



IRISH TIMES

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

AUGUST 2009

Next Event: Friday, September 11th, 7:00PM

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).

A Little Summer Inspiration . . .

By Brian Kelly
From The Ireland Newsletter
<http://www.irishnation.com>

“Earn this . . .”

Tom Hanks’ character, dying, whispered that simple phrase into the ear of Private Ryan, after so many of his platoon had given their lives in the quest to save him. Throughout Ryan’s life, he remembered that moment, that whispered phrase, and the absolute need for him to earn the privilege made available to him through the struggles and sacrifices of many others.

Somewhere, you’ve got Ireland in your blood. The great people of your ancestry may not have lived the “lace curtain” lifestyle. They likely suffered great hardships somewhere along the line, had a tremendous work ethic, valued and protected their family, loved their homeland endlessly without reservation.

At some point, someone in that family line may have made the decision to emigrate from Ireland. Moving to a different house in a different town can be traumatic. Can you imagine the personal and family angst involved in moving to an entirely different country? The strength of character, the sorrows of divided families and friends, the inescapable hurdles of living in a new land (the prejudices, the poverty, the search for employment, and more), the continued love and faith in their actions and hopes and dreams.

Regardless of the details of your personal background, there was the Irish deep in that heritage. A proud, weathered, war-torn, faithful, warm and family-loving people comprise the underpinnings of who you are.

Whatever the specifics of your family heritage, it would be safe to say that those that had gone before you had done what they’d done and lived where they lived and fought their struggles so that they would be the foundation from which the next generation would reach to greater heights. Each successive generation had that same thought, as you do for your own children. Here you are now. Look around you. Look at your family and loved ones. Take close account of your lifestyle, your benefits, and your comforts. In clarity, take conscious note of the differences in your lives as compared to those of your ancestry.

In all our lives, let’s enjoy and celebrate our friends and family. Let’s say and do things befitting of the struggles, hardships, sacrifices and aspirations of all the years and of all the fine men and women of our ancestry. Let’s live all our days and nights that would make all that have gone before us proud and righteous, with no regret for their sacrifices and no embarrassment of explanations needed on our part. Be the sibling, be the parent, be the person, be the Irish for whom people lived and died so that you’d have the opportunities you have today. Let’s have days and nights befitting of our lineage. Let’s earn this.

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The Irish-American Society is a non-profit, non-political, and non-sectarian organization devoted to furthering Irish-American relations through education, travel, recreation, charity, music, and dance.

Membership is open to everyone and we encourage your support and participation. Dues are \$20.00 for an individual and \$25.00 for a family. For more information, please call Members Chair Norita Callahan at 298-2708.

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President's Message

Dear IAS Community,

I hope you all are having a wonderful summer. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 11th, followed by our combined IAS/St. Andrew's Society Picnic on Sunday, September 20th.

I have been approached by members of different Celtic societies about planning for the development of a Celtic Cultural Center. As you may be aware, I have been actively involved with fundraising for the Irish Heritage Center Board. The Irish Heritage Center Board hosted three major events and a few minor events. In March of 2007 and 2008 we held the Emerald Ball, and in March 2009 we had a fundraising event that featured renowned past Riverdance lead Michael Patrick Gallagher and the students from Tir Conaill Academy of Irish Dance. All three evenings were great fun and we made a profit. Unfortunately, the Irish Heritage Center Board has not been meeting and there are no ongoing events planned at this time (of which I am aware).

I believe sometimes it is about getting a project started and we may need to modify plans in order to reach an attainable goal. The combined efforts of many would seem to have a stronger chance of success. Through my involvements with the Celtic societies, I have found we have differences but a commonality that perhaps would benefit from being nurtured and/or mediated whatever the case may be.

