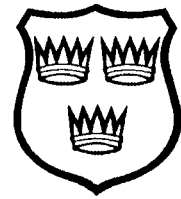




Foras Cultuir Gael Aontuighthe

United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.



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2020
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BOARD MESSAGE

Dear UICC Member,

“You never miss the water till the well runs dry”

There is no doubt that the last few weeks have been one of the most unpredictable and surreal times of our lives. Nobody could have predicted the broad scale impact that the coronavirus could yield on our daily lives since it became clear during the second week of March that this was no ordinary ‘passing’ epidemiological issue. Our whole lives and our family’s lives have been changed forever—schools, work places, churches, our favorite restaurants, and the Irish Center itself has closed until at least April 7th to comply with stay-at-home orders issued by public health authorities to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

The Irish saying “You never miss the water till the well runs dry” is what springs to mind now as we are closed off from many of the things we have taken for granted in today’s society. We can only long for the day when we can return to our “normal” unrestricted lives, where everything will once again be open for business, without restrictions of contact and interaction.

There is no doubt that this past March, the most Irish of all the months of the year, will not be forgotten anytime soon as we deal with the new normal in our lives under house arrest and social isolation from others.

Here is how it played out behind the scenes at the Irish Center. On the afternoon of March 6th, news filtered through from the United Irish Societies (UIS) that the 169th St. Patrick’s Day parade planned for Saturday March 14th was postponed. The SF Dept. of Public Health was concerned that large gatherings of people were having a direct relationship on the rampant spread of the coronavirus elsewhere in the world. I thought to myself how could this be? I was at the flag raising earlier in the day and there seemed to be no indication that the parade was in jeopardy. But as we have found out since then—things do change and very quickly at times; sometimes on an hourly basis as more information is made available.

Upon receiving the news that the parade was nixed for March 14th, I arranged for an emergency meeting of the Board for Sunday March 8th, at the Center to discuss our approach to keeping the flag flying over the following weekend. We had detailed plans to execute for the St. Patrick’s weekend festivities which had been developed by Co-Chairpersons Mark Burke and Josephine Brogan during the previous two months. As I prepared for the meeting, over the weekend the Warriors basketball organization were very public and steadfast in their stance to continue to hold games at their new 20,000 seat arena and I felt we could continue with our own plans, in what is a much smaller facility.

(continued)

Revenue from our St. Patrick's weekend is always critical from an operations stand point, and the annual "lift" in revenue would help us through the next several months.

At the end of the Sunday Board meeting, the board unanimously agreed we should move ahead with our plans. Liam Frost, President of the UIS, joined us at the conclusion of our meeting to inform us that the parade was "postponed" until a yet to be announced date in the future this year. Liam applauded our efforts to keep going with the Irish Center plans to save the weekend for the Irish-American community.

However, within 48 hours of our meeting to keep moving forward, it became very clear there was a very different sentiment in the community and the country about what was unfolding in places like Washington State, and elsewhere in the US, as well as the impact of the virus in northern Italy. Communication between the Center and City Hall indicated that crowds of less than 1,000 people gathering for any public event in the foreseeable future was in jeopardy, and the maximum allowable number allowed to congregate together would come down in the days ahead. It was with a heavy heart, the Board decided that the Center would pull the plug on all of its planned events from Friday March 13th through Tuesday March 17th. Within hours the inevitable order came from City Hall. We were done.

We then immediately had to go into shut down mode and cancel all our orders for pre-ordered catered food (both Guerra's To-Go and Ron Dumont were gracious in understanding our situation-and to both we are eternally grateful and thank you for all they did behind the scenes). Our support staff for the weekend, volunteers, janitors, musicians were all given the same disappointing news. Our biggest attraction for the weekend-Sharon Shannon who had spent the week leading up to St. Patrick's weekend playing across Canada, was told that we were shut down as she made her way towards Vancouver.

Events following the St. Patrick's weekend came tumbling down; our first Irish dance Feis in twenty years (March

21-22), was postponed. So too was "The Curse of Button Accordion" play by Sharon Mannion for April 11th. The Aoife Scott music performance on April 12th was also canceled. It has been a devastating month for our cultural programming which has been very strong after a very successful 2019.

Now that the center is temporarily closed, the Board has made the hard but financially responsible decision to eliminate some staff positions and reduce staff hours overall. With only a skeletal crew working, we have also reduced other utility costs like garbage and recycling collection, cable and internet services.

While it's impossible to provide a timeline for the re-opening of the Center, the 45th Year anniversary celebration has been post-poned. We do not have a new date at this time. One thing is for sure, is that when we re-open, we hope to have a Grand Re-Opening! Some positive news with regard to Events that still remain on the calendar (as of today) are the Leo Walsh Scholarship disbursement evening of Thursday May 7th and the week long summer camp from June 8-12th.

