

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

JUNE 2019

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 meeting location is the Memorial Hall at the First Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle Blvd NE, SW corner of Comanche and Carlisle.

## Next Meeting: Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM

## Musical Performance by A Jug of Punch!

At our June meeting, we will be entertained by local Irish-American band, *A Jug of Punch*. Named for an Irish drinking song,\* *A Jug of Punch* is composed of four friends from the local session scene. They play and sing selections from the rich repertoire of music that developed as the Irish and Scots moved over the seas to America in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and that still flourishes there today,



such as "Black Velvet Band," "Glass Island Reel," "Nancy Whiskey," "Dancing at Whitsun," "Sally Gardens," "Rose of Tralee," "Whatever You Say, Say Nothin'," "Road to Lisdoonvarna," and "Last Trip Home."

The band includes Scott Ware on guitar; Suzanne Taichert on harp, piano, and catspaws; Grace Broadhead on violin; and Cleve Sharp on flutes and whistles. Come experience their "triple distilled Irish-American fun!"

\*The most famous version of the song "A Jug of Punch" was performed by the Clancy Brothers. You can see them perform it <u>here</u> in 1984, accompanied by The Dubliners.

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

### 2019 Board Members and Committee Chairs

President	Ellen Dowling	307-	I
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VP	Bob Bryers	792-	N
	tccrrb5@aol.com	2026	
Treasurer	Kathy Wimmer	249-	ŀ
	Kmillewimm@comcast.net	7012	1
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Membership	Brynn Cole	350-	
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Board	Laura Banks	582-	
	LLBanks64@comcast.net	4333	
Board	Maureen Riley	884-	
	mriley6918@yahoo.com	0731	
Board	Open: Volunteer Needed		

7	T	
Health &	Don Hardy	259-
Welfare	frananddon@aol.com	3348
Newsletter	Ellen Dowling	307-
	edowling@standuptrainer.com	1700
Hospitality	Laura Banks & Maureen Riley	
Web	Ellen Dowling	307-
Manager	edowling@standuptrainer.com	1700
Telephone	Beth Baker	994-
_	adamsonbb@gmail.com	0443
Audio	Jim Brauer	352-
Services	rkeating14@comcast.net	2195



# Would you like to place a sponsorship in the *Irish Times* newsletter?

Your sponsorship will also appear on the IAS website (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com) at no extra charge.



www.ColemanAcademy.com





## President's Message

By Ellen Dowling

### Dear IAS Members:

We had a most interesting and educational time at our May meeting, with a presentation on Irish genealogy by members of the Albuquerque Genealogical Society. (See p. 9 of this newsletter for information about when the Celtic special interest group gets together at the downtown library.) Hope to see all of you again at our June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, with a musical performance by the band *A Jug of Punch*.

We have had another resignation from our Board of Directors. Paul McDonough, long-time IAS board member and past president, has had to resign because of personal responsibilities. We wish Paul well and hope he has lots of Irish luck in his future endeavors. So now we are looking for someone to replace Paul as a member-at-large. Here is a description of the duties involved with this position:

- 1. Attend monthly Board meetings, 7PM on the first Thursday of the month (except for July), currently at the GAC (this may change in the future).
- 2. Attend monthly General Membership meetings, 7 PM on the second Friday of the month, at the Unitarian Church on Comanche and Carlisle (except for March, July, and August). Greet members and welcome new members. Schmooze. ©
- 3. Serve in an advisory capacity to the Board.
- 4. Help out with other IAS events:
  - St. Patrick's Day Party in March
  - Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival in May
  - Annual Picnic (with the Scots) in August
  - Edgewood Celtic Festival in October
  - Christmas Party in December

This is becoming a crucial situation, as a very small number of the same people have been doing all the heavy lifting for the IAS for a long time and now WE NEED OTHER IAS MEMBERS TO STEP UP! Plus, it's a really fun gig! 

And you get a great sense of satisfaction helping to promote Irish culture in the NM community! Let me know if you can participate.

