



IRISH TIMES

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

505-821-5422

JANUARY 2009

Next Event: Friday, January 9th, 7 PM

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).

Brought Back by Popular Demand: *Fonn Sona!*

To help us kick off our 2009 membership year, the talented musicians of *Fonn Sona* ("Happy Melody" in Irish) will once again entertain us with their delightful Celtic music.

Band members include Chuck Butler on bodhran and some vocals; John Green on vocals, guitar, and banjo; Cleve Sharp on flute and backup vocals; Dee Meier on vocals, bodhran, whistles, and shakers; and Nikelle Gessner on fiddle.



**We hope to see you there and we hope that you will bring a sweet or salty snack to share!
And also: Please (if you can) bring a blanket to help the homeless this winter.**

Membership Chair Norita Callahan would like to remind all members that we voted last year to change our membership year to January – December, which means that **your dues for 2009 are due!**

The 2009 membership year begins on January 1, 2009, ends 12/31/2009. If your member card shows 2009 on the bottom right side, then you are good 'til next December.

Please fill out the renewal form in this January *Irish Times* (last page) and mail with your check to: IAS, PO BOX 13435, Albuquerque, NM, 87192-3435.

Thank you in advance - FILL that IAS PO Box!!!!!!!!!! ☺

Norita
298-2708 (noraabq@yahoo.com)

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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.



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). You can also put a "click-through" ad on the web site of the IAS (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com) at no extra charge. To put your ad online, contact Webmaster Ken Callahan (kecabq@yahoo.com).



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President's Message

Dear IAS Members,

Thank you for allowing me the privileged experience of trying the president role. I am grateful to have Ken Callahan continuing on the board as past president. Ken and his wife Norita have provided the consistency and dedication to keep the IAS alive and kicking. I am also grateful to have the current board to work together with as we plan the activities for 2009. Please mark your calendars and meet your new board at the year's first meeting on January 9th.

Thank you to all the members who donated food for the food drive, sweets for the cake walk, contributions for the potluck, and silent auction/raffle items for the Christmas Party. The generosity of IAS guests and members was overwhelming and the holiday spirit was very noticeably alive.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the IAS community. I have lived in New Mexico for 30 years. I moved from Illinois to escape the cold, be near the mountains, and work as a Special Education teacher. Through professional experiences I transitioned to counseling and currently work at Grant Middle School as a school counselor. I also work at Lovelace Health Systems completing Behavioral Health Evaluations and continue doing some consultant work with developmentally disabled children and adolescents. I am the mother of five sons, ages 28 to 11, and my 23-year-old son is currently in basic training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina for the army reserves. I initially became involved with the IAS through the Children's Friendship Project and sponsored two teens from Northern Ireland. I was so grateful to be part of the experience and I later helped out the last two years of the project. I have been the chair person for the Emerald Ball the past two years and have done some other small fund raisers for the future Irish Heritage Center that we continue to have dreams of building some day.

My Irish roots are from Cork and Limerick. I was able to visit Ireland about six years ago and had a great time, even attending the 21st birthday of one of the Irish teens I hosted. I look forward to a prosperous 2009 and hope we all enjoy the Irish-American Society events and together promote membership.

Happy 2009 to all!!!

Kate Nash

Céad Mile Fáilte

A 100,000 welcomes to our newest member: John Brinduse, Gina Marie Cortopassi, and Chuck Gray

As of December 14th, the Irish American Society has 121 family members (times 2) and 131 single members. This is a total of 373 members for the 2008 membership year.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2009.



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noraabq@yahoo.com
298-2708

IAS Treasurer's Report – November, 2008

Cathy Lybrand, Treasurer

Category	Income	Category	Expenses
Membership Dues	140.00	Donation to Roadrunner Food Bank	100.00
IAS Sales	15.00	Print Express	294.70
Newsletter Ad	60.00	GAC – Halloween Band	33.00
		Honorarium	100.00
		IAS Family Picnic	98.46
Total Income	215.00	Total Expenses	626.16
	November 1	Beginning Balance	5407.85
		Income	215.00
		Expenses	626.16
	November 30	Ending Balance	4996.69

A Pint of Heresy

By IAS member and musician John Conoboy



I love beer and I spent a lot of time in the Irish pubs on my 2008 trip. In 1972, there were pretty much three choices for beer in Ireland: Guinness, Harp, and Smithwicks. But Ireland is coming of age. In Galway, we found The Salt House, a quite friendly bar with a large number of beers from around the world in bottles and on tap, including Galway Hooker, a pale ale that is brewed locally but found only in select pubs. Unfortunately, you can also now find tasteless beers like Budweiser and Miller in many pubs.

