



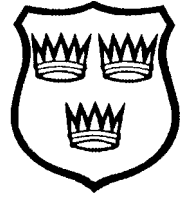
Foras Cultuir Gaeil Aontuighthe

United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.

2700 - 45th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116

Tel: 415-661-2700 Fax: 415-661-8620

E-mail: info@irishcentersf.org www.irishcentersf.org



Volume XLIII No. 12
December 2018

BOARD MESSAGE

A COLLECTIVE LAYER OF INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR CHALLENGES

Anne Cassidy Carew UICC Board Member

As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point in the wrong direction.

On October 26th, the United Irish Cultural Center had its general meeting where about 200 people showed up. During the meeting, we had multiple guests and members stand up and share their opinions and comments. The common questions were: How did we get here?

What is the plan for the future?

How did we get here? —The Center has been around since 1974. It was not just one thing that got us here, it was a collective layer of interior and exterior challenges. Over the years, Boards have gathered data from members, past board members, patrons and consultants. This board analyzed that data and also reviewed recommendations from professional food and beverage advisors. In an attempt to take the Center into the 21st century while honoring the Irish legacy in San Francisco, the board took the input and focused on investing for potential revenue growth, evaluating the infrastructure and current business structure of the Center, examining our restaurant business in SF and reacting to declining membership and an aging building.

INVESTMENTS

Based on recommendations from professionals and input from members we took advice. In the past two years, we invested in a Club Executive Director, who was selected through an extensive hiring process. We invested in an additional restaurant chef to provide an improved dining experience. We invested in a marketing person so that we could now advertise our 501c3 business. With our 501c7 business structure, the Center was dictated by strict IRS revenue guidelines.

MEMBERSHIP

In 2005, a membership questionnaire went out to 4100 members. 902 responses were returned - that's 78% non responsive. In 2009, the membership committee worked again to gather data and information. Only 52% of the charter memberships were still owned by the original purchaser.

2018
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bill Luqué
Vice President

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Treasurer

Maggie Overbay
Secretary

Michael Bowler
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Patricia Hayes
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Rebeca Moran
Peggy Nevin
Caitie O'Shea

In 2018, there were 2100 charter members that were deceased. Along with original membership decline, we have seen a migration of members move out of the area or not have access to the Center. Some of the elder members will not come out at night. Membership dues were voted on by the Board in 2007 and were not implemented until 2013.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUSINESS STRUCTURES

As these investments were taking place, two boards, the 501c3 and the 501c7 were merging. Merging of anything, is never easy. Lawyers and accountants are necessary in reviewing and counseling, making sure we were doing everything legitimately. This too was a necessary investment.

Why did we merge and become a 501c3? As a 501c7, activities were limited to members only and income had to come from membership. As a 501c3, programs and services can be open to all. Tax deductible donations were not allowed as a 501c7. In 2007, the 501c3 became a reality. It has taken the last couple of years for the merging to be complete. Donations are now tax deductible and we are not limited to a (declining) membership to provide revenue and support events. We are now able to ask for support from the Irish Government and grants that support 501c3's.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE BUSINESS IN SF

Again, while all of this is going on, we have a bar, banquet and restaurant business that has seen increases in operational costs, food costs and liquor costs. According to the TOAST TAB BLOG, in an article dated June of 2017, there were "4415 restaurants in San Francisco" and "according to the National Restaurant Association's Restaurant Performance Index, just 30% of restaurant operators reported a same-store sales increase between August 2015 and August 2016, while 53% reported a sales decline." In 2012 the minimum wage was \$10.24 an hour. Today, as of July 2018, in San Francisco, the minimum wage is \$15.00. That equals a 46% increase in hourly wages.

The banquet business at the Center, in general, has decreased for many reasons. The aging facility was recently painted inside and out. However, it still is a 1974 facility. The traditional wedding and event party venue has been traded in for the winery and farmhouse venue. Over the last couple of years on a random Thursday lunch or a Friday dinner the restaurant might have welcomed 20 patrons. The restaurant on those days was still fully staffed to support the operation of a restaurant - with wait staff, cook and kitchen support staff. On our last four days of the bar and restaurant, we served 800 meals. It's unfortunate that it took a closing weekend to see the restaurant packed.

AGING BUILDING

As mentioned above, we have an aging building. Some members look at it fondly with great memories of years gone by. This nostalgia does not sell, when it comes to food, beverage and event business. The reality is that we need some big ticket items like a new roof, an updated HVAC system, new bathroom upgrades and plumbing that would require construction through the kitchen. We also need modernizing with technology/wifi, lighting, and sound systems, just to name a few.

