

#### Foras Cultúir Gael Aontuighthe

# United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.





Volume XLV No. 10 October 2020

#### Rainbows only appear with sun and rain...

A heartfelt thank you to all our sponsors and donors.

As I sat down to write my message this month, I contemplated the idea of membership. I currently subscribe to Hulu, Netflix, Amazon Prime and Disney Plus, and let's not forget the monthly cable subscription to Comcast. These companies all deduct monthly payments from my checking account and provide unlimited entertainment options.

Our membership for the United Irish Cultural Center is \$13 a month or \$150 a year and, as board members, we are commonly asked what does anyone get for their membership?

Well, just prior to the pandemic, we were actively developing and planning member events, a program for member discounts and other membership benefits. Presently, a paid membership allows you to vote at UICC elections and to step up onto the Board and carry on the legacy and tradition of the "Irish Center"—the present building on 45th Avenue in San Francisco being one of several that has been established in San Francisco since I870.

You are not just representing the present UICC but also the tradition of being a steward to the gathering places and houses that have served the Irish since shortly after the Gold Rush era. It is quite an honor and a great responsibility to hold that special nugget of history in our hands, and well worth the labor of love.

And so as we enter the final quarter of 2020, I feel it is incumbent upon the present Board to highlight the role our sustaining members played this year in supporting the Irish Center. We acknowledge your kind words of encouragement during the shutdown and the moral support provided to us when we opened Wawona Gates, kick-started a community wide fundraiser, now known as the St Patrick's Appeal, and for coming out to volunteer and lend a hand to get us off the ground. It's been humbling when I think of all the hours people have spent behind the scenes to help us. The Irish American community has rallied around us, and for that I'm truly grateful.

As a thank you to all our active members—we have are making this October "Member Appreciation Month" and dedicating October (9th, 10th & 11th) to our members at Wawona Gates with giveaways and thank you gifts all weekend long. We will have Irish music and Irish dancers as well.

Other intrinsic benefits of becoming a new member or renewing your membership are:

- Investing in the Irish Center so that it remains open for years to come so that your children and grandchildren and future generations can use the space to celebrate their Irish heritage.
- Helping to maintain our 20,000 square foot building.
- Investing and supporting the traditions of the Irish Center and the Patrick J Dowling Library
- Investing in perpetuating Irish culture, and bringing the community together and building partnerships.

Every \$13/month or \$150/year is part of a greater lift to the Center.

Our goal for the Center is of course to keep it going. But what does "keeping the Center" going really mean? It means looking at ways we might be able to expand and grow. It means asking some hard questions and hearing the even more difficult answers. It means taking time to step out of our comfort zone to

(continued)

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2020 ST. PATRICK'S APPEAL

John Ring *Chair* 





implement change, when change feels risky and creates discomfort. As a board, we must look at all possibilities and options for the Center. We are currently speaking to building professionals who might have differing perspectives and thoughts that may be outside the box to some, but worth listening to as they may stimulate new ideas for the Center's future. It is a crucial time. It's a time of great change and time for reflection on what has stood to us in the past. It's a time to cast an eye towards the future and what that may bring. Stay tuned for an opportunity to be a part of an advisory committee for the UICC.

Membership is only one way for you to invest in the Center. The Saint Patrick's Appeal is another great way to help sustain and guarantee the future of the UICC. To date we have received 450 contributions and raised \$118,456, and with under 100 days left in the appeal we hope to reach \$150,000 by December 31st. We as a board are so grateful to everyone of those contributions—big or small. We are grateful to Tom McKeon and John Ring who have worked together on this fundraising project. Look for Tom's new fundraising video online (IrishCenterSF.org) featuring new

historical photographs and audio that will make you smile. The progenitors of the Irish Center would be proud of what we have managed to accomplish this year. Long may the great stewardship of the Irish Center continue in our wonderful Irish-American community.

As a board, we are committed to stretch every dollar to keep the Center alive. No gift is too small. We are thankful for every member who continues to support the Center. We continue to hope that you are all safe and keeping healthy. We are counting the days till we meet again in person at the Center—inside, having a few laughs, listening to music and enjoying our golden nugget. I invite all our members to drop in to Wawona Gates during "Member Appreciation" month to and allow us to say Thank you all very much! (Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir!).

