



IRISH TIMES

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

JUNE 2022

Note: Irish-American Society meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month, except during July and August (and for special events). For all future meetings, we will be back at the German American Club at 4821 Menaul Blvd NE.

Next Meeting and Program:

Friday, June 10th

7 PM

Live and in Person
at the GAC

IRISH WHIMSY: LIMERICKS, SUPERSTITIONS AND CHARMS A Presentation by Maya Magee Sutton, PhD

Did your grandmother have sayings about the power of fire, water, or the moon? She'd be welcome here! Fortunate we are, that folklore and superstitions remain fixed during many generations. This is definitely true of the Irish. Come along as we find the origin of wishing wells, Banshees, and the secrets of healing herbs imparted to humans from the Faeries. And what would you write as the next limerick rhyme to: "There was a young lady named Molly"?

Dr. Sutton has dual citizenship with the U.S. and the Republic of Ireland. She has explored all parts of Dublin and Ireland, and met with several authors and scholars during her nine times there. Dr. Sutton was brought up in a mix of U.S.-born parents plus Irish-born relatives. She absorbed some of their huge knowledge of Irish poetry, songs, and superstitions. That's why she never cuts her hair on ... (shhh!)



Maya at the River Boyne

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE AND WE HOPE YOU WILL BRING
A SWEET OR SALTY SNACK TO SHARE!**

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Membership	Caren Garcia careng225@msn.com	505-908-0786	Hospitality	Molly Martin mollymartin98@msn.com Maureen Riley mriley6918@yahoo.com	505-884-0731
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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 (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com) at no extra charge.



James F McCabe FICF, LUTC, DTM
General Agent
2800 San Mateo Blvd NE Suite 111
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Office: (505)830-5770
Toll Free: (877)830-5770
Fax: (505)830-5788

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President's Message

By Karen Wall

Slainte my friends! Wow! We are already half way through the year, and still having fun. Our gathering on May 13th was a real Craic with the Celtic Coyotes keeping the music lively. It's so good to be back in person seeing each other for real, and in some cases (like me) figuring out what everyone actually looks like! I hope to see a larger turnout for our next event. Thanks to everyone who brought snacks to share.

I was just watching a great Irish Hallmark movie that was donated to us by Suzanne Taichert titled *As Luck Would Have It*. There are some pretty nice movies on Hallmark that take place in Ireland and are fun family shows. The male lead in this one is Allen Leech, who is Tom Branson in *Downton Abbey* (but then, most of you probably already knew that!).

Thank you to everyone for continuing to support me and help with events. I know there are still members who are wary of public open events, and I hope that one day soon, we won't have to worry about that. We will keep you in our thoughts whenever we meet. Speaking of events, we have the **Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival** coming up June 4-5. We still need volunteers to be at our booth and help to spread some Irish love and luck! I'm looking forward to seeing you all there!

Be well and may you be in Heaven a half hour before the devil knows your dead!

Membership Report

By Kathy Wimmer (Interim Membership Chair)



Create Something This Year!

When my lovely wife Beverly asked for a custom seal for her correspondence, it took just a day to create the examples you see here.

This is the magic of 3D printing: no matter who you are or what your level of expertise, we can bring any idea to life as a physical object.

It's been a rough couple of years and we're all tired of being stuck at home ... why not break out of the grind and create something new instead?

Contact us and we'll get your project started!



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This is my last report as interim membership chair, as *Céad Mile Fáilte* to IAS board member Caren Garcia, who has also taken on duties as the membership chair. Many thanks!

And *Céad Mile Fáilte* to the three members who renewed in April. As of April 30, the last completed month, we have 47 individual and 43 (x 2) family memberships, for a total of 133 members. The more the merrier—so tell your friends about the IAS!

Message from Norita Callahan:

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 Doug & Carol Cowan and Don & Fran Hardy.

