



IRISH TIMES

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

MAY 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, May 12th, 7 PM

A Musical Performance by the Celtic Coyotes!

For our May meeting, we will be entertained by the sterling sounds of *The Celtic Coyotes*, featuring our own IAS member Doug Cowan and his partner Steve Miller. The band plans to play a slew of well-known songs, and they're hoping to get us all involved in singing the chorus from many of them. (They will bring song sheets with the choruses so all can participate.)



Founded in 2000, *The Celtic Coyotes* have performed music from the Celtic Lands in many different venues around Albuquerque, including the Celtic Festival and the Albuquerque Sunport. Steve Miller plays guitar and sings, and Doug Cowan plays the Scottish small pipes, Irish flute and whistles, and concertina. (Stephen Miller also writes songs in the Celtic genre.)

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

**May also brings
The Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games
May 20 & 21
at Balloon Fiesta Park
(See p.8 for details)**

2017 Board Members and Committee Chairs

President	Ellen Dowling edowling@standuptrainer.com	307-1700	Health & Welfare	Don Hardy frananddon@aol.com	259-3348
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Board	Christine Philips Christine.ann.Philips@gmail.com	710-3972			
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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President's Message

By Ellen Dowling

Dear IAS Members:

A hearty thank you to our April speaker, Dr. Maya Sutton, for her most entertaining and enlightening talk about the history of the city of Dublin! I think she found us all to be a most appreciative audience, too: When Maya asked how many people in the GAC hall had been to Dublin, nearly every hand was raised; when she asked how many had been there more than once, nearly as many hands shot up!

For our May program, we are thrilled to welcome back *The Celtic Coyotes*, who have performed for us before as well as for many other audiences in NM. They are also going to be performing at this year's **Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival**, May 20 & 21. (They will perform on the small stage at 2 PM on Saturday, May 20.)

Speaking of the Celtic Festival, we are now recruiting volunteers to help work the IAS information booth at the Festival. It's really a fun job—you get to have a place to sit (in the shade!) and schmooze with Festival attendees. If you can help us out for an hour or two, please let me know. (I'll also have a sign-up sheet for volunteers at the meeting on May 12.)

And a reminder: Amazon Smile is now including the Irish-American Society as one of its approved charities. If you buy stuff on Amazon, all you have to do is go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/85-0421266> and follow the directions to add the IAS as your designated charity. It's not a ton of money donated (so far this year I myself have sent over \$15 to the IAS—hey, I'm not a millionaire, lol), but every little bit helps and it comes out of Amazon's pocket, not yours. 😊

And one more plea from me before I sign off for this month: SEE BELOW.



The IAS is STILL Looking for a Few Good Folk(s) (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)

Treasurer's Report March 2017

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income		Category	Expenses
Membership (March)	\$500.00		Carol Benson – refund of double payment	\$20.00
Newsletter sponsorship, Jim McCabe, KofC Ins.	\$60.00		Ken Callahan – stamps	\$9.80
Irish Flag Cape “donations”	\$36.00		Bob Bryers – stamps, envelopes	\$132.00
St. Pat’s Day Party – Door	\$728.00		Bank check – zippered bank bags	\$6.00
St. Pat’s Day Party – Dinner	\$1,150.00		Miguel Mata – food prep for St. Pat’s	\$475.00
St. Pat’s Day Party – Cake	\$84.00		Norita Callahan/Ceili Dancers at St. Pat’s	\$50.00
			Cleve Sharp/A Jug O’ Punch	\$125.00
			Derek Swinson	\$62.50
			Jim Brauer	\$65.50
			Mac-Tire of Skye Pipes	\$125.00
			Celtic Steps	\$100.00
Total Income	\$2,558.00		Total Expenses	\$1,167.80
			IAS Account Mar Beginning Balance	\$6,893.33
			Plus Income (Mar)	\$2,558.00
			Less Expenses (Mar)	(\$1,167.80)
			February Ending Balance	\$8,283.53*
			*Note: Ending balance includes \$5,000 from Heritage Acct. funds	

IAS General Meeting Minutes April 14, 2017

Ellen Dowling called the meeting to order and introduced a new member, Laura Banks. Ellen then introduced the board members present at this general meeting:

Treasurer: Kathy Wimmer
 Membership: Norita & Ken Callahan
 Board: Paul McDonough
 Board: Jay Vandersloot
 Board: Maureen Riley

Treasurer's Report: Kathy reported a beginning balance of \$6893.33 and an ending balance of \$8283.53. Income was \$2558.00 and expenses were \$1167.80.

Membership Report: Norita reported on family memberships, 76 x2= 152; single memberships, 87; students, 3; for a total membership of 242.

