



IRISH TIMES

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

NOVEMBER 2014

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 usual meeting location is the Edelweiss Am Rio Grande German-American Club (GAC), 4821 Menaul, NE (west of San Mateo).

Next Event: Friday, Nov. 14th, 7:00 PM

A Musical Performance by *Iscuma!*

Bill McCoy tells the story of the name:

“Iscuma” is the combined form of two Irish words, “is” and “cuma” (pronounced iss-KU-mah), meaning “It doesn’t matter.” Bill McCoy came across the expression after many hours of researching Irish history, music, and language. He was forming a musical group with former member Scott Ware and wanted to find a unique name for the band. Bill had filled several sheets of paper and was becoming increasingly frustrated when he found *is cuma*. That was the eureka moment, and *Iscuma* was born. So what’s in a name anyway? The music is what matters! To paraphrase a well-known author, a rose by any other name would still have the same scent.



This year, *Iscuma* regrouped, and Bill is now joined by Kathy Wimmer on harp, guitar, bouzouki and vocals, with Bill on pennywhistle and bodhran. They will play a variety of instrumental tunes, including Irish jigs and reels, and some well-known songs, such as “Finnegan’s Wake” and “Red is the Rose.”

We are looking for entertainers for our monthly programs in 2015. Singers, dancers, musicians, lecturers—all welcome! If you are interested, contact Ellen (307-1700)
edowling@standuptrainer.com

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

Board Members and Committee Chairs

President	Paul McDonough penthormul@aol.com	294-8205	Health & Welfare	Fran Hardy frananddon@aol.com	259-3348
VP	Chris Kinlen oldtowncelticshop@aol.com	328-7408	Newsletter	Ellen Dowling edowling@standuptrainer.com	307-1700
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Secretary	Bob Bryers tccrb5@aol.com	792-2026	Web Manager	Ellen Dowling edowling@standuptrainer.com	307-1700
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Board	Magda Romano magdaromano@msn.com	293-3788			
Board	Geoff Schaffer-Harris gschafferharris@gmail.com	554-1067			



Would you like to place an ad 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 ad will also appear on the IAS website (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com) at no extra charge.

ISCUMA*

a band of high degree
celtic music etc.

Bill McCoy / 505 897 4407

*it doesn't matter

President's Message

Dear IAS Members:

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Yup. It's a New Year, on the Celtic calendar at least. This signals the start of the winter 2014 holiday season. It's also election time, not only in the state of New Mexico, but also in the IAS. Most of the people serving on the IAS Board of Directors are willing to extend for another year, but we could use some more help. In the by-laws, it states that we need a minimum number to operate; there is no maximum number. So, step up and let your voice be heard. Help the IAS keep going and growing.

Next, we are having our **3rd Annual Turkey Raffle** at the November meeting. (You need not be present to win.) 1st prize is an electric turkey roaster (which can be used for other things too), and a \$25 gift certificate to Keller's Farm Store (there's one on the east side and one on the west side). 2nd and 3rd prizes are each a \$25 gift certificate to Keller's. Tickets are only \$2 each. Buy a whole bunch!

The IAS Christmas Party is coming up on December 7th this year and we need a band to play at the party. Any takers can contact me or any of the board members. (See p. 2 for contact info.)

We are still in fund-raising mode for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival. The RGVCF may be smaller next year, unless we can get some sponsors. I'm still doing "Cans For Celts" and Candy Bars For Celts," but it would be a great help if everybody could, at least, submit a business-card-sized ad. Is there a place where you go that could advertise? Give it a try.

January 24, 2015 is the Annual Robert Burns Night, put on by the St. Andrew Scottish Society of New Mexico. It will be held at the Sheraton Uptown (Menaul and Louisiana). 2014's dinner was great and we hope to see as many Irish there as Scots in 2015.

One final note: When I assisted in creating the Benefit Account for Michael Wolff, it came to my attention that there were three accounts with the name "Irish American Society": one was active and two were dormant. The dormant accounts were about to go into receivership, which means the money would be turned over to the State of NM. Through the efforts of IAS Board Members, both present and past, we were able to retrieve the money before it was lost to us. All those involved are to be commended for their due diligence.


Until next time,
Paul McDonough

Cans for Celts

Help raise funds for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games in 2015!

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 this time or large appliances. I don't have room for them.)

