



IRISH TIMES

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

February 2025

Note: Irish-American Society meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month, **except during July and August** (and for special events), at the **Ramada Plaza** (2020 Menaul Blvd NE).

Next Monthly Meeting:
February 14, 2025
7 PM
at the Ramada Plaza
A Presentation by Author Renata Golden!

For our February 14 meeting (Happy Valentine's Day!), we will have a presentation by Renata Golden, author of [*Mountain Time: A Field Guide to Astonishment*](#), published in March 2024 as the inaugural book in the DL Jordan Nature Series from CSU Press, distributed by UGA Press. The throughline of this essay collection is the Chiricahua Mountains on the borders of Arizona, New Mexico, and Mexico, contrasted, in some essays, with *Cnoc na dTobar* near her grandparents' homelands in Kerry, Ireland.

The essays explore the human and non-human creatures that live in the Chiricahuas as well as the history of the area, including Chiricahua Apaches and immigrant settlers, some of whom still live there. Now living in Santa Fe, Renata traveled to Ireland last November to explore the homelands of her mother's family: Waterford, Wexford, and Kilkenny. She says she has spent quite a bit of time in Kerry, where her father's family comes from—the Goldenes and O'Connells from Kells and around Caherciveen—and is looking forward to learning about another part of Ireland where she has family history. More info at renatagolden.com. [The door prize for this meeting will be a copy of Renata's book!]



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

Notice: Your membership dues for 2025 were due on January 1st.

\$35 for a family membership; \$30 for a single; and \$25 for a student. You can pay by filling out the membership form on the last page of this newsletter and mailing it with your check to the IAS; or you can pay by cash in person at our February 14th meeting; or you can pay by credit card by going to our website:

www.irishamericansociety-nm.com

We can't keep this Society going without you, so THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

2025 Board Members and Committee Chairs

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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 at no extra charge.

President's Message

By Caren Garcia



The New Year is off to a roaring start if our January meeting was any example. We had a full house to hear the Rye Creek Band and had so much fun singing along to familiar tunes. Special thanks to our “sound crew,” Jim and RoseMarie (Keating) Brauer, and to the Ramada Plaza staff.

[Note: The winner of the January meeting door prize was Stephanie Deaver, seen here on the right with her husband, Bob. We will

see Bob again in May, when he will perform for us with his band, the Sandia Celtic Ensemble. The prize itself was a “goodie box” of things like lip balm, beeswax candles, and soap, donated by Beth Crowder, member of The Irish Setters band and owner of Sparrow Hawk Farm in Sabina, NM.]

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your memberships for the new year. If you haven't, please get it in because the next newsletter will only go to members who are current with dues, and you don't want to miss a single issue!

The **IAS St. Patrick's Day Party** will be in a much bigger room than our regular meetings and the bar just across the hall has been guaranteed to be open and at your service. The glitches we experienced last March have been corrected, as we are now old hands at this. 😊 **Tickets will be available online on February 1.** Music, dancing, good food and a cash bar on St. Patrick's Eve can't be beat!

Our February meeting lands on the 14th—yep, St. Valentine's Day! Come and hear an exciting presentation from Renata Golden. [See p. 1.] If you are done with hitting the crowded venues around town, we will be having our usual good time with snacks to share and a door prize—a copy of Renata Golden's book—going to one lucky person who is present at the meeting. Also, if you bring in a new member, don't forget to let one of the Board members know so we can give you a free IASNM exclusive tee shirt. (All others may get one for the \$20 members-only price.)



Membership Report

By Molly Martin

Cead Mile Failte: There are no new members to report. Currently, we have a grand total of 133 members. This includes 1 student membership, 40 singles, and 92 family members.

Renewal season is upon us. If you haven't renewed your membership, there is still time. [You can mail in your renewal by using the last page of this newsletter, or you can pay by credit card at www.irishamericansociety-nm.com.] Hope to see you all at the general meeting in February!