I personally am willing to work with the individuals from the other societies to combine resources, knowledge, and support Celtic history, art, dance and music as well as other ideas one may have. Individuals have also approached me regarding continuing the Emerald Ball. The organization of The Emerald Ball is quite a bit of work as well as time consuming. There were mixed reviews regarding the cost as it is expensive to rent space and have a formal sit down dinner. Hopefully there can be choices of different events throughout the year,

and especially the month of March, which fit the needs of the individual members of our IAS community.

The most important need is for IAS members to be part of the volunteering at events, volunteering to coordinate events as well as taking a turn on the board. Please feel free to attend the board meetings, especially if you are thinking of running for a board position. I have found from my experience as IAS president this year that change is very slow and there are traditions and rituals that each society follows. I am not still quite sure if I understand all the workings yet, but it has been a learning experience to try my hand as president.

Health and Happiness to all,
Kate Nash

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IAS Treasurer's Report – June 2009

Cathy Lybrand, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Memberships	65.00	Print Express	302.96
		Boy Scott Troop #995*	100.00
		Go Daddy Website	20.04
Total Income	65.00	Total Expenses	423.00
	June 1	Beginning Balance	6831.98
		Income	65.00
		Expenses	423.00
	June 30	Ending Balance	6473.98

* Mike Briody, our IAS East Vice President, is Scout Leader for Boy Scott Troop #995. The IAS donated \$100 to help out with uniforms and badges.

Céad Mile Fáilte

A 100,000 welcomes to our newest members: David and Jane Marsters, Jennifer Murphy, Melanie Van Stry and John Lynch, and Adele Woodruff. And welcome back to Henry Drees!

As of July 11th, the Irish-American Society has 126 family members (times 2) and 126 single members. This is a total of 378 members for the 2009 membership year.

Norita Callahan
noraabq@yahoo.com 298-2708



Flowers of the Forest

[A note from Norita:] Dorie Keasler sent an email in late December 2008 saying she would not be renewing her IAS membership. She was having some health problems, and couldn't come to our meetings, functions, etc. I sent back an email of understanding.

A couple of days later, I received another email from Dorie saying her check was in the mail and please don't take her off my membership database. She also said she has enjoyed reading the *Irish Times* every month forever and didn't want to miss a copy. ☺

Dorie passed away June 20th, 2009. She and her late husband Gary had been members of the IAS since January 1992. Condolences to her family and to her many, many friends. She will be missed.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

The Reel Thing

By Tom Quinn (The Dancer)



Céad mile fáilte from Dundalk!

News and Notes

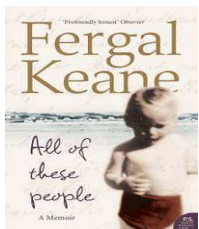
A motorist in Ballymote, Co. Sligo, narrowly escaped being crushed to death by a train recently. There have been a total of 20 similar near-misses so far this year where motorists have failed to check for trains travelling along the line. And *Iarnrod Eireann* [Ireland's Rail Network] yesterday revealed there were a staggering 56 near misses in 2008. As a result, the company has installed CCTV cameras at user-operated level crossings across the network. Drivers found to be ignoring safety warnings that could cause death or serious injury will lose their driving licences. Earlier this month a motorist was banned for two years for not checking the line. Most incidents take place on the Sligo and Mayo lines, with one-in-four near misses so far this year in Sligo. In 1999 there were 2,035 live level crossings on the rail network, but this has since dropped to 1,073.

There are strong indications that loyalist paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland could be on the verge of decommissioning their weapons. The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) is understood to have decommissioned a major weapons cache, with further disarmament moves by the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) and Red Hand Commando (RHC). The Irish and British governments welcomed the destruction of weaponry, but said they had yet to receive official confirmation of the move from the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD). Democratic Unionist Party leader Peter Robinson, who met with the loyalists to encourage decommissioning, said: "The party would certainly welcome any move by the organisations to decommission their weapons and cease from their paramilitary activity; however, we do not want to pre-empt the outcome of this process. The party will continue to engage with these organisations in order to impress upon them the need to leave violence and criminality behind and to complete the decommissioning process." Senior Sinn Féin representative Gerry Kelly said, "The IRA dealt with the issue of arms in a decisive way four years ago."

