this together.

As you can imagine, the IAS is on hiatus along with everyone else, all events cancelled for the foreseeable future. Our next event, our annual picnic with the St. Andrew Scottish Society folks, is scheduled for September 6. We shall see if this is possible. Fingers crossed.

The amazing Kathy Wimmer, our treasurer and captain for the St. Patrick's Day Party committee (along with her first mate, the incomparable Gwen Easterday), has given me her final report on the outcomes of the party that was supposed to happen on March 15, and which we reluctantly cancelled on March 13. It was promising to be one heckuva good party; even up to March 13, people were still buying tickets. But by then the world was closing down around us, and once we factored in the entertainers and the venue staff, we realized that, even with people arriving at different times, we could have had well over 100 folks throughout the day in a rather confined space. And of course, we could not take the chance that even one attendee would get sick because of our party.

We cancelled too late to get our money back from the caterer and the venue, and we were very worried that we would take a big loss on the event, but then a wonderful thing happened: Of the \$2,260 that we brought in through ticket sales, \$1,027 was converted to DONATIONS, meaning that almost half of those who bought tickets did NOT request a refund. (Bless them all.) Bottom line is that we sustained only a minor loss. And we will live another day to put on a great St. Pat's Day Party next year!

And by the way, we also paid it forward and told the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival to keep the \$90 we sent them for our booth rental (for the now-cancelled May 2 and 3 Festival) as a donation, too.

Membership Report

By Brynn Cole

Céad Mile Fáilte (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes) to new members Susan Green and Raymond Wolfgang! As of 4/24 we have 3 students, 61 individuals, and 52 families (x 2), for a total of 168 members. Good job to all of you who have renewed!

Note: We no longer give out or mail IAS membership cards (unless you also become an associate German Club member). The only reason we gave out membership cards in the past is because EVERY member of the IAS also automatically became an associate member of the GAC. To attend any function (or visit the bar) at the GAC, NM state liquor laws require that each adult person be a member (and have proof of that membership, if asked) or a guest of a member. Now that we no longer meet at the GAC, there is no need of a membership card for any IAS events (and it saves us a goodly amount of money in postage). In recognition of our past association with the GAC, we decided to let IAS members opt to purchase an associate GAC membership for \$5 each, which we collect and then give to the GAC. If you have any questions, please let Ellen know.

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 (who mailed hers to Norita).

Treasurer's Report March 2020

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income		Category	Expenses
Electronic/Square: membership	\$91.03		U-Stor-It monthly storage fee	\$35.00
Cash/checks IAS memberships	\$115.00		Ck#205: German-American Club (GAC associate member fees, 11/1/19 through 2/29/20)	\$205.00
Sale of Irish hats	\$13.00		Ck#206: Gwen Easterday (reimbursement for March newsletter supplies)	\$42.07
St. Pat's party: Dinner & ticket sales (electronic and cash/checks)	\$1,306.91		Ck#207: ABQ Party Leasing LLC (balance of venue rental for St. Pat's party)	\$299.00
			Ck#208: ABQ Services LLC (balance of catering for St. Pat's party)	\$986.63
			Refund of tickets to cancelled St. Pat's party due to COVID-19	\$869.97
Total Income	\$1,525.94		Total Expenses	(\$2,437.67)
			IAS Account prior month's ENDING balance	\$9686.51
			Plus Income (current month)	\$1,525.94
			Less Expenses (current month)	(\$2,437.67)
			Current month's Ending Balance	\$8,774.78

A Message from the Counsel General of Ireland

[Editor's Note: The Consul General of Ireland, Claire McCarthy, was going to visit us at our monthly meeting on May 8, but you know how that turned out. Here, she and her Austin-based staff send us greetings from the Consulate.]

A chairde,

Many thanks for sharing suggestions on ways to recharge, relax and restore ourselves in these challenging days. Keep the ideas coming and we will share what we can on our Twitter account: [@IrelandCGAustin](#). Here are some suggestions for exploring Ireland from a safe distance:

Real Ireland: Wexford

You can get a taste of home with the next episode of Real Ireland, which will broadcast monthly from Dallas. The first episode will be all about County Wexford featuring Chef Kevin Dundon of Dunbrody House fame. Find more information on when to tune in [here](#).

Bake-a-long live! Lemon & Thyme Drizzle Cake

Join Cork's Rachel Gaffney (Irish Network Dallas Fort Worth) for her next bake-a-long live on YouTube. Rachel will be taking us through all the steps to make a delicious lemon and thyme loaf. Ingredient list and more information all available [here](#). Perfect for bakers of all levels and a great activity for families. Add some Barry's Tea and you will be all set!