Treasurer's Report December 1 – 31, 2024*

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Membership: cash/checks	\$165.00	Square fees: Membership	-\$3.37
Membership: electronic/Square (less fees—see expenses)	\$95.00	Ck#392: Brightburn Academy of Irish Dance, Christmas party	-\$100.00
Paper Bag Raffle at Christmas party	\$210.00	Ck #393: Molly Martin, reimburse for Christmas party supplies (Note: reimbursed \$71.36 in “cash” and \$20 in “raffle tickets” as what she spent was \$91.36.	-\$71.36
		Ck #394: Cleve Sharp, for Duke City Ceili Band, Christmas party	-\$150.00
		Check Card online: USPS, PO box fee for 6 months	-\$128.00
		Ck#395: Steve Lavery, for the Ceili Dancers, Christmas party	-\$50.00
Total Income	\$470.00	Total Expenses	-\$502.73
		IAS Account prior month's ENDING balance	\$4,108.83
		Plus Income (current month)	\$470.00
		Less Expenses (current month)	(-\$502.73)
	Loss/Gain		-\$32.73
		*Ending Balance as of date of report	\$4,076.10

A Message from Ireland:

My name is Enda Larkin and I am excited to introduce you to ***Irish Echoes: Stories from Ireland's Past*** (www.irishechoes.org), a free and accessible online resource dedicated to sharing the rich history of Ireland with a global audience. I thought our resources might be of interest to members of your community. Irish Echoes brings Ireland's past to life through engaging short-form videos covering everything from iconic events to lesser-known stories. With new videos and content added regularly, our goal is to inspire curiosity and pride in Irish heritage while providing a valuable resource for those looking to explore their cultural roots. Irish Echoes offers a growing library of easily accessible, concise content videos on Irish history; helpful educational resources that are perfect for sharing at events or meetings; and insights into the key moments, figures, and stories that shaped Ireland's past. For more info, please visit:



Website: www.irishechoes.org

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/@irish-echoes

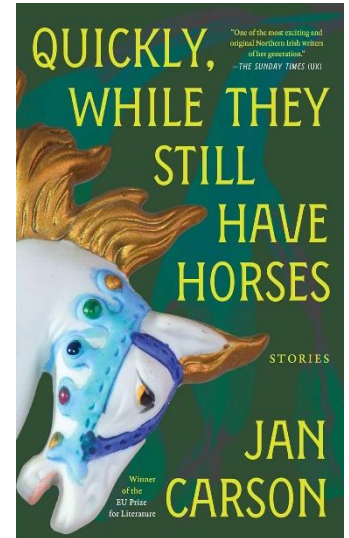
The Irish Book Club

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 December was *Quickly, While They Still Have Horses*, by Jan Carson; for January we read *Traveler* by John Heagney; and for February, we'll be discussing *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan.

Quickly, While They Still Have Horses, by Jan Carson

Amazon's description: "Humorous and horrifying, tender and absurd, the stories in *Quickly, While They Still Have Horses* offer a fresh, irreverent look at life in post-conflict Northern Ireland. From first loves to strained relationships, the thrills and terrors of growing up to the dangers and challenges of parenthood, Carson infuses all her stories with empathy, dark wit, and a surreal edge.

In 'A Certain Degree of Ownership,' a distracted couple on a beach fail to notice their baby crawl perilously toward the sea. In 'Grand So,' the ghost of a car's previous owner haunts the backseat. In 'Troubling the Water,' a rumor of miraculous healing creates chaos at a public swimming pool. Carson never fails to shock and delight as kids go missing in jungle gyms, a baby washes up on a riverbank in a biscuit tin, and a bloody hand appears (and reappears) in a refrigerator. Every so often, these stories travel into alternate versions of our world where pillars of fire are a new treatment for mental illness and animals deemed nonessential are going extinct by legislative orders."



The Book Club reactions: We all agreed that Jan Carson is a wonderful writer. From Ellen: "Her short stories are, quite simply, stunning (and they are very short, making for a pleasant quick read). I was blown away by the title story, which describes what happens when a couple decides to visit 'the last horse in Britain' in Belfast. (And what a disappointment the little horse is.) I am also still thinking about 'Jellyfish,' which depicts the immense pain and sorrow that follow when one's only son drowns (purposely?) in the waters where the jellyfish abound (and so they must be removed and displayed around the house as some strange tokens of loss). Every one of her stories is breathtaking, including one where a father loses his sons in the tunnel slide at the fair, and apparently loses them for good.

