



IRISH TIMES

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

March 2025

Note: Irish-American Society meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month, **except during June, July, and August** (and for special events), at the **Ramada Plaza** (2020 Menaul Blvd NE).

Next Event:
March 16, 2025
Noon to 3:30 PM
at the Ramada Plaza
The Annual IAS St. Patrick's Day Party!



Wandering the Burren

**Come join us for some
grand craic, good food,
and toe-tapping
entertainment!**

Details on p. 5



**The McTeggart Irish Step
Dancers**



The Irish Setters



Notice: Your membership dues for 2025 were due on January 1st.
If you don't renew soon, this will be your last newsletter. 😞
We can't keep this Society going without you, so **THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

2025 Board Members and Committee Chairs

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Would you like to place a sponsorship in the *Irish Times* newsletter? Business-card-sized ads are a mere \$5 a month. Larger-sized ads can be negotiated with the editor, Ellen Dowling (edowling@standuptrainer.com 505-307-1700). Your sponsorship will also appear on the IAS website at no extra charge.

President's Message

By Caren Garcia

Well, here we are moving rapidly toward spring. I don't know about you, but I'm ready for the warm weather—just not the winds! The best thing about March is, of course, St. Patrick's Day, honoring the Patron Saint of Ireland. We have a real treat in store for our members and guests this time around. We learned last year that we needed a lot more space for our festivities and our wish has been granted. We will be in the ballroom across from the bar entrance in the Ramada Plaza, Sunday, March 16th. The bar will be open for us, and we plan to make good use of it! The party includes potluck dinner, music, and dance. Everyone please bring a dish to share. You can get your [tickets in advance online](#), or you can pay at the door if you prefer, of course. Entertainment will be provided by *Wandering the Burren*, *the Irish Setters*, and *the McTeggart's School of Irish Dance*. It'll be a blast!

The fun doesn't end there though, so keep us on your calendar. A quick rundown of our events: On April 11, we will have the band *Saiorse*; on May 9, *Sandia Celtic Ensemble*; and on Thursday, June 12, a special IAS event—rather than our usual Friday program, we will be meeting up at Hops Brewpub to enjoy the Celtic music night together with the available eats and drinks on tap.

Special thanks to Renata Golden for a wonderful reading and presentation at our last meeting, and to the Banquet staff at the Ramada for all their help and kindness. [On the right, Renata presents a copy of her book to the door prize winner, Aerek Calvin, grandson of IAS president Caren Garcia.]



Membership Report

By Molly Martin

Cead Mile Failte: There are no new members to report. We have a grand total of 140 members, which includes 2 student, 44 single, and 94 family memberships.

Renewal season is upon us. If you haven't renewed your membership, there is still time. [You can mail in your renewal by using the last page of this newsletter, or you can pay by credit card at www.irishamericansociety-nm.com.] You can also pay your dues at our St. Patrick's Day Party on March 16th! It will be a grand time!

Collection of aluminum pull-tabs for Ronald McDonald House Continues

The Winter trove contributors:
IAS Members, Mac-Tíre of Skye Pipes and Drums



Please bring your aluminum beverage tabs to an IAS meeting for collection by Molly Martin.

Treasurer's Report January 1 – 31, 2025*

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Membership: cash/checks	\$430.00	Square fees: Membership	-\$7.77
Membership: electronic/Square (less fees—see expenses)	\$205.00	Square fees: Newsletter sponsor	-\$2.04
To defray the cost of hard copy mailing	\$5.00	Check Card (POS), Ramada Hotel, for general meeting Jan. 10	-\$152.51
Newsletter sponsorship: electronic/square (less fees; see expenses)	\$60.00	Check #396: Ron Trellue, for Rye Creek band entertainment for January general meeting	-\$100.00
Donation	\$5.00	Reorder of checks from Checks by Deluxe	-\$76.82
Check Card credit: Ramada Hotel for Jan. 10 meeting	\$6.10		
Total Income	\$711.10	Total Expenses	-\$339.14
		IAS Account prior month's ENDING balance	\$4,076.10
		Plus Income (current month)	\$711.10
		Less Expenses (current month)	(-\$339.14)
	Loss/Gain	\$371.96	
		*Ending Balance as of date of report	\$4,448.06

St. Pat's Day Piping Performances by Mac-Tíre of Skye Pipes and Drums!

