



IRISH TIMES

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

FEBRUARY 2020

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, February 14th, 7 PM

Musical Performance by Natasha Coffing!

Natasha Coffing is a multi-instrumentalist, whose passion for music first started on the harp at age five and quickly moved on to include the violin (or fiddle—she doesn't discriminate), and eventually the piano and vocals. Early on she found a particular love for Celtic music and for over 20 years has had the privilege of sharing her joy of music with raptured audiences, varying from prominent festivals, fairs, house concerts, church concerts, theatre productions, and more. With opportunities to learn from the instruction of renowned fiddlers such as Louis Schryer (four-time Masters Fiddle champion) and Winifred Horan of Solas, she has a well-rounded and unique playing style that brings out the heart and soul of the music she plays. Whether it's some toe tapping, sparkling jigs and reels, or beautiful and soulful ballads and airs, she brings her audience with her on a beautiful musical journey.



With an absolute love for travel and being on the move, Natasha has been honored to play across the United States and in multiple countries, including traveling three times to Ireland to share her love of music. Whether as a composer, teacher, or performer, she loves to explore the beauty and power of music. She has started to utilize the looper in her repertoire to bring an extra level of depth to her music, which she is very excited to share with IAS. She can't wait to give everyone a taste of her favorite songs which will include some jigs, reels, expressive ballads, and a song or two with the looper! [Editor's note: If you want to know what a looper is, you'll have to come to the February meeting to find out!]

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

A Friendly Reminder:

Your dues are now due for the 2020 membership year. You can pay by credit card on our website (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com), or mail a check to our P.O. Box (address on last page of this newsletter), or give a check or cash to our Membership Chair at a meeting.

2020 Board Members and Committee Chairs

President	Ellen Dowling edowling@standuptrainer.com	307-1700	Health & Welfare	Don Hardy frananddon@aol.com	259-3348
VP	Larry Compton Lcompton59@comcast.net	267-5953	Newsletter	Ellen Dowling edowling@standuptrainer.com	307-1700
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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 307-1700).

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



Frankie's Irish Tours
Frankie Davis
Owner / Tour operator
575-706-4923
frankiesirishstours@yahoo.com
www.frankiesirishstours.com

President's Message

By Ellen Dowling

Dear IAS Members:

Special thanks to IAS member Jim Crowley, who gave a most educational and enlightening presentation of the status of BREXIT in the United Kingdom and its potential impact on the Republic of Ireland and its future relationship with Northern Ireland. Is a united Ireland on the horizon? Stay tuned.

Board member Molly Martin has stepped up to assist Maureen Riley with setting up the refreshments for our monthly meetings. They can always use more help; thanks to those of you who come early to help set up tables and chairs and stay after to put everything away. "Many hands make light work," my Irish mother always said. 'Tis true!

And this reminds me to remind you that, if you haven't done so already, please send in your membership dues for 2020. Your dues are used to fund the IAS' many activities, from the monthly meetings (we pay rent to the Unitarian Church as well as purchase coffee and supplies), to special events such as our St. Patrick's Day Party, the annual picnic (this year it's our turn to host, so we will be purchasing the hot dogs and hamburgers, etc.), and our annual Christmas party. Without your support, there would be no IAS.

It's really easy to re-up: You can mail in the form on the last page of this newsletter (p. 12), or just visit our website to pay by credit card (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com). And note that you can also opt to become an associate member of the German-American Club for \$5 per adult person. Let me know if you have any questions.

Our St. Patrick's Day Party committee is working hard to finalize plans for our event on Sunday, March 15, from noon to 4 PM at the ABQ Party Space (where we had our Christmas party). I'm told that there will be Irish stew and corned beef and cabbage, beer and wine for sale, and performances by Irish step dancers and the Duke City Ceili Band. More to be finalized soon. Watch for a notice in your email when we're ready to start selling tickets! Meanwhile, hope to see you at our next monthly meeting on February 14th with a musical performance by Natasha Coffing (one-half of The Singing Pilgrims with Jeanne Page)!

Membership Report

By Brynn Cole

Céad Mile Fáilte (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes) to Trisha Witter and family!

As of 1/21/20, we have 35 families and 49 individuals, which is a total of 119 members. This low number indicates that many of you have not yet renewed for 2020. Hope to hear from you soon!

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 Steve & Kari Laverty AND FAMILY and Dennis & Rosalie Pfeiffer.