## **Membership Report**

By Brynn Cole

*Céad Mile Fáilte* (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes) to our newest members, Robert and Andrea Harper, Colleen and Benjamin Kingsolver, Sharon and Bill Stepler, and Cathy and Fred Ginsburg! And welcome back to Ron Glancy!

As of 5/20, there are 209 members: 63 families, 5 students, and 78 individuals.

#### 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. Thank you to Bob & Vikki Bryers, Lee & Patricia Dickens, Joe & Elena Gallegos and family, and Steve & Kari Laverty and family.

## Treasurer's Report April 2019

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses	
Membership (check/cash)	\$20.00	U-Stor-It monthly storage fee	\$35.00	
Membership (electronic)	\$43.09	Ck.#183: Coleman Academy, dance competition sponsorship	\$200.00	
		Ck.#184: Paul McDonough, reimburse for Celtic Festival space rental	\$70.00	
		Ck.#185: Norita Callahan, reimburse for St. Pat's Party tablecloths	\$47.51	
		Ck.#188: Laura Banks, reimburse for printing newsletters	\$36.45	
		Ck.#189: Celtic Steps, St. Pat's Party entertainment	\$100.00	
		Ck.#190: RGVCF sponsorship	\$500.00	
		Ck.#191: Michael Coy, April meeting entertainment	\$50.00	
Total Income	\$63.09	Total Expenses	\$1,038.96	
		IAS Account prior month's ENDING		
		balance	\$9,928.59	
		Plus Income (current month)	\$63.09	
		Less Expenses (current month)	(\$1,038.96)	
		Current month's Ending Balance	\$8,953.72	

### IAS GENERAL MEETING May 10, 2019

#### Welcome:

New Members: Cathy & her brother George Ginsberg; Lori Enright

Visitors: Joy & Heather Roberts, Marie Bell, Nina Stevenson, Eva Fain, Cynthia Radigan, Shannon McCargish, and Mary Ellen Crowe.

Introduction of Board Members: Ellen Dowling, President; Bob Bryers, VP (on medical leave); Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer; Brynn Cole, Membership (absent); Joanne Connolly, Secretary (medical leave); and Board Members: Maureen Riley, Laura Banks (absent), and Gwen Easterday (new Board Member). We still need one more board member!

#### Reports:

Treasurer (Kathy Wimmer): April income was \$63.09; expenses \$1038.96 (includes \$500 given to the Rio Grande Celtic Festival) for a total balance of \$8952.72.

Dave Barnaby spoke about the Comhaltas drawing. (See below for more info.) Tickets are \$5.00 each. The drawing will be in December and prizes include \$5000 Euros. Comhaltas is an international non-profit organization preserving and promoting the traditional Irish arts of dance, music, singing, and language. The New Mexico branch brings international talent to the area, and gives grants to local talent. Please see Norita Callahan for tickets.

The next monthly meeting will be on June 14<sup>th</sup>, with a musical performance by Jug of Punch.

We are on hiatus during July and August. On Sunday, September 7, we will participate in the annual joint family picnic with the St Andrew Scottish Society.

We are looking for entertainer ideas for the fall: September, October and November meetings.

New business: none

Housekeeping: All were reminded that help with cleanup is needed after the meeting. We adjourned for refreshments and then enjoyed a very informative presentation by the ABQ Genealogical Society.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Riley (subbing for Joanne Connolly)



## Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann 2019 Raffle!

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann (pronounced Col-tas Col-tu-ri Eiran) is an international non-profit organization based in Dublin with 400 branches throughout the world. Comhaltas' purpose is to promote traditional Irish music, dance, song, and culture.

The *Sliabh* (pronounced Sleeve) *Sandia* NM CCE branch is participating in this raffle. 80% of each raffle ticket sold will go to *Sliabh Sandia*, who are here in Albuquerque. (80% WOW!!!)

The money will be used for venue rentals, gas, food for visiting Irish musicians, dancers, singers, storytellers, poets, etc.

Tickets (\$5 each) can be purchased at any IAS meeting, from Norita Callahan or Laura Banks. First prize is 5,000 euros (about \$5,628).