The Ireland Funds Covid-19 Response Fund

The Ireland Funds has established a Covid-19 Response Fund to address the immediate and long-term needs of communities on the island of Ireland in the areas of food distribution, disability support, family support, elder services, access to education, community support and mental health. More information is available [here](#) or from Darina Padian in the Ireland Funds Dallas office 469.232.9601.

Poetry and Writings of John O'Donohue

With thanks to Jack McGuire in San Antonio for the suggestion, you might like to visit the [website](#) or [Facebook](#) of the late John O'Donohue for some inspirational and reassuring reading. John had many friends in San Antonio and his legacy can provide great solace to them and us. An extract from *To Bless the Space between Us (US) / Benedictus (Europe)* by John Donohue:

This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.
Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.
If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.

**Ireland Performs Series**

Culture Ireland continue their series of live performances. See [#IrelandPerforms](#) for more information.

Warm regards on behalf of your Consulate team,
Claire McCarthy
Consul General
Consulate General of Ireland
515 Congress Avenue, Suite 1720, Austin, Texas 78701
T: +1 512 792 5500

Some Irish Signs:

Sign on a Kinsale shop: Out for lunch. If not back by five, out for dinner also.

Sign on an Irish gate: The farmer allows walkers across the field for free, but the bull charges.

Notice on a Cork building site: The shovels haven't arrived, and until they do, you'll have to lean on each other.

A particular favorite for theft is the road sign to one Co. Kerry village that reads: "Inch, 1 mile."

The Irish Book Club

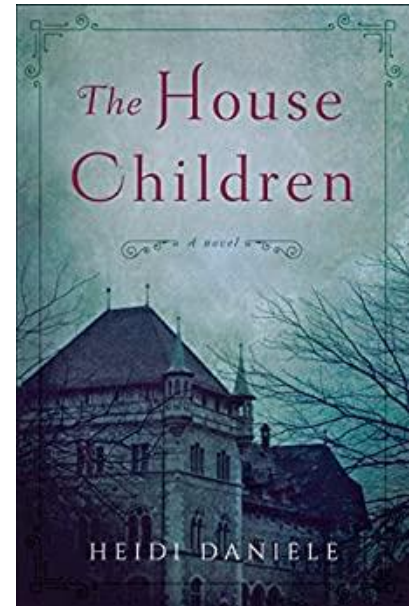
One of the best things about being an online book club is that there need be no interruptions during this trying time. If you are on Facebook, just type The Irish Book Club into the search bar (or click on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2022642747761043/>) and you'll find us. Our book for discussion in March was *The House Children*, by Heidi Daniele (reviewed below). For April, we're discussing *Oh My God, What a Complete Aisling*, by Emer McLysaght and Sarah Breen. And for May, we're reading *Tenderwire* by Claire Kilroy.

The House Children, by Heidi Daniel

From Amazon's description: "In 1937, Mary Margaret Joyce is born in the Tuam Home for unwed mothers. After spending her early years in an uncaring foster home, she is sentenced by a judge to an industrial school, where she is given the name Peg, and assigned the number 27. Amid one hundred other unwanted girls, Peg quickly learns the rigid routine of prayer, work, and silence under the watchful eye of Sister Constance. Her only respite is an annual summer holiday with a kind family in Galway.

At the tender age of thirteen, Peg accidentally learns the identity of her birthmother. Peg struggles with feelings of anger and abandonment, while her mother grapples with the shame of having borne a child out of wedlock. The tension between them mounts as Peg, now becoming a young adult, begins to make plans for her future beyond Ireland.

Based on actual events, *The House Children* is a compelling story of familial love, shameful secrets, and life inside Ireland's infamous industrial schools."



Luckily for the Irish Book Club, author Heidi Daniele is one of our members, so we got to ask her what prompted her to write this book. Her reply: "I was attending an event in Ballinasloe [Co. Galway] when I first heard about the Industrial Schools. A gentleman seated at my table was talking about the book, *Fear of the Collar* by Patrick Touher. The following day I bought the book, and I was both fascinated and appalled by what I read. When I came home to the U.S., I started to research these institutions. I managed to connect with five women raised in the same industrial school who shared their stories with me. I felt it was an important topic and decided to write

the book. I'd like to share a photo of St. Joseph's Industrial School in Ballinasloe. This is the institution where the five women I interviewed were raised. This building was behind the convent and chapel on Society Street."

