



IRISH TIMES

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

AUGUST 2025

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

Next Event: IAS/SASS Annual Picnic Saturday, September 20, Noon to 4 PM Elena Gallegos Picnic Area (more details to come)

IAS President Caren Garcia's Message for August:

The summer moves on! I hope you have been able to make the most of it and gotten a break from the day-to-day grind. I was able to go on a short trip to Alaska and am really glad I did. Our own VP Tracee Edwards spent a couple of weeks in Ireland and Scotland, and I am including one of her beautiful photos here.



I am also providing a list of our remaining scheduled activities for 2025, and I hope you will mark your calendars and make a point of being with us as often as possible. You will be glad you did.

- * September 20 (Saturday): Annual Picnic. The IAS hosts the Annual Joint Picnic with the St. Andrew's Scottish Society at the Kiwanis Pavilion at Elena Gallegos Park. We'll be getting started at noon and go on through the afternoon. [Details in the next newsletter.]
- * October 10 (2nd Friday): General meeting at the Ramada with entertainment by Jug O'Punch! Bring a snack to share and enjoy the cash bar.
- * November 14 (2nd Friday): General meeting featuring the Celtic Coyotes.
- * December 13 (Saturday): Christmas Party at the Taylor Ranch Community Center, 11 AM to 2:15 PM. Our party was a howling success last year at this location. Pot luck lunch and entertainment by some of our favorites.

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.

Membership Report

By Molly Martin

Cead Mile Failte: 100,000 welcomes to our newest members: Chris Muldoon and the Schaffer-Harris family. We have a grand total of 126 members: 1 student, 37 singles, and 90 families.

The last of summer is upon us. It went by too quickly, but fall is always grand in New Mexico. Can't wait to catch up on the summer's events at our annual picnic next month and meet some of the new members in person!

Treasurer's Report June 1-30, 2025*

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
		Check card online: USPS box rental fee/6 months	-\$134.00
Total Income	\$0.00	Total Expenses	-\$134.00
		IAS Account prior month's ENDING balance	\$4,662.57
		Plus Income (current month)	\$0.00
		Less Expenses (current month)	(-\$134.00)
	Loss/Gain		-\$134.00
		*Ending Balance as of date of report	\$4,528.57

The Irish Book Club

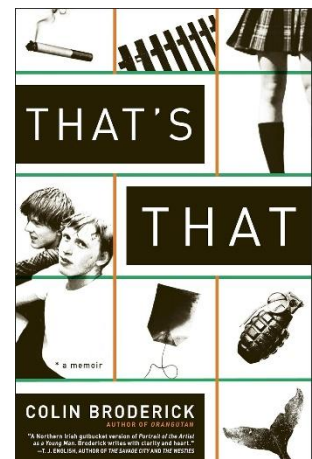
If you are on Facebook, just type The Irish Book Club into the search bar (or click on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2022642747761043/>) and you'll find us. Our book for July, was *That's That* by Colin Broderick; for August, we're reading *As It Is In Heaven* by Niall Williams; and for September, *Twist* by Colm McCann.

That's That by Colin Broderick

Here's an interesting interview with Colin Broderick on NPR:

Colin Broderick's first book, *Orangutan*, told the story of the 20 years — at least, as he could remember it — of being drunk, drug addicted and often desperate struggling to make his way as an Irish immigrant to New York.

His latest book might have been even harder to write: It's about what got him here to America. *That's That* is his chronicle of life as the second-eldest in a family of six children in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, during the modern-day "Troubles": parochial rivalries, British rule, IRA bombings, and an almost weekly death toll, during which Broderick and his friends were trying to grow up.



"First of all, when you think about growing up in basically the middle of a war, you sort of, like the child of abuse, will accept what's happening as being normal," Broderick tells NPR's Scott Simon. "You don't walk around thinking, 'Oh my goodness, we're at war.' "

"When you grew up in a country where British Army checkpoints basically were a way of life, as a Catholic, you were accustomed to being stopped and humiliated at these British checkpoints on a daily basis. We would be very aware that another car carrying local Protestants would be waved through the checkpoint with a wave of the hand, and it was a very deliberate provocation, and when that goes on for years and years, that kind of repression, it's very easy to understand how people would want to fight against that because it was just wrong. What was happening to the Catholics in Northern Ireland, I felt it was fair game, that it was a war, and our side didn't have legitimate, you know, uniforms, and we didn't go out and stop people on the streets, but, you know, the IRA operated basically in secrecy, the best they could, trying to right a wrong. And it definitely felt like there was something very heroic about what they were doing."

