



IRISH TIMES

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

MAY 2018

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

Next Event: Friday, May 11th, 7 PM

Lecture: The Irish Dog and Pony Show



How did wolves become wolfhounds? Did Connemara ponies really come from the sea? What roles do dogs and horses play in modern Ireland?

At our May meeting, IAS board member Dr. Laura Coffey Banks will discuss the origin of dogs and horses in Ireland, both mystical and scientific, and describe the native domestic canine and equine breeds. Dr. Banks trained in wildlife science, veterinary medicine, and public health at NMSU,

UNM, and Colorado State University. She is currently an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and adjunct member of the Irish Studies program at UNM.



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

And don't forget the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival on May 19 & 20!
(See p. 6 for more info.)

2018 Board Members and Committee Chairs

President	Ellen Dowling edowling@standuptrainer.com	307-1700	Health & Welfare	Don Hardy frananddon@aol.com	259-3348
VP	Bob Bryers tcrrb5@aol.com	792-2026	Newsletter	Ellen Dowling edowling@standuptrainer.com	307-1700
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Secretary	Pete McKenna pmckenna101@comcast.net	345-2566	Web Manager	Ellen Dowling edowling@standuptrainer.com	307-1700
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Board	Paul McDonough penthormul@aol.com	294-8205	Audio Services	Jim Brauer rkeating14@comcast.net	352-2195
Board	Jay Vandersloot JayVandersloot@yahoo.com	362-1733			
Board	Laura Banks LLBanks64@comcast.net	249-5063			
Board	Maureen Riley mriley6918@yahoo.com	884-0731			



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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James.mccabe@kofc.org
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President's Message

By Ellen Dowling

Dear IAS Members:

Our profound thanks, again, to our April 13th meeting presenters, Drs. Caleb Richardson and Sarah Townsend of UNM. Their talk was a mix of Irish history and culture and was absolutely entertaining and enlightening. This was Part One of a two-part lecture; we will be sure to bring them back again next year to present Part Two!

Congratulations are in order to Joanne Connelly and Bill Weber, who won the raffle for tickets to the Celtic Woman performance on May 22. And thanks, too, to the Celtic Woman folks, who donated the tickets to us. Let's all go to the performance to show our appreciation! (See info on p. 8.)



Our next big event is coming hard upon us—the annual Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival on May 19 and 20. (See p. 6 for more info.) As usual, the IAS will have a booth at the festival and we need YOU MEMBERS to help staff the booth and schmooze with festival attendees. It's a great deal: You work the booth for two hours and get free admission to the festival and a place to sit in the shade! ☺ Let me know if you want to help out.

Our next monthly meeting and program will be May 11th, with a talk on Irish dogs and ponies by our own wonderful board member (and survey designer) Laura Banks. I hope to see you there!

IAS General Meeting April 13, 2018

President Ellen Dowling opens the meeting at 7:15 PM. She inquires about new members and guests; none are with us this evening.

Board Members present and acknowledged by Ellen: V.P. Bob Bryers, Treasurer Kathy Wimmer, Secretary Peter McKenna (late), Membership Norita Callahan, Board Paul McDonough, Board Jay Vandersloot, Board Maureen Riley, Board Laura Brooks.

Ellen tells of tonight's raffle for 2 ticket to *Celtic Woman* at Popejoy Hall on Tuesday, May 22nd. Tickets are \$1 ea. or 6 for \$5. See Bob Bryers for them and winner will be drawn at the end of tonight's talk.

Reports:

- ♣ Treasury – Kathy reports we had expenses of \$1,080 and good returns from our St. Patrick's Day event, resulting in a balance of \$11,360. We had \$1,467 from the gate and about \$2,740 from online sales for St. Patrick's.
- ♣ Membership – Norita reports that we have 68 families (x 2), 68 single and 4 student members for a total membership of 234 members to date. Norita also tells the group that Misty Pinson (with Coleman Academy step dancers), one of the dancers IAS sponsored for Worlds, placed in the top third of the competition, which is quite a feather in her cap.