Treasurer's Report December 2019

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income		Category	Expenses
Electronic/Square: membership	\$134.23		U-Stor-It monthly storage fee	\$35.00
Electronic/Square: GAC associate memberships`	\$14.46		Ck#169: Gwen Easterday (newsletter copies, postage for members who get the newsletter by mail)	\$42.88
Cash/checks IAS memberships	\$445.00		Ck#165: Ellen Dowling (ABQ Party Space down payment for Christmas party)	\$100.00
Cash/check GAC associate memberships	\$75.00		Ck#163: GAC (monthly board meetings for 2020)	\$264.00
			Ck#170: USPS (annual fee for PO box)	\$154.00
			Ck#168: Coleman Academy (Christmas party entertainment)	\$75.00
			Ck#167: Cleve Sharp (for Duke City Ceili Band Christmas party entertainment)	\$125.00
			Check Reorder (100 checks)	\$45.49
			Ck# 166: ABQ Party Space rental balance (for Christmas party)	\$299.00
Total Income	\$668.69		Total Expenses	(\$1,140.37)
			IAS Account prior month's ENDING balance	\$8,389.42
			Plus Income (current month)	\$668.69
			Less Expenses (current month)	(\$1,140.37)
			Current month's Ending Balance	\$7,917.74

IAS General Meeting Minutes January 10, 2019

Tracee Edwards, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Ellen Dowling, President. Visitors were welcomed and introduced: Cheryl Meyer, Caran Garcia (brand new member!), Adrienne Seltz, Cindy Riggis, Fergus Whitney, and Stephanie Sutton.

Introduction of Board Members who were present:

President: Ellen Dowling
 Vice President: Larry Compton
 Secretary: Tracee Edwards
 Treasurer: Kathy Wimmer
 Membership: Brynn Cole
 Board: Maureen Riley, Molly Martin

BUSINESS

Important Reminder! Time to renew IAS membership for 2020! Renewal can be done online or through Brynn or Norita.

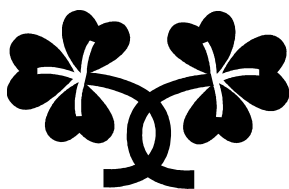
UP-COMING EVENTS:

- 01/10/20 Tonight is the last chance to buy tickets to the SASSNM Burns Night Dinner on January 18, 2020. Jay Vandersloot advised that on-line ticket sales would be available until midnight. If anyone has any questions you can speak with Jay after the meeting and program.
- 02/06/20 IAS Board of Directors meeting: 7 PM at the GAC.
- 02/14/20 IAS General Meeting – Musical performance by fiddler Natasha Coffing (1/2 of the Singing Pilgrims).
- 03/15/20 St. Patrick's Day Party – Kathy Wimmer gave a brief update on "what's in the works" – Party will be from 12-4. Event location still to be finalized but ABQ Party Space where Christmas Party was held is a front runner. More details to come!

REFRESHMENTS AND PRESENTATION

A little housekeeping reminder from Ellen to please stay after the program to help tidy up (no rush) and put away tables and chairs.

Meeting was adjourned for refreshments and an informative and insightful presentation on Brexit by Jim Crowley.



Flowers of the Forest

Dorothy L. Newman, wife of Robert V., passed away peacefully January 6, 2020. Bob and Dottie had been members of the Irish-American Society since 2006. The IAS sends our sincere condolences to Bob. May Dottie Rest in Peace.

Coleman Academy of Irish Dance Has Closed

We were saddened to learn that the Coleman Academy Irish step dancers' MAGNIFICENT performance at our Christmas party was also their last. We cannot remember a time when the Colemans (twin sisters Kim and Jenny) were NOT dancing at an IAS function or local Celtic festival. That they went on (with help from mother Bev) to build such a wonderful dance company, makes it all the more heartbreaking. Nevertheless, we wish Kim and her family all the best as they continue their journey.

Here is a message from Kim, when we asked her if the rumors about the demise of their academy was true: "Yes, unfortunately, it is true. We are closing after all these years. While it was a really hard decision and scary (I've been competing or teaching since I was five), it was necessary. I need to give more time to my mom, who is needing more care as she gets older. And since my sister has moved out of state, that falls entirely to me. I'll miss it terribly, but thanks to the IAS and the honorarium for our last performance, we will book some studio time for some fun practices together. What a gift! I would love to say thank you for all the years of support!" (The picture is of Kim receiving a parting gift at our Christmas party.)



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. Our book for discussion in January is *Last Night's Fun*, by Ciaran Carson. In February we'll discuss *Young Skins* by Colin Barrett. All the books we read are available on Amazon, and many are also available in local libraries.