The European Union has declared Ireland "brucellosis-free." Ireland had high levels of the disease, which affects cattle, during the 1990s. The news is being welcomed by the Irish Farmers Association and Irish Veterinary Officers Association.



The Bookshelf



All of These People: A Memoir, by Fergal Keane

In a memoir of staggering power and candour, award-winning journalist Fergal Keane addresses his experience of wars of different kinds, some very public and others acutely personal. During his years of reporting from the world's most savage and turbulent regions, Keane has witnessed the violence of the South African townships and the terror in Rwanda, the most extreme kinds of human behaviour, the horror of genocide, and the bravery of peacekeepers faced with overwhelming odds. As one of the BBC's leading correspondents, he describes extraordinary encounters on the front lines.

Alongside his often brutal experiences in the field, he also describes unflinchingly the challenges and demons he has faced in his personal life growing up in Ireland. Keane's existence as a war reporter is all that we imagine: frantic filing of reports and dodging shells, interspersed with rest in bombed-out hotels and concrete shelters. Life in such vulnerable areas of the globe is emotionally draining, but full of astonishing moments of camaraderie and human bravery. And so this is also a memoir of human connections, at once simple and complex, which are made in extreme

circumstances. These pages are filled with the memories of remarkable people. At the heart of Keane's story is a descent into and recovery from alcoholism, spanning two generations, father and son—a different kind of war, but as much part of the journey of the last 25 years as the bullets and bombs.

Irish Slang

Banjaxed - Broken or unusable, usually by result of violent damage. Examples of usage:

- ♣ “The microwave has been banjaxed ever since me husband put his pewter mug in there trying to make a hot whiskey.”
- ♣ “Nice one there with the spilled coffee, Jock - now me computer's banjaxed!”

Gas - A person or thing that is astonishing or entertaining. While it's not unheard of to hear someone use this word in the States to mean “entertaining,” it is pretty old-timey. Here in Ireland this word is used frequently when someone is amazed (“You really work as an astronaut? That's gas!”). But mostly it's used in conjunction with the slang term *craic* to indicate that the *craic* was at an almost mind-blowingly good level. That's right, when you've been in Ireland long enough, you too can speak the phrase “gas craic” and not think of flatulence.

The Music Rack



The New De Dannan Band

The official launch of the new De Dannan band will take place at an exclusive concert at the 2200-seat Royal Theatre & Events Centre in Castlebar on August 5th during *The World Fleadh* festival, where many of the former members of the band will come together with the new members for a celebration of the band's history.

Former members of De Dannan Dolores Keane, Mary Black, and Máirtín O Connor have confirmed that

they will join Frankie Gavin with the new line-up for this unique celebration. The new De Dannan line-up will be led by original De Dannan member Frankie Gavin on fiddle, flutes, and whistles; Michelle Lally on vocals; Damien Mullane on accordion; Mike Galvin on bouzouki and guitars; and Eric Cunningham on percussion, flutes, and whistles.

Frankie Gavin, who himself has performed with a whole host of musical luminaries, from Stéphane Grappelli to the Rolling Stones, said of the launch of the new De Dannan: “This is a very exciting time in the life of De Dannan. The band has in the past been responsible for launching the careers of many of Ireland's best-known traditional performers, who are now enjoying successful solo careers. Following a period where a De Dannan unit was no longer actively performing, I believe it's time now to write a new chapter in the De Dannan story. I have put together a team of musicians to form the new De Dannan, who are tremendously talented performers and who I know will restore the De Dannan name and sound to its former glory. We have also at the same time developed our own approach, which will reflect a De Dannan of the 21st century.”

