

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

OCTOBER 2015

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 9th, 7 PM

Irish Step Dancers from Tír Conaill Academy of Irish Dance!

At our October meeting, we will be entertained by the fleet-footed dancers of the Tír Conaill Academy!

Since its inception, the Tír Conaill Academy of Irish Dance has produced a school of extremely happy and talented students, running in ages from 4 years to seventy years. School highlights over the last several years include western regional champion titles, consistent top ten placements at the national level, and multiple world medals at the World Irish Dance Championships.

TCA has performed with internationally renowned traditional Irish groups, including the Chieftains, Beoga, Teada, The Trinity Irish Dance Company, and Full Set. TCA has also performed all across



Arizona and New Mexico, and has made multiple television appearances. Instructors Christopher McGrory and Rosemary Browne have also choreographed award-winning group and solo performance numbers.

The Tir Conaill Academy of Irish Dance (dba Tucson Irish Dance Company in Arizona, and New Mexico Irish Dance in New Mexico) is the place to learn the art of traditional Irish dance in the southwestern United States. They offer weekly classes in Tucson, Arizona and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[See the article about Tir Conaill's newest instructor, Sandra Sullivan, on p. 7.]

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

2015 Board Members and Committee Chairs

Bob Bryers	792-
tccrrb5@aol.com	2026
Chris Kinlen	328-
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Welfare	frananddon@aol.com	3348
Newsletter	Ellen Dowling	307-
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Hospitality	Luisa Gignac	881-
	lgdancer@BasicISP.net	4847
Web	Ellen Dowling	307-
Manager	edowling@standuptrainer.com	1700
Telephone	Beth Baker	994-
	adamsonbb@gmail.com	0443
Audio	Jim Brauer	352-
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. 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.

Irish Food Delivered to Your Door Monthly!

http://www.irishtasteclub.com/





President's Message

By Bob Bryers

Dear IAS Members:

Another month has passed; autumn is upon us and we begin the journey into the Holiday Season. Our Annual Joint Celtic Picnic was a rousing success this year; lots of people, plenty of good food, music – everything worked out, including the weather. I would like to thank Doug Cowan for bringing in the microphones and speakers. Besides the wonderful Celtic Singers of NM, a lot of people stepped up and sang and played for us to the merriment of all those at the picnic!

For those of you who attended our last meeting, the entertainment part turned out to be very enlightening, informational and brought back to the forefront of our memories stories that until then had been buried deep in our own Ellen Dowling's presentation on "The Irish in Albuquerque." It goes to show that we do not always need pipers, dancers or bands to give the members a night to remember.

This month our meeting will be on Friday October 9th. I will be out of town, heading to the big Apple (New York) to visit relatives. But no need to worry, you will all be in good hands that night.

A Message from Your Humble Newsletter Editor:

Thanks again to all of you who attended my presentation on "The Irish in Albuquerque" at our September meeting. As I mentioned that night, I have been asked by the folks at Arcadia Publishing to now put together a book called, "Irish Albuquerque," which we will be able to use as a fund raiser at future events. To find enough material for this book, I NEED YOUR HELP: Please let me know of any Irish-American Albuquerqueans who were living in the city from the 1860s to the 1960s. If you have any pictures to share, that would be grand as well. Ellen Dowling, 505-307-1700 (edowling@standuptrainer.com).

Treasurer's Report						
August 2015						
Victoria Bryers, Treasurer						
Category	Income	Category	Expenses			
Membership	\$40.00	Refund	\$13.09			
		State of NM	\$10.00			
		Total Expenses	\$23.09			
		July beginning balance	\$7794.87			
		Plus Income	\$40.00			
		Subtotal	\$7834.87			
		Less Expenses	\$23.09			
Total Income	\$40.00	July Ending Balance	\$7811.78			

^{*}Ending balance includes \$5000.00 from the Celtic Heritage Fund.

Membership Report

By Norita and Ken Callahan, Membership Directors

Céad Mile Fáilte: A hundred thousand welcomes to our new members: Holly Deuel Gilster and Karla Rosie Harper & Phil Szydlowski. And of course thank you to the many of you who have renewed your memberships. As of September 15th, there are 98 family members (x 2), 138 single members, and a college student. This is a total of 335 IAS members for the 2015 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 to Bob & Vikki Bryers, Dee Stukas, and Mary Worley.

Frankie Gavin with Tommy McCarthy & Louise Costello In Concert at Apple Mountain Music, October 10th

Please join us for another wonderful evening of Irish Traditional music!