Last Night's Fun, by Ciaran Carson

I had never heard of Ciaran Carson before, but now know that he was quite an accomplished poet. In 1998 he was appointed a Professor of English at Queens University Belfast (he was born and raised in Belfast) where he established, and was the Director of the [Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry](#). He died just last October, at 70, of lung cancer.

Last Night's Fun (which is the name of an Irish reel) is a miscellany of essays and poems (and songs!) about the traditional Irish music scene in Ireland in the 1970s (with lots of musical history and lore thrown in for good measure). If you are a lover of Irish Trad music, you will love this book!

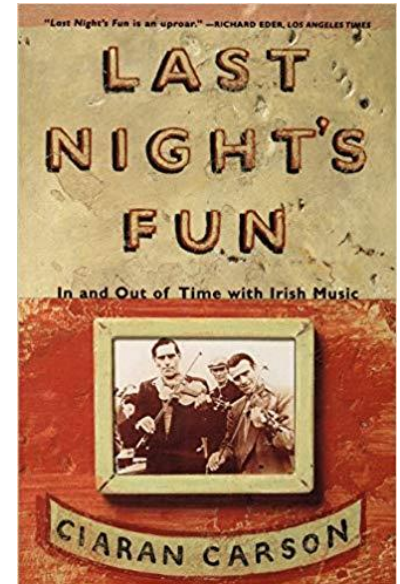
Some reviews: "Ciaran Carson is a class of centaur—a flute-playing poet and a word-rich musician. *Last Night's Fun* is a cracker of a book, pure pleasure, stuffed with anecdotes, memories, wit and humor and deep knowledge of traditional Irish music. The reader is transported into the smoke and warmth of certain rooms in Northern Ireland where a glass of whiskey stands on the table, the black, cast-iron pan sputters on the burner, and a tune falls canted and sly out of the instruments." —*E. Annie Proulx, author of The Shipping News*

"This whole beautiful little book is... full of metaphor and observation and side trip and word-juggle and anecdote. It could well be the ideal book to read before a trip to Ireland, offering, instead of maps of highways, a deep drink of what the place is really all about." —*Charles M. Madigan, Chicago Tribune*

"*Last Night's Fun* is an uproar." —*Richard Eder, Los Angeles Times*

Here's a delicious tidbit from *Last Night's Fun* (the book is full of these), as Carson describes his partaking of Dunville's Whisky (without the "e" à la Scottish spelling, not Irish): "The Dunville's Whisky, by the way, was brilliant: mellow, smoky, smooth, powerful, deep beneath its sniffed aroma, redolent with time and satisfactory maturing. This was a whiskey you drank neat, or with a hit of water to bring out the flavour, and I could never understand how rock stars, for example, would drink whiskey and Coke; perhaps their appetites had been deprived by electricity."

Here's Carson on smoking and music: "Everyone inhaled in different tempos, like a quartet score with puffs of smoke for notes unfurled in wispy accidentals. Then four half-smoked cigarettes would smoulder untouched in a big round tin Bass ashtray with its silent red triangle, until someone, in a fit of inhaled solitude, recalled whatever tune it was he meant to go into the last time round, before they'd stopped to smoke. He would play a bar or two and everyone would join in. Then by the end of that set, they would reach for the remnant cigarettes to find they'd dwindled into extinct butts attached to worms of ash. So, cigarettes and music are also a measurement of time."



The Irish Emigration Experience: Ships and Steerage

[From Ireland XO](#)

The dreadful conditions faced by the poorest passengers on board the many emigration ships which crossed the Atlantic during the 19th century have been well-documented, and at times romanticized in books, film, and television. The lowest class of travel, known as steerage, was reserved for those who could not afford to travel in better conditions. Often these passengers were trying to escape the poverty and starvation that they had endured at home in Ireland. Such was the reputation of these ships that the American government saw fit to introduce a special law which dictated a minimum standard for steerage conditions. The following outlines the Steerage Acts, an account of a tragic accident on board a passenger ship, and the story of Charlotte Grace O'Brien, whose commitment to improving conditions for the most impoverished of travelers extended to both before and after the voyage.