If you would like to experience pipes and drums celebrating St. Patrick's on the Saturday and Monday surrounding our IAS event on March 16th, Mac-Tíre of Skye Pipes and Drums will be playing at the locations and times shown below.

Saturday	Quarter Celtic		O'Niell's	Two Fools	Canteen		Brother Mathias*
	Juan Tabo	San Mateo			Aztec	Tramway	
3:00PM	X		X				
4:00PM		X					
Monday							
12:30PM				X			
1:30PM			X				
3:00PM						X	
4:10PM							X
5:00PM					X		
6:00PM	X						
7:00PM		X		X			
7:30PM			X				

Quarter Celtic: 2 locations at 1100 San Mateo Blvd NE and 1930 Juan Tabo NE.

Canteen: 2 locations at 2381 Aztec Rd NE and 417 Tramway Blvd NE.

O'Niell's: 3301 Juan Tabo Blvd NE. **Two Fools:** 3211 Central Ave NE.

Come Join Us!



**The Annual IAS
St. Patrick's Day Party**



Sunday, March 16th, 2024
Noon-3:30 PM
At the Ramada Plaza
2020 Menaul NE

Entry Fee

\$10 Adults; \$5 Children (5 to 12 years); free for under 5 years
(The entry fee is used to pay the performers and the event rental.)

Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.irishamericansociety-nm.com
or at the door with cash, check, or credit card.

Featured Entertainment

12:15 PM: *Wandering the Burren*
1:30 PM: *The Irish Setters*
2:45 PM: *McTeggart Irish Step Dancers*

Pot Luck!!

Please bring a dish to share and mark your utensils with your name.

Cash bar provided by
the Ramada Plaza
(coffee, tea, water complimentary)



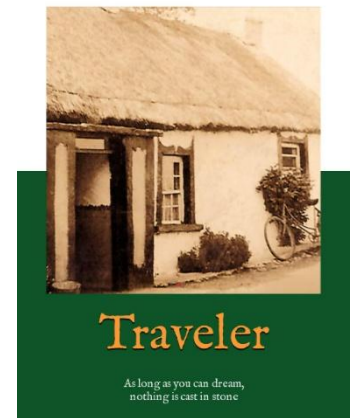
The Irish Book Club

If you are on Facebook, just type The Irish Book Club into the search bar (or click on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2022642747761043/>) and you'll find us. Our book for January was *Traveler* by John Heagney; for February, we discussed *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan; and for March, we're reading *The Woman Who Walked into Doors* by Roddy Doyle.

Traveler, by John Heagney

Amazon's description: "Neddy McKenna's life is about to be torn apart and everyone he knows will become a memory. With little time to prepare amid the Irish War of Independence, Neddy will be swept from his parents' small Northern Ireland farm on a perilous ocean voyage alone. Swept to Canada and life as a 15-year-old indentured servant in a country of strangers, taking with him only a battered cardboard suitcase and his dreams. However, in those dreams, he will be visited again and again by a mysterious stranger who calls himself Traveler. Advising, warning and challenging everything the Irish farm boy knows—or thinks he knew. But who is Traveler? Just an apparition? A guide? A guardian angel? Or something Neddy couldn't begin to imagine?"

John Heagney



Book Club response: [Ellen] This novel is a fun read, with the plot being a rather predictable rags-to-riches story with a twist. In the early 1920s, 14-year-old Neddy must leave his poverty-stricken home in Co. Tyrone to travel across the Atlantic to live with a family in Canada (all arranged by the Catholic Church, of course, which seems to have always been interested in stealing Irish babies and selling them for profit). It's a hard journey, of course, replete with stormy seas, horrible food, dastardly villains, and the sighs of young lovers, leading thankfully to a most happy ending. Ah, but what makes this book different from others of the same ilk is that there is a stranger who appears in Neddy's dreams at key points in his journey, warning him about upcoming dangers. This man is called Traveler.