Laura Banks briefs IAS on the intent and extent of the online survey about IAS. Can be done either online or here this evening on paper. Laura has also made a suggestion box for member input for changes or comments on events and club activities they would like to see continued.

Upcoming Events:

- Our next meeting is May 11th, when Laura Banks will be speaking on Celtic dogs and horses.
- May 19th & 20th is the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival! Volunteers are needed to host the IAS booth. Please sign up on the volunteer sheet being circulated; festival admission is covered for serving in the IAS tent.
- Paul announces that on May 5th the "Backyard Games" will be hosted by the NM Celtic Athletes at Bernalillo's Rotary Park. Ellen will be sent full information and will post it to the membership.

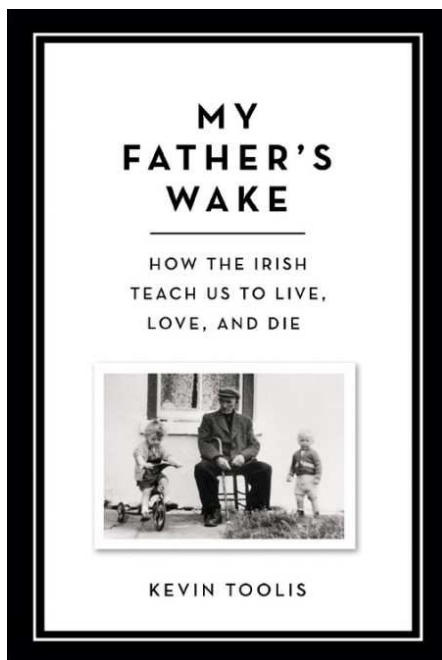
New Business: none.

No further business arising, Ellen adjourns the meeting at 7:27PM. Refreshments followed by a tag-team presentation from Drs. Richardson and Townsend of the UNM History and English Departments covering and interweaving the historical and cultural milieu leading to the formation of the modern Irish Republic; Part I of II.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter McKenna, Secretary

Book Review: *My Father's Wake: How the Irish Teach Us How to Live, Love and Die*, by Kevin Toolis

By IAS Board Member Maureen Riley



"Why have we lost our way to death?"

These are the words of author Kevin Toolis in his book, *My Father's Wake*, in which he examines the Anglo-Saxon way of death and the Irish tradition.

Toolis begins his quest at his family home in Dookinella, County Mayo, a remote island off the west coast of Ireland. His father is dying and so he begins his search for the prescription for facing death. Toolis writes of the "Death Machine" that hides death and dying. Through his work as a foreign correspondent, he brings us to Sudan, Malawi, Gaza and Northern Ireland, "where the dead are everywhere visible, in famine, plague and war." He relates his own experience as a young boy in a TB ward and the tragic death of his older brother from leukemia.

Toolis embraces the spiritual depth of the Irish way of death. The traditions of the islanders he grew up with paint a picture that is without fear. There is no fear of the dead or of death among adults or children. The dead and dying are embraced by the family and the community. As Toolis states: "On the island no one writes about death, but they do go to funerals and talk about the dead and visit the dying all the time. Death is an everyday occurrence, nothing special, and it is this scale by which any dying is judged."

My Father's Wake is a tribute to a proud Irish tradition that honors life, death, and the dead. Toolis answers the question he poses in the book: "How can it be possible to never talk out loud about death in a world where everyone dies?"

My Father's Wake is available on Amazon, or you can order it from [Da Capo Press](#).