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De Dannan will be joined on August 5th and at a selection of other performances by a new act known as “Women of Ireland,” which includes some of Ireland’s finest female performers. The group have just finished a three-month tour of the USA with Frankie and the Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra. Part of the band’s immediate performance plans will include a residency at Ireland’s National Event Centre in Killarney during July and August, while performances are already planned in the future for Carnegie Hall, Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi, and the Hollywood Bowl, in addition to various festivals world wide. A new De Dannan album featuring the new De Dannan line-up with special guests is also due for release on August 5th.

I couldn’t resist including this story by my old friend Beverley Whelan, which may or may not accurately portray Frankie Gavin’s artistry:

A fiddle player called Pat died and went up to heaven. He was delighted to get there, as lots of his favourite musicians he’d always wanted to play music with (Michael Coleman and others) had got there before him. So off he went, playing in sessions all day and night and the Guinness was flowing. One late night Pat was walking home after the session with St. Peter (a mean harp player himself, as you’d expect), when he heard a lone fiddler playing. The sound seemed to be coming from a darkened room, and peering inside he saw a lonely figure in the shadows in the far corner, who obviously by his body language wanted to be left alone. The fiddle playing was unmistakable—this could only be Frankie Gavin! Pat turned to St. Peter and said, “I didn’t know that Frankie Gavin was dead! When did he get here?” St. Peter shrugged and said, “No, he’s not dead. That’s not Frankie Gavin.” Pat was incredulous. The playing was unmistakable. “You’re pulling my leg!” he said. “I’d know that playing anywhere. And apart from that, who else would want to play all alone up here? That’s Frankie Gavin all right!” “No, it’s not,” replied Pete. “All right then, who is it?” asked Pat, unconvinced. “It’s God,” replied St. Peter. “He just thinks he’s Frankie Gavin.”

Famous Sons and Daughters of Erin



Sean Lemass was Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland from 1959 to 1966. He is regarded by many historians as the greatest of all political leaders of Ireland and is credited with laying the foundations of modern economic success in Ireland.

Born in Dublin in 1899, Lemass was a veteran of the Easter Rising in 1916. He fought in the War of Independence and was imprisoned in Ballykinlar in Co. Down for a year. He opposed the Anglo-Irish Treaty and fought against the Michael Collins Free State in the subsequent Civil War. He was among the rebels who occupied the Four Courts, which were famously bombed by the Free State forces. He was again interned in Mountjoy and the Curragh.

He was first elected to the Irish parliament in 1924 as member of Sinn Fein and was re-elected from his Dublin South constituency at every election that followed, up until his retirement in 1969. With Eammon DeValera, he was a founding member of the new Fianna Fail party in 1926, which had abandoned armed struggle in favour of using political means to achieve its goals. He served as Minister for Commerce, Minister for Supplies, and finally as Tanaiste (Deputy-Taoiseach) before being elected leader in 1959.

His dealings in economic matters on behalf of the State were to serve him well. Ireland during the 1950s and 1960s was an economic wasteland with little industry and huge emigration. Lemass worked incessantly to develop industry and trade. His Programme for Economic Development saw the creation of *Bord na Mona*, *Aer Lingus*, and the Irish shipping industry. He worked to develop and expand the tourist industry, to extend the supply of electricity countrywide, to develop the sugar industry, and a myriad of other schemes and developments.

Irish society was changing at a rapid pace, with RTE being set up in 1961. The old conservatism was being challenged as never before. Ireland had applied for membership in the EEC and was becoming part of the wider modern European society. Lemass favoured an attitude of co-operation with the new political entity that was Northern Ireland. In 1965 he became the first Irish leader to visit Stormont for talks with Prime Minister Terence O’Neill. The subsequent controversy as well as his failing health may have convinced him that it was

time to step down. He retired as Taoiseach in 1966 and eventually retired from politics in 1969. He died in 1971.

The Site



The Four Provinces of Ireland

Connaught is the westernmost province of Ireland. In the modern era, the spelling changed to Connacht. This province has a population of approximately 424,000 today, and contains the counties of Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, and Sligo. These county names have remained the same since the Middle Ages.