In 'Family Circle,' the opening sentence sets us up for the disaster to come: 'The baby came down the river in a Family Circle biscuit tin.' Oh, no! Surely someone will see the baby and rescue it? No, for the 'heroes' of this story are two farmers, brothers Jamesie and Michael, who live on opposite banks of the river and despise each other. First Jamesie noses the biscuit-tin-bearing baby over to his brother's side. ('The wife wouldn't want a baby. Not at her age, with the money they cost, and the racket they made, and the way the neighbors would be wondering where they'd come by a youngster and whether there was something untoward in holding on to it.') Then Michael and his son, also named Michael, spot the baby but are no less inclined to rescue it. ('If other folks can't be arsed to look after their own weans, why should we be lumbered with them? Sure, we'd fish this child out of the river and tomorrow there'd be two of them and, by the weekend, an epidemic. Babies. Scabby dogs. Elderly ones from the nursing home.') And so the two push the baby back over to Jamesie's side. 'Then they turned away from the baby, and fed the cows their cow feed, and let the sheep out, and carried on with their everyday doing like there wasn't a baby in a biscuit tin turning blue at the bottom of the field.' And so it goes, back and forth, until . . ."

Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery

Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery is the final resting place of many famous Irish people. Opened in the 1830s with high walls and seven watchtowers that were to be manned by armed guards to deter body snatchers, the cemetery is practically a Who's Who of key historical figures. Here are ten of the most famous Irish people who have been laid to rest there:



1. Daniel O'Connell (1775-1847)

Called the "Great Liberator," O'Connell was an Irish political leader and a campaigner for Catholic Emancipation and the repeal of the Act of Union.

2. Charles Stewart Parnell (1846-1891)

The founder and leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, who was sent to an early grave by a scandalous adultery case.

3. Maud Gonne (1866-1953)

Muse of WB Yeats, Gonne was an English-born actress who was won over to Irish nationalism. She was imprisoned as a rebel leader.

4. Eamon de Valera (1882-1975)

A leader in Ireland's struggle for independence, founder of the Fianna Fáil political party, and de Valera also served as Prime Minister and President of Ireland. Glasnevin had a new phone system installed for his funeral.

5. Brendan Behan (1923-1964)

Irish poet, novelist, and playwright who was imprisoned for IRA activity. His first play, *The Quare Fellow*, was produced in Dublin in 1954.

6. Michael Collins (1890-1922)

Irish revolutionary leader considered the founding father of the Fine Gael party, Collins was killed in an ambush at the age of 32 in 1922. His funeral was a ticket-only affair.

7. Constance Markievicz (1868-1927)

A revolutionary and suffragette, Markievicz was the first woman elected to the UK's House of Commons.

8. Christy Brown (1932-1981)

Daniel Day-Lewis played this Irish writer and painter, who had cerebral palsy, in the award-winning film *My Left Foot*.

9. Luke Kelly (1940-1984)

Vocalist of the band The Dubliners. One of Ireland's greatest folk singers.

10. Arthur Griffith (1872-1922)

He founded Sinn Féin and was an early leader of the new Free State.

Have you visited Glasnevin Cemetery or taken a tour there? What did you make of the site? Which graves did you visit?

(Article excerpted from [Irish Central](#).)

County Louth (Lù)

By Caren Garcia

Nicknamed “The Wee County” due to it having the smallest land area in the Republic, Lough (pronounced “low”) is the fourth most densely populated county, so perhaps it isn’t so small after all. Lough is located on the eastern coast just below the Northern Ireland border; it is the only county in Leinster Province to border NI. Its name is a variation of the name of one of the most significant gods in the Celtic pantheon, Lugh. Dundalk, the Countytown, and Drogheda encompass about 59% of the population mostly due to its location approximately halfway between Belfast and Dublin.

History

Co. Louth has a long history. It is featured in one of the great mythic epics and contains a 9th-century longphort, in the town of Annagassan. [A longphort is a term used in Ireland for a Viking ship enclosure or shore fortress.] It became part of the O’Carroll lands in the early 12th century and was called Oriel or Uriel. The Normans then occupied it and it subsequently fell into McMahon hands. It starts getting interesting in the 14th century when Scotland’s Edward Bruce came to Ireland claiming to be the High King. He had himself crowned in 1316 but wound up killed in the Battle of Faughart in 1319. There’s more, but you get the picture; it changes hands a number of times. In fact, Lough was considered part of Ulster until 1596. In 1649, Oliver Cromwell brought his murderous rampage to the county, killing many Royalists and Drogheda residents in general. Then, James II and William of Orange also fought here leading up to the famous Battle of the Boyne in 1690.