Treasurer's Report March 2022

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Membership—cash/check	\$60.00	U-Stor-It monthly storage fee	\$40.00
GAC Associate Membership	\$5.00	Ck#281: (reimburse Kathy Wimmer) for Square card reader	\$52.86
		Ck#281: (reimburse Kathy Wimmer) for Zoom professional account yearly renewal	\$161.70
		Ck#281: (reimburse Kathy Wimmer) April Entertainment—paid cash to Mountain Road	\$100.00
		Ck#282: German American Club rental through December, 2022	\$550.00
		Ck#283: Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival sponsorship	\$500.00
Total Income	\$65.00	Total Expenses	\$1,404.56
		IAS Account prior month's ENDING balance	\$10,249.14
		Plus Income (current month)	\$65.00
		Less Expenses (current month)	(\$1404.56)
		Current month's Ending Balance	\$8,909.58

The IAS is a proud sponsor of the



Come one, come all to New Mexico's original Celtic Fest and Highland Games! Celtic music and storytelling all day, with The Black Donnelley's Dublin band headlining our main stage. Pipers, dancers, kid's area, and a Celtic dog parade! Unique merchandise, Scottish Highland Athletics, Celtic clans and societies, great food, beer gardens and KILTS! Tickets only \$15 per day; kids 11 and under free. <https://www.celtfestabq.com/>

The Irish Book Club

One of the best things about being an online book club is that there need be no interruptions during this trying time. 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 April was *Mad, Bad, and Dangerous to Know: The Fathers of Wilde, Yeats, and Joyce* by Colm Toibin; in May, our book for discussion will be *On Ragland Road: Great Irish Love Songs and the Women Who Inspired Them*, by Gerard Hanberry, and for June we'll read *Snowflake; A Novel*, by Louise Nealon.

***Mad, Bad, and Dangerous to Know: The Fathers of Wilde, Yeats, and Joyce* by Colm Toibin**

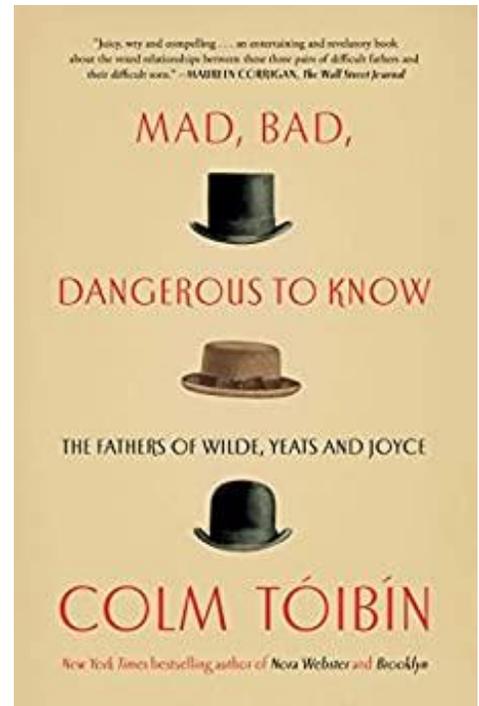
Amazon's Description: Colm Tóibín (author of *The Master* and *Brooklyn*) begins his incisive, revelatory *Mad, Bad, Dangerous to Know* with a walk through the Dublin streets where he went to university and where three Irish literary giants came of age. Oscar Wilde, writing about his relationship with his father stated: "Whenever there is hatred between two people there is bond or brotherhood of some kind . . . you loathed each other not because you were so different but because you were so alike." W.B. Yeats wrote of his father, a painter: "It is this infirmity of will which has prevented him from finishing his pictures. The qualities I think necessary to success in art or life seemed to him egotism." James's father was perhaps the most quintessentially Irish, widely loved, garrulous, a singer, and drinker with a volatile temper, who drove his son from Ireland.

This book has the advantage of being written by a superb writer in his own right, Colm Toibin. Here is one snippet of his humorous style, describing James Joyce's first date with Nora Barnacle: "They walked out together for the first time on June 16 which is when their story began, and when *Ulysses* is set. It was lucky, I suppose that their date wasn't in the middle of November; then it would have been a shorter book."

More from Amazon reviewers:

"An easy look back on the sometimes—or often—troubled lives of the fathers of three notable Irish writers. Unexpected interrelationships between the families and the geographical backgrounds of Wilde, Yeats, and Joyce stud this pleasant literary history. Those who enjoy Dublin and are interested in the wellsprings of Irish literature will find this short book by Colm Toibin worthwhile."