On a good side note, many of our members purchased a bottle of olive oil, donated by the McDonough family as part of the Library Fundraiser back in December and we are delighted to share that Kathleen and Kevin McDonough & Family were recently awarded a Gold Medal Ribbon for their 2019 batch of Extra Virgin Olive Oil at the 12th Annual California Olive Oil Council (COOC) Awards recently.

Finally, as a result of this world crisis, **the challenges we face as a non-profit agency are greater than ever.** Please consider donating and/or renewing your membership, as we need your support! We are deeply grateful to our donors, volunteers, and community partners – you make our work possible. Thank you for your partnership and support.

If you have to go out, please stay safe with shelter in place and healthy with social distancing.

Anne Cassidy Carew, *President*



Thursday May 7th ~ Scholarship Award Evening

Thursday, May 28th ~ Members Gathering & Meeting

Saturday, June 27th ~ The Young Dubliners

Saturday October 3rd ~ Sharon Shannon

Saturday October 17th ~ 2nd Annual Otoberfest — Music by The Internationals

Saturday, November 14th & 15th ~ Derek Warfield & the Young Wolfetones

Saturday, December 5th ~ Great Irish & American Christmas Sing-Along

Saturday, December 19th ~ Great Irish & American Christmas Sing-Along

UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER INCORPORATED
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	Year ended 12/31/18 <i>(Audited)</i>	Year ended 12/31/19 <i>(Unaudited)</i>	Two Months Ended 02/29/20 <i>(Unaudited)</i>
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES			
<i>Revenue</i>			
Restaurant, banquet, bar and events	\$ 1,486,542	\$ 695,697	\$ 38,007
Membership dues	156,345	129,292	18,127
Fundraising	83,539	173,277	24,351
Other	74,514	45,868	9,803
Total revenue	1,800,940	1,044,135	90,289
<i>Expenses</i>			
Personnel costs	963,206	219,756	53,031
Facility costs	275,123	185,464	19,707
Operations, event and fundraising costs	664,414	381,791	15,789
Office and administrative costs	153,106	80,101	4,897
Depreciation and amortization expense	66,063	67,674	10,914
Total expenses	2,121,912	934,786	104,338
<i>Change in net assets</i>	\$ (320,972)	\$ 109,349	\$ (14,049)

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEETS

<i>Assets</i>			
Cash	\$ 241,469	\$ 403,666	\$ 389,128
All other assets	446,296	433,999	417,415
Total assets	\$ 687,765	\$ 837,665	\$ 806,543
 Liabilities and Net Assets			
Liabilities	\$ 154,065	\$ 194,604	\$ 177,530
Net assets	533,700	643,062	629,012
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 687,765	\$ 837,665	\$ 806,543

Notes:

2018 was the final year with restaurant operations and full staff. The Center was on an unsustainable trajectory, losing (\$320,972) and ending the year with only \$241,469 in cash.

2019 was the turn-around year. The Center reorganized to become a Non-profit Corporation, the restaurant was closed, personnel and other expenses were greatly reduced, and activities were refocused on hosting events utilizing third party caterers. Although revenue declined significantly compared to 2018, a strong focus on fundraising, hosting events and cost controls allowed the Center to turn a profit of \$109,349 and grow cash reserves to \$403,666.

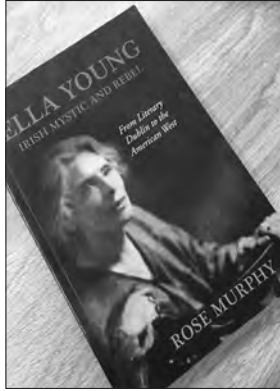
2020 was off to a good start, extending 2019's success and ramping up in anticipation of St. Patrick's Day, which typically generates a significant share of the Center's annual revenue. Unfortunately, the Coronavirus pandemic forced the Center to close prior to the St. Patrick's day events. In response, the Center cut staff, reduced hours and scrutinized every expense in an effort to preserve cash, yet be ready for a robust reopening once the emergency passes.

PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY

To our beloved members and patrons,

The Library will be closed throughout the recommended COVID-19 shelter-in-place dates, currently through April 7, 2020. While we will miss seeing all of you, we wholeheartedly hope that you and yours remain safe and healthy until we may gather again.

Thank you to our donors and book cart sale patrons. Because of you, two new items await your return for reading at our table:



Douglas Hyde, my American Journey, translated by L. Mac Mathúna et al., with a forward by President Michael D. Higgins. The text is both Douglas Hyde's journal in his original Irish and an English translation. From the back cover: "First published in Irish in 1937, this collection of journal and diary entries is a compelling first-hand account of Douglas Hyde's eight-month fundraising odyssey through the United States from 1905 to 1906."

We also welcome to our shelves *Ella Young, Irish Mystic and Rebel: From Literary Dublin to the American West* by Rose Murphy. Ms. Murphy has this to say in her Introduction: "...I found treasure troves of letters, poems, pamphlets and personal journals in sites as diverse as Trinity College in Dublin; the University of California at Los Angeles; Bancroft Library at the University of California at Berkeley (where she taught for several years); and a tiny, eclectic, and jewel-filled library (still with a card file system!) in the Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco."