Treasurer's Report March 2018

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income		Category	Expenses
Membership (check/cash)	\$190.00		U-Stor-It (March rental)	\$35.00
Membership (electronic)	\$153.24		Check #3267 Norita Callahan (reimburse for refund of membership fee from dropped member)	\$20.00
St. Pat's Dinner (check or cash)	\$280.00		Check #3268 – Miguel Matta, 1 payment for food for St. Pat's party	\$475.00
St. Pat's Door (check or cash)	\$1,367.00		Check #3269 – Harlow Pinson for Saiorse, St. Pat's entertainment	\$125.00
St. Pat's Dinner (electronic)	\$449.22		Check #3270 – Derek Swinson, St. Pat's entertainment	\$62.50
St. Pat's Door (electronic)	\$200.20		Check #3271 – Jim Brauer, St. Pat's entertainment	\$62.50
Shamrock Fest (donation for Vikki Bryers' children's art booth)	\$100.00		Check #3272 – NM Firefighter's Pipes and Drums, St. Pat's entertainment	\$150.00
			Check #3273 – Norita Callahan, Ceili dancers, St. Pat's entertainment	\$50.00
			Check #3274 – Chris McGrory for Celtic Steps, St. Pat's entertainment	\$100.00
Total Income	\$2,739.66		Total Expenses	\$1,080.00
			IAS Account Feb Ending Balance	\$9,656.50
			Plus Income (Mar)	\$2,739.66
			Less Expenses (Mar)	(\$1,080.00)
			January Ending Balance	\$11,316.16