Leinster is in the southeast of Ireland, and is the most populous of the four provinces, with approximately 1,500,000 people. This province contains the counties of Carlow, Dublin, Kilkenny, Laois (formerly Leix), Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wexford, and Wicklow. These divisions have remained the same from the Middle Ages to the present.

Ancient Ulster: The northern region of Ulster was an ancient kingdom, and one of the four historic Provinces of Ireland. The region was mostly annexed by the English Crown during the reign of James I (1603-1625). In the Middle Ages, the Province of Ulster contained the counties of Donegal, Derry, Antrim, Down, Armagh, Cavan, Monaghan, Fermanagh, and Tyrone.

Today's Ulster: The Province of Ulster is now divided between The Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland, which is often referred to as Ulster. Northern Ireland is a political division of the United Kingdom; it is made up of the counties Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Derry, and Tyrone.

Munster is the southernmost of the four Irish provinces. As of 2006, it has a population of 1,172,170 people, and contains the counties of Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, and Waterford. These districts have remained unchanged since the Middle Ages. Cork is the largest city with a population of 190,384 (2006). In the 2006 census, Limerick had a population of 90,757 and Waterford had a population of 49,213.

And to conclude:

Mick and Paddy are fishing one day. Almost silently, so as not to scare the fish, Mick says, "I think I'm gonna divorce my wife. She hasn't spoken to me in over two months." Paddy continues slowly sipping his beer then thoughtfully says, "You better think it over, Mick. Women like that are hard to find."

Paddy and his wife are lying in bed and the neighbour's dog is barking like mad in the garden. Paddy says, "To hell with this!" and storms off. He comes back upstairs five minutes later and his wife asks, "What did you do?" Paddy replies, "I've put the dog in our garden; let's see how they like it!"

Paddy is said to be shocked at finding out all his cows have Bluetongue. "Be Jeysus!" he says, "I didn't even know they had mobile phones!"

Well that's all folks! Until the next time, "Keep the faith"!

Tom Quinn

Culture All Around

Dance Classes:

- ♣ **McTeggart School Irish Step Dancing.** Saturdays, 8 AM to 1 PM at the Lloyd Shaw Dance Center, 5506 Coal SE. Call 866-5867 for information or visit our web site at www.irishdancenm.org.
- ♣ **Tir Conaill Irish Dance Academy,** Saturdays at The Elite Dance Studio, 701 Osuna. Call 379-3753 or visit www.tirconaillacademy.com for further information.
- ♣ **Ceili dance classes** are held every Wednesday at the GAC at 7:30 PM, \$2.00. No experience necessary! Call Norita Callahan at 298-2708.



Special Míni Ceilís

(friendly gatherings with live music and dance)
will be held on the first Wednesday of each month.

- ♣ **Scottish Country Dancing,** Friday nights, 7:30 PM, at the Friends Meeting Hall (corner 5th and Bellamah, N.W.) First class free; \$5 per lesson after. Call Marcy 237-9039 for info.

Celtic Jam Session at Page One Bookstore (Juan Tabo and Montgomery):

Every Thursday, 6:45 to 8:45 PM. Admission free. Everyone invited! For info, contact Chuck Butler (chuckjacobbutler@msn.com)

Celtic Music at O'Niell's:

Music every Sunday from 4 to 7 PM at the new O'Niell's, 4310 Central Ave SE (Corner of Central & Washington in East Nob Hill). For more info, visit <http://www.oniells.com/>

Celtic Music at Two Fools Tavern:

Celtic jam on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of each month, from 11 AM to 2 PM. Two Fools is located at 3211 Central NE (www.twofoolstavern-nm.com). For jam info, contact Chuck Butler at 293-1421 (chuckjacobbutler@msn.com). For all the news about what's going on at Two Fools, visit www.2foolstavern.com/blog, where you can read their monthly newsletter.

Celtic Music on the Radio and the Web

- ♣ **The Thistle and Shamrock** program, featuring Fiona Ritchie, airs on KANW 89.1 FM, Mondays at 10:00 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.)