Frankie Gavin

has been playing fiddle & flute since his teenage years. At the age of seventeen, he won two All Ireland competitions - for fiddle and flute. Originally influenced by some of the great Irish and American-Irish fiddle players, James Morrison, and Michael Coleman, he later found himself playing with stars such as The Rolling Stones, Stephane Grappelli, Elvis Costello, Earl Scruggs, and Yehudi Menhuin as well as with some of the great contemporary players & singers of traditional Irish music. **The name Frankie Gavin is also synonymous with De Dannan,** the globally renowned band he founded in the mid-1970s. After a short break in the early 2000s, Frankie restarted the band with a new young line-up. The current incarnation

maintains the super-stellar quality of those iconic early De Dannans.

Tommy McCarthy and Louise Costello come from families steeped in traditional Irish music. Tommy (fiddle) was born in London to Irish parents, who emigrated from the west of Ireland in the early 1950s. His father Tommy Sr. was a well-known piper and concertina player from Co. Clare, so Tommy grew up listening to traditional music and playing with all of the legendary Irish players who were living in London, including Máirtín Byrnes, Raymond Roland, Roger Sherlock, Danny Meehan, Paddy Taylor, and Bobby Casey. Louise (banjo) from Galway played with her father Denny and local fiddlers Joe Morris and Jim O'Brien, flute player Joe Collins and friend Paddy Hession. Tommy and Louise met in 1987 playing trad sessions in the Boston area and have continued to play together with many notable musicians, including The Chieftains.



This concert will be held at Apple Mountain Music, 10301 Comanche Rd. NE in Albuquerque. Reservations are recommended as space is limited for this house concert. Call 505-237-2048 to reserve your seat for this very special evening!

Saturday evening October 10th, 2015 7:00 PM, doors open at 6:30 PM Admission: \$20



Samhain Party (IAS Hallowe'en Party)



Friday, October 23, 2015 at the German-American Club 4821 Menaul NE 6 to 9:30 PM \$7 Adults; Children (12 and under) Free Music Provided by the Rye Creek Band

Costume Prizes - Judging at 8:00 PM
(Costumes always optional! We need folks to be judges, too!)

Door Prizes & Sur-prizes
Please bring a pot-luck dish to share
Coffee/Tea Provided – Cash bar

For more info, contact IAS President Bob Bryers (<u>tccrrb5@aol.com</u>, 792-2026)



German-American Club HALLOWEEN PARTY

Saturday, October 24th
7 PM to 11 PM
Variety Music by SHOWCASE
Door Fee \$10
Children 18 & under: No Charge



Costume Prizes
(Costumes are always optional)
Judging at 8:00 PM

Please bring a salty or sweet snack to share Coffee provided

T.J. English Will Talk About "Black Mass" Gangster Whitey Bulger October 8th at Bookworks

Irish-American author T. J. English will read from and sign his new non-fiction book, *Where the Bodies Were Buried*, at Bookworks on Rio Grande Boulevard (in the Flying Star shopping center) at 7 PM on Thursday, October 8th. IAS Member Bill Nevins will introduce Mr. English. This event is free, and all are welcome. Copies of the book will be on sale at Bookworks.

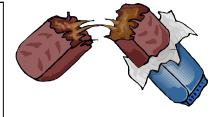
T.J. English is the New York Times bestselling author of *The Westies: Inside the Hell's Kitchen Irish Mob* and *Paddy Whacked*, who now offers a front-row seat at the trial of James Whitey Bulger, and an intimate view of the world of organized crime—and law enforcement—that made him the defining Irish-American gangster. (Whitey Bulger is portrayed in the current Johnny Depp movie *Black Mass* and was the inspiration for the Jack Nicholson character in *TheDeparted*.)

For sixteen years, Whitey Bulger eluded the long reach of the law. For decades one of the most dangerous men in America, Bulger—the brother of influential Massachusetts senator Billy Bulger—was often romanticized as a Robin Hood-like thief and protector. While he was functioning as the de facto mob boss of New England, Bulger (who during a long prison stretch voluntarily took fifty LSD "trips" as a participant in the CIA's MK Ultra program) was also serving as a top echelon informant for the FBI, covertly feeding local prosecutors information about other mob figures—while using their cover to cleverly eliminate his rivals, reinforce his own power, and protect himself from prosecution. Along the way, Bulger and his gang involved themselves in clumsy IRA gun running and then murdered an idealistic young Irish-American involved in that failed scheme. With his state senator brother's connivance, Bulger also posed as a racist vigilante trying to keep drugs and Blacks out of South Boston, when in fact he was primarily responsible for bringing heroin and other hard drugs into his community for profit. When a rogue FBI agent tipped him off that he was about to be arrested on murder charges, Bulger fled Boston and disappeared from sight for more than a decade and a half. In 2011, he was arrested in southern California and returned to Boston, where he was tried and convicted of racketeering and murder.