At first, I thought he was called Traveler because he was one of the travelers of Ireland (AKA more derogatorily, "tinkers"). But I was thrown off that theory by Traveler's appearance. He always shows up in an Hawaiian shirt and shorts, wearing a Panama hat and smoking a cigar. Who exactly is this Traveler and why does he keep showing up in Neddy's dreams? And why is he dressed like Jimmy Buffet? That's the twist."

Some background: Like Neddy, Barney Heagney (the author John Heagney's father) was urged by his parish priest and parents to sign up for the British Home Children program, which between 1869 and 1932 sent 100,000 children from the UK to Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, ostensibly to find them homes with families. The program was well meaning when it was founded in 1868 by Protestant philanthropists alarmed by the virtual child slavery they were seeing in Britain: children as young as six working 12 hours a day in factories for low wages or none. Unfortunately, the program itself, which involved many Christian sects including the Roman Catholic Church, wound up becoming exactly what it was designed to cure. Many of the children exported to the far-flung British colonies were treated as unpaid labor. "The truth is, it was more economical for the British government to pay a one-time fee to send them abroad than it was to house them in orphanages," says Heagney, who did a deep dive into research for the novel.

<https://irishphiladelphia.com/2023/05/11/2116/>

Member Spotlight: Colleen Kingsolver & Family

By Elena Gallegos



I had the pleasure of speaking with Colleen Kingsolver for the member spotlight. She is a very busy dance mom to three lovely girls, Delilah (16), Kaliah (15), and Layla (11). We will see them dancing at the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Party on March 16.

How long have you (and family) been members of the IAS? How did you become interested?

My parents became a member when they first moved down here in 2017. We joined a few years back when my dad got sick. My dad and stepmom were very involved in IAS in Denver and were even marshals for the St. Patrick's Day

parade.

When we spoke, you mentioned that your family was going to the 2024 Oireachtas held in Phoenix, AZ.

When did the girls start dancing and how did they do?

Delilah started with the Celtic Steps dance group. Kaliah started at the school of Wick in Colorado. All three girls danced with Coleman Academy, then when Kim had to close, we moved over to McTeggart. Emily [their dance instructor] has been wonderful with them and all the parents at McTeggart have really come together to create a good family bond. Two of the girls went to the 2024 Oireachtas. Delilah and Kaliah did a team dance and their solos. Delilah placed with "St. Patrick's Day"! They did wonderfully and we are proud of them. All three girls will dance at the St. Patrick's Day party.

Do you have Irish and/or Celtic ancestry? Have you done a genealogy or genetic test?

My aunt has started a genealogy, but I am not sure if she finished it. My great-grandparents traveled over here from Ireland.

Have you travelled to Ireland and/or other Celtic countries?

I have not had the opportunity to travel to Celtic countries. My girls hope to one day make it to Worlds, and then we will head overseas.

Are you originally from NM or did you move here from somewhere else? If so, what drew you to NM?

I was born and raised in Connecticut. My dad was moved to Colorado for work in my 9th grade year. After I met and married my husband, we decided to move to NM to slow down life and be able to enjoy it a little more with our kids.

What are some other Irish cultural things you like to do, such as Irish music concerts, sports, movies, etc.?

My dad and stepmom got us into Irish music. We really enjoy *Gobs of Fun* and *the Elders*. We have traveled to Colorado and Arizona so far for step dance competitions. We have gone to the St. Patty's Day Parade in Denver. In fact, my son, Jacob (now 18), pictured with me, got to be on one of the floats.



Put the Kybosh on it!