THE SHORT TERM PLAN

When you have an aging building, a declining original membership, a challenging business plan in San Francisco with the highest minimum wage in the country, investments that did not pay off and the merging of two non profits, there is a good chance that it is time for an updated plan.

As a board our number one goal is to keep the doors of the Center open and we know that with that goal comes a list of priorities and a plan.

1. We are in the process of creating a budget for 2019 - evaluating the needs of the Center while we transition.
2. We are working on an efficient business plan that will support the budget.
3. We are in the process of getting quotes for a 2018 year end audit. Based on timelines that have been shared with us, we are hoping to have audit results by March 2019.
4. We are looking at our cultural programming by collaborating with clubs and organizations and increasing the number of people celebrating their Irish Legacy through events, gatherings, and concerts.

5. We are moving forward with a year end fundraising plan to support multiple facets of the reorganization.
6. We are working on growing and expanding our membership.
7. Due to the holiday season and attempting to iron out our priorities and plan for 2019, we have scheduled the next general meeting on January 10th at 7:30 pm in the Saint Francis room.

We have a very valuable mission and the property to support that mission. See what you can do to support the efforts to continue the heritage and legacy of the United Irish Cultural Center.

- Make a donation. There are many ways to support: scholarship program, library program, building improvements, Cultural programs, and the general operational fund.
- Membership 2019 dues, pay them online. Valid through 12/2, receive 1 free ticket to the Christmas concert on 12/9 with a renewed membership.
- Not a member, join the club. Valid through 12/2, receive 1 free ticket to the Christmas concert on 12/9 with a new membership.
- Attend an event at the Center, check out our Facebook and website for updated events in 2019.
Join us for December events: Cork Dinner 12/1, Irish Comhaltas Christmas Ceili 12/2, Irish Concert 12/9, Ulster Club Christmas 12/14, Irish New Year's Eve countdown December 31st starting at 3pm.
- Attend our next scheduled meeting, January 10th, 2019 at 7:30 pm or check our website for updates.

—*Slainte*

United Irish Cultural Center
Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program
~ 2019 marks our 26th year ~

Give a gift of Irish Culture this year by making a tax-deductible donation
to the UICC Scholarship Program,
benefitting 8th Grader and High School Senior finalists entering their next level of education.

Student finalists entering College receive \$1,000

Student finalists entering High School receive \$750

Name the scholarship after your family, a specific family member or beloved friend.
This is a great way to honor your Irish legacy.

Any & All donation amounts will be gladly accepted and are 100% tax deductible

Donate by check, payable to UICC, mail to:

UICC Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program
2700 – 45th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116

Donate with PayPal or Credit Card at:

<https://irishcentersf.org/scholarships/>

For further information email: scholarship@irishcentersf.org

DECEMBER CALENDAR

■ DECEMBER 1, SATURDAY

- Rebel Cork Dinner Dance ~ *See Ad*

■ DECEMBER 2, SUNDAY

- Comhaltas Ceili ~ 7:00pm - 10:00pm

St. Patrick's Room, Stage side

Join in on the music and dance

For info call Josephine Brogan 415-264-8856

■ DECEMBER 8, SATURDAY

- Irish Marvels, Past & Present ~ 2:30pm - 4:30pm

"Bru na Boinne, Celebrating the Winter Solstice"

Presentation by Jo Coffey. UICC, 3rd floor Boardroom

All welcome. \$5 donation appreciated.

Contact Lisa at: hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com

■ DECEMBER 9, SUNDAY

- An Irish Christmas ~ *See Ad*

■ DECEMBER 13 THURSDAY

- IIPC Mass & Luncheon ~ Noon ~ *See Ad*

Contact Joan at the IIPC for reservations and information 415/752-6006

- Comhaltas Set Dancing Class

7:30pm ~ Main Bar area

For info call Josephine Brogan 415-264-8856

■ DECEMBER 20, THURSDAY

- Comhaltas Set Dancing Class

7:30pm ~ Main Bar area

For info call Josephine Brogan 415-264-8856

■ DECEMBER 25, TUESDAY

- The United Irish Cultural Center will be closed

■ DECEMBER 31 MONDAY

- Celebrate New Year's Eve from Ireland!

Ring in the New Year, Ireland time starting at

3:00pm at the Main Bar. Appetizers and music

along with a complimentary glass of champagne to

toast the Irish New Year at 4:00pm. \$20 per person,

kids are free. Reservations are required so please call

the office 415/661-2700.

DEADLINE for JANUARY 2019 BULLETIN is DECEMBER 15

Please call the UICC with questions 415/661-2700

or email: falconassoc@earthlink.net

or call 415/468-4130

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2019!

PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY


**BE THE FIRST PERSON TO TELL US
YOUR FAVORITE STORY ABOUT THE CENTER!**



Starting in December, the UICC History/Heritage Committee will be starting a new project which involves recording the stories of the Center's history as told directly by people who visited over the years or even helped build the Center.

If you would like to help preserve the history of the Center and tell us your story, please contact Valerie by dropping by the library on Thursdays or calling her at 415-661-2700 or emailing her at vtmcgrew@comcast.net.

THE LIBRARY'S HOURS OF OPERATION REMAIN THE SAME
1:30pm to 4:30 pm, Thursday, Friday & Saturday and by appointment.



2018 REBEL CORK ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY DEC 1ST 2018

At the United Irish Cultural Center

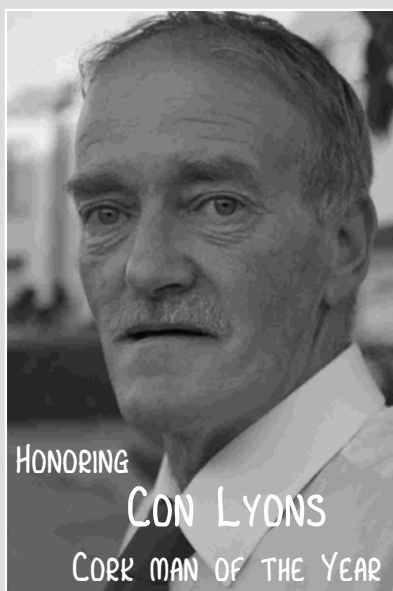
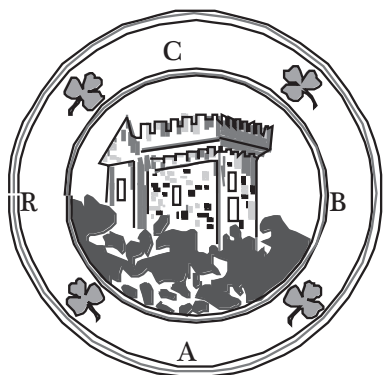
2700 45th Ave, San Francisco

NO HOST COCKTAILS 6.30 PM DINNER 7.30 PM

MUSIC BY: Celtic Scandal

*Filet Mignon/Salmon or
Vegetarian*

Tickets \$75.00 Per Person



HONORING

CON LYONS

CORK MAN OF THE YEAR

For Tickets Please Call

Jimmy Daly
(415) 515-4989

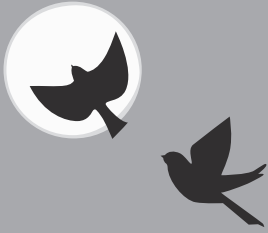
Timmy Manning
(415) 517-7155

Nora Mullane
(415) 664-9195

Valerie McGrew
(415) 672-0375

Catherine Linehan
(415) 566-9711

IRISH IMMIGRATION PASTORAL CENTER PRESENTS



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IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRISH IMMIGRATION PASTORAL CENTER
CELTIC VOICES ADULT AND YOUTH CHOIRS, WITH A HOST OF LOCAL ARTISTS
PRESENT AN EVENING OF THE BEST IN IRISH MUSIC FROM THE PAST 20 YEARS,
INCLUDING CHRISTMAS FAVORITES.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PREPARATORY AUDITORIUM
1100 ELLIS STREET, SAN FRANCISCO



NO HOST REFRESHMENTS
CONCERT

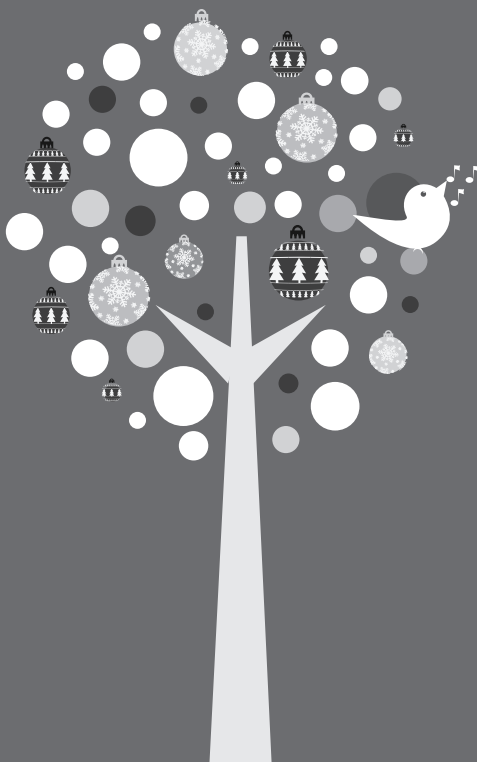
6.15 PM
7.00 PM SHARP

ADULTS: \$20
SENIORS: \$10

CHILDREN: \$5

ADVANCE TICKETS: CELTICVOICESMISTLETOE.EVENTBRITE.COM

ACTIVE RETIREMENT CLUB OUTREACH PROGRAM



Thursday, December 13, 2018

United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco

12.15 p.m. Mass with Christmas Carols

followed by lunch and

A Festive Afternoon Seisiún

Bring your party piece and join us for an afternoon of music, song, recitation, storytelling, and a joke or two as we celebrate the start of the Christmas season with a gathering reminiscent of nights around the fire in Ireland. There may even be a surprise guest appearance!!