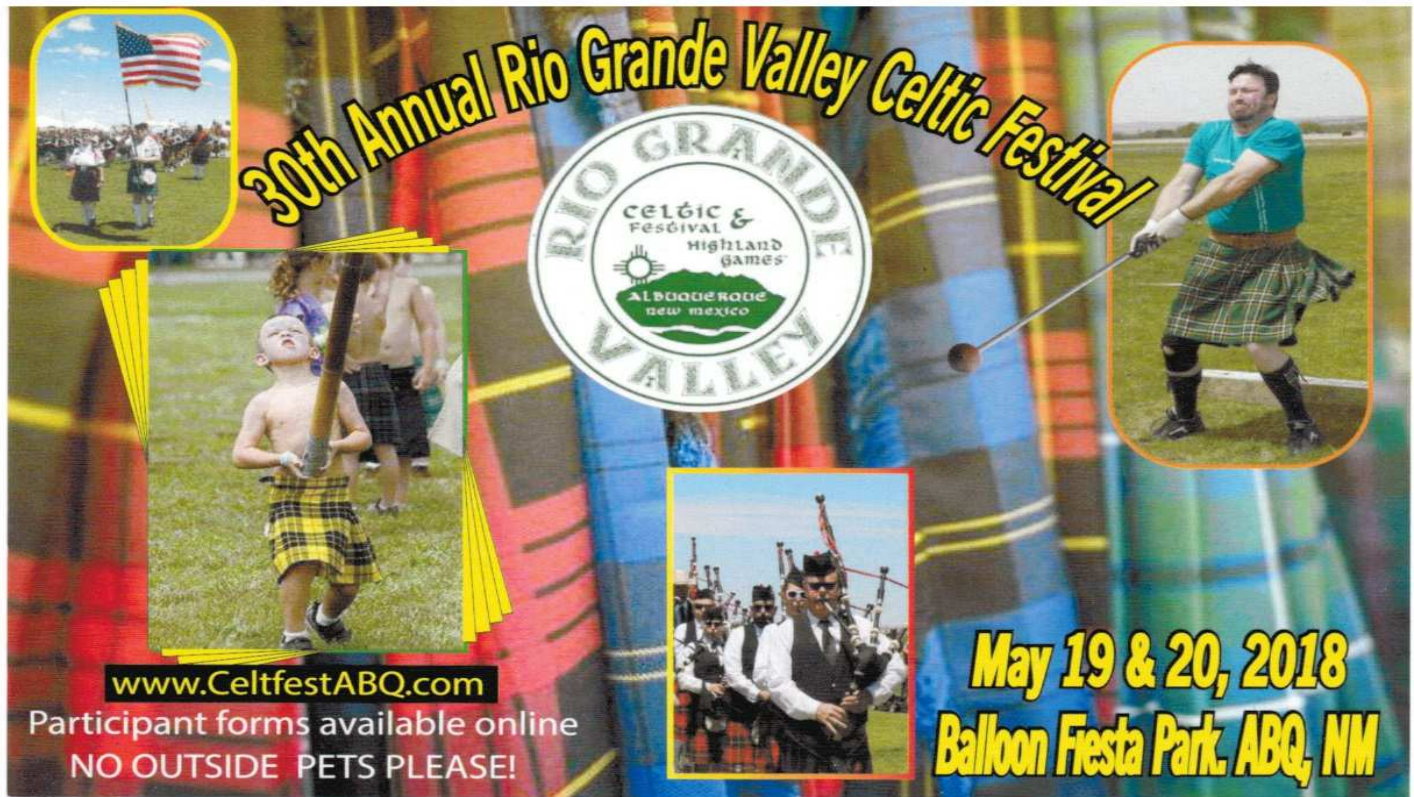
Membership Report

By Norita and Ken Callahan

Céad Mile Fáilte (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes) to our newest members: John F. Roche & Jules Nyquist.

Membership: As of April 18th, there are 68 family members (x 2), 75 single members, and 4 students. This is a total of 215 renewals and new members.

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.



30th Annual Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival

RIO GRANDE VALLEY
CELTIC & HIGHLAND GAMES
ALBUQUERQUE NEW MEXICO

May 19 & 20, 2018
Balloon Fiesta Park, ABQ, NM

www.CeltfestABQ.com
Participant forms available online
NO OUTSIDE PETS PLEASE!

TICKET PRICES (Cash or Credit):

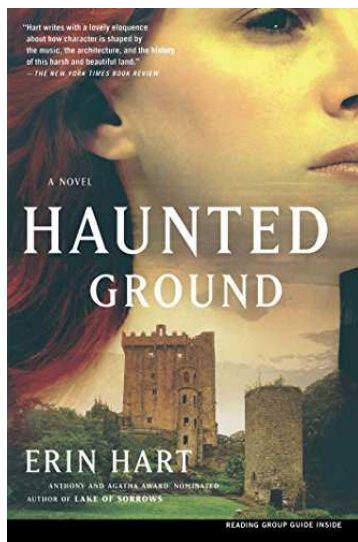
Adult 1-day \$15
 Adult 2-day \$20
 Child (6-14) 1-day \$7
 Child (6-14) 2-day \$10
 Family Pack (1-day ONLY) (2 Adults, 2 Child) \$30
 (Children 6 and under are FREE)
 Seniors 65+ 1-day \$10
 Seniors 65+ 2-day \$15
 Active Military 1-day \$10
 Active Military 2-day \$15



Each year, the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival brings in Celtic bands from all over the United States. This year we will have the band Mac Gilliossa and also Spirited Lads as our Main Stage headliners. You can also check out our Small Stage in the northeast corner of the Festival grounds where we feature local Celtic musicians. This year you can find our Kirkin o' the Tartan on the Main Stage on Sunday morning, led by Chaplain Dusty McDaniel. Our bagpipers can be found throughout the grounds performing competitions, demonstrations, and, of course, every day at 12 o'clock for the Massed Bands as they parade their way through the Festival on their way to the Main Stage!

The Irish Book Club

The Irish Book Club is now online! 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. Right now we're reading April's book, *The Twelve*, by Stuart Neville. (The book is titled *The Twelve* abroad. Its American title is *The Ghosts of Belfast*.) The discussion will start on May 1.