Back in Dublin we went to two brewpubs. Messrs. Maguire brews several fine beers and as an added bonus, their beers cost only 4 euro. Better still is Porterhouse, which brews at least nine beers. I especially liked An Brain Blásta, a strong ale with 7% alcohol. They also have a stout called Wrassler's XXXX, which puts Guinness to shame. It is based on a stout once made by Wrasslers in Clonakilty and said to be a favorite of Michael Collins.

And let's be honest here. Guinness is now owned by Diageo, a major conglomerate, and is no longer an Irish-owned company. In my opinion, Guinness ain't what it used to be. Like American beers, it seems to be aiming for the broadest audience—unless you can get the Guinness brewed for Nigeria, which is stronger and has more taste.

It is commonly believed that the Guinness in Ireland is better than what we get here in the states. It doesn't travel well, it is said. But it does not need to as there are 50 breweries worldwide that make Guinness. At the Cobblestone Bar, someone said to me that they thought the Guinness in that pub was especially good. I thought it tasted just like all the Guinness I have had in recent year—just like the Guinness I had at Two Fools Tavern a few days after returning from Ireland. Made by a large corporation, it is brewed to exacting standards

of mediocrity so as to not offend the common beer drinker. It is a tradition and people will still drink it. It is OK and even I will get one sometimes, but if you really want to try good stout and ale go to brewpubs, and if you get to Dublin, try a Guinness and then go to Porterhouse and have a Wrasslers XXXX and see if you don't agree with me.

New Mexico McTeggarts *Oireachtas* Results

By Bev Coleman

With much appreciated financial assistance from the Irish-American Society, the New Mexico branch of the McTeggart School of Irish Dance was able to send a team of dancers to the Western Region *Oireachtas* this year. The event was held in Phoenix over the November 21 – 24 weekend. The dancers had been working hard on their figure, The Cross Reel, for some time. It was a fierce competition, as all were hoping to place high enough to qualify to dance at the World Irish Dance competition in 2009, the first time it will take place in the USA. That goal wasn't quite reached, but the girls danced very well and were proud of their performance.

We also had eight dancers participating in solo competitions. After the first and second rounds, half of the girls were recalled to dance in the third round, the set dance. In the final announced results, Danielle Meier placed 51st of 108 dancers in the Girls Under 14




competition, Sandra Sullivan placed 14th of 111 dancers in the Girls Under 16 competition, Kim Coleman placed 12th of 48 dancers in the Girls 20 and over competition, and Emily Snell placed 4th of 51 dancers in the Girls Under 18 competition. Additionally, Sandra, Kim and Emily earned the right to compete at the World Competition this coming April, and all three are planning on representing us in Philadelphia. Congratulations and great work ladies!


The McTeggart School is one of the largest and most renowned Irish dance schools in the United States with schools in Alaska, Colorado, Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kentucky, California,

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Arizona, and New Mexico. We have been holding classes at the Lloyd Shaw Studio in Albuquerque for over ten years and have consistently been represented at the Western Region Oireachtas, the All Ireland Nationals, the North American Nationals, as well as the World Irish Dance competitions and the European Nationals. The school is always taking new dancers and holds classes in Albuquerque on Saturday mornings, and Socorro on Friday afternoons. Classes will soon be starting in Rio Rancho and Santa Fe. Any interested dancers ages 5 through 95 may call to inquire at 866-5867. Our annual New Mexico State Championships and will be held this coming February 28 at the Radisson Hotel on Carlisle; admission is free.

The Reel Thing

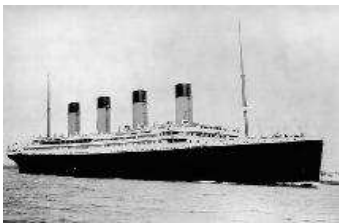
By Tom Quinn (The Dancer)



Céad míle fáilte from Dundalk!

Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit! (A prosperous New Year!)