"This is a very interesting book telling the stories of the fathers of three of Ireland's most famous writers. Beautifully written and incredibly well researched, Colm Tobin manages to bring the characters to life so we can see and feel the times they lived in and the effects they had on their sons and their son's careers. Famous characters are mentioned too like Isaac Butt after whom Butt Bridge in Dublin is named. William Wilde founded the Eye and Ear Hospital in Dublin. This and other interesting facts are littered through the book which for an Irish reader are particularly fascinating. The story of James Joyce's father is very sad and I found it a bit tedious as it went through *Ulysses* with long passages given to illustrate a point."



Celtic Dogs of the IAS

The Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival (June 4-5) will, as usual, feature Celtic dogs such as Gordon setters, Irish setters, collies, terriers, wolfhounds, corgis, and springer spaniels, etc. So we decided to find out who among our members has a “Celtic” dog and the following lovely people and their pups responded.

1. Molly Martin and Nigel

Nigel has been an unofficial mascot of the IAS table [at the Celtic Festival] for a few years. He is an original Irish Pembroke Corgi. Also tries to beg meat pies from strangers. He is a rascal!



2. Karen Wall and Shadow



When I read Ellen’s email about telling our Celtic dog’s story, I noticed (as I usually do) one breed was missing. Many do not know that the Golden Retriever was created in the Scottish Highlands in the 19th Century by Dudley Coutts Marjoribanks, the son of a Scottish banker. Shadow is my service dog and has been part of my family since Feb 2021. He is a cross between a Golden Retriever and Yellow Lab, purposely bred for service work. What can I say about Shadow, other than he literally is my Shadow! Wherever I go in the house, he is almost attached to my backside, as if making sure I get to wherever it is I am travelling to from the bedroom to the kitchen and so forth. He is truly a retriever and takes great pride in retrieving me wherever we are! AND I do believe I can hear a bit of a brogue in his bark!!

3. Susan Carder and Finnegan

Finnegan is an Irish Glen of Imaal Terrier from Stiubhard Breeders in County Longford. He is registered with the Irish Kennel Club. In May, 2018, at 6 months old, he traveled with his Irish Pet Passport from Dublin to Los Angeles on Aer Lingus. We met him at LAX and brought him home. We think he resembles a compact Irish Wolfhound. He is a loving, protective pet. And, typical of the Irish, he is intelligent, independent, and stubborn!



4. Carol Cowan and Blue Cheese



Getting an 8-week-old Aussie Border Collie mix in December 2012 was a real treat. Bleu Cheese’s boundless energy necessitated sessions of obedience and agility training. Daily activities involved walks, trips to the dog park, catching a tennis ball, along with lots of problem solving and learning new tricks. Sadly, she died January 29. (She had been sick with hepatitis for over a year.)

5. *Jessica Holt and Scott*

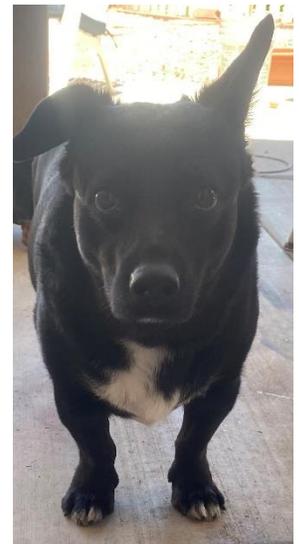
Scott is a Wheaten terrier. I found him when he was a one-year-old puppy at a no-kill shelter. “Partially shrouded by the mists of time, the history of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier sometimes reflects the Irish people’s gift as storytellers rather than historians. Folklore persists that following the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, a dog swam to the shore of Ireland from a sinking ship. Supposedly, he then bred to native terriers to produce the Wheaten, among other breeds.” (<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/dog-breeds/soft-coated-wheaten-terrier-history-ireland/>) Scott’s breed is believed to have originated around 200 years ago. As their signature often identifies Wheaten Soft Coated, the Wheaten predates and is the progenitor of its closest terrier kin, the Kerry Blue and the Irish, even though the latter was shown for some eighty years before the Wheaten’s acceptance by the Irish Kennel Club. His breed might have had an early relation to the Irish Wolfhound. As a proud Wheaten Terrier, Scott is still happy and friendly at ten plus years old while maintaining his title as a loyal friend and the perfect family dog.