For pick up between meetings – contact Paul McDonough @ 505-294-8205 and leave a message. Thank you!



**Coleman Academy
of Irish Dance**

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(505) 720-6979 Jennifer London, TCRG
(505) 720-7068 Kimberly Coleman, TCRG
www.ColemanAcademy.com



Old Town Celtic Shop

323 Romero Street NW, Suite 12
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104

Chris Kinlen 328-7408
Lisa Kinlen 999-9219

Membership Report

By Jay Vandersloot, Membership Chair

Céad Mile Fáilte: A hundred thousand welcomes to our new members, Daniel & Nadia Gatsch, Mati & Ozzie Heck-Oswald, Gary & Cindy Kloss, and Barbara Martin. And of course thank you to those of you who have renewed your memberships. As of October 19th we now have a total of 354 members, including 110 couples and 134 singles.

REMEMBER, in accordance with the statutes of the State of New Mexico, you **MUST** have your new 2014 membership card, and have it **WITH** you, to enter the GAC facility for our meetings, events, or at any other time. Contact me for any questions concerning membership. [Editor’s Note: As long as **YOU** have a membership card, you can bring all your friends to any of our functions—just have them sign in as “guests.”]

Jay

505-362-1733, JayVandersloot@yahoo.com

P.S. We are still collecting the **pull-tabs** for the Ronald McDonald House here in Albuquerque (managed by IAS member Sharon Nolen). Thanks to Irene Gourlay, Magda Romano, Eunice Foley & Mark Meadows, and Hilde Despain.

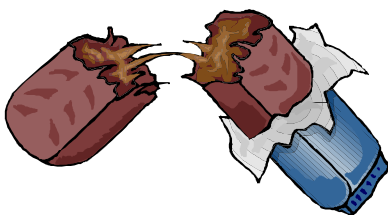
Norita

Treasurer’s Report October, 2014

Victoria Bryers, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Membership	\$90.00	Newsletter Printing	\$313.28
From Irish Heritage Center account	\$5,572.54	Picnic expenses	\$219.79
		Halloween Prize money	\$55.00
		State Farm yearly insurance	\$425.00
		Xmas Children’s bags (partial)	\$75.00
		Total Expenses	\$1088.07
		Oct beginning balance	\$4694.93
		Plus Income	\$5662.54
		Subtotal	\$10,357.46
		Less Expenses	\$1,088.07
Total Income	\$5,662.54	Oct. Ending Balance	\$9,269.40

Candy Bars for Celts!



Besides the Cans for Celts fundraiser for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival, we are now also trying to raise money by selling candy bars at \$1.00 each. Candy can be purchased at any meeting from President Paul McDonough.

Happy November Birthdays and Anniversaries!



Dennis Foltz
 Kerry McKenna Ducharme
 Maureen Riley
 Steve Lemken
 Kathleen Lacen
 Sharon Lowell
 Garnet Waldrop
 James Drake



Jim & Sharon Lowell

Minutes of the Irish-American Society of NM General Meeting

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING October 10, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 PM by President Paul McDonough.

- The joint IAS/SASS picnic at Elena Galego's park had participation of 50 members from both organizations.
- The Highland Games in Aztec yielded 5 new members as well as a book talk later from David McDonnell, who is traveling around the country promoting his new book *Clan Donnell: A Storied History of Ireland*. (See p. 7 for a review of this book.)
- Our membership stands at 110 family (x2) and 134 singles for a total of 354 paid members.
- The Turkey Raffle will again be held this year. Prices are \$2.00 per ticket; the Grand Prize will be a turkey roaster and a \$25.00 gift certificate to Keller's, followed by 2nd and 3rd place of a \$25.00 gift certificate.
- One of our members, Magda Romano, has stepped up and volunteered to be a Board Member at large for the Society, filling in the vacancy left by Michael Wolff.
- The next meeting of the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival (RGVCF) will be this Saturday at the County Line at 2 PM. All members are welcome to attend as they devise ways for fundraisers.
- This Friday (October 17th) there will be a Celtic movie showing of *Druids* at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.
- Cormack O'Malley will be speaking at the University of New Mexico on Eugene O'Malley – dates and times will follow.
- Two changes in the membership requirements have been voted on and approved: First, new members joining after July 1st of the calendar year will have their membership extended through December 31st of the next year. (This is for new members only.) Second, for students over the age of 18 with a valid student ID, the membership rate will be \$10.00 for single and \$15.00 for family. Changes will be made by the membership chair, Jay Vandersloot, for future members.