News and Notes from Ireland



A Titanic-themed tourist attraction and a rapid transit transport system are to be built in Belfast as part of a £250m (\$384m) investment. The £100m (\$154m) Titanic Signature project will be located on the same site on which the famous White Star Line vessel was built almost 100 years ago by Harland and Wolff shipyard workers. The £150m (\$230m) transport route will run from the east to the west of the city and so link two areas traditionally divided on religious grounds. It is

hoped the five-storey Titanic centre will be open to the public ahead of the centenary of the boat's sinking in April 1912. The attraction will also incorporate conference facilities, and is expected to see 800,000 users a year and generate £46m (\$71m) annually for the local economy.

The Department of Agriculture and the Food Safety Authority have launched an investigation into the discovery of contaminated animal feed. It follows the discovery of toxic pollutants in pork fat. A number of farms are now under restriction by the Department of Agriculture. Animals on the farms will not be allowed to enter the food chain unless they are shown to be free of the contaminant. The problem was identified during routine monitoring of the food chain for a range of contaminants. All Irish pork products are continuing to be recalled across the country after a toxin was found in pig food. A total of 47 farms are affected in the alert, including 38 beef farms. The withdrawal is backdated to September 1 but does not include beef. The Irish Farmers Association said it is devastating to pig farmers, who could lose millions of euro in the run-up to Christmas. The Irish Association of Pigmear Processors (IAPP) stressed that output from these farms represents less than 10% of Irish pigmeat production and the decision by the authorities to initiate a full recall of pigmeat products from September 1 is a "comprehensive precautionary step." The Irish pigmeat sector is a major industry sector with a turnover value of €500m (\$644m) and a strong international reputation for quality products. An estimated €125m (\$160m) worth of Irish pork and bacon products will have to be destroyed following the confirmation over the weekend that feed made by a leading supplier has been contaminated with dioxins. Chief medical officer Dr. Tony Holohan said some types of dioxins can cause cancer, but stressed that would only happen after prolonged exposure to higher levels. Toxic substances found in pork products will have no harmful effects, health experts have said. "It's like smoking a cigarette. If you smoke one cigarette you're unlikely to get cancer but if you smoke 20 cigarettes every day of your life by the time you're 50 or 60 you have a high risk of getting cancer." The levels of contamination are 80 to 200 times above the acceptable maximum.

Visitors to a famous loyalist heartland in Belfast can now claim they've been there, done that and, quite literally, bought the T-shirt. The Shankill Road launched its own range of branded clothing goods today to tap into the area's growing popularity among tourists. As well as T-shirts, visitors who travel to see the vast array of painted murals from the Troubles era can pick up caps, sweatshirts, and a range of other merchandise all with a Shankill logo emblazoned across them. The "Shankill – Original Belfast since 455 AD" brand name harks back to the first Christian settlement in the area in the 5th Century. Then it was referred to as *Sean Cill*, which meant old church.

Business Signs:

- On the washing machine in the local laundrette: When the light goes out, please remove all your clothes.
- On the nearby shop window: We can repair ANYTHING. P.S. Please knock hard on the door as the bell doesn't work!

New Years Eve Traditions and Superstitions

Ireland is renowned for traditions and superstitions, many of which have surrounded the New Year's celebrations. Long ago in Ireland it was customary to begin a new year with a clean house, so houses were thoroughly cleaned as it was thought that a spotless house was a good omen for the year ahead. Even after all the Christmas festivities, the Irish liked to have their houses full of provisions and the cellar filled with coals on New Year's Eve. This was done in the hope that the coming year would be equally as plentiful. The family sat around the table and if they ate a very large supper they would have plenty of food for the coming year and they counted in the New Year together.



New Year's Eve was also considered a day of great danger for it was when the spirits of the dead returned to earth. It was believed the spirits could do harm unless precautions were taken. The Celtic priests went into the woods on New Year's Eve to gather bunches of mistletoe, which they handed out to people to protect them from any harm. Also bonfires and firecrackers were lit to drive away evil forces. They also believed that it was safer to stay indoors as fairies were abroad on New Year's Eve. Irish spinsters and young girls used to put sprigs of mistletoe, holly and ivy leaves under their pillows so that they would get a dream of their future husbands. They might also chant:

"Oh, ivy green and holly red,
Tell me, tell me whom I shall wed!"