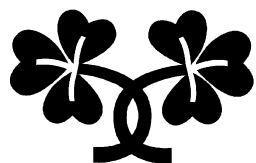
Our book for March was *Haunted Ground* by Erin Hart. Here's Amazon's description:

"This dazzling, award-winning debut in a series delivers mystery, romance, suspense, and fascinating forensic detail. When farmers cutting turf in an Irish peat bog make a grisly discovery—the perfectly preserved head of a young woman with long red hair—Irish archaeologist Cormac Maguire and American pathologist Nora Gavin must use cutting-edge techniques to preserve ancient evidence. Because the bog's watery, acidic environment prevents decay, it's difficult to tell how long the red-haired girl has been buried—two years, two centuries, or even much longer.

Who is she? The extraordinary find leads to even more disturbing puzzles. The red-haired girl is not the only enigma in this remote corner of Galway. Two years earlier, Mina Osborne, the wife of a local landowner, went for a walk with her young son and vanished without a trace. Could they, too, be hidden in the bog's treacherous depths, only to be discovered centuries from now? Or did Hugh Osborne murder his family, as some villagers suspect? Bracklyn House,

Osborne's stately home, holds many secrets, and Nora and Cormac's inquiries threaten to expose them all."

Here's my (Ellen's) take: "This was a corker of a good read, making me want to do nothing else but find out what happens next. Even though my paperback edition has rather small print, and I was initially concerned that it would be a long slog of a read, the plot advanced quickly and I pretty much flew through the pages. All that being said, this book is definitely not a work of great literature (not even close to *Himself, A Novel*, by Jess Kidd—our January book choice, which I wrote up in our March newsletter—whose writing comes pretty close to great)." Edie Brooks "gave it an A for plot but a C minus for character development," noting 'there was a bit of romance, which I generally enjoy, but in this case I didn't even care. That is, the author didn't make me care.'



Flowers of the Forest

Our Society has been diminished by the loss of Natalie Sherman, who, up until her bout with cancer, was a very active member of the club and an enthusiast of all things Irish and Celtic. Born and raised in Boston, Natalie's mother came from an Irish-American family, and in 2016, she and her husband Wes made a long-planned trip to Ireland, passages from which you have read in previous newsletters.

Natalie passed on February 28th, at the age of 75, surrounded by her loving family: husband Wes, sons Shannon and Krishna (Kris), and grandchildren Kyna, Conlan, and Jack.

May she rest in peace.



Celtic Woman

Homecoming Tour: Live from Ireland

May 22nd, 2018

7:00 PM
Popejoy Hall

Tickets
<http://www.celticwoman.com>

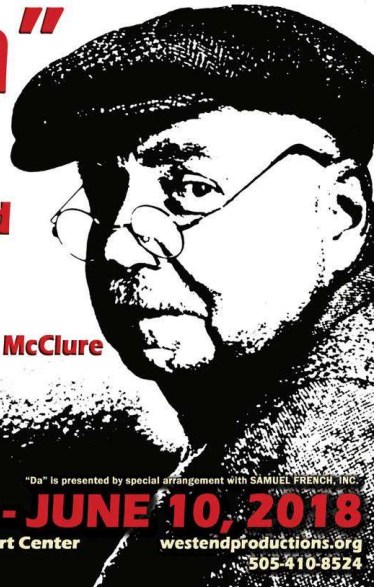
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"Da"

By
**Hugh
Leonard**

Directed by
Colleen Neary McClure



"Da" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.
MAY 18 - JUNE 10, 2018
VSA North Fourth Art Center
4904 4th St NW
westendproductions.org
505-410-8524



The Albuquerque Folk Festival celebrates its 20th year with over 100 non-stop events at multiple venues at the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum on Saturday, June 2, 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Headliners include Seattle roots and blues duo Ben Hunter & Joe Seamons, Grammy winner Mollie O'Brien & her guitarist husband Rich Moore performing their own tunes plus Americana and bluegrass, and Winfield Showcase Winners Espresso! playing Gypsy Jazz and American Swing.

Tickets are available online from www.abqfolkfest.org. \$15 advance tickets are also available from some local and regional music stores and bookstores. At the gate, ticket prices are \$20 for adults, \$5 for kids 12-17, \$15 seniors & military & students 18-25 with ID. Children under 12 free. There is also a family ticket price. Evening shows and dances are \$15. Parking and camping are free. Detailed information is available from the website www.abqfolkfest.org.