Our greatest chronicler of the Irish mob in America, T. J. English covered the trial at close range—by day in the courtroom, but also on nights and weekends, interviewing Bulger's associates as well as lawyers, former federal agents, and even members of the jury in the backyards and barrooms of Whitey's world. In *Where the Bodies Were Buried*, he offers a startlingly revisionist account of Bulger's story—and of the decades-long culture of collusion between the Feds and the Irish and Italian mob factions that have ruled New England since the 1970s, when a fateful deal left the FBI fatally compromised. English offers an authoritative look at Bulger's own understanding of his relationship with the FBI and his alleged immunity deal, and illuminates how gangsters, politicians, and law enforcement have continued to be intertwined in Boston. As complex, harrowing, and human as a Scorsese film, *Where the Bodies Were Buried* is the last word on a reign of terror that many feared would never end.

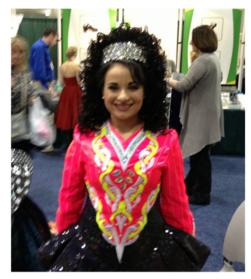
Candy Bars for Celts!

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 President Paul McDonough.



Tír Conaill Academy of Irish Dance Welcomes Their Newest Instructor!

Sandra Sullivan, TCRG, was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Her interest in Irish dance was initially sparked after attending a performance of Michael Flatley's "Lord of the Dance" tour in 1999. After she watched the video of the show over and over for several weeks, Sandra's parents and godparents gifted her with Irish dancing classes for her 8th birthday. From that point forward she was hooked! Talented and hardworking, Sandra quickly became a very accomplished dancer. She has enjoyed all components of Irish dance over the years—competing, performing, coaching, and choreographing dance routines. In 2009 Sandra joined the Tír Conaill Academy and has enjoyed the "incredible competitive focus, beautiful performance opportunities, devoted students, and most importantly, the invested and passionate teachers" at the school. She has had a very successful career in Irish dance competition, including qualifying for the Irish Dancing World Championships yearly from 2008-2014. Her rankings include placing



2nd at the Western Regional Championships, 12th at the North American Irish Dance Championships, and recalling and placing 45th at the World Irish Dance Championships. Sandra has enjoyed performing with many Irish musical groups over the years as well, including the Trinity Irish Dance Company, Eileen Ivers, The Chieftains, Gaelic Storm, Paddygrass, and many others. Her love for performing includes acting and singing and she has performed in local on-stage productions of "Thoroughly Modern Millie," "Disco Inferno," and "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

Sandra has always dreamed of becoming a dance teacher ever since she started her own dancing career. Her admiration for the teachers who inspired her love for dance has made her want to ignite that passion in her own future students. With the support and guidance of Christopher McGrory and Rosemary Browne, Sandra studied and trained extensively and earned her T.C.R.G. qualification in 2015. She is also working toward a fine arts degree in dance at the University of New Mexico. As part of the teaching staff, Sandra is looking forward to a bright future with the Tíir Conaill Academy. Welcome Sandra!

Celtic Jam Session at Witch's Brew

is cancelled for the foreseeable future as the venue has closed.

See elsewhere in this newsletter (look to your right) for other ongoing music sessions around town.

Celtic Music Sessions at Apple Mountain Music:

Slow Celtic Session, 10 AM to 12 noon, first Saturday of every month.

Scottish Session, 2 PM to 4 PM, second Sunday of every month.

Open Irish Session, 2 PM to 4 PM, third Saturday of every month.

For info, contact Apple Mountain Music, 10301 Comanche NE, 505. 237.2048.

Learn to Play Gaelic Football in Albuquerque!



The Albuquerque Gaelic Football Club is looking for new recruits, with or without previous experience. Come and try out the most popular field sport in Ireland! You don't even have to be Irish! Just be ready to have a great time playing this fantastic sport.