Upcoming Events:

May 12 monthly meeting and program: a musical performance by the Celtic Coyotes.

June 9 monthly meeting and program: Lecture on James Joyce and *Ulysses* by Professor Emerita Mary Powers, of UNM (in honor of Bloomsday on June 16).

Rio Grande Celtic Festival: May 20 & 21. Volunteers are needed to work the IAS booth either day.

The Festival itself also needs volunteers (free admission if volunteer works 4 or more hours).

Paul has books, t-shirts and caps for sale at monthly meetings.

No new business.

Motion to adjourn: Emmett O'Sullivan; seconded by Natalie Sherman.

Meeting adjourned.

After refreshments, we enjoyed an informative lecture by Maya Sutton on "Dublin: The Ups & Downs of a European Capital."

Respectfully submitted by

Maureen Riley

IAS Board Member (substituting for Secretary Pete McKenna)

Membership Report

By Norita and Ken Callahan

Céad Mile Fáilte (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes) to our newest members: Jean-Marie Bridge, Debra & Larry Fortess (Apple Mountain Music), Andrew Mooney & Mary Laraia, Liam Kolt O'Connor & Susan Griego O'Connor, and Brian & Kerry Webb.

Membership: As of April 20th, there are 88 single members, 76 (x 2) family members and 3 students. This is a total of 243 renewals and new members for the 2017 membership year.

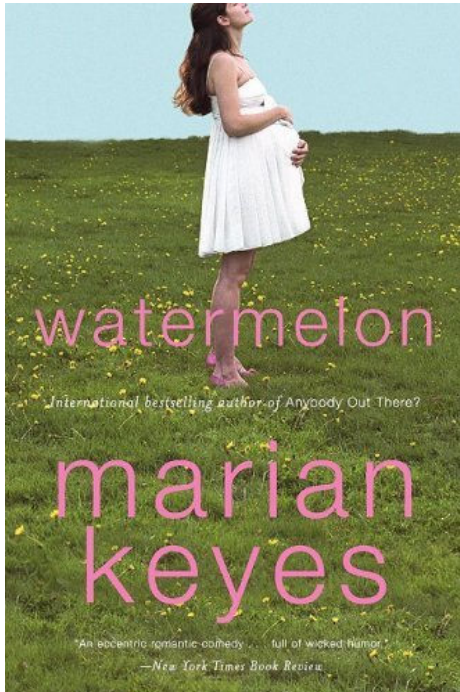
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE STILL SEEKING PULL-TAB DONATIONS! The aluminum or steel pull tabs donated from beverage cans or ANY kind of canned food (6000 + pounds annually) generate funds to offset The House expenses. YOUR donations make a significant impact and are very much appreciated. Thanks this month to Emmett O'Sullivan and Dennis & Rosalie Pfeiffer.



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 May 25, when we will discuss *Innocent until Proven Deadly*, by Kevin Barry. If you’re interested in joining us, contact Ellen at 307-1700 (edowling@standuptrainer.com).

For our March meeting, we discussed *Watermelon* by Marion Keyes.



From Wikipedia: Marian Keyes (born 10 September 1963) is an Irish novelist and non-fiction writer, best known for her work in women's literature. She is an Irish Book Awards winner. More than 22 million copies of her novels have been sold worldwide and her books have been translated into 32 languages. She became known worldwide for *Watermelon*, *Lucy Sullivan is Getting Married*, and *This Charming Man*, with themes including domestic violence and alcoholism.

From Publisher's Weekly: Claire Webster, heroine of this breezy Irish bestseller, thinks hubby James is the man of her dreams until he ditches her for an older woman (Claire herself is 29) two hours after their daughter is born. Mother and child repair to Dublin, where there's hope of solace and sustenance in the bosom of an eccentric family, while Claire downsizes from “watermelon” to wisp and struggles over the hurdles of blues and booze. When she attracts a handsome young lover and considers dumping the suddenly repentant James, it's clear a happy ending's in sight. Or is it? There are a few surprises and plenty of sassy girltalk in this slick if sometimes silly take on what it's like to be female. Much of the hilarity generated by Claire's funky family—airhead sisters who squabble over

clothes and men, a mother who'd rather watch soap operas than cook, a father perpetually bewildered by the women in his life—wears thin, but readers will identify with Claire's flaws, applaud her irreverent wit and rejoice at her triumphant recovery. Like the fruit it's named for, this overlong novel is short on nutrition but long on refreshment.

Our club members agreed that this book was a hoot and a half, if also occasionally annoying.