6. *Kari Laverty and Conan and Rocko*



One day my daughter Kasie went on a field trip to Window Rock for her Navajo Government class. She texted me and asked if she could bring this four-week-old puppy she bought for five dollars at a swap meet up there. I told her “No, I have just the right amount of dogs.” She begged and I finally told her that if she brought him home she needed to find him a home. Well, anyone who knows me knows that I can never turn my back on an animal. Conan had been taken away from his mother at four weeks and never got immunity to diseases. He had mange and I nursed him back to health. He is a mix of Border Collie (Scottish) and Australian Shepherd. Then there is my fat little guy Rocko [on the right]. Graham brought him home one day and said that Rocko was “eye candy.” I’m not sure about that but he is pretty adorable. He was about one then and I assume he is about seven now. He is part Corgi and Labrador.



7. *Carol Williford and Madigan*

Meet Madigan! She’s a Pembroke Welsh Corgi and the new addition to my family. Several months ago I received a prescription: one puppy PRN (as needed). My daughter suggested a Corgi (as she already has one who is Maddie’s half-sister). These dogs are the most amazing companions! Not too big (30 lbs. max) and not too small (I had German Shepherds and Springer Spaniels before). They eat just about anything including vegetables, bananas, leaves, magazines, shoes, couch covers, and paper bags. Madigan is Gaelic for “little dog” but she also answers to: “No no no, what’s in your mouth?” and “Where did you go?” Maddie is now 4.5 months old and knows 10 commands and walks on a lead without difficulty. Corgis in the wild have a long sweeping tail but this is traditionally bobbed after birth, giving them virtually no tail what so ever. (Having been bred for work herding cattle their tail was a liability.) This herding instinct does come to play when I am walking across the room as Maddie will guide me along by nipping at my feet, hands, and pants. Would I recommend a Corgi? Absolutely! After all Queen Liz and I have impeccable taste!



Member Spotlight: Kris Drake

By IAS Member Elena Gallegos

I had the pleasure of speaking with fellow IAS member Kris Drake, née Kinney. She joined the IAS at a Celtic Festival that was held at Menaul School way back in 1975. Some of you may remember her husband, James Drake, who sadly passed away eight years ago. We had a pleasant conversation where I found out that, indeed, Kris has the gift of the gab and a great sense of Irish humor.

Kris hails from Illinois, where she still has an extensive family. She jokes that her Irish-American family is so big that they need to wear name tags when she goes back to visit, especially with all the Seans and Johns around. She gets the K in Kris from her German grandma on her mom's side, whose name was Kristine. A self-described tomboy, she grew up playing basketball and riding horses.

After graduating high school, she moved to Albuquerque to attend the College of St. Joseph on the Rio Grande (now St. Pius High School), and has since become attached to the southwest. She continued with her education and in 1993 she earned a B.S. in Nursing, a B.A. in Psychology, and a Drug and Alcohol Counseling certification from UNM. She has worked at both Presbyterian and Kaseman hospitals and at Charter Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center. As a compassionate caregiver, Kris believes in alternative medicine, such as herbal therapy and acupuncture, when conventional medicine does not offer improvement or relief. She is retired now but she provides home healthcare, pro bono, to several of her elderly neighbors.

Kris has made many friends in her professional career, including meeting her husband through relatives at the hospital, and it's easy to understand why. She likes to talk! Her good friend and fellow nurse, Jerry, joked to James one day that if Kris was ever in a coma and he was given the choice to pull the plug or not, the test would be easy—put a phone next to her and when it rings, if she answers it, don't pull the plug!

In 1977, Kris and her parents had the trip of a lifetime when they visited Ireland. They travelled from southwest Ireland up to Donegal. Their main interest was County Kerry, where her dad's family is from. Some of the places they visited include the Ring of Kerry, the Cliffs of Moher, and Blarney Castle (Kris's family affectionately said she did not have to kiss the stone). At Knappogue Castle in County Clare, her mom and dad were crowned king and queen at the feast and they played their role to the hilt. Both with snow white hair and red royal robes, her father announced while tapping on his glass and pointing to some talkative Irish men, "A little less frivolity, please!" In an overcrowded elevator at Blarney Inn, their tour guide, John Kennedy, had to hold their precious bucket of ice atop his head to make room. When the elevator stalled, the Brits worried about lack of oxygen while John declared, "Heck with the oxygen! Good God, the ice is melting!"