Tickets - \$20

ALL WELCOME RSVP NECESSARY to Joan at 415.752.6006

Tel: 415.752.6006 Fax: 415.752.6910 Email: info@sfiipc.org

A Community Outreach Service of the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center of San Francisco
Supported, in part, by the Emigrant Support Programme of the Dept of Foreign Affairs & Trade



Mark your calendar!

AN IRISH CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9
2 PM MATINEE SHOW

https://sfirishcenter.vbotickets.com/event/An_Irish_Christmas_2018/28085

Riverdance principal dancer Caterina Coyne stars in “An Irish Christmas!” Take a journey through Christmas in Ireland with superb dancing, singing and Irish traditional music celebrating the international spirit of the holiday season. An Irish Christmas, features an award-winning cast of Irish dancers led by Caterina Coyne (Principal dancer, Riverdance), World champion dancer Tyler Schwartz and Connor Reider (Principal dancer Celtic Fyre, St. Patrick’s Day in Ireland, The Chieftains), as well as members of the Kerry Dance Troupe, The Kerry Voice Squad and the Kerry Traditional Orchestra in a memorable night that sparkles with the charm and magic that only this festive time of year can bring.

PHIL COULTER CONCERT SUNDAY FEB 10TH, 2019

Phil Coulter & Special Guest Geraldine Brannigan

Phil Coulter is up in that Pantheon inhabited by the biggest selling recording artistes of all time in Ireland, rubbing shoulders with Bono and the Boys. From Derry, Northern Ireland, Phil has performed with everyone from James Galway and the London Symphony Orchestra to Nanci Griffith and The Blue Moon Orchestra, not to mention Henry Mancini, Elmer Bernstein and Quincy Jones.

He has contributed at least four titles to the list of Great Irish Songs - the anthems The Town I Loved So Well and Irelands Call and the haunting Scorn Not His Simplicity and Steal Away.

<https://sfirishcenter.vbotickets.com/events>

*We welcome him back to San Francisco
to the United Irish Cultural Center.
A night not to be missed!*



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**IRISH HERITAGE NIGHT
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8 @ 7:30
ORACLE ARENA**

WARRIORS vs KNICKS



- JOIN YOUR BACK-TO-BACK NBA CHAMPIONS
AS THEY CELEBRATE IRISH HERITAGE NIGHT ON WARRIORS GROUND!
- ENJOY A NIGHT OF CULTURAL PERFORMANCES
AND NATIONAL ANTHEM PERFORMANCE BY THE CELTIC VOICES CHOIR.
- INCLUDED WITH EACH TICKET IS A COMMEMORATIVE
IRISH HERITAGE NIGHT T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY!
*MUST HAVE SPECIAL EVENT VOUCHER TO REDEEM GIVEAWAY ITEM.
- A PORTION OF EACH TICKET SOLD WILL BENEFIT THE
UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER OF SAN FRANCISCO.
- ENJOY SPECIAL SAVINGS WHEN BOOKING YOUR GROUP OF 10 OR MORE.
- LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE.
- FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT:
ASHELY TOW | 510-986-2242 | ATOW@WARRIORS.COM



PURCHASE TICKETS AT: [WARRIORS.COM/IRISHHERITAGE](https://www.warriors.com/irishheritage)
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- Fitness, wellness and social programs as well as stimulating community entertainment
- Transportation for medical appointments, shopping and planned outings.



Our monthly fees are substantially less than what you would pay elsewhere and we are just 15 minutes away from the UICC (taking Skyline Blvd or the 280 South).

c  ad m  ile
p  it  e

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Lic. #415600306

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We encourage you to tour our picturesque San Rafael campus, meet the Sisters and staff, and start the conversation.



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415.479.8282 NazarethSR.org

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United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.



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San Francisco, CA 94116-2696

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Tuesday, January 8 ~ Warrior Irish Heritage Night

Sunday, January 27 ~ The Irish Literary & Historical Society
presents writer Emer Martin

Sunday, February 10 ~ Phil Coulter Concert
with Special Guest Geraldine Brannigan