On his anger at the British:

"My uncle was lifted, taken from his home, taken from his bed and tortured for seven days. When they first started internment, my uncle was one of seven men, it's widely documented, who were picked up by the British and basically taken away from their families to an unknown location, and then beaten and tortured for seven days. Under internment, the suspicion of involvement was enough to pick you up and torture you to find out if you knew anything.

And it's very hard to hear stories like that about people you care about and not feel some kind of rage, which I did, and you know, I don't condone violence. I don't think that the answer is to go out and shoot anybody. I think what happened in Northern Ireland, a part of the process that was missed was, Catholics especially didn't get an opportunity to go out and start screaming and shouting and saying, 'What you guys did to us was wrong, and we're angry about it.' And that hurt."

"When I started writing *That's That*, I thought it was just a story about my childhood. And two years in, I realized — and I thought it was only going to take me two years — but two years in I realized it's not just my story that I'm telling. And I think the book itself, it's about personal narrative, it's the story of a family, it's the story of a son and a mother, but it's also a story of Northern Ireland."

About the author: Born in 1968, Colin Broderick was raised Irish Catholic in the heart of Northern Ireland. In 1988, at the age of twenty, he moved to the Bronx to drink, work construction, and pursue his dream of becoming a writer. For the next twenty years, as he drank himself into oblivion, there were failed marriages, car wrecks, hospitals and jail cells. Few people who have been a slave to an addiction as vicious, destructive, and unrelenting as Broderick's have lived to tell their tale. His first novel, *Orangutan*, is the story of an Irish drunk unlike any you've met before. His other books include *Church End* and *The Writing Irish of New York* (both previous Irish Book Club selections), *Once Upon a Time in Hell's Kitchen*, and *Woodstock Goes to Hollywood*. He is also a filmmaker (*The Spin*, *A Bend in the River*, and *Emerald City*) and playwright (*Father Who* and *Spudmunchers*).



Irish Boxer Katie Taylor Wins in Three-Peat

By Elena Gallegos



Women's boxing has come a long way since HBO refused to air the Laila Ali vs. Shelley Burton fight. Nineteen years later, at a sold-out Madison Square Garden, Netflix streamed an all-female fight card on July 11, 2025. The historic night's main event was the most anticipated bout in women's boxing.

In a majority decision, Katie Taylor

defeated Amanda Serrano for the third time for the undisputed female super lightweight title. Katie ("The Bray Bomber") Taylor is from Bray, Ireland. As an amateur, she was the five-time World Championship gold medalist, six-time European gold medalist, five-time European Union gold medalist, and a 2012 Olympic gold medalist. As a professional, she is the Division Two undisputed champion of the world. After the fight on July 11, she remains the current, reigning, undisputed super lightweight champion of the world. Her professional record is 25 wins, 1 loss, with 6 of those victories by way of knockout.

Their first fight was on April 30, 2022 at a sold-out Madison Square Garden. They were the first women's boxing match to headline a card. In a narrow split decision, Taylor won the brutal battle. *Sports Illustrated* considered it the 2022 fight of the year.

The rivalry continued as the two fought as co-headliners with the Jake Paul vs. Mike Tyson fight at the AT&T Stadium November 14, 2024 in Texas. In a bloody rematch, Taylor won in a unanimous decision despite a one-point deduction for head-butting. Netflix estimated there were 75.5 million viewers worldwide, making it the most watched professional women's sports event in U.S. history.

Taylor's formidable opponent, Amanda "The Real Deal" Serrano, is the most decorated boxer of all time. Born in Carolina, Puerto Rico, her family moved to Brooklyn when she was a child. This southpaw fights out of Puerto Rico and has a record of 47-4-1, including 31 KOs. She is the first ever male or female undisputed champion from Puerto Rico. She is also a Guinness World Record holder, winning nine world titles across seven weight divisions. She is the current reigning united featherweight champion of the world.

Taylor entered the third fight as the underdog. They each had landed 70 punches, but Taylor landed more power punches and had strong finishes in the 9th and 10th rounds. Cathy Maguire sang the national anthem of Ireland.