Information about the *Comhaltas* international organization can be found here: <a href="https://comhaltas.ie/about/">https://comhaltas.ie/about/</a>

Information about the local *Sliabh Sandia* group can be found here: https://www.ccenm.org/about/

### 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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/2022642747761043/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/2022642747761043/</a>) and you'll find us. Our book for April was *An Apology for Roses* by John Broderick. Our book for May, which we are reading now, is *The Writing Irish of New York*, by Colin Broderick. All the books we read are available on Amazon, and many are also available in local libraries.

### An Apology for Roses, by John Broderick

Author John Broderick was born in Athlone, Co. Westmeath, in 1924. He lived most of his life in Athlone with his mother; after her death he moved to Bath, England, where he died in 1989. He had 12 novels published in London, the best known being *The Pilgrimage*, which was banned by the Censorship of Publications Board because it featured extra-marital sex. His bestseller was *An Apology for Roses*.

An Apology for Roses is the story of an amazingly resilient and resourceful young woman, Marie Fogarty, trying to keep her wits about her in provincial and parochial Ireland of 1971, while having an affair with both the local priest (with her parents' acquiescence) and a traveling salesman newly arrived in town. The best part is that Marie is definitely not a victim of these circumstances—she has these men doing exactly what she wants them to do.

Whew—quite heady stuff for 1973 (when it was published). According to Gearoid O'Brien, who wrote the forward, "*An Apology for Roses* was a daring book by any standards. In 1973 it was considered a 'dirty book' and was as much in demand with my school friends as the infamous Little Red Book of Mao Tse-tung." We're pretty sure *An Apology* would have made Mao blush, though of course it is quite tame by 2019 standards.

At times, Broderick's prose can be quite enchanting. Here's a small taste: "The fog lifted and the weather turned bland as it sometimes does in January. A pale winter sun washed over the plain touching the yellow fields and the purple river with a subdued magic. Objects glowed in a luminous haze, and seemed to bend under the shifting sky. A whisker of thorn bushes running on top of a low hill was smudged with diffused light; church steeples turned silver and half-melted into the cornflower sky: a cart, a motor, a snaggle of cattle passing along a country road were surrounded by a sort of pastel halo of shifting light as they moved against the open horizon. It was a foretaste of spring, brief and treacherous."

From a review of his biography: "A neglected but powerful writer, [Broderick's] work complements that of his rival Edna O'Brien and holds up a mirror to an Ireland of the mid-twentieth century like no other novelist of his day. His writings, now celebrated in annual John Broderick Weekends instituted by the Athlone Rotary Club in 1999, are of increasing relevance and interest, and introduce a new generation of readers to this skilled scourge of Irish society, for whom life was 'something in the head, and almost never in the body'."





*The Albuquerque Folk Festival* celebrates its 21<sup>st</sup> year at a NEW location, the Bosque School and grounds, Saturday, June 15, 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM with over 100 non-stop events at multiple venues at the school. (4500 Bosque School Rd, south of Montano and east off of Coors.) Enjoy music and outdoor stage and fun with the shade of our Bosque Cottonwoods, plus indoor stages and workshops with air-conditioned comfort.

Ticket(s): Early \$5-20 (no extra fee for ordering tickets on line)

Tickets at: <a href="http://www.abqfolkfest.org/tickets.shtml">http://www.abqfolkfest.org/tickets.shtml</a> and at the gate

Information: <a href="http://www.abqfolkfest.org">www.abqfolkfest.org</a>

## IAS Gives \$200 to Support Irish Step Dancers!

Thanks to the continuing support of you, our members, we are able every year to financially support local Irish dance groups. Recently, we helped Coleman Academy step dancers Sydney Riddick and Melissa Pinson with their National Championship registrations. (That's Sydney on the left and Melissa on the right.) Each sent us a charming thank you:

Sydney: This fall will mark my sixth year of dancing. I am now at the open championship level and am competing at Nationals this July. I wanted to say thank you to the generosity of the Irish-American Society for helping make this upcoming trip possible!