- The annual IAS Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 7th. (Look for details in the December newsletter.)
- The Kirken o' the Tartan ceremony will be held on November 16th at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. (See details in the calendar on p. 11.)
- The annual Robbie Burns dinner will be held on Saturday, January 24th. (See below for info.)
- A motion was made by our squire John Murray to adjourn the business part of the meeting at 7:40. After a short break for sweet and salty munchies, we were entertained by Derek Swinson and Jane Hendley.

Bob Bryers, Secretary



2015 IAS Board Elections at Our November Meeting!

Nominations for the BOD will be accepted at our November meeting, with voting to take place immediately following. Please consider running for IAS office: It's a grand way to become part of a grand group of folks!

The St. Andrew Scottish Society of NM Invites You to their Annual Robbie Burns Dinner

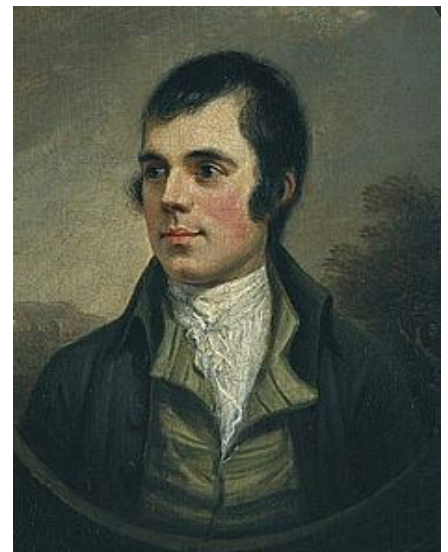
Saturday, January 24th, 2015
Sheraton Uptown
2400 Louisiana Blvd NE

Cocktails/Cash Bar at 5:00 PM
Silent Auction from 5:00 to 7:00 PM

\$55.00: SASSNM members; \$60.00: non-members
(Tables of 10 also available at \$500 each)

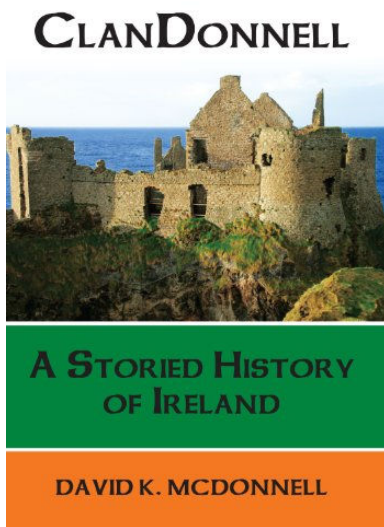
All reservations must be received by January 19th.
Tickets go on sale Dec. 1st. To order tickets, visit the SASSNM
website: www.SASSNM.org

For questions, contact
Scott Robertson (505-908-9496) sjt.mjr.robertson@gmail.com



Book Review: Clan Donnell

[Editor's Note: At our October meeting, the author of this book, David K. McDonnell, gave a short talk about the book and signed copies for those who purchased a copy, including your humble newsletter editor. It may take me a while to read this tome (it's over 900 pages!), so in the meantime, here's a review by someone else!]



ClanDonnell: A Storied History of Ireland

David K. McDonnell

Burrowing Owl Press (2013)

ISBN: 9780986038501

\$27.92

Reviewed by *Susan Violante* for Reader Views (01/14)

ClanDonnell: A Storied History of Ireland, by David K. McDonnell, is a historical piece of art and would be an asset to any library. The book is 926 pages long and thus not your choice for an on-the-go book. However, all 926 pages are worth savoring, not just reading through but rather taking your time with each chapter.

As a history fan I loved the detailed information presented in this book.

McDonnell does not present the reader with a fact book limited to what historians consider important dates and events. Instead, he takes the reader through time by telling the Irish story from how the names of each clan originated, specifying the details on how the use of last names and even middle names within each family came to be. The tone of the narration feels almost like watching a History Channel miniseries where each chapter is an episode of the Clan Donnell's adventure.