In Ireland in the west, the direction of the wind blowing at New Year's would indicate the trend of politics in the coming year. If it blew from the west, it would flourish; if from the east, the English would have the upper hand. Another custom that was practiced on New Year's Eve was to take a large loaf of Christmas bread or cake outside the house and hammer it against the closed doors and windows. This was done so as to drive out any misfortune and let happiness in. The Druids gave a gift of twigs from the mistletoe, as this was a plant that was sacred to them as a magic source of fertility. It would bestow on the recipient a fruitful year in the number of children, as well as the amount of cattle and the amount of crop.

In the olden days, on New Year's night they'd remember those in the family who'd passed on the year before. They did this by setting a place at the table and leaving the door unlatched. Thankfully for most, the only spirits that passed through the door were the ones that came in a bottle! Who would be the first person to pass over the threshold of your home in the New Year? If it was a tall dark and handsome man, it was said to bring luck, but how they prayed that it wouldn't be a young red haired girl who'd bring nothing but hardship and grief! At midnight there is tradition to enter the house from the front door and exit from the back door for good luck.

If you are in Ireland for New Year's Eve why not make your way to the beautiful Achill Island off the coast of County Mayo as this is the best place to watch the last sunset of the year fall over Europe. Watch the sun go down from Minaun Heights and afterwards enjoy the pipe bands playing in the village at midnight. After a hard night's celebrating, you can take a dip in the ice-cold waters of the Atlantic and join in the traditional New Year's Day swim, which takes place on Silver Strand at around 1 PM. Be it watching the first dawn break of the forthcoming year at the clasp coastal mountain, or at the serene tranquility of a chic restaurant, or be it amidst the foot tapping at the dance floor, the magic of the New Year is greeted by the Irish people with immense verve and passion every year.

The Music Rack



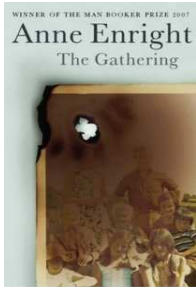
Twenty years after emerging with the landmark "Watermark" album, Enya released her seventh studio album, "And Winter Came . . .," November 7th, on Warner Bros. Records. "And Winter Came . . ." is the latest installment in a phenomenally successful career that has encompassed 70 million album sales and four Grammy awards. Two years in the making, "And Winter Came . . ." was recorded at Aigle Studios near Dublin. Once again the result of Enya's longstanding creative triumvirate alongside producer Nicky Ryan and lyricist Roma Ryan, "And Winter Came . . ." was originally envisioned as a Christmas-themed album. As recording progressed, it became apparent that a broader seasonal theme had emerged; beguiling songs such "Trains and Winter Rains" sit comfortably alongside the festive "Journey of the Angels."

Each of Enya's albums since "Watermark" has been a multi-million selling release: "Shepherd Moons," "The Memory of Trees," "A Day Without Rain," "Amarantine," and the compilation "Paint The Sky With Stars" have all ensured that Enya is one of the world's biggest selling female solo artists. "A Day Without Rain" earned multi-platinum status in ten countries and made Enya the world's biggest selling artist in 2001. Enya's musical creativity has also yielded continued recognition from a number of the world's most authoritative awards organizations. She has collected four Grammy Awards, winning Best New Age Album for "Shepherd Moons," "The Memory of Trees," "A Day Without Rain," and "Amarantine," as well as three World Music Awards in 2002 for Best Selling Female Artist, Best Selling Irish Artist, and Best Selling New Age Artist. Enya has also earned an Oscar nomination for Best Song Written For A Motion Picture, both in conjunction with her musical partners Nicky and Roma Ryan for the song "May It Be," which was written and recorded for "Lord Of The Rings – The Fellowship of The Ring" at the personal request of director Peter Jackson. "May It Be" also won the Los Angeles Film Critics Association award for Best Song and was nominated for a Hollywood Golden Globe Award.

A Few Quickies:

- Is dancing cheek to cheek a form of floor play?
- Is a living will a dead give away?
- If you don't pay the exorcist, dose he repossess you?
- Will those too big for their britches be exposed?
- Sign outside a Church: "The door to heavenly peace is through faith in Jesus Christ." Beneath it was a smaller sign, "This door is locked. Try the side entrance!"