Interesting Facts

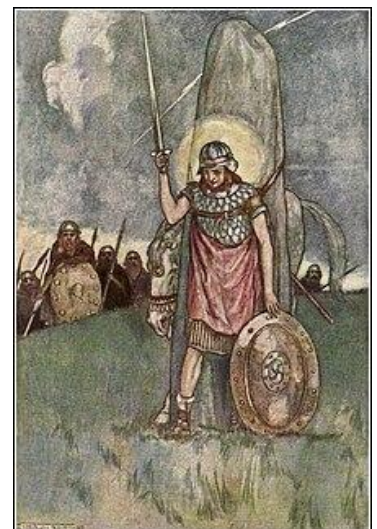
Joe Biden was granted the freedom of County Louth, June 25, 2016. [His ancestors, the Finnegan family, can be traced back to Whitestown in the picturesque Cooley Peninsula in County Louth. The Freedom of the City (or Borough in some parts of the UK) is an honor bestowed by a municipality upon a valued member of the community, or upon a visiting celebrity or dignitary.]

Actor Pierce Brosnan hails from the County.

Sights to See

I got interested in County Lough after reading about Dundalk’s awesome free County Museum in an *Irish Star* article. Besides showcasing the industries that have meant so much to the local economy, there is also plenty of history and archeology to view. It’s been open since 1994 and is only closed Sundays. They also regularly have music, film and lecture programs. The industries mentioned above include engineering, distilling, brewing, shoemaking, and automobile manufacture.

One place I wouldn’t miss is Clochafarmore, which means “Stone of the Great Man” and is also known as Cu Chulainn’s Stone. Illustrated on the right, it is a standing stone with a story. Located in “The Field of Slaughter,” which is widely believed to be an ancient battlefield, the stone stands 10 feet tall and probably was erected in the Bronze Age. The epic tale relates that the hero Cu Chulainn, having been mortally wounded, tied himself to the stone, which had been erected in honor of an earlier warrior, and continued to fight until he was beheaded by Lugaid mac Con Roi, who believed he was already dead. His heroic power mysteriously sliced off the right hand of his enemy in a final act of defiance. (Illustration by Stephen Reid, 1904)





Do you like to drive through history? You will love this! St. Laurence's Gate, Drogheda, is a 13th-century fortified perimeter gateway intended to defend the medieval city. Originally it would have held a portcullis or heavy iron gate to bar the door should the need arise. From the top they could see a four-mile stretch of the River Boyne and its estuary. (Sounds like a useful fortification to me.) Nearby buildings' deep basements are believed to be part of a deep trench that existed just outside the city walls.

For you castle fiends, there are a couple of great examples in the County—King

John's Castle and Roche Castle. Lesser known is Malahide Castle and Gardens on your way to Dublin. The castle dates to the 12th century and can be toured, but the grounds are free and include a playground and wooded walking trails.



You can also take a beautiful coastal walk to Portmarnock from Malahide Beach. The views are stunning. That's my kind of stroll.

I hope you have enjoyed learning about a little-known area of Eire. I did.

A bit of Irish humor:

A Welshman, Scotsman and Irishman meet for the first time.

The Welshman is asked his name and says "I was born on St. David's Day so my parents called me David."

The Scotsman was most surprised. "Well, that is truly amazing. I was born on St. Andrew's Day so they called me Andrew."

The Irishman replied that he was truly staggered that all three in the one room were named after the day they were born on.

"So you're called Patrick then?" asked the Welshman.

"No," replied the Irishman, "my name is Pancake."



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Irish Gravestones

From [Irish Central](#)

The Irish have long been known for their love of the macabre and humor, even in death. The book *Dead Funny* by Allen Foster traces the funniest gravestone epitaphs in Ireland. Below are some of our favorite Irish epitaphs.

From Northern Ireland:

Erected to the memory of JOHN PHILLIPS,
accidentally shot as a mark of affection by his brother.