Excerpted from [Irish American Mom](#)

The word “kybosh” means to put an end to something, to stop or halt its progress, and I know it is a favorite word in County Cork. But lo and behold, when I moved to New York many years ago, I discovered the word “kybosh” is also a favorite there. I heard the word “kybosh” so frequently as a child the phrase became part of my regular speech.

Many years later I used it when talking to a friend in New York.

“Are you Jewish?” she asked me, with a look of bewilderment.

“No, not as far as I know,” I replied. “Why do you ask?”

“The word ‘kybosh’ is Yiddish,” she explained.

“I wonder why we also use the term frequently in Ireland, especially in Cork,” I questioned. Neither of us had any idea.

Kybosh actually features in [“A Dictionary of Cork Slang” by Seán Beecher](#). The word is a noun and its definition is to put an end to something, to terminate or stymie. Now the Irish use of the word comes from the Irish language. It derives from the Irish phrase *Caidhp Báis* (pronounced ky baw-sh) and is translated as “death cap.” So when we Irish say we are putting the kybosh on something we are quite literally putting the death cap on it.

This explanation was also supported by the Irish poet Padraic Colum, who theorized it comes from the Irish words meaning cap of death: the mask worn by an executioner at the block or the black cap donned by an English judge when delivering the death sentence. The word kybosh (or kibosh), has been used throughout the English-speaking world for more than 150 years. Charles Dickens used the word in *Sketches by Boz* with the first printed example of “putting the ky-bosh on it” being found here.

It has been suggested that kibosh originates from the Yiddish word *kabas* or *kabbasten*, meaning to suppress or stop. *Webster’s New World Dictionary* suggests it may derive from the old German word *kiebe*, meaning carrion. The word was also popularized in a First World War song called “Belgium Put the Kybosh on the Kaiser.”

On the [World Wide Words](#) website there is a detailed explanation of all the [historical uses of the word kybosh](#). Check it out if, like me, you are interested in linguistics. It is officially found in the English dictionary, and is thought to date back to the nineteenth century. But I would guess it could be a far older expression than that. However, I think you can use it as a scrabble word, and you can spell it either way, kibosh or kybosh.

And so, there you have it—a few linguistic theories all about the word “kybosh.” We’ll probably never know where it truly originated from, but for me, being Irish, I’m going to accept the Irish origins of the word. Have you or your family ever used this term?

Support Your Local Irish/Scottish/Celtic Musicians/Performers

Bardic Sisters

Storytelling, narratives, readings and poetry with and through musical accompaniment. Gwen Easterday and Kathy Wimmer on Celtic harps, other folk instruments, and vocals. Contact Kathy at kmillewimm@comcast.net (505-249-7012).

Colleens and Lassies

Featuring Irish and Scottish songs and tunes with Mary Templeton and Kathy Wimmer on fiddle, Celtic harp, and other instruments. Contact Kathy at kmillewimm@comcast.net (505-249-7012).

Saoirse (“seer shih,” Irish for “freedom”)

Celtic music from Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, and Galicia, spiced with jazz and world beat. Contact: John Brinduse: jbrinduse@swcp.com

A Jug O’Punch

A trio playing Irish music galore! Contact Suzanne Taichert: suzannetaichert@gmail.com

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.

Sullivan & Forsyth: Irish Traditional Fiddle & Flute

Eileen Sullivan and Dain Forsyth’s classic combination of fiddle and flute is rare these days, and these two deliver from the heart. Contact: Dain at dleeforsythe@gmail.com.

Irish Setters

A Celtic folk band playing traditional Irish tunes and songs on fiddle, banjo, guitar, and bass. Contact: Erika Gerety (erika@unm.edu)



Culture All Around

Dance Classes:

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

♣ **The McTeggart School of Irish Dance**, Albuquerque and Rio Rancho. Founded in Cork, Ireland, in 1939, and in New Mexico in 1997, they offer classes to children and adults ages 4 and up, from beginner to championship. For more info, visit <https://irishdancenewmexico.com/>

♣ **Ceili dance classes** are held every Wednesday at the GAC. The new time is 6:30 - 8 PM, \$5.00. No experience necessary! (For info, call Steve Laverty at 505-688-4756.)