The Bookshelf



The Gathering by Anne Enright

The nine surviving children of the Hegarty clan gather in Dublin for the wake of their wayward brother Liam. It wasn't the drink that killed him (although that certainly helped) it was what happened to him as a boy in his grandmother's house, in the winter of 1968. His sister, Veronica, was there then, as she is now: keeping the dead man company, just for another little while. *The Gathering* is a family epic, condensed and clarified through the remarkable lens of Anne Enright's unblinking eye. It is also a sexual history, tracing the line of hurt and redemption through three generations—starting with the grandmother, Ada Merriman—showing how memories warp and family secrets fester. This is a novel about love and disappointment, about thwarted lust and limitless desire, and how our fate is written in the body, not in the stars. Anne Enright was born in Dublin, where she now lives and works. *The Gathering* won the 2007 Man Booker Prize.

The Site



Ballymacdermot (*Bhaile Mhic Dhiannada*, McDermot's town land) is a low mountain to the east of Slieve Gullion. Located on a level terrace on the southeastern slopes of the mountain is a well-preserved court tomb known as Ballymacdermot Cairn. From this site panoramic views over the plain of Meigh, Slieve Gullion, and the ring dyke hills to the south can be enjoyed, a phenomenon that surely did not escape the early farming communities who built it over 6,000 years ago.

Locally known as "The Cashla," it is also spoken of as "The Graves," and "The Fairy Ring," and is reputed to be haunted. A wedge-shaped cairn encloses the tomb, which is entered through a semicircular forecourt and a small antechamber. The tomb contains two stone-lined burial chambers which were once covered by "large roofing stones," some of which still survive. Traces of the perimeter kerb are visible at the back and sides of the monument, but only rock outcrops to the front.

Ballymacdermot Cairn has been investigated at various times in its history. In the nineteenth century it was opened by treasure seekers, including John Bell of Killeavy Castle, who unearthed an urn containing pulverized bone in one of the chambers. Bell, writing in *The Newry Magazine* in 1816, described the chambered cairn of Ballymacdermot as a *tamlachta* or cairn.

More recently, during the Second World War, some of the facade stones were thrown down and broken by the American Army on tank maneuvers. In 1962 the cairn was excavated and shreds of pottery and worked flints were recovered, but owing to the acidic nature of the soil, only a few fragments of cremated bone were found. After excavation the site was conserved, with fallen stones re-erected and broken ones repaired. Folklorist George Paterson recorded the following about a man who tried to destroy the tomb: "Sur' he saw no hurt in the breakin' of it. But he never lived t' finish it."

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For hundreds of years it has been there, maybe indeed since the beginning of time. Ancient Ballymacdermot was the property of the O'Hanlon family, but during the Plantation of Ulster (1593 -1603), it was granted by Queen Elizabeth I to Sir Marauder Whitechurch, who died in May of 1635. His granddaughter, Eleanor Symonds, carried this townland into the Seaver family through her marriage to Nicholas Seaver of Ballyaghy, Co. Armagh. Nicholas was the great-grandfather of Jonathan Seaver, one of the larger landlords in the area (and known locally as "Seaver of the Bog").

Ballymacdermot Cairn has seen many changes of land ownership and survived frequent attacks from greedy treasure seekers. Against all odds, it still stands today, watching over this unique landscape, protected surely by the "little people." (Sources: Collins A.E.P. & Wilson B.C.S., VJA 27, 1964, 3-22.)

And to conclude:

Have a drink on me; raise your glass for a toast . . .

Go mbeire muid beo ar an am seo arís. (May we be alive at this time next year.)



Well that's all folks. In the New Year, may your right hand always be stretched out in friendship but never in want. Wishing one and all a prosperous New Year. May the roof above you never fall in, and those gathered beneath it never fall out. Until the next time, "Keep the faith."