Melissa: I've been Irish dancing for 13 years. I am currently ranked third in the Western Region in my age group and am a three-time world qualifier, having placed at the Worlds as well. This year I will be competing at my fifth North American Nationals and I am so excited! I am very grateful for the support I have received from the Irish-American Society over the years. Thank you!



### Malachy McCourt on Irish Humor

Malachy McCourt (born 20 September 1931) is an Irish-American actor, writer, and politician. He was the 2006 Green Party candidate for governor in New York State, losing to the Democratic candidate Eliot Spitzer. He is the younger brother of author Frank McCourt. In a recent interview with *Irish America* magazine, McCourt was asked about his views on Irish humor.



He believes that tragedy is the great stimulus to humor.

McCourt says, "The Irish mourn marriages and celebrate death. The most enjoyable times are at wakes. The Irish have such a marvelous time with the storytelling, the greatest laughs and the music, and the way they talk about the deceased. When they talk about a fella getting married they say 'Ah, poor old Tim is gone now."

So much of the humor he grew up with was connected with death, the next world, the pearly gates to heaven, and the characters who gain access or are sent to hell. He relayed a story from a radio interview that showed laughter to be a life-or-death situation.

"I was doing a thing one night on the radio, talking about death, and an Irish woman called in who said that she got in difficulties swimming and she essentially drowned according to what she was told, but they got her on land and they were giving her CPR. While she was unconscious, she said she was walking across a meadow and she met her father who had died a couple years before. She said to him, 'You promised Mom that you would come back and let her know where you were and if you were alright.' He said, 'Yeah I know,' and she said, 'Why didn't you?' and he said, 'Let her drop dead and find out for herself.' She said she started laughing and she spurted out the water and was revived. Laughter brought her back to life."

McCourt supposes the Irish disease is an obsession with respectability. One of the potential penalties for being funny is you could be dismissed as just a joker. One could risk never being taken seriously or accepted socially. The Irish are so conscious of what they think to be proper or improper behavior. He notes that it goes as far back as pagan law forbidding one to let anyone pass the house without being a good host lest they talk about you. "Who do you think you are? Don't be a show off, stop drawing attention to yourself, keep quiet and nobody gets hurt, don't ruin it for all of us, what will people say?" Keeping the laughter going involves taking risks and some degree of courage. The pursuit of laughter has to overpower the "what will people think?" syndrome. Once people are laughing they stop thinking too much.

## Flowers of the Forest

We were saddened to learn of the death of Thomas P. ("TP") Griffin, 78, on May 4<sup>th</sup> after a long illness. TP and his wife Mary-Jo were members of the IAS for 13 years (1989-2002). He was also a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus and a long-time member of Immaculate Conception Parish.

He is survived by his three children, Catherine, Thomas (and his wife Denise), and Andrew (and his wife Yuliya); his beloved grandchildren, Alexander and Kira; the mother of his children, Mary-Jo; and his brother John (and his wife Elizabeth). May he rest in peace.

### **Culture All Around**

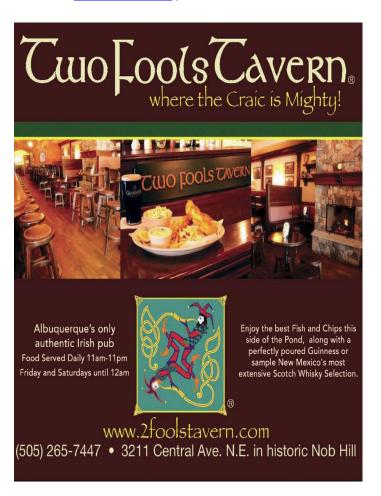
### Dance Classes:

**♣** 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 <a href="www.irishdancenm.org">www.irishdancenm.org</a> and <a href="www.colemanacademy.com">www.colemanacademy.com</a>.

- ♣ 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 <a href="http://celticsteps.org/albuquerque/">http://celticsteps.org/albuquerque/</a> 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.)





### 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> 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

## 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 <a href="mailto:kmillewimm@comcast.net">kmillewimm@comcast.net</a>)

### 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 <a href="mailto:hpinson@indepthl.com">hpinson@indepthl.com</a> or 994-2135.