From Belturbet, Co. Cavan:

Here lies John Highey,
whose mother and father were drowned in their passage from America.
Had they both lived they would be buried here.

From Belfast City Cemetery:

DUFFY: In loving memory of beloved Gerald, husband father,
Died 30th November 1989 aged 65 years:
I told youse I was sick.

From Larne, Co. Antrim:

At the grave of a man hanged for sheep stealing:
Here lies the body of Thomas Kemp, lived by wool died by hemp

From Belfast:

Beneath this stone lies Katherine my wife
In death my comfort, and my plague through life
Oh liberty! but soft I must not boast
She's haunt me else, by jingo, with her ghost

From Dublin:

Here lies the remains of John Hall, grocer. The world is not worth a fig. I have good raisins for saying so.

From Youghal, Co. Cork:

Here lies poor but honest Cecil Pratt. He was a most expert angler until death,
envious of his merit, threw out his line and hooked him.

From Waterford:

Here lies the body of Anthony Reynolds, who although a miller was an honest man.

From Co. Clare:

This stone was raised to Sarah Ford, not Sarah's virtues to record—for they're well known to all the town.
No Lord; it was raised to keep her down.

From Mallow, Co. Cork:

Here lies the body of Edmund Spenser, great-great-grandson of the poet Spenser,
unfortunate from his cradle to his grave.

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, \$5.00. No experience necessary! (For info, call Steve Lavery at 505-688-4756.)

Celtic Music on the Radio and the Web:

♣ **Larry Kirwan's Celtic Crush** radio show happens on The Loft station on SIRIUS XM radio according to his schedule (times in ET). Eclectic styles of music from Ireland, Scotland, and the world's "Celtic music" diaspora! Great fun! More info: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNloyz-LHidbztD_eGnKScyMQr-NWxVrq

♣ **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.

Calendar of Events

IAS Events

Date	Day	What
February 6	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM on Zoom. All members are invited to attend. (Email Kathy Wimmer for the link.)
February 14	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program : A presentation by author Renata Golden. (See p. 1 for info.)
March 6	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM on Zoom. All members are invited to attend. (Email Kathy Wimmer for the link.)
March 16	Sunday	St. Patrick's Day Party , 12:00 noon to 3:30 PM at the Ramada. Details to come in the March newsletter.

Celtic Community Events

February 2 & 16	Sundays	Two Leaf Clover (Nikelle Gessner and David Garcia) play for Sunday Brunch at Two Fools Tavern every 1 st and 3 rd Sunday of the month from 11 AM – 2 PM.
February 4, 11, 18, 25	Tuesdays	The Irish Slow Session meets Tuesdays at 6:30 PM in the Manzano Mesa Multi-Generational center, near Central and Eubank. For info, contact Kip Malone on Facebook .
February 5, 12, 19, 26	Wednesdays	Ceili Dancing Classes at the GAC , 6:30 - 8 PM, \$5.00. No experience necessary! (Call Steve Laverty at 505-688-4756 for info.)
February 5, 12, 19, 26	Wednesdays	Celtic Music Session at the Singing Arrow Community Center (13200 Wenonah Ave SE) from 5:45-7:45 PM. This is a sheet-music-discouraged (but not prohibited) format and the music is the High & Dry list. For more info, contact Bob Deaver (bpdeaver@gmail.com).
February 5, 12, 19, 26	Wednesdays	Irish Trad Music Session in Taos , 6-8 PM, at the Barra Vino, 241 LeDoux St. For more information, contact Jamie at jaima@taosnet.com or 575-779-1018.
February 6, 13, 20, 27	Thursdays	Albuquerque Traditional Irish Music Open Session from 7-9 PM at Hops Brewery, 7222 4 th Street. For more info, contact Harlow Pinson at hpinson@indepthl.com .
February 7	Friday	A Performance by Irish Tenor Emmet Cahill , 6:30 PM at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Gallup. (Details on p. 8.)
February 18	Tuesday	Sullivan & Forsyth: Irish Traditional Fiddle & Flute perform at Trail Rider Pizza from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Trail Rider Pizza is located at 12165 State Highway 14 N, Suite B2, Cedar Crest, NM 87008.

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 (\$25) ☐ Individual (\$30) ☐ Family (\$35)

☐ (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>