Tom Quinn

In The Quiet Land (Part One): How We Entered This Fair Place

By IAS member Bill Nevins 11/25/2008

*"In this life,
In this life,
In this oh sweet life!
We're comin' in from the cold."
—Bob Marley*

*"That's why Bob Marley sings
Those Gaelic melodies."
—Larry Kirwan, "History of Ireland Part 1"*

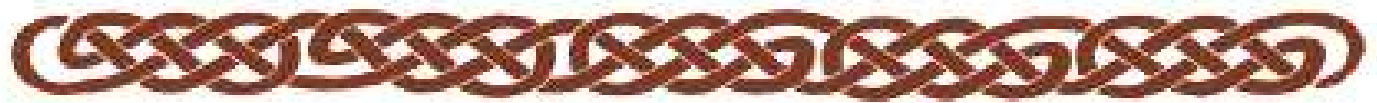
*Oh my heart is weary all alone
And it sends a lonely cry
To the land that sings beyond my dreams
And the lonely Sundays pass me by*
--from a Gaelic poem composed in exile by the
Antrim poet Mac Ambróis

Anna Kiley was farm-born in the County Tipp
long after famine horrors
were her granny's quiet
turf fire tales,
and the Irish tongue was spoken
only by unread insular
backward minded

country folk.
She
herself was the ninth of nine
and more likely than not
not all that much needed
in Cahir
and
having finished school
she likely
wanted more
of life's wonder
so
anyway
she did
leave home, family
Irish history
parish turf and hearth--
I'll never know precisely why,
economic depression no doubt a factor
as it oft is--
to ship with thousands for Amerikay's
eastcoast city lights
in the nineties gay
of the century before
the one
before
this one we're in
and there
she

married a fine Prussian man
 Wilhelm Igel
 perhaps a mercenary soldier
 maybe even a *Von*
 so my old warrior dad said
 glad of the military connotations
 in his maternal line
 on the Yankees' shore
 and her name then was *Igel*
 until the Great War
 when *Eagle* sounded more
 loyally
 proud
 to be
 American
 [though translation would be *hedgheg*,
 alas, Eagle being *Adler* in *Deutsch*]
 and sure it *was--*
 enough so that her own beautiful daughter
 May
 married well
 into the Connecticut cops
 and you can't *get* more Yankeeified than that
 for love nor money
 for all your fine lace curtains
 keepin' the newer immigrants
 Italians Poles 'Ricans Blacks or whatever
 as they might come in
 in order
 and making an honest living
 into the bargain
 and for all that
 still
 getting to Mass
 on Sundays
 long way though it may indeed be from Clare or
 Tipp or Blarney Castle itself
 to here
 now
 can you mister man?
 So
 she and hers
 kept the faith
 down all the years
 through all the jobs
 and tears
 and rosaries said
 and that's what I'll say on that
 and when I was a babe

 in arms
 left with her
 to sit
 and she decades a widow
 but still in her simple
 farm wife's frock
 my parents say
 she picked a fallen
 yet still breathing
 bird of prey from the lawn
 holding it up by the talons
 when they came home
 from shopping in Stamford
 and myself there in the pram
 cooing away
 content as could be
 and she liltin' me
 Molly Malone
 alive alive o
 they horrified
 of course
 yet deferential
 to her age
 and honored link to the old sod
 took the ragged raptor to the local zoo for care
 and convalescence
 and they never saw it again
 nor wanted to
 I'm sure
 and
 she told them without doubt
 that
 it was an *eagle*
 like on the dollar
 and so were we now *Americans!*
 the lot of us
 themselves and
 baby me included
 that day and ever
 for fair
 for fair
 and who would question or doubt Herself
 in this far strange land and shore?
Agus och, och Éire 'lig is óÉire londubh is ó
And the Quiet Land o' Erin



ROBERT BURNS DINNER

an evening of celebrating scotland's native bard

saturday, january 31, 2009

albuquerque marriott pyramid north

5151 san francisco rd n.e.

cocktails: 5:00 p.m.

dinner: 6:30 p.m.

chicken/salmon or
vegetarian strudel

pipers & dancing

songs & poetry

silent auction

highland formal optional

hosted by the st. andrew
scottish society of new mexico

www.nmscots.nm

\$50 adults, \$25 children until dec. 31

\$55 adults, \$30 children after dec 31

contact don baker: 505-301-8990



Culture All Around

Dance Classes:

- ♣ McTeggart School ***Irish Step Dancing***. Saturdays, 10 AM – noon. Call 866-5867.
- ♣ ***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 Mini Ceilís

(friendly gatherings with live music and dance)
will be held on the first Wednesday of each month.
(See the calendar on p.15 for details.)