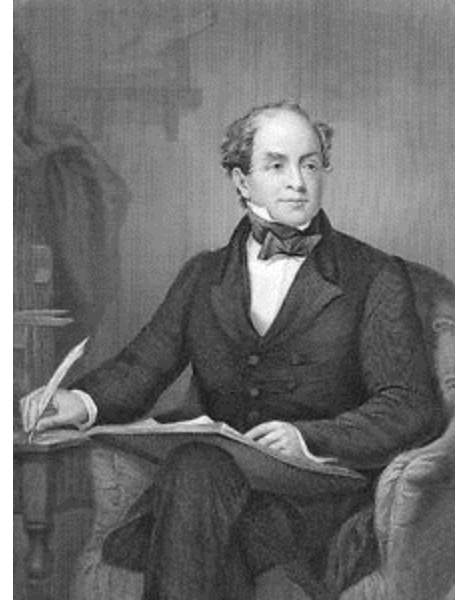
The Minstrel Boy: The Surprising Origins of One of Ireland’s Greatest Melodies

By Niall O’Dowd, [Irish Central](#)

“The Minstrel Boy,” by Dublin-born Thomas Moore, is one of the greatest Irish airs, beloved in many countries in the world but arguably nowhere more than America. Apart from “Danny Boy” it might be the best known of all. It is hugely associated with firefighters and policemen and is played at their funerals and wakes. It is fitting because the song commemorates a fallen soldier who gave his all for his country. It was Count John

McCormack, the great Irish tenor who ensured its enduring popularity in America. The song initially gained widespread popularity and became a favorite of many Irishmen who fought during the American Civil War and gained even more popularity after World War I. It is also associated with the Irish Army and with traditionally Irish regiments in the armies of Britain and the United States as well as other armies of the world.

Thomas Moore (1779 - 1852), composer of "The Minstrel Boy" (which he set to an old Irish air, "Moneen"), was one of the first Catholics to attend Trinity College in Dublin, graduating in 1795 just as the French revolutionary fervor was spreading across Europe. Moore was a contemporary of Irish rebel Robert Emmet at Trinity College; he would have known Emmet and his family. In fact, "The Minstrel Boy" is a paean to Emmet and the group of idealistic young revolutionaries who took on the might of the British Empire with no hope of success in 1803, and to the United Irishmen, who, led by Wolfe Tone, rebelled in 1798.



Though never a revolutionary himself, Moore sympathized greatly with Emmet, Wolfe Tone, and Lord Edward FitzGerald, a 1798 martyr, all of whom he considered to be Irish patriots. The 1798 rebellion and Emmet's brave insurrection in 1803 happened soon after Moore graduated from Trinity. He wrote "The Minstrel Boy" to commemorate them, depicting a naive and idealistic young soldier going forth armed only with his sword and his harp (symbol of Ireland) to fight a far superior foe. The Minstrel Boy is defeated, but in his last action he takes his harp and tears the strings, ensuring that the enemy shall never hear it praise them if captured.

Moore died in 1852. His "Moore's Melodies" ensured he will never be forgotten, especially with airs such as "The Minstrel Boy" and "The Last Rose of Summer."

The Minstrel Boy

*The minstrel boy to the war is gone,
In the ranks of death you'll find him;
His father's sword he has girded on,
And his wild harp slung behind him;
"Land of Song!" said the warrior bard,
"Though all the world betrays thee,
One sword, at least, thy rights shall guard,
One faithful harp shall praise thee!"*

*The Minstrel fell! But the foeman's chain
Could not bring that proud soul under;
The harp he loved ne'er spoke again,
For he tore its chords asunder;
And said "No chains shall sully thee,
Thou soul of love and bravery!
Thy songs were made for the pure and free
They shall never sound in slavery!"*

Interested in Learning Irish?

Irish language expert available to give private lessons (online); provide translations; help with your research; and provide solutions to all your Irish language needs.

For info, contact Dr. Séamus Dillon at
irishlanguagecres@gmail.com
or visit his website:
<https://irishlanguage.wixsite.com/ilcres>

**Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival
and Highland Games
May 20 & 21, 2017
9 AM to 7 PM Saturday, 9 AM to 5 PM Sunday
Balloon Fiesta Park**

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



Featuring Celtic Games, a Strongman Competition, a Beard Contest, Pipers, Dancers, Rugby, Clans, Vendors, Celtic dogs, Children's Activities, and Massed Pipe Bands both days!