McDonnell does a great job of taking the reader from the beginning with Celts, the invasions, Clan System and Culture, explaining also the geography, politics and language all to give a holistic experience of how Ireland came to be. He does this in an easy-to-follow storytelling tone, using pictures, graphics such as maps, as well as a timeline of events and a family tree at the end of each chapter. The reader moves through the clans region by region. McDonnell continues the story of Ireland through time by concentrating on Clan Donnell, taking the reader through their rise in Ireland, through the war against the English and their submission to Queen Elizabeth. In the second part of the book, the reader will see the end of the Clan system and will learn how Ireland, through the descendants of Clan Donnell, relates to England through the Protestant/Catholic clash as well as all other European Nations and later on in America. By no means is this a quick read as McDonnell presents to us Ireland from its Celtic times to the 20th Century.

I really enjoyed *ClanDonnell: A Storied History of Ireland* and am happy to keep this historical piece of art and perfect literary work in my library to share interesting stories from Ireland with friends and family as a conversation piece treasure. I definitely rate *ClanDonnell* 5 stars!

New Irish Travel Agency Set to Launch in 2015!

www.youririsheyes.net

[Editor's Note: See the message below from Todd Slaughter with Your Irish Eyes travel agency. The agency will pay the IAS a commission of \$100 per person for advertising their site in our newsletter. So if you are interested in booking with this agency, please do let us know.]

Our aim is to make it easy, comfortable, and affordable to visit the most beautiful parts of Ireland, and to offer the traveler a fully hosted experience.

We will base our small groups adjacent to the Ring of Kerry using splendid spacious holiday home accommodation (or hotels, depending on our client's budget). Our host will meet the party at the chosen airport, and we recommend Shannon as it enjoys full US Immigration services within that complex. We will stay with the group for the whole duration of their stay, enabling them to visit all their chosen locations, activity areas, and festival events. Full cooked breakfasts will be provided each morning, and a light supper upon return to our base each evening. The total land arrangements price, inclusive of comprehensive hosting services accessible 24 hours a day, based on, say, a group of six including all services, transportation, meals as specified, and 7 nights accommodation would be around \$1,200 per person, and less in the low season.

Included in this price would be a \$100.00 commission per person payable to your organization in exchange for your promotion of this agency. If you are kind enough to feature our site, then do ask your web-master to request that respondents quote you when they contact us. Do keep me up to date with your progress, and how you wish to proceed.

Irish Lives in War and Revolution: Exploring Ireland's History 1912-1923

I (Ellen) just finished taking this absolutely amazing online course, created by professors at Trinity College, Dublin. I urge any of you who have an interest in Irish history, particularly during the Irish Civil War (as well as WWI), to visit this site:

www.futurelearn.com/courses/irish-history

The course is now "finished," but that only means that there is no longer any active commenting going on. What remains online (and it's free) are marvelous videos and amazing resources that give you a real understanding of what the people of Ireland went through from 1912 to 1923. (My own grandmother emigrated from Ireland in 1921. Now I wonder if she left because of all the strife?) I guarantee that you will love this course!

Anyone Interested in Taking on an Irish Research Project?

The folks at Historic Albuquerque, Inc. are planning to highlight all the different ethnic peoples of Albuquerque in a series of lectures next year. Would someone from the Irish-American Society be interested in researching "The Irish in Albuquerque"?

I have all the contacts and information you would need to get started, including contact information for Eileen O'Connell, Branch Manager of the Special Collections Library, and Susan Schwartz, who has information about the historic Fairview Cemetery (700 Yale Blvd SE), which contains the graves of many Albuquerqueans of Irish descent.

If you're interested, contact Ellen Dowling at 505-307-1700 (edowling@standuptrainer.com).

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, and classes in Socorro on Saturdays, 3:30 - 6 PM at the Cottonwood Valley Charter School. Call 866-5867 for information or visit our web site at Irishdancenm@gmail.com.
- ♣ **Tir Conaill Academy of Irish Dance,** Saturdays at Triple Threat Performing Arts Studio (on Tramway between Academy and Paseo), 12700 San Rafael, Suite 6, Albuquerque, NM. Call 379-3753 or visit www.tirconailacademy.org 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:

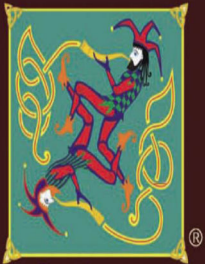
- ♣ **The Thistle and Shamrock** program, featuring Fiona Ritchie, airs on KANW 89.1 FM, Mondays at 6:00 PM.
- ♣ **Celtic and Beyond**, with co-hosts Ellie Blair and Kelly Clement, 7:00 PM each Wednesday on KTAOS 101.9 FM. (Also broadcast on the Web at www.ktao.com.)