Women's boxing was officially sanctioned in 2001 after being banned for many years. Taylor's dad and trainer, Pete, was a former boxing champion and he would disguise "K. Taylor" as a boy so that she could compete. Her mom, Bridget, was one of the first female boxing judges in Ireland. Taylor lives and trains in Connecticut under Ross Enamait so she can "hide in plain sight." She is regarded by many as Ireland's greatest athlete due to her trailblazing achievements.

Ireland's Counties: Armagh and Antrim

By Caren Nicholson Garcia

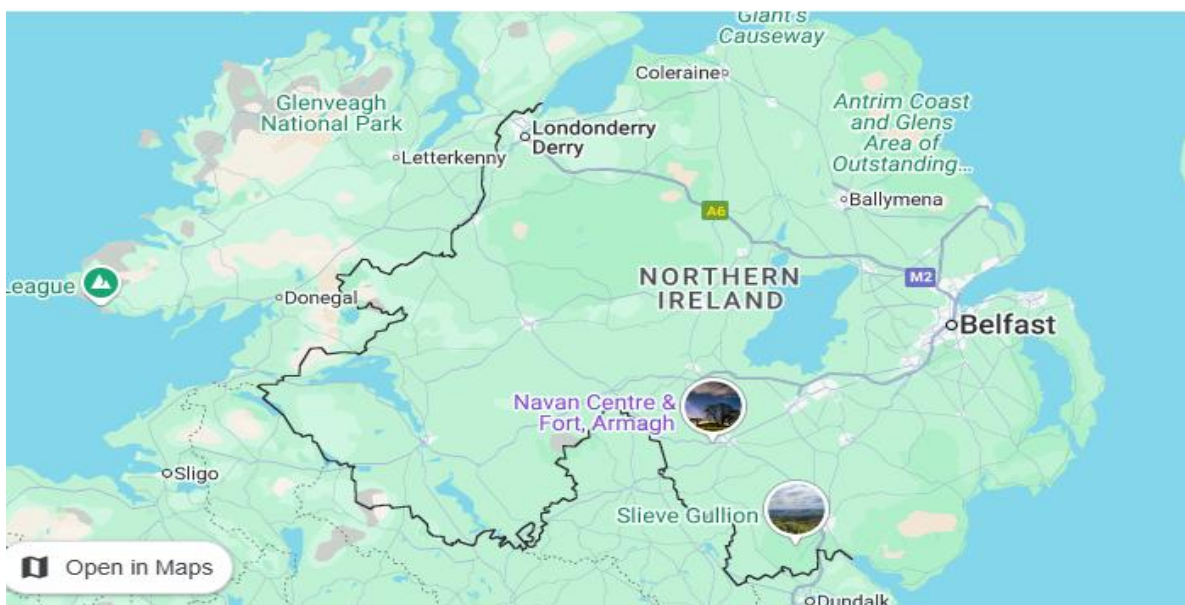
County Armagh

The area of Armagh (old-style county names are no longer used) is the smallest of six counties that make up the present-day Ulster Province, AKA the United Kingdom territory of Northern Ireland. Named for the county town of Armagh, its nickname is the Orchard County after all the apple orchards located there. The larger city of Newry is also in Armagh. From its high point at Slieve Gullion to sea level at Lough Neagh, Armagh enjoys a mild oceanic climate with little snow or freezing temps, but plenty of liquid sunshine. Interestingly, about 3% of its citizens claim to use the Irish language daily and almost 1% are somewhat conversant with the Ulster-Scots dialect as well.

Before the fourth century, Armagh was known as Ulaid, which ultimately gave us the term Ulster. Clans that controlled the land include O'Hanlon, MacCana, O'Neill, and later McGuinness. In the 17-18th centuries, the inhabitants of Armagh were a major pain to occupiers and invaders, being adept at guerrilla tactics, cattle rustling and general brigandry!

From 1899-1973, the area was designated County Armagh and governed by a County Counsel, but these were abolished and new divisions set up by the British government. During The Troubles, Armagh was a stronghold of Republican Nationalists and the military arm of the Irish Republican Army. Present day Armagh is one of the four counties in Northern Ireland with a majority Catholic population (55% in 2021 Census). This fact may help move the province toward the much-anticipated ultimate reunification of Ireland, although many have lost hope of that result.