Kris and her husband adopted five greyhounds over the years from Greyhound Companions of New Mexico, an organization committed to saving racing dogs. Officials inspected her home and the Drakes had to read a special book about raising greyhounds. The dogs are wonderful companions and worth all the time, training, and socialization they need.

Kris likes to keep abreast on all the updated medical, medicine, and treatment literature. For fun, she likes to read books from the true crime genre and *Ireland of the Welcomes* magazines, and watch the television series *Criminal Minds*. She also likes to cook Irish stew for St. Patrick's Day, the traditional way, which means she never adds carrots because they make the stew too sweet. For breakfast, she likes to drink Twinings Irish tea the traditional way as well, with milk and sugar. *Erin Go Bragh!*



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: Harlow Pinson at hpinson@indepthl.com or 994-2135.

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)

Mountain Road

Featuring Dain Forsyth on flute, whistles, bodhrán, and vocals, and Scott Estes on DADGAD Guitar and Irish Bouzouki, Mountain Road provides gorgeous airs, driving reels and jigs, stories and songs for all occasions.

Contact: dleeforysthe@gmail.com
<https://www.tradbodhran.com/ensembles>

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.

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

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.



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>

Ceili dance classes are held every Wednesday at the GAC. The **new** time is 6:30 - 8 PM, \$4.00. No experience necessary! We need to see your vaccination card (just once). 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, Sundays at 12:00 noon.

♣ **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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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
June 2	Thursday	<i>IAS Board of Directors meeting</i> , 7 PM on Zoom. All members are invited to attend. (Email Kathy Wimmer for the link.)
June 10	Friday	<i>IAS Monthly Meeting</i> , 7 PM at the GAC. A presentation on <i>Irish Whimsy—Limericks, Superstitions, and Charms</i> , by Maya Sutton.
July and August		No monthly meetings. Board meetings TBA.

Celtic/GAC Events

The GAC phone number is 888-4833.

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Wednesdays	<i>Ceili Dancing Classes with Norita at the GAC</i> , 6:30 - 8 PM, \$4.00. No experience necessary!
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Thursdays	<i>Albuquerque Traditional Irish Music Open Session</i> from 6-9 PM at Hops Brewery, 7222 4 th Street. Reels, jigs, hornpipes, waltzes, set dances, and occasional singing. All are invited to participate or just listen. Food, non-alcoholic beverages, beer and wine, are available. 7 to 10 PM. For more info, contact Harlow Pinson at hpinson@indepthl.com .
June 4 and 5	Saturday and Sunday	<i>Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival (RGVCF)</i> , now back at Balloon Fiesta Park! See details on p. 4.
June 4	Saturday	<i>Sadie Hawkins Dance at the GAC</i> , music by The Band N Co. 7:00 to 10:00 PM.
June 19	Sunday	<i>Jazz Sunday at the GAC</i> , jam session and performance, hosted by the Rio Grande Jazz Society. Dancers welcome! \$5 Entry for non-members. Free for current members of the GAC. 2:00 to 5:30 PM.
June 25	Saturday	<i>Strawberry Fest at the GAC</i> , music by Smooth Groove. 7:00 to 10 PM.

Congratulations to Larry Kirwan and the Cast and Crew of Paradise Square!

Many of you will remember that author and musician (*Black 47*) Larry Kirwan visited us by Zoom in April of 2021 and that IAS member Bill Nevins wrote a review of his new play, *Paradise Square* (now playing at the Ethel Barrymore Theater, 47th Street/Broadway, NYC), which was published in our May newsletter. It was recently announced that *Paradise Square* has snagged 10 Tony nominations, including for Best New Musical. It also won Tony nominations for Original Score, Scenic Design, Lead Actress, Book of a Musical, Lighting Design, Featured Actor (two nominations), Choreography, and Costume Design. Way to go, Larry and the crew!



Joaquina Kalukango was nominated for Best Leading Actress in a Musical.

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 (\$10) Individual (\$20) Family (\$25) *

(Optional) Additional Associate Membership to the German-American Club (\$5 per person)*

* If you opt to add the additional GAC fee to a family IAS membership, please indicate which members of your family should receive a GAC associate membership card (and add \$5 per person to your total dues):

(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>