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Celtic Music at O'Niell's:

Music every Sunday from 4 to 7 PM at the "old" O'Niell's, 4310 Central Ave SE (Corner of Central & Washington in East Nob Hill) and the "new" location (3301 Juan Tabo NE, between Comanche and Candelaria). For more info, visit <http://www.oniells.com/>



O'Niell's

Award Winning Food

Best Late Night Happy Hour

Dog Friendly Patio

Good Food. Honest Drink

Support Your Local Irish/Scottish/Celtic Musicians/Performers!

[Editor's Note: To be listed on this page free of charge, you or at least one member of your group must be a member in good standing of the IAS.]

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 Bill McCoy and Kathy Wimmer. For information, contact Bill McCoy at 897-4407.

Saoirse ("seer shih," Irish for "freedom")

Celtic music from Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, and Galacia, spiced with jazz and world beat. Contact: Suzanne Taichert at 331-0991, e-mail susawin@mac.com

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

Carol Benson

Strolling café fiddler, vocalist, Suzuki teacher, and symphony violinist. Contact: 505-268-0906 (carolbens@gmail.com)

A Jug of Punch, featuring triple distilled Irish-American fun! Flutes, accordion, mandolin, violin, and guitar. Contact: Cleve Sharp, 505-507-9915 (clevelans@comcast.net)

Michele Buchanan and Shanachie Harpers
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 and Chris Nelson play Celtic, Folk, Cowboy and Originals. Contact: 296-2017 or 250-4429; mmcoy3@msn.com.

Eagle's Whistle: Same group, but also with Andy Moss on whistle and concertina.

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



IAS T-Shirts for Sale!

You can get yours at any IAS meeting, or contact Paul McDonough to arrange purchase (penthormul@aol.com, 294-8205). The T-shirts come in a variety of sizes, from small to XXL. There are also white shirts with a Celtic knot and the Zia symbol. T-shirts are \$15 for short sleeve; \$20 for long.

Calendar of Events

IAS Events

Date	Day	What
November 4	Tuesday	<i>IAS Board of Directors meeting</i> , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
November 14	Friday	<i>IAS Monthly Meeting and Program</i> , 7 PM at the GAC. Musical entertainment by <i>Iscuma</i> .
December 2	Tuesday	<i>IAS Board of Directors meeting</i> , 7 PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
December 7	Sunday	<i>IAS Annual Christmas Party</i> at the GAC, 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Details in the December newsletter.

Celtic/GAC Events

November 11	Tuesday	<i>Opening of the Fasching season</i> at the GAC, 11:11 AM. It will be a potluck and ceremony. No charge.
November 15	Saturday	<i>Opening Ball of Fasching</i> at the GAC. Dinner at 5:30, cost \$10. Jim Brauer's <i>Schunkel Bub'n Band</i> playing from 7:00 to 11:00 PM. Cost \$10.
November 16	Sunday	<i>St. Andrew Scottish Society's Tartan Day Celebration</i> , 9:30 AM at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 5301 Ponderosa Avenue NE. "Meet and Greet" follows with snacks and beverages. For more info, contact Paul McDonough (294-8205).
November 16	Sunday	<i>Jazz Sunday</i> at the GAC, 2:00 to 5:30 PM. Cost: \$5 for IAS members.

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.





**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 Membership Application _____ Renewal _____

If this is a renewal, has your contact information changed? Yes _____ No _____

Please make checks payable to **The Irish-American Society**
and mail to: P.O. Box 13435, Albuquerque, NM 87192-3435

Individual _____ \$20.00 Family _____ \$25.00 Student _____ \$10.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Would you like to receive the IAS newsletter electronically? _____

(Note: Student members automatically receive the online newsletter.)

Birthday (Name) _____ Month _____ Day _____ (optional)

Birthday (Name) _____ Month _____ Day _____ (optional)

Anniversary Month _____ Day _____ (optional)