- ♣ ***Celtic de Santa Fe School of Irish Dancing***. Classes in Santa Fe and Los Alamos. CRN curriculum. Ages 3 and up. Email: cdsf@mac.com or call 505-984-1139. Website: www.celticdestantafe.com
- ♣ ***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 the German-American Club:

Every Thursday, 6:30 to 9 PM. Admission free. Everyone invited! (But be sure to have your IAS membership card with you, especially if you bring a guest.) 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 3:00 to 6:00 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, Sundays at 9:00 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!

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

Canterbury Harps

Play a variety of Celtic and Renaissance music, in costume if requested.

Contact: Laura Hughes 296-8940

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)

Blarneystone

Traditional and contemporary Celtic Music

Contact: Gerry (833-3456) or Andy (247-9867)

Joe Brennan

Highland bagpipes instruction and performance
867-3628

Irish Musician/Instrument Repair

Guitar, bass, and mandolin. Repair and setup of guitar, bass, Appalachian dulcimer, hammer

dulcimer, mandolin, and bouzouki. Contact: Keith Coleman, keith@wckc.us

Colonel Craig Chamberlain

“Tunes of Glory” for funerals and weddings, etc.

Bagpipes (293-2962)

Saoirse (“seer shih,” Irish for “freedom”)

Celtic music from Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, and Galacia, spiced with jazz and world beat.

Contact: IO (268-7303)

Jamie Elizabeth Foster

Soprano available for all events. Contact Jamie at 505-323-1309.

Irish DJ

Over 600 CDs of all varieties of Irish/Celtic music

Contact: Mike Foley 858-1047 (Aulsod@aol.com)

Fonn Sona (“Happy Melody”)

Reels, jigs, waltzes, polkas, etc.

Contact: Chuck Butler (293-1421)

chuckjacobbutler@msn.com

Rye Creek

Folk, Irish, western, and good old mountain music.

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).

Michael and Donna Coy

Celtic, Folk, Bluegrass, International, Cowboy, and Traditional (296-2017)

Calendar of Events

IAS/IHC Events

Date	Day	What
January 6	Tuesday	<i>IAS Board meeting</i> , 7PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
January 9	Friday	<i>IAS Monthly Meeting and Program</i> , 7PM at the GAC. The band <i>Sonn Fona</i> will perform. Please bring a blanket for the homeless.
February 10	Tuesday	<i>IAS Board meeting</i> , 7PM at the GAC. All members are invited to attend.
February 13	Friday	<i>IAS Monthly Meeting and Program</i> , 7PM at the GAC. Program to be announced.

Celtic/GAC Events

Ongoing	Thursdays	<i>Seissun</i> (Irish music jam), every Thursday night at the GAC, 6:30 to 9:00 PM. Free admission, all musicians invited to sit in.
January 7	Wednesday	<i>Mini Ceili</i> at the GAC, 7:30 PM, with live music (<i>Five Bucks a Month</i> band). Cost is \$3 per person. For info, contact Norita (298-2708 noraabq@yahoo.com).
January 11	Sunday	<i>Gerry Carthy, well-known traditional singer/musician from Santa Fe</i> (originally from Co. Mayo) will entertain at Zinc Wine Bar & Bistro, 3009 Central Ave NE for Sunday Brunch, 11AM – 2PM. (Also appearing on February 1 and March 22.
January 31	Saturday	<i>St. Andrew Scottish Society Annual Robert Burns Dinner</i> at the Marriott Pyramid North, cocktails 5 PM; Dinner 6:30. (See flyer on p. 12.)
January 31	Saturday	<i>“Rebel” Burns Night Dinner</i> , 6 PM, Masonic Temple on Osuna, \$25 per person. For info or reservations, contact Michele Buchanan (765-1288 buchanan@cybermesa.com).
January – February, 2009		Maura O’Connell joins the <i>Irish Festival Cruise</i> along with Johnny McEvoy, Cherish the Ladies, Tommy Sands, The Matt Cunningham Band, Don Stiffe and more! January 31st-February 7th, 2009 aboard Celebrity’s Summit, departing from San Juan and calling on St. Maarten, Dominica, Grenada, Bonaire, Aruba! Details: http://www.irishtours.com/Cruise.html

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).

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 Irish-American Society
of New Mexico**

P.O. Box 13435
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87192-3435

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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? _____