Famous People with Armagh roots: Singer Tommy Makem, William McCrum (inventor of the penalty kick in soccer), Arthur Hunter Palmer (Premier of Queensland), Field Marshal John Dill, Frank Aiken (Irish revolutionary and politician), Andrew Trew Wood (Canadian businessman and parliamentarian), John Stephenson (built the world's first streetcar), poet Paul Muldoon, and the former first minister of Northern Ireland, Ian Paisley.



County Antrim

The other “A” in Northern Ireland is Antrim, across Lough Neagh from Armagh, and also in the Province of Ulster. Most of the capitol city of Belfast is located in Antrim with some of the city overflowing into County Down. These two counties are the only ones with majority Protestant populations in the last three sets of census data; most recently for Antrim 47% to 40% are affiliated with the Catholic Church. This number is partly due to the rise of those claiming no religion (approx. 11% in 2021).

The real story of identity in Antrim (influenced largely by Belfast) has to do with where people see themselves in the grand scheme of things. The census is very revealing on this matter, with over 35% identifying as British only, almost 26% Irish only, almost 19% Northern Irish only, and less than 2% Irish and Northern Irish jointly. In spite of infrequent clashes, clear rifts remain.

Antrim includes the popular sites of the Giant’s Causeway and the Bushmills Whiskey plant. The northern shoreline is famous for precipitous cliffs falling from the hilly countryside. The Port of Belfast is world renowned (think builders of the Titanic) but there are ferries that sail to Cairnryan, Scotland and other destinations from Larne Harbour as well. Ballymena and Carrickfergus are other large cities in the area. Actor Liam Neeson hails from Ballymena and one of the best-preserved medieval castles, Carrickfergus Castle, built in the 12th century is found here too. The small town of Slemish is known as the place where St. Patrick spent seven years as a slave in his early life before escaping back to Scotland.



So now you know a lot more about the northern reaches of the Emerald Isle. I hope you enjoyed these sketches. I like learning more as I prepare them.

[County Antrim, Northern Ireland, has produced several famous individuals. Notable figures include actor Liam Neeson (Ballymena), writer C.S. Lewis, football legend George Best, and musician Van Morrison. Additionally, several US presidents have roots in County Antrim, including Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson, and Theodore Roosevelt according to IrishCentral.]

The Irish Author of *Dracula*

From [Michael in Ireland](#)



Until quite recently it was a little-known fact that the creator of perhaps the world’s most famous villain was an Irishman from Clontarf in Dublin.

Bram Stoker was born in 1847 to Dubliner Abraham Stoker and Donegal native Charlotte Mathilda Blake Thornley. The third of seven children, the young Bram Stoker was bed-ridden for much of his first seven years, a period that gave him much opportunity for reflection and creative thought:

“I was naturally thoughtful, and the leisure of long illness gave opportunity for many thoughts which were fruitful according to their kind in later years.”

He recovered from his ill health and went on to excel as an athlete at Trinity College, from where he graduated with honors in Mathematics in the year 1870. As president of the University Philosophical Society, his first paper was “Sensationalism in Fiction and Society.” He became the theatre critic for the Dublin newspaper *The Evening Mail*, which was co-owned by the author of many Gothic tales, Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, the leading ghost story writer of the nineteenth century.

In 1878 Stoker married Dubliner Florence Balcombe, who had previously been courted by Oscar Wilde. Stoker knew Oscar Wilde from his college days and even visited Wilde on the continent after his exile. The family moved to London, where Stoker became manager of the Lyceum Theatre, a position he held for 27 years. The Theatre was most associated with Henry Irving, who was a famed classical actor. Stoker was very active in the literary and artistic community in London at the time, meeting with the likes of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, to whom he was distantly related. But it was to Irving that Stoker was devoted and it is thought that it is upon this man that he based his most famous literary creation—Count Dracula.

Stoker travelled the world with the now internationally famous Irving acting company and even attended the White House with Irving, meeting Presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt, such was his employer’s fame.

His experience as a newspaper writer stood him in good stead when he began his work on *Dracula*. Stoker was already a published writer when he began researching ancient stories about vampires. The style of the book is very much in keeping with his previous experience as a news reporter, with diary entries, newspaper clippings, and telegrams all adding to a sense of realism. Stoker is also said to have been inspired in part by a visit to St. Michan's Church in Dublin, the vaults of which contain many mummified remains.