*The Anslovers:* Teenagers Emily, John, and Jamie on violin, guitar, and upright bass. Contact: John & Lorraine Anslover at anslovernavy@comcast.net.

### A Jug O'Punch

A trio playing Irish music galore! Contact Suzanne Taichert: <a href="mailto:suzytmusic@earthlink.net">suzytmusic@earthlink.net</a>

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.

### 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.

### Michele Buchanan, Harper

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 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 <a href="mmcoy3@msn.com">mmcoy3@msn.com</a>

#### Cans for Celts

Help raise funds for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games in 2020! 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
June 6	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting, 7 PM at the GAC. All members are
		invited to attend.
June 14	Friday	IAS monthly meeting and program, 7 PM at the Unitarian Church hall,
		Comanche and Carlisle. Musical performance by A Jug of Punch.
July		No board meeting. No monthly meeting.
August 1	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting, 7 PM at the GAC. All members are
		invited to attend.
August		No monthly meeting. Enjoy your summer!

### **Celtic/GAC Events**

GAC hours are Mon. Tues. Wed: 3 to 8 PM: Thurs. Fri: noon to 10 PM: Sat: noon to 11 PM: Sunday: noon to 6 PM.

GAC hours are Mon, Tues, Wed: 3 to 8 PM; Thurs, Fri: noon to 10 PM; Sat: noon to 11 PM; Sunday: noon to 6 PM.			
June 1	Saturday	First Saturday Open Irish Music Session, from 12 to 2 PM at High and	
	'	Dry Brewing, 529 Adams St. NE, ABQ. (Contact Jim Crowley	
		jabbas40@yahoo.com) For beginning to intermediate musicians and music	
	<u> </u>	lovers.	
June 6, 13, 20, 27	Thursdays	Albuquerque Traditional Irish Music Open Session from 7-9 PM at	
		ABQ BBQ, 7520 4 <sup>th</sup> St. NW, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque. 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	
	<u>'</u>	available. 7 to 10 PM. For more info, contact Harlow Pinson at	
		hpinson@indepthl.com.	
June 7	Friday	<i>Karaoke</i> at the GAC, 5 to 7 PM.	
June 15	Saturday	Strawberry Fest Dance, 5:30 PM at the GAC. Music by Hit Squad from	
		6:30 to 10:30. Meal served from: 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Dress Code: Tracht	
	<u> </u>	(Dirndl/Lederhosen) or Smart Casual. (Wear something red!)	
June 15	Saturday	Third Saturday Open Irish Music Session, from 1 to 3 PM at High and	
	'	Dry Brewing, 529 Adams St. NE, ABQ. (Contact Jim Crowley	
	'	jabbas40@yahoo.com) NOTE: THIS SESSION WILL BE HELD AT THE	
		ABQ FOLK FESTIVAL THIS DAY ONLY. (See p. 7.)	
June 16	Sunday	Jazz Sunday at the GAC, 2-5:30 PM.	
June 21	Friday	<i>Karaoke</i> at the GAC, 5 to 7 PM.	
June 29	Saturday	Sock Hop at the GAC, 5:30 PM.	

### And a little more Irish humor:

A man is walking down the street in Dublin when he sees a sign in the window of a travel agency that says Cruises on Liffey River – \$100. He goes into the agency and hands the guy \$100. The travel agent then whacks him over the head and throws him in the river.

Another man is walking down the street a half hour later, sees the sign and pays the guy \$100. The travel agent then whacks him over the head and throws him in the river.

Sometime later, the two men are floating down the river together and the first man asks, "Do you think they'll serve any food on this cruise?" The second man says, "I don't think so. They didn't do it last year."



## 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 Member	ership Applicat	ion	_ Renewal	
If this is a renewal, has your co	ontact informati	on changed	d? Yes	No
Please make checks payable to and mail to: P.O. Box 13435, A	The Irish	-Amerí	can Soci	
Individual\$20.0	00 Family		_\$25.00	
Student\$10.00	•			
Name				
Address				
City	State	_Zip		
Phone	E-mail			
How did you hear about us?				