And a review from an Amazon reviewer: "If you are born female you have to endure a certain amount of travail. In *The House Children*, Peg got hers in full measure. Every Irish woman who left Ireland in the fifties should read this book, if just to know what she left behind. That Ireland does not exist anymore, thank God. Heidi Daniele's novel is so close to truth I relived some of my own life in Peg's journey."

Diary of an American Left Hand Side Driver in Ireland

By Patrick Connolly (June 07, 2017, [Irish Central](#))

Assignment: Trip to Ireland for seven days. Taking in Kerry to Dublin and points in between. Result: Great craic, as the locals would say.

Monday morning I depart Shannon Airport after usual haggling over rental car insurance coverage, etc. Like many Americans, I love Ireland, but I'm nervous about the left-hand drive. I did not help my cause by approaching the car (a French-made Renault, automatic) from the right side out of force of habit and the rental car attendant looks bemused. The sign outside Shannon Airport says "Conduire à Gauche" and Google translate tells me that it means to drive on the left. A French car, a French sign, Oh là là! Also signs in Irish and English. Excellent.

First roundabout. Give way to traffic on right. Okay so far, until big truck coming through honks horn to warn me to stay back, almost wet myself. (By the time I leave, I'm a roundabout expert, though.)



The distance to Killarney and everywhere else is given in kilometers, and I spend much of my week dividing by eight and multiplying by five to get mileage. I come across some old mileage signposts and treasure them. The highways (or motorways as they're called here) are great, no problem, well signposted, easy to drive, it is when you get off on side roads that problems can start.

A few Irish drivers keep very close proximity to the vehicle in front. One guy on my tail so tight I can smell his breath. Merde! Overtaking on the small roads is the biggest problem as you inevitably pass in the oncoming lane and there's a bend up ahead where a car may or may not suddenly materialize from. Every time I pass successfully I exhale with a huge "phew."

I make a habit to stop for directions. Great "craic" as they say. "You're not from around here then?" Well, no, why would I ask for directions then? "You'll be following that road ahead that you can't see yet off to the right. . . . Turn left at the chemist shop and then right by the pub." Wonderful! I feel like writing a book on Irish directions.

Darn French again, I can't find how to open my gas tank as the manual seems to be in French. A friendly Kerry gas station owner helps me out. "Yerrah that car is too smart for its own good." Love it. That's exactly what I'd been thinking as I tried to find the radio knob. I have no idea how much gas costs as it is all in liters, but Irish cars are amazing on mileage

I pull into a B&B in Lisdoonvarna, County Clare. The owner sends her daughter outside to see what kind of car I have. Interesting. Apparently, I went through some kind of secret toll on the M50 in Dublin. A sign warns me to pay within 24 hours or be beheaded or something like that. No idea.

Finally, seven days over, spick and span car back in Shannon terminal. Au revoir Ireland! Driving in Ireland is a piece of gateaux as my French friends at Renault would say.

Six Inventions You (Maybe) Never Knew Were Irish!

From www.Ireland-information.com

HOT CHOCOLATE

The sweet elixir known as hot chocolate that is the love of children and adults the world over was actually invented by Hans Sloane (1660-1753), who was born at Killyleagh in County Down in Ulster. As a young man he studied botany and pharmacy in London. He travelled to Jamaica as a physician to the Governor of Jamaica, expanding his botanical knowledge greatly, recording over 800 new species of plantlife. He noted that the local population would drink cocoa powder in water, a taste he found very displeasing but found a new way of enjoying the drink by mixing it with milk and sugar. He returned to England and it was not long before the famous Cadbury Brothers were selling "Sloane's Drinking Chocolate," later known as "hot chocolate" or "cocoa."

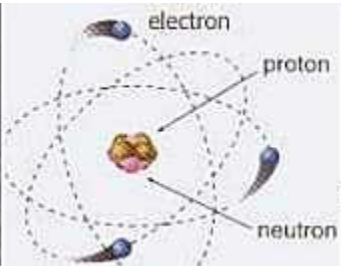


Hans Sloane
(1660-1753)
The Irish inventor
of Hot Chocolate

THE ELECTRON

To say that an Irish man invented the electron, one of the fundamental atomic particles that make up the entire universe, is perhaps pushing it a little bit. But the term "electron" actually was coined by the Irish physicist George Johnstone Stoney (1826-1911), who as early as 1874 had determined that there was a fundamental unit quantity of electricity. In 1891 he combined the words "electric" and "ion" to create the word "electron."

