



IRISH TIMES

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

APRIL 2017

Note: Irish-American Society meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month, except during July and August (and for special events). The usual meeting location is the Edelweiss Am Rio Grande German-American Club (GAC), 4821 Menaul, NE (west of San Mateo).

Next Event: Friday, April 14th, 7 PM

Dublin—the Ups and Downs of a European Capital

For our April meeting, Dr. Maya Sutton, Professor of Celtic Mythology at UNM, will present a lecture on the history of Dublin.

According to Dr. Sutton: *Dubh-Linn* (“Black-Pool”) was founded by Viking invaders in 841, but they were later ousted by the native Irish Celts. The English, backed by Pope Adrian, invaded in 1170. Despite many revolts by the Irish people, English oppression lasted 750 years until 1922, when the Irish Free State was formed. Plague, poverty, and famine decimated the people many times over. What are the “ups” of Dublin?

Many famous writers, highly educated people, museum treasures, Georgian architecture, traditional Irish music, festivals, European Union funding, and Celtic Tiger economy. Together, let’s take the pulse of Dublin, Europe’s fast-changing capital.



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

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

Business-card-sized ads are a mere \$5 a month. Larger-sized ads can be negotiated with the editor, Ellen Dowling (edowling@standuptrainer.com 307-1700). Your ad will also appear on the IAS website (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com) at no extra charge.



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President's Message

By Ellen Dowling

Dear IAS Members:

Well, we survived St. Patrick's Day! Heck, we more than survived it—we had a great time! One consistent comment I heard was that the corned beef and cabbage dinner was absolutely delicious. Thanks to chef Miguel Mata for his culinary expertise and to his hard-working kitchen assistants, Kathy Mueller, Christine Philips, and Peggy Schmidt. Thanks also to our entertainers: the toe-tapping Jug O' Punch(ers), the amazingly talented Celtic Steps dancers, the rousing Mac-Tire of Skye Pipers and Drummers, and the amazing duo of Derek Swinson and Jim Brauer. (See pictures from the party on p. 8.)

But most of all, I want to thank the volunteers who helped make this event a success: my planning committee members (Kathy & Jim Hanlon, Candice Marsters, Holly Graham, Jim McCabe); Brynn Cole, our lovely door greeter; Bob & Vikki Bryers and Larry Hand, who worked the door (the Bryers also donated the cool door prizes); Norita Callahan, who handled the meal reservations, assisted by Holly Graham; Maureen Riley, who sold cake tickets (and took charge of the Flag Cape drawing—which, by the way, was won by Joe Gallegos!); Rose Marie Keating, who helped set up the cake area; Candice Marsters and Pete McKenna, who basically did anything I asked them to (put more chairs out!); and Sunny Lackey, who helped as well. And now I must give another case of kudos to Christine Philips who (get this) made all the cool signs for the different food stations, ordered and picked up the cakes and rolls and butter from Costco, helped serve from the kitchen, and then insisted that she would clean up the kitchen on her own.

So now it's time to think about next year, when St. Patrick's Day will be on a Saturday. Shall we have an evening event again with dinner prepared by Miguel? We have to make a decision soon, so if you'd like to weigh in, please let me know what you think.

Treasurer's Report February 2017

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Membership (February)	\$420.00	Bob Bryers (paper, envelopes, stamps)	\$57.68
		Robyn Ruff-Wagner, Honorarium for February program	\$50.00
Donation from the Callahans, for Quarter Celtic fundraiser	\$10.00		
Coleman Academy ad	\$60.00		
Total Income	\$490.00	Total Expenses	\$107.68
		IAS Account Feb Beginning Balance	\$6,511.01
		Plus Income (Feb)	\$490.00
		Expenses (Feb)	(\$107.68)
		February Ending Balance	\$6,893.33*
		*Note: Ending balance includes \$5,000 from Heritage Acct. funds	

Membership Report

By Norita and Ken Callahan

Céad Mile Fáilte (*A Hundred Thousand Welcomes*) to our newest members: Laura Coffey Banks, Elizabeth Forsythe, Matthew Gordon, Kari Jacobs, Kathryn Jones, Patrick Mallory, Debbie Molina, Thomas J. O'Keefe & Norma J. Comer, and Terry Heslin & Phyllis Martinez. And welcome back to Tom Hall!

Membership: As of March 18th, there are 82 single members, 67 (x 2) family members and 3 students. This is a total of 219 renewals and new members for the 2017 membership year.

THANK YOU to the folks who helped me decorate the GAC for our St. Patrick's Day Party: Rose Marie Keating, Maureen Riley, Kari, Kasie, & Steve Laverty, Carol Cowan, Elena Gallegos, Joanne N. Connolly, Rosalie Pfeiffer, Kathy Mueller, Ken Callahan, and Miguel Mata.