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)**, at the McDermott Athletic Center, 801 Loma Colorado, Rio Rancho. Call 505-415-4390 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.)



Come learn to be a Rio Grande Riverdancer!

Irish Dance Lessons

at

The McDermott Athletic Center
801 Loma Colorado, Rio Rancho

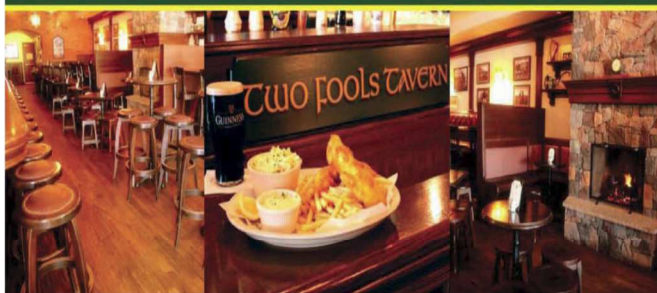


Classes for beginner dancers - ages 4 to adult!

For more information and to sign up now

Contact:

Christopher McGrory, ADCRG
Director, Celtic Steps Albuquerque
520-991-3605 or christopher.mcgrory@gmail.com
or Kate Padilla at 505-415-4390



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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/>



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 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.

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)



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.

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

Cans for Celts

Help raise funds for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games in 2018! 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!

Calendar of Events

IAS Events

Date	Day	What
May 1	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
May 11	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program , 7 PM at the GAC. Program will be a lecture on Irish dogs and ponies by Laura Banks. (See p. 1.)
June 5	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
June 8	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program , 7 PM at the GAC. Program will be a poetry reading by Irish poet Kevin Higgins.

Celtic/GAC Events

[GAC hours are Mon, Tues, Wed: 4 to 10 PM; Thurs, Fri, Sat: noon to 10 PM; Sunday: noon to 5 PM]

The GAC phone number is 888-4833.

May 3, 10, 17, 24	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 .
May 2 and 16	Wednesdays	The Duke City Ceili Band will be playing at the Quarter Celtic Brewpub (1100 San Mateo Blvd NE #50, Albuquerque) at 7 PM.
May 5	Saturday	Bernalillo "BackYard" Highland Games , at Rotary Park, Bernalillo, NM, probably 9 AM to 5 PM. For info, contact Paul McDonough, PenthorMul@aol.com
May 5	Saturday	Mayfest at the GAC with the Swingshift Band, from 7 to 11 PM. Cost \$10.
May 18 – June 10	Weekends	Irish play "Da," presented by West End Productions at VSA North Fourth Art Center, 4904 4 th Street. For info, visit www.westendproductions.org .
May 19	Saturday	Apple Mountain Celtic Session from 1 to 3 PM at High and Dry Brewing, 529 Adams St. NE, ABQ. (Contact Jim Crowley jabbas40@yahoo.com .) will be playing at the Quarter Celtic Brewpub (1100 San Mateo Blvd NE #50, Albuquerque) at 7 PM.
May 19	Saturday	Fiesta at the GAC from 7 to 11 PM with Street Scene band. Cost \$10.
May 20	Sunday	Jazz Sunday at the GAC, 2 to 5 PM. Cost to IAS member \$5.00.
May 22	Tuesday	Celtic Woman at Popejoy Hall, 7:30 PM. See p. 8 for info.

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.

This is an Irish Boomerang



**It never returns—
but it sings a lot of sad songs
about how much it wants to**



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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Irish-American Society of New Mexico

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Please check one: New Membership Application_____ Renewal_____

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

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

Individual _____\$20.00 Family_____ \$25.00

Student _____\$10.00

Name_____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone _____ E-mail_____

How did you hear about us? _____