Where: UNM Johnson Field, Redondo Drive, UNM campus When: Wednesdays, 6.30 PM, and Saturdays, 10.00 AM

For more information, contact

Alan Markey: (505) 980-9658 <u>liveitlad@gmail.com</u>

John Whitney: (505) 382-8778 johnwhitney1181@yahoo.com Graham Matthews: (303) 667 5010 ireland111@yahoo.com

Celtic Society of UNM



Contact: Jennifer DeMerritt @ Celticunm@unm.edu
Phone: 505-916-9172

Irish Music Session

There is an open Irish music session every Thursday night at Joliesse Chocolates, on 4th St, Albuquerque, 7-9. All are welcome to participate or just enjoy listening. We play mostly traditional Irish tunes, and do some singing as well. Musicians, please bring a chair as the venue may not have enough.

New from Apple Mountain Music! Slow Celtic Session

Tom Tunney, Host. Please join us from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM on the first Saturday of every month, for a guaranteed SLOW Celtic session. (Fee: Donation.) The tune list will be limited to about a dozen tunes at a time so we can learn them from memory. We will work on how to learn the tunes using recordings and sheet music as well as various resources available online. It's not necessary to know how to read music, but we will spend some time learning that if anyone is interested. All instruments are welcome, but you should be able to play at least at a beginner's level.

Apple Mountain Music 10301 Comanche NE, Albuquerque

Culture All Around

Dance Classes:

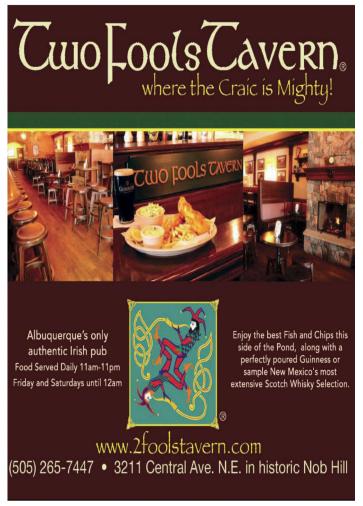
♣ Coleman Academy of Irish Dance. Saturdays, 8 AM to 1 PM at the Lloyd Shaw Dance Center, 5506 Coal SE, and classes in Socorro on Saturdays, 3:30 - 6 PM at the Cottonwood Valley Charter School. Call 866-5867 for information or visit our web site at www.irishdancenm.org and www.colemanacademy.com.

- * *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/



Support Your Local Irish/Scottish/Celtic Musicians/Performers!

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 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)



Michele Buchanan and Shanachie Harpers

765-1288 (<u>tmbuchs@gmail.com</u>)

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 <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; 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



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.

Calendar of Events

IAS Events

Date	Day	What			
October 6	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting, 7 PM at the GAC. All members are			
		invited to attend.			
October 9	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program, 7 PM at the GAC, performance by			
		Tir Conaill Irish Step Dancers.			
October 23	Friday	Samhain (Halloween) Party at the GAC. See p. 5 for details.			
November 3	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting, 7 PM at the GAC. All members are			
		invited to attend.			
November 13	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program, 7 PM at the GAC, performance by			
		the Red Light Ramblers.			
	Celtic/GAC Events				
October 1, 8, 15,	Thursdays	Irish Music Session, every Thursday night at Joliesse Chocolates, in the			
22, and 29		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 3	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	Thursday	Book Signing by T. J. English, author of "Where the Bodies Were			
		Buried," at Bookworks at 7 PM. (See p. 6 for more info.)			
October 10	Saturday	Oktoberfest at the GAC, with Jim Brauer's Schunkel Buben Band			
		playing, 7 to 11 PM. Admission \$10.00.			
October 10	Saturday	Frankie Gavin with Tommy McCarthy & Louise Costello, in concert at			
		Apple Mountain Music, 7 PM. (See p. 4 for more info.)			
October 11	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.)			
October 17	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.)			
October 18	Sunday	Jazz Sunday at the GAC, 2 to 5 PM. (\$5 for IAS members.)			
October 24	Saturday	Halloween Party at the GAC. (See p. 5 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.

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 this time or large appliances. I don't have room for them.) For pick up between meetings – contact Paul McDonough @ 505-294-8205 and leave a message. Thank you!



The Irish-American Society of New Mexico

P.O. Box 13435 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87192-3435

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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	Membership A	Application/R	enewal Form	
Please check one: New M				
If this is a renewal, has yo				
Please make checks paya	ble to The Irí s	sh-Americ	an Society	
and mail to: P.O. Box 134			•	
Individual	_\$20.00 Family_		_\$25.00 Student	\$10.00
Name	=		_	
Address				
City	State	Zip		
Phone				
Would you like to receive (Note: Student members a			•	
Birthday (Name)		Month	Day	(optional)
Birthday (Name)				
Anniversary Month				