Just remember, there's a saying that at the end of a rainbow there is a pot of gold, but the rainbow only appears with sun and rain ...

Anne Cassidy Carew, President of the UICC

#### A heartfelt thank you to all our sponsors and donors:

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#### PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY

#### Greetings from the Library of Requirement,

The whirl of artifact search and re-discovery is in full swing as I write this, with deadlines for the CA Revealed grant and SF History Days 2020 contributions falling around the Autumnal Equinox. Happily, as asked and the programming has needed, the library has delivered. Hopefully you all enjoyed the various presentations, and discovered something new about our beloved City and spaces.

#### Robert Emmet Day

In case you missed it, our post with Mrs. Dowling reciting the Speech from the Dock is published on our Instagram. Also her recitation, accompanied by several images of the library's ephemera highlighting I40 years worth of Robert Emmet celebrations in San Francisco, is playing on our YouTube channel. When ready, the UIS' commemoration at the statue in Golden Gate Park will be hosted on our YouTube channel as well.

#### Irish Genealogy Club Zoom Meeting

Saturday, October 10 — 11:00am – 1:00pm Monthly on the second Saturday.

Kevin Cassidy of the Greater Omaha Genealogical Society rejoins us, speaking this time on "Follow Your Family Through Their Chain Migration". The Zoom link will be posted on the UICC's Event Calendar.

#### Irish Marvels Zoom Meeting

Saturday, October 10 — 2:30 – 4:30pm Monthly on the second Saturday.

Valerie McGrew presents "The Story of the Irish in Arizona"

Hosted by Jennifer Drennan of the Patrick Dowling Library

Lisa Hilmoe, Irish Marvel contact: hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com

#### Coming Soon!

It's nearly Raffle Time! Be watching your mailboxes for Raffle information and tickets benefiting both the Dowling Library collection preservation, and the Leo T. Walsh Scholarship funds. Tickets will be available at Wawona Gates as well.

Follow the Library's progress and join in the conversations on social media:

Facebook: @dowlinglibraryattheuicc YouTube: Librarian P.J. Dowling Library
Instagram: pjdowlinglibrarysf

#### Interested in telling your story? Interviews are still possible.

The library has been contacted by a staff reporter for SF Senior Beat, an online magazine showcasing the lives of San Francisco residents, age 50 plus, who live or work in San Francisco. She would very much like to interview a person of Irish heritage, highlighting the history of Irish settlement in San Francisco, and the Irish Center. If you're interested in being interviewed virtually please contact the Library.

Thank you! Stay safe!

Slainte!

Jennifer Drennan, Librarian

librarian@irishcentersf.org — 415/661-2700 ext 106



The United Irish Cultural Center is a reseller for Irish goods! Shop for Barry's Tea, other Irish delights, and Irish Bread. The Shoppe is also selling Dinners To-Go on designated pick-up dates, T-Shirts, Beer, Wine, Liquor (for a limited time only), and more. Open 24/7 with an opportunity to pick up goods at The Irish Center on scheduled days. Enjoy shopping at home for all your favorites - with pickup at The Irish Center.

Support YOUR Irish Center NOW!

For phone in orders call: Josephine Brogan (415) 264-8856 For an questions or suggestions of items we should carry contact: store@lrishCenterSF.org

#### UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER INCORPORATED



A California Nonprofit Corporation 2700 45th Avenue San Francisco, CA 94116

Telephone: (415) 661-2700 | Fax: (415) 661-8620 http://irishcentersf.org | membership@irishcentersf.org

#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

#### ORGANIZATION:

The United Irish Cultural Center Inc. is a California nonprofit corporation which was organized for the purpose of providing its members with social, recreational, athletic and cultural facilities. The Corporation is authorized to offer memberships to qualified individuals.

#### BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

\*Event Discounts \*Room Rental Discounts \*Members-Only Events \*Voting Privileges \*Board Eligibility

Single Membership Panayal (Dues) \$150			Carrala