The Steerage Acts

In 1819, the U.S. government passed its first Steerage Act. Its official name was the Manifest of Immigrations Act. It was intended that this act would mean better conditions on board the ships that were arriving in American ports with passengers on board who were seeking out the American Dream. The act provided strict regulations and also required the captains of these ships to report a full, detailed list of all their passengers. This was the very first American immigration law. Sadly, it was not enough. The Act was revised in 1847 and 1849 as immigration to the country increased. A separate law, the Carriage of Passengers Act of 1885, was passed in order to focus more specifically on the plight of the steerage passengers. Similar legally binding regulations came into place in Ireland with the passing of the Merchant Shipping Act in 1894, which set out strict regulations regarding the number of passengers that a ship could carry and also stipulated that these ships must be surveyed at regular intervals.

Tragedy on the Londonderry

The conditions of steerage and the treatment of the passengers therein came into sharp focus at the end of 1848. On the first of December, a paddle steamer called the Londonderry was making its way from Sligo to Liverpool, a journey that it undertook on a regular basis. As the Londonderry was a smaller ship, the steerage passengers generally travelled on deck for the relatively short journey. On this occasion, it is believed that the 174 steerage passengers were being transported to Liverpool, where they would board a larger ship bound across the Atlantic to the United States. As this was at the height of the Great Hunger, it is not surprising that large volumes of people were emigrating from Ireland every week. Rampant starvation and abject poverty with little to no sign of improvement meant that there were few reasons to stay in Ireland if you could afford to leave, or if you fell under one of the many assisted migration schemes.

While the Londonderry was navigating around the northwestern coast of Ireland, a terrible storm gathered, with gusts of wind reaching hurricane level. For their own safety, the steerage passengers were sent below deck to shelter from the vicious winds. During the storm, the companionway cover broke loose, and in order to prevent the sea water from getting below deck and sinking the ship, the crew sealed the gap with tarpaulin. This meant that the passengers taking refuge below were now effectively trapped. With very little space, which they shared with cattle, and extremely rough conditions, the situation soon turned into a catastrophe as people suffocated

from a lack of oxygen, or were crushed or trampled to death. The Londonderry eventually made its way to Derry Harbour where it remained for the night.

When morning came and the skies cleared, the crew made a grisly discovery: 72 of the passengers—men, women, and children—had perished in the storm. The crew and their captain were put on trial for manslaughter, claiming that had they not acted as they did, then the ship would have gone down in the storm, taking many more lives with it. The case highlighted that the Steerage Act had not been sufficient to prevent the loss of life on migrant ships and that more needed to be done.

Charlotte Grace O'Brien

Charlotte Grace O'Brien, daughter of the Young Irelander William Smith O'Brien, was born in Limerick on the 23rd of November, 1845. When Charlotte was just three years old, her father was involved in the failed 1848 rebellion. For this he was sentenced to death, but had his sentence commuted to transportation, and was sent to Tasmania to serve his sentence. From this early experience with ship conditions, Charlotte went on to become heavily involved in campaigning for an improvement in the standards of Irish emigrant ships.



In the book, *The Irish in America* by J.F. McGuire, Charlotte read about the dreadful experiences that Irish emigrants endured on their journey across the Atlantic. Determined to have a positive impact, Charlotte travelled to Queenstown (now called Cobh) to see for herself just how the steerage passengers were expected to live. She even went so far as to undertake a short journey in steerage herself. The 24-hour voyage from Liverpool to Queenstown further enlightened her as to what improvements were needed. Horrified by what she saw, Charlotte set about lobbying the government to make dramatic changes to ship conditions. Her first notable success was the introduction of Catholic priests on each journey, so as to provide spiritual comfort for the passengers and, when fatalities occurred, to administer the last rites. She began to inspect the ships prior to departure. On these visits, she would take a medical officer with her to insure that the steerage section of the ship was fit to safely house its passengers. She went on a number of transatlantic voyages, though not in steerage, where she would make regular inspections of the ship to insure that standards were being upheld.

Charlotte's efforts to improve the lives of Irish emigrants extended beyond their time on the ships. She also established a lodging house for women in Queenstown where passengers often had to spend a number of nights before travelling. As a busy port, Queenstown had become a dangerous place to be, especially for vulnerable young women travelling alone. She was also instrumental in establishing a mission house in New York City that was dedicated to providing aid to newly arrived Irish immigrants, called Our Lady of the Rosary mission house. It still stands today.

Though these years of intense emigration greatly depleted the Irish population, it also provided us with our incredibly diverse diaspora which stretches all over the world. The Our Lady of the Rosary building is still in operation today, and their records help people to track down their Irish roots as many immigrants would have at least passed through New York.

Charlotte went on to have some success as a novelist (*Light and Shade*, a tale of the Fenian rising of 1867, was published in 1878) and naturalist (*Wildflowers of the Undercliff*, a study of flowers on the Isle of Wight, was published in 1881). She died on June 3, 1909, at Ardanoir, Foynes, on the Shannon Estuary.