Speaking of donations, our wonderful *Fiddler of Dooney* by W.B. Yeats, a Cuala Press original, is in need of restoration and archival framing.

The estimates are running upwards of \$1,000 or more. If you would

like to contribute, please mail a check or money order to the Library care of the Center and note "Fiddler restoration" in the memo. Alternatively, an online donation option for the Library is available at: <https://irishcentersf.org/generations-fund/>.

Good health to you! Sláinte mhaith duit!

KIDS SUMMER CAMP AT THE UICC ~ JUNE 8-12, 2020

Drama, Performance, Movement, Choreography, Music

Kids will perform on June 13 at the CENTER!

Early Bird Special until April 30 - CAMP ONLY - 9am - 3pm - \$250

Early Bird Special until April 30 - CAMP + EXTENDED CARE - 8am - 6pm - \$350

After May 1 CAMP ONLY - 9am - 3pm - \$300

CAMP + EXTENDED CARE - 8am - 6pm - \$400

Multi-Child Discount \$50 off each child after the First Child Full Price purchase. The discount will be provided in the form of a partial refund after the full transaction has been processed.

For more info: 415/860-1854 — www.IrishCenterSF.org



Ann Aherne and the Aherne and Penny families wish to thank everyone who attended their husband, father and Dida's memorial services. We appreciate the outpouring of support through meals, flowers, comforting messages, prayers, masses offered, donations to St. Anthony's dining room and expression of love during this difficult time. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

United Irish Cultural Center

Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program

Give a gift of Irish Culture 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.

To name a scholarship after your family, a specific family member or beloved friend the following gift levels are:

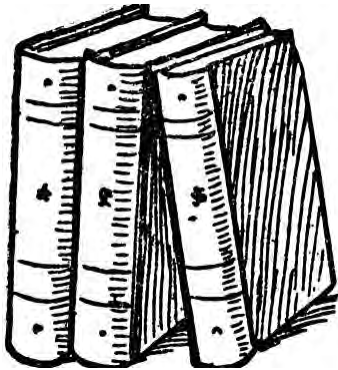
- **Finalists entering College receive \$1,000 Scholarship**

- **Finalists entering High School receive \$750 Scholarship**

This is a great way to honor your Irish legacy!

To donate online: <https://irishcentersf.org/scholarships/>

For further information email: scholarship@irishcentersf.org



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

● Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ towards the Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program.

● Enclosed is my contribution of: ☐ \$ 750.00 ☐ \$ 1000.00

for a scholarship ☐ In Memory of: ☐ In Honor of:

(Name of person) _____

Please send a card acknowledging this donation to:

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Mail this form with your payment to:

United Irish Cultural Center

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ACTIVE RETIREMENT CLUB OUTREACH PROGRAM

How are you doing?



Due to the current COVID-19 outbreak, and our efforts to maintain social distancing, all of our Active Retirement Club events will be postponed indefinitely until we can ensure the safety and health of our members.

The IIPC wants to make sure that every individual is taking the best care possible during this uncharted time to maintain social distancing and respect quarantine efforts imposed by the city and state

If you are feeling unwell, please call your Primary Care Physician to discuss your symptoms.

We understand that you might be feeling anxious and overwhelmed but know that we will continue to help one another and work as a community to protect and sustain your health, welfare and safety through these challenging times.

Our goal is to make sure that no one in our ARC family feels isolated or alone during this time of 'social distancing'. If you need help - someone to run an errand, pick up a prescription – **if you have a question, need advice or just chat, please call Joan at 415-432-2551** and leave a message. She will get back to you just as soon as possible.

Although being confined to your home is not very pleasant, there are steps you can take to make this quarantine not only more successful, but more enjoyable!

Read a book: Take this time to read a book you have been putting off - learn something new.

Start a new hobby: try painting, drawing, writing, or maybe even pick up an instrument you've wanted to learn to play.

Call friends or family: social distancing does not have to mean you're "distanced" socially. Give a loved one a call and have a chat! See what they have been doing with their free time at home, you may be inspired!

Write a letter: The art of letter writing has been dwindling, but we all know the joy of receiving a handwritten envelope in the mail. Letters or cards create lasting memories, show how much you care, make you feel good, spark creativity, honor tradition, and are timeless.

Stay up to date on COVID-19 updates at WHO.int or CDC.gov, or have somebody you know call you with the most up to date information, so that you can stay connected and informed.

Thank you for being part of the COVID-19 Irish community response by staying home and practicing social distancing. As Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said this week, "We will come together as a nation by staying away from each other."

Time to:

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Thank You For Your Support For the Past 16 Years!

Mitzi Samson & Maureen Hickey

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**DEADLINE for MAY 2020 BULLETIN
is APRIL 15**

Questions? Contact: Adrienne Verreos
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