- ♣ **Irish Music on the Web, All the Time**

<http://www.midwestirishradio.com/> Midwestirishradio.com is a brand new, fully dedicated Irish Radio service available on the net.



Celtic Connections: For general information about Celtic events going on around the West, visit <http://www.celticconnection.com/>. Food, humor, books, sports, history and much more!

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The Next Chapter

Celtic, Folk, Bluegrass, Original music on a variety of instruments, including vocals.
Contact: Jeanne Page (553-8205)

Emily Anslover

Young fiddle player
Contact: father, Frank Anslover (296-6484)

Brad Fitzgerald

Singer, guitar, and banjo (Celtic and folk)
Contact: Brad Fitzgerald (869-1527)

Three Leaf Shamrock

Irish, Scottish, Welsh (no English!)
Contact: Jack Russell (830-6924)

Shennanigans

Celtic and American Folk with a twist, variety of instruments and vocals. Contact: Kathy Wimmer (293-6403)

Gerry Carthy

Musician and singer from Ireland
Contact: Gerry Carthy 505-424-1942 (Santa Fe)

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chuckjacobbutler@msn.com

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Contact: Ron Trellue (292-7369) or Terry Axline (293-8924) taxline@cabq.gov.

Michele Buchanan and Shanachie Harpers

Michele's Harp
765-1288 (buchanan@cybermesa.com)

Celtic Coyotes

Traditional music from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and Brittany. Contact: Doug Cowan
celticcoyotes@yahoo.com (710-0583).

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Calendar of Events

IAS/IHC Events

Date	Day	What
September 11	Friday	<i>IAS Monthly Meeting and Program</i> , 7 PM at the GAC. Musical performance by the <i>Celtic Coyotes</i> .
September 20	Sunday	<i>IAS/St. Andrew Scottish Society Annual Picnic</i> , Elena Gallegos Picnic Area. Details in the September newsletter.

Celtic/GAC Events

August 1	Saturday	<i>Luau at the GAC</i> with music by Swingshift. \$7 at the door for members and guests; \$10 for dinner (Asian-Pacific Islander Buffet) Call 888-4833.
September 26	Saturday	<i>Celts for the Hungry</i> , a fundraiser for the Roadrunner Food Bank, presented by the Thistle Society of New Mexico, in Santa Fe. They are currently looking for sponsors, vendors, and advertisers. For more info, contact Lee Peters at petelee_1@yahoo.com (505-980-3265).

Come out to

Celts for the hungry

A Festival Concert of Music and Dance
Benefiting Roadrunner Food Bank
 at

St. Stephens United Methodist Church
 4601 Juan Tabo NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87111

26 September, 2009
 10:00AM- 4:00PM
 doors open at 9:30AM

Admission:
 \$10.00 at the door,
 Children 5- 12 \$7.00 (under 5 free)

Advance tickets at
www.thistlesociety.com
 \$7.00 all ages

The Ronald McDonald House Fundraiser Project

We are still collecting the **pull-tabs** for the Ronald McDonald House here in Albuquerque (managed by IAS member Sharon Nolen). Recent, huge baggie donations were received from Caroline, Lottie, Art & Pat, Jan and Eunice – THANK!

IAS members, please save the **pull-tabs** (any aluminum pull-tabs, from soup, cat/dog food, etc.) and bring them to meetings in a baggie or grocery bag. I'll take them to the collection area.

Norita



The Welsh Society of New Mexico and The Welsh Choir
 Invite everyone of Welsh ancestry and anyone interested in the Welsh Culture or Language to contact us for information

Patsy Gregory, 505-243-3174, email: chilton@unme.edu

Rhianwen Gerard, 505-344-6539, email: pwtback@aol.com

Gabrielle Rosen, 505-232-2024, email: gabriellerosen@gmail.com



**The Irish-American Society
of New Mexico**

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Irish-American Society of Albuquerque, NM

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Would you like to receive the IAS newsletter electronically? _____