It was thought that the original 541-page *Dracula* manuscript from 1897 was lost forever, but like the subject of the novel, it too had to make an epic journey. From Transylvania to Pennsylvania, the US state that is home to many a desperado in hideaways like Allenport, Seneca, and Doylestown, the manuscript remained hidden for decades before being uncovered in a barn there in the early 1980's. The original title of the novel, *The Un-Dead*, was clearly marked on it. It was later bought by the co-founder of Microsoft, Paul Allen.

Bram Stoker died in London in 1912. While well regarded as a horror writer in the Victorian age, it was not until the first cinematic production about a vampire in 1922 that his legacy was set forever. Stoker's widow actually sued the German film-makers who produced *Nosferatu*, the first vampire movie with “Count Orlock” being substituted for “Count Dracula” in an attempt to breach the copyright. She won the case in 1925.

The first authorized film version of the story was released in 1931, with Bella Lugosi as Count Dracula. Newspapers reported that members of the audiences fainted in shock at the horror on screen! The film became a box office sensation and is regarded as the first full-length horror movie. It is estimated that there have been at least 200 movies featuring Dracula, while a vampire subculture has blossomed among young people in particular, fueled by countless television and silver screen productions.



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: John Brinduse: jbrinduse@swcp.com

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 Harlow Pinson (hpinson@indepthl.com)

Michele Buchanan, Harper 505-765-1288 (tmbuchs@gmail.com) and contact person for ***The Celtic Singers of NM.***

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).

Wandering the Burren

Performing the traditional music of Ireland, Scotland, the Isle of Man, Brittany, Galicia and Asturias, as well as Quebec. We also play original music that celebrates these traditions. To contact, email ssponar07@gmail.com or rebecca@unm.edu

Irish Setters

A Celtic folk band playing traditional Irish tunes and songs on fiddle, banjo, guitar, and bass. Contact: Erika Gerety (erika@unm.edu)

Celtic Band Trí (meaning “three”), are Eileen Sullivan, Louis Scuderi, and Dain Forsythe. In addition to fiddle and flute, add Irish bouzouki, ballads, and Irish traditional songs. Contact: Louis Scuderi or Eileen Sullivan at ljscuderi@gmail.com or estreetfiddle@yahoo.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.

♣ **The McTeggart School of Irish Dance**, Albuquerque and Rio Rancho. Founded in Cork, Ireland, in 1939, and in New Mexico in 1997, they offer classes to children and adults ages 4 and up, from beginner to championship. For more info, visit <https://irishdancenewmexico.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 Laverty at 505-688-4756.)



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>

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.

Questions? Contact Robert Harper at robertharper48@comcast.net

Calendar of Events

IAS Events

Date	Day	What
September 4	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM in person. (Location TBD.) All members are invited to attend.
September 20	Saturday	Annual IAS/SASS Family Picnic! Noon to 4 PM at the Elena Gallego Picnic Area. (Details in the September newsletter.)
October 2	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM on Zoom. (Email Kathy Wimmer for the link.)
October 10	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program: A musical performance by Jug O'Punch!
November 6	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM on Zoom. (Email Kathy Wimmer for the link.)
November 14	Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting and Program: A musical performance by The Celtic Coyotes!
December 4	Thursday	IAS Board of Directors meeting , 7 PM on Zoom. (Email Kathy Wimmer for the link.)
December 13	Saturday	IAS Annual Christmas Party , 11-2:15 PM at the Taylor Ranch Community Center. (Details to come.)

Celtic Community Events

August 2 & 16	Saturday	First Saturday Irish Session , from noon to 2 PM, at The Lucky Goose, 3503 Central NE. All levels are welcome. Our pace can be fast or moderate, but hopefully always fun. The food is vegetarian and terrific. (For info, contact Susan Sponar at https://www.facebook.com/susan.sponar/about)
August 3 & 17	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.
August 5, 12, 19, 26	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 .
August 6, 13, 20, 27	Wednesdays	Ceili Dancing Classes at the GAC , 6:30 - 8 PM, \$5.00. No experience necessary! (Call Steve Lavery at 505-688-4756 for info.)
August 6, 13, 20, 27	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).
August 6, 13, 20, 27	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.
August 7, 14, 21, 28	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 .

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>