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 Lee & Patricia Dickens, Robert & Dorothy Newman, and Jeanine Blair.



The IAS is Looking for a Few Good Folks (with a truck or a big car)



Hey, everyone! Around twice a year, at the Shamrock Fest in March and the Celtic Festival in May, the IAS manages a booth to promote interest in our Society and (hopefully) attract new members. (Frequently, people come up to our booth and exclaim, "I didn't know there was an Irish society in New Mexico! So it's important for us to make a public presence.) To set up this booth, we provide flags (Irish, NM, and US), a banner, all kinds of promotional materials (old newsletters, membership application forms), t-shirts, genealogy charts, various books on Ireland, and assorted doodads

that we either sell (t-shirts) or give away (pencils, pins). We also display some of these doodads and such at our monthly meetings, where we sell donated books and other IAS merchandize.

Here's the deal: We need someone (or someones) to take over this important job and be responsible for the IAS "stuff." This would include being able to store such "stuff" and then transport it to the venue when required. Can you help us out? Be advised that we would be sure to provide help with the displaying and transporting; you would not be unpacking and packing up alone! If you can do this, we would cherish you forever. Let me know. Ellen (edowling@standuptrainer.com; 307-1700)

The Irish Book Club

The Irish Book Club meets at O’Niell’s Pub at Washington and Central at 7:30 PM, usually on the last Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be on April 27th, when we will discuss *Full Tilt: Ireland to India with a Bicycle*, by Dervla Murphy. If you’re interested in joining us, contact Ellen at 307-1700 (edowling@standuptrainer.com).

For our February meeting, we discussed *The Mammy* by Brendan O’Carroll. Here is book club member Pete McKenna’s review:



The Mammy is the first of a trilogy covering O’Carroll’s novelized autobiographical sketch of his family. (“Mammy” is apparently what a lot of Irish kids call their mothers; Al Jolson doesn’t enter into it.) The focus here is on a segment of his mother’s life and family turmoil surrounding the death of his father, “Redster.” Sounds grim but this book is a laugh and love-it riot. We are presented with the antics, family life, and business world of Agnes Brown (and her seven kids), Agnes’ bestest friend Marion, and a gaggle of characters Dickens would be proud of. O’Carroll specializes in mismatched communications, inside jokes, and assumptions interplayed and fed on between close associates. And there are few closer associates than Agnes Brown and Marion. Personal tragedy peppers this story and the crowded inner-city poverty of the Brown family is a palpable backdrop that molds and affects all behavior and attitudes. But O’Carroll is adept at seeing past this with humor, grace, and a real-life resilience that goes a long way towards demonstrating that “happiness on earth isn’t just for high achievers.” There are so many good vignettes in *The Mammy* it is impossible to do them justice – besides that would spoil the fun – but a classic outtake from Chapter 5 where Marion and Agnes are discussing the joys of sex (rather unknown to Agnes) causes Agnes to ruminate on her life with the late Redster, “leavin’ me with seven orphans and not an organism to show

for it.” In *The Mammy* that’s just the tip of the iceberg.

The book was also adapted as a movie, entitled “Agnes Brown.” Directed by and starring Angelica Huston, it was released in 1999.

Fundraiser for Rio Grande Valley Celtic Games! May 20 & 21, 2017

The Rio Grande Valley Celtic Games committee is asking for your help. Please visit this site:

<https://www.generosity.com/education-fundraising/albuquerque-celtic-festival-may-20-21-2017>

and make a donation today! (And while you’re there, check out the cool video!)

There are Ninety Different Words for Potato in Irish

By Frances Mulraney, [Irish Central](#)

The potato, for better or worse, has played a major role in Irish life and as such, despite being a vegetable, it's had quite an influence on Irish culture and even on the Irish language.

Such was the relationship between the people of Ireland and the lowly spud that a simple search of the Irish terminology database [téarma.ie](#) will uncover no fewer than 90 different terms involving the word potato (though, granted, not all completely linked to the edible kind).



The need for greater speed was obviously important when discussing potatoes as several concepts relating to the food that would require a phrase or string of words to describe in English are mashed down to one-word terms in Irish.

The main Irish word for potato is *práta* (prawh-tah) and it's this word that is used most of the time. There are loads of other options, however, if you wish to be more precise.

We take a look at some of the most spud-tacular words.

1. *Paidrín* (pad-reen)

Meaning: very tiny potato

Sadly, the word *paidrín* is also the Irish term for the rosary. Could this be a reflection on your need for a prayer if your potato crop turned out to be small?

2. *Sliomach* (shli-muck)

Meaning: very wet potato

Even the sound of this word makes us think of something mushy.