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.themacsports.com/brightburn-irish-dance> for further information.

♣ **Ceili dance classes** are held every Wednesday at the GAC at 7:15 PM, \$4.00. 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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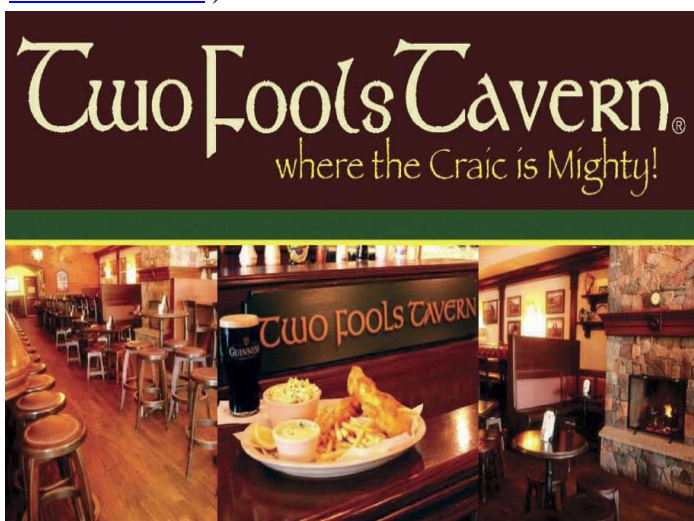
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Free Genealogy Research Days!

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

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.

A Jug O'Punch

A trio playing Irish music galore! Contact Suzanne Taichert: suzytmusic@earthlink.net

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 mmcoy3@msn.com

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
February 6	Thursday	<i>IAS Board of Directors meeting</i> , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
February 14	Friday	<i>IAS Monthly Meeting and Program</i> , 7 PM at the Unitarian Church. Musical performance by Natasha Coffing.
March 5	Thursday	<i>IAS Board of Directors meeting</i> , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend. [Note: There is no general membership meeting in March. Come to our St. Patrick's Day Party!]
March 15	Sunday	<i>St. Patrick's Day Party</i> , noon to 4 PM, ABQ Party Space. Irish stew and Corned beef and cabbage, beer and wine for sale, with Irish step dancers, the Duke City Ceili Band, and more! (Details in the March newsletter.)

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.

For info about GAC events, call 505-888-4833 during open hours.

February 1	Saturday	<i>First Saturday Open Irish Music Session</i> , 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 lovers.
February 6, 13, 20, 27	Thursdays	<i>Albuquerque Open Irish Music Session</i> , 7 PM at Hops Brewery Los Ranchos Taproom on 4 th Street, 7222 4 th St. NW Rear, Los Ranchos De Albuquerque, just south of the old ABQ-BBQ location. For info, contact Harlow Pinson (hpinson@indepthl.com).
February 7	Friday	<i>Karaoke</i> at the GAC, 5:30 to 7 PM.
February 9	Sunday	<i>Rye Creek Band</i> performing at O'Niells Pub Heights, 3301 Juan Tabo, 4 to 7 PM.
February 15	Saturday	<i>Third Saturday Open Irish Music Session</i> , from 1 to 3 PM at High and Dry Brewing, 529 Adams St. NE, ABQ. (Contact Jim Crowley jabbas40@yahoo.com .)
February 15	Saturday	<i>Damenball (Sweethearts Ball)</i> at the GAC, 5:30.
February 16	Sunday	<i>Jazz Sunday</i> at the GAC, 2 to 5:30 PM.
February 21	Friday	<i>Karaoke</i> at the GAC, 5 to 7 PM.
February 22	Saturday	<i>Maskenball (Masquerade Ball)</i> at the GAC, 5:30.

And a final bit of Ciaran Carson, describing traditional Irish music musicians:

"Musicians, borne on a spate of music, take their soundings; hearing something new, they search the memory-bank for parallels and precedents, getting its approximation, its relative shape. A rough internal course is plotted out before embarking; fingers mime the notes. Then the details—little snags and twists—are filled in, or attempted. Some people are better at this than others, and some tunes are easier to "lift" than others; some put up resistance. Sometimes the best way to learn these is by leaving them to one side for a day or two and not think about them, till they come as if by chance from some obscure source in the brain: the fingers find the pattern without conscious effort. But of course the instinct is instructed by years of listening. We drift on in the wide, swift current of the music, trusting to our memories and to past associations."

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):

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? _____