Stoney was born near Birr in County Offaly, home to the world's largest telescope, the 72-inch Leviathan of Parsonstown, built by the 3rd Earl of Rosse. He worked there as an assistant to William Parsons in what was proving to be a hotbed of scientific discovery in Ireland. He published 75 scientific papers during his lifetime, contributing much to the knowledge of cosmic physics and to the theory of gases. He is honored by craters on both Mars and the Moon being named for him.



George
Johnstone
Stoney
(1826-1911)
Discovered the
Electron

HORSE-RACING

The racing of horses over fences is known as "National Hunt Racing" and originated in Ireland in the early eighteenth century. The original "pounding races" involved cross-country treks where the animals were required to jump over ditches and hedgerows and whatever other obstacles they met along the way.

A very early record of such a race is from the year 1752 and records a race between Buttevant and Doneraile in County Cork, some 4.5 miles, about the same distance as the modern Grand National race at Aintree. Together with the Gold Cup at Cheltenham, these two races form the pinnacle of the National Hunt Racing calendar. The race in Cork was marked at the start and finish by a Church and it is thus that the term 'steeplechase' was born.



Arkle, the legendary
Irish Racehorse

RADIOTHERAPY

The Irish physicist John Joly (1857-1933), is renowned for his invention of radiotherapy and in particular for its use as a treatment of cancer. Born in Hollywood House in County Offaly, he was educated in Trinity College and contributed over 270 books and papers during his lifetime. His 1899 paper, "An Estimate of the Geological Age of the Earth," was revolutionary at the time, and although later superseded by more accurate estimates, it was noted for breaking new ground. In 1914 Joly developed the use of radium in the treatment of cancer. He helped establish the Irish Radium Institute, which promoted the "Dublin method" of using a hollow needle for deep radium treatment, and it was from here that the modern treatment known as radiotherapy was developed. This prolific man also invented the Joly Color Process, allowing for the production of color photographs. A crater on Mars was named for him to honor his many scientific achievements.



**John Joly (1857-1933),
Irish Inventor of Radiotherapy**

"The sediments of the past
are many miles in collective thickness:
yet the feeble silt of the rivers built
them all from base to summit."

SEISMOLOGY



Robert Mallet (1810-1881)

'The Father of Seismology'

Anyone who has ever experienced an earthquake or tremors will have become instantly aware of the power of the planet we all live on. The study of these forces is called seismology and it was the Irish scientist and inventor Robert Mallet (1810-1881) who was the pioneer of this field of study. Born in Dublin and educated at Trinity College, the young Mallet joined his father's iron foundry and provided

engineering iron to projects such as the Fastnet Lighthouse and a swing-bridge over the River Shannon. His 1846 paper to the Royal Irish Academy, titled "On the Dynamics of Earthquakes" is considered to be one of the fundamental studies giving rise to the new science of seismology. He is credited with coining not just the word "seismology" but also "epicenter." His "Report on the Great Neapolitan Earthquake of 1857," in which over 11,000 people lost their lives in the Italian city of Padua, was very highly regarded.

WHISKEY

The distillation of alcoholic liquid from fermented grain mash has been documented as far back as the Babylonians four thousand years ago. But the moment the word whiskey came into being is actually pinpointed as being the year 1405 in the "Annals of Clonmacnoise" of County Offaly, in the very heart of Ireland. The word "whiskey" is an expanded anglicized form of the Irish word "uisce" meaning "water." The Gaelic words for whiskey are "uisce beatha," meaning "water of life." Uisce is pronounced "ish-keh," so it is easy to see how this could transform into the modern pronunciation of whiskey that we know today.



Whiskey

**Invented by
Irish Monks**

When enjoyed in moderation, whiskey is savored and highly regarded, but easy does it! Perhaps some caution should be taken from the earliest reference of the drink from "The Annals of Clonmacnoise," which include a famous monastery record about how the death of a chieftain had occurred at Christmas due to "taking a surfeit of aqua vitae." He drank too much, and succumbed.

Culture All Around

[Editor's Note: Although the organizations listed below are currently on hiatus, they will all be back when this is all over, so keep them in your thoughts! (And Two Fools is still offering takeout service.)]

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.

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

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

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.

Cans for Celts

Help raise funds for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games in 2021! 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!

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):

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? _____