3. *Creachán* (cray-cawn) / *Sceidín* (shced-een) / *Póirín* (pour-een)

Meaning: very small potato

The term *creach* by itself means a loss or a pity, perhaps another nod to the need for large potatoes. *Póirín* can also mean "small round stone."

4. *Caldar* (kal-dar) / *Peil* (pell) / *Cnap* (k-nop)

Meaning: very big potato.

Peil is also the Irish for football, and if you add *caldar* before the words *fir* or *mná*, you can describe a big, robust man or woman.

5. *Ionam* (Un-um)

Meaning: Sweet potato

The sweet potato can also be called by its more literal term *práta milis* (*milis* meaning “sweet”) or *práta Spáinneach* (meaning “Spanish potato”).

6. *Dradairnín* (Drad-arh-neen / *Screamhachóir* (shcrave-a-core)

Meaning: small useless potato

The Irish were obviously very concerned with the potato crop turning out small and unusable.

7. *Práta Breac* (prawh-tah brak)

Meaning: semi-rotten potato

8. *Sceallóga* (shkal-og-gah)

Meaning: French fries (or chips in Ireland)

9. *Sceallán* (shkal-awhn) / *Scoilteán* (skull-tawn)

Meaning: potato set



A potato “set” is a potato or a part of a potato used as a seed.

10. *Brioscáin* (bris-kawn) / *Criospaí* (chris-pee)

Meaning: potato chips (crisps in Ireland)

11. *Smoladh* (smul-ah) / *Dúchan* (doo-can)

Meaning: potato blight / disease.

Smoladh is the term used to describe a potato disease now, but *dúchan* is a more historical term used to describe the blight that hit potato crops in Ireland in the 1840s and was blamed for the Great Hunger.

12. *Langán* (lan-gawn) / *Scealbhóir* (shcel-vore) / *Logán* (log-awn)

Meaning: portion of potato left after removing sets

These three terms refer solely to the part of the potato that is left once a part has been taken away to be used as a seed.

13. *Falcaire* (fal-k-ra)

Meaning: old seed-potato.

A seed potato is a potato that has been planted and used for the production of seeds (like a potato set). *Falcaire* specifically refers to the potato once it has been used for this purpose.

14. *Brúitín* (brew-teen)

Meaning: mashed potato.

Brú means to force or to put pressure on.

15. *Sámhaí* (saw-vee)

Meaning: couch potato.

Ok, so this is not an exact description of a potato but we still thought it was a cool word. Use it on any lazy bones who can't get up from the couch and see their looks of confusion.



St. Patrick's Day Party Pics!



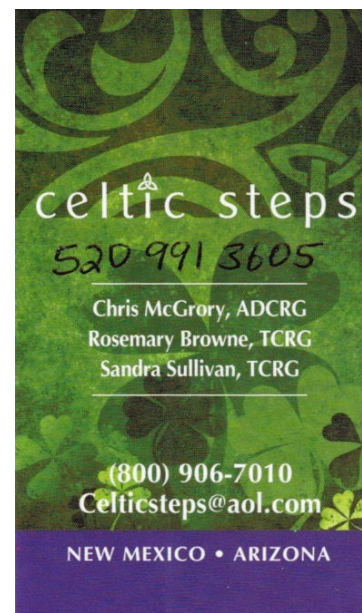
Culture All Around

Dance Classes:

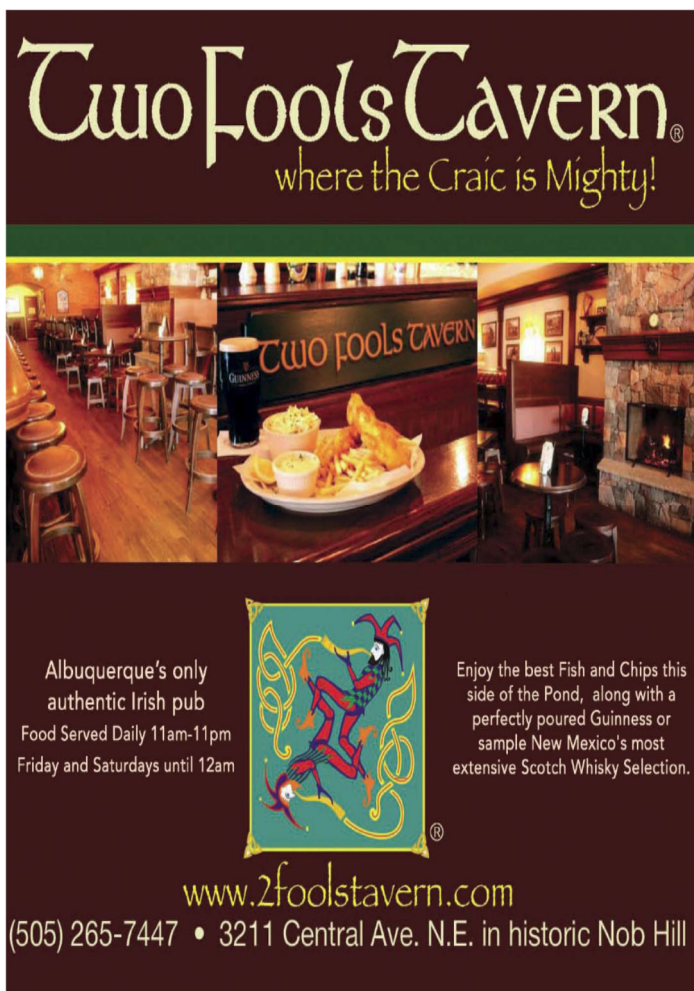
- ♣ **Coleman Academy of Irish Dance.** Saturdays, 8 AM to 1 PM at the Lloyd Shaw Dance Center, 5506 Coal SE. Call 866-5867 for information or visit our web site at www.irishdancenm.org and www.colemanacademy.com.
- ♣ **Celtic Steps Arizona/New Mexico (formerly Tir Conaill Academy of Irish Dance),** Saturdays at the New Mexico Irish Dance Company, Suite 3, 12700 San Rafael (Quail Run Shopping Center), Albuquerque. Call 379-3753 or visit <http://celticsteps.org/albuquerque/> for further information.
- ♣ **Ceili dance classes** are held every Wednesday at the GAC at 7:15 PM, \$3.00. No experience necessary! Call Norita Callahan at 298-2708.

Celtic Music on the Radio and the Web:

- ♣ **The Thistle and Shamrock** program, featuring Fiona Ritchie, airs on KANW 89.1 FM, Mondays at 6:00 PM.
- ♣ **Celtic and Beyond**, with co-hosts Ellie Blair and Kelly Clement, 7:00 PM each Wednesday on KTAOS 101.9 FM. (Also broadcast on the Web at www.ktao.com.)



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Celtic Music at O'Niell's:

Music every Sunday from 4 to 7 PM at the "old" O'Niell's, 4310 Central Ave SE (Corner of Central & Washington in East Nob Hill) and the "new" location (3301 Juan Tabo NE, between Comanche and Candelaria). For more info, visit <http://www.oniells.com/>



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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 (tmbuchs@gmail.com)

Rye Creek

Folk, Irish, western and good old mountain music. Contact Terry Ryan Axline, 293-8924 (neomexicana@hotmail.com) or Ron Trellue, 505-362-2551 (trellue@swcp.com) or visit www.myspace.com/ryecreeknm.

Celtic Coyotes

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

Friends Forever

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

Eagle's Whistle: Same group, but also with Andy Moss on whistle and concertina.

The Singing Coyote Sisters

Donna Coy & Michelle Palmer perform Celtic, Folk, Gospel, and Sing-A-Longs. Contact: 296-2017 or 730-1985 mmcoy3@msn.com



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.

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
April 4	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
April 14	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program , 7 PM at the GAC. Program: A lecture about Dublin by Maya Sutton.
May 2	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
May 12	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program , 7 PM at the GAC. Program: Musical performance by the Celtic Coyotes.

Celtic/GAC Events

April 6, 13, 20, 27	Thursdays	Irish Music Session , every Thursday night at Joliesse Chocolates, in the North Valley at 6855 4th Street NW, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, 7 to 9 PM. For more info, contact Harlow Pinson at hpinson@indepthl.com .
April 1	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.)
April 2	Sunday	Rye Creek playing at O'Neill's Heights, 3301 Juan Tabo NE, 4 to 7 PM.
April 8	Saturday	Folk Music Jam , led by IAS member Michael Coy, at Apple Mountain Music, 2 to 3:30 PM.
April 8	Saturday	Western Night at the GAC with Paul Pino band from 7 to 11 PM, \$10.00.
April 9	Sunday	Scottish Session at Apple Mountain Music, 2 PM to 4 PM.
April 10 & 24	Mondays	The Singing Pilgrims present Ceilidh at the Crossroads at The Blue Grasshopper Pub (at its new Westside location at 6361 Riverside Plaza Lane NW, near Coors and Montano) from 7 PM-9 PM.
April 22	Saturday	Vienna Ball at the GAC with Jim Brauer band from 7 to 11 PM. \$10.00
April 23	Sunday	Eagle's Whistle performing at Two Fools Tavern, 3211 Central Avenue NE, 11 to 2 PM.

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.

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**The Irish-American Society
of New Mexico**

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Please check one: New Membership Application_____ Renewal_____

If this is a renewal, has your contact information changed? Yes _____ No_____

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