Entertainment***On the Main Stage:***

Spirited Lads

Piper Jones (pictured at right)

On the Small Stage:

Da Terra Meiga

Eagles Whistle

Celtic Coyotes

Welsh Singers

Shenanigans

Devil's Dram

Celtic Singers

Harper Michele Buchanan

Iscuma

The Red Light Ramblers



For more information and/or to purchase tickets, visit

www.celtfestabq.com

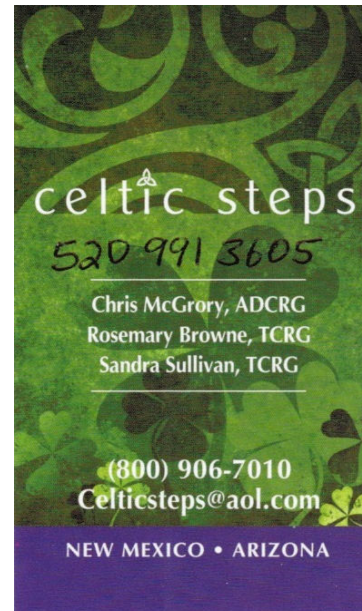
Culture All Around

Dance Classes:

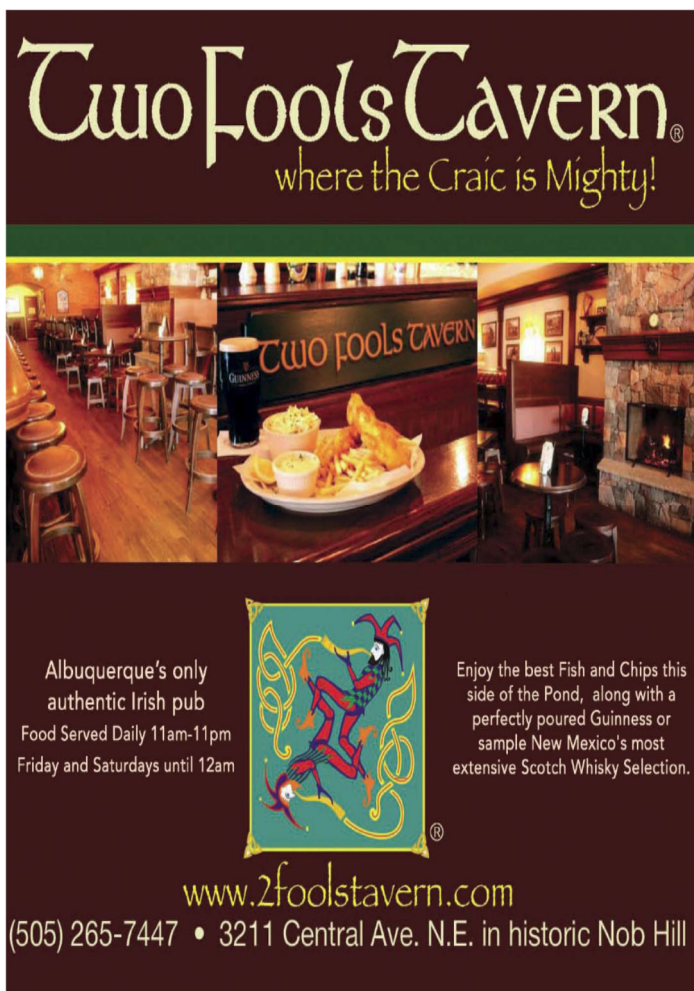
- ♣ **Coleman Academy of Irish Dance.** Saturdays, 8 AM to 1 PM at the Lloyd Shaw Dance Center, 5506 Coal SE. Call 866-5867 for information or visit our web site at www.irishdancenm.org and www.colemanacademy.com.
- ♣ **Celtic Steps Arizona/New Mexico (formerly Tir Conaill Academy of Irish Dance),** 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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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 (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
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.
June 6	Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
June 9	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program , 7 PM at the GAC. Program: A lecture on James Joyce and his novel <i>Ulysses</i> by Dr. Mary Power of UNM.

Celtic/GAC Events

May 4, 11, 18, 25	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 6	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.)
May 7	Sunday	Rye Creek playing at O'Niell's Heights, 3301 Juan Tabo NE, 4 to 7 PM.
May 8 & 22	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.
May 13	Saturday	Folk Music Jam , led by IAS member Michael Coy, at Apple Mountain Music, 2 to 3:30 PM.
May 13	Saturday	Maifest (May Fest) at the GAC . Swingshift band playing from 7:00 to 11:00 PM. Cost \$10.00.
May 14	Sunday	Scottish Session at Apple Mountain Music, 2 PM to 4 PM.
May 20 & 21	Saturday & Sunday	Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival , 10 AM to 5 PM at Balloon Fiesta Park. (See p. 8 for details.)
May 21	Sunday	Jazz Sunday at the GAC, 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Cost to IAS member \$5.00.
May 27	Saturday	Sock Hop at the GAC . Hit Squad band playing from 7:00 to 11:00 PM. Cost \$10.00.
May 28	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.





**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

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