FOR INFORMATION ON CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AGES 4 & UP, AS WELL AS ADULTS,
SEE OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT KATE PADILLA, MSW, AT
(505) 415-4390
OR BRIGHTBURNACADEMY@GMAIL.COM

<https://www.brightburnacademy.com>

Celtic Music on the Radio and the Web:

♣ **Larry Kirwan's Celtic Crush radio show** happens on The Loft station on SIRIUS XM radio according to his schedule (times in ET). Eclectic styles of music from Ireland, Scotland, and the world's "Celtic music" diaspora! Great fun! More info: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNloyz-LHidbztD_eGnKScyMQr-NWxVrq

♣ **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.)

Two Fools Tavern
where the Craic is Mighty!

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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

Calendar of Events

IAS Events

Date	Day	What
March 6	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM on Zoom. All members are invited to attend. (Email Kathy Wimmer for the link.)
March 16	Sunday	St. Patrick's Day Party , 12:00 noon to 3:30 PM at the Ramada. Details on p. 5.
April 3	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM on Zoom. All members are invited to attend. (Email Kathy Wimmer for the link.)
April 11	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting & Program: 7 PM at the Ramada. A musical performance by Celtic eclectic band Saiorse.

Celtic Community Events

March 2 & 16	Sundays	Two Leaf Clover (Nikelle Gessner and David Garcia) play for Sunday Brunch at Two Fools Tavern every 1 st and 3 rd Sunday of the month from 11 AM – 2 PM.
March 4, 11, 18, 25	Tuesdays	The Irish Slow Session meets Tuesdays at 6:30 PM in the Manzano Mesa Multi-Generational center, near Central and Eubank. For info, contact Kip Malone on Facebook .
March 5, 12, 19, 26	Wednesdays	Ceili Dancing Classes at the GAC , 6:30 - 8 PM, \$5.00. No experience necessary! (Call Steve Laverty at 505-688-4756 for info.)
March 5, 12, 19, 26	Wednesdays	Celtic Music Session at the Singing Arrow Community Center (13200 Wenonah Ave SE) from 5:45-7:45 PM. This is a sheet-music-discouraged (but not prohibited) format and the music is the High & Dry list. For more info, contact Bob Deaver (bpdeaver@gmail.com).
March 5, 12, 19, 26	Wednesdays	Irish Trad Music Session in Taos , 6-8 PM, at the Barra Vino, 241 LeDoux St. For more information, contact Jamie at jaima@taosnet.com or 575-779-1018.
March 6, 13, 20, 27	Thursdays	Albuquerque Traditional Irish Music Open Session from 7-9 PM at Hops Brewery, 7222 4 th Street. For more info, contact Harlow Pinson at hpinson@indepthl.com .
March 12	Wednesday	Altan performing at the South Broadway Cultural Center (1025 Broadway Blvd SE), 7:30 to 9:30. Get tickets and info here.
March 18	Tuesday	Lúnasa performing at the Kimo Theater, 7:30 PM. Get tickets and info here.
March 18	Tuesday	Sullivan & Forsyth: Irish Traditional Fiddle & Flute perform at Trail Rider Pizza from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Trail Rider Pizza is located at 12165 State Highway 14 N, Suite B2, Cedar Crest, NM 87008.

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 (\$25) Individual (\$30) Family (\$35)

(Optional) If you receive your newsletter by US mail (instead of electronically), please consider adding an extra \$5 to your annual membership to help offset the costs of mailing and postage.

Enclosed is a total of \$_____

Please make checks payable to "The Irish-American Society" and mail to:
P.O. Box 13435, Albuquerque, NM 87192-3435

OR

You can also visit our website (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com) and pay by credit card.

How did you hear about us? _____

You can also visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Irish-American-Society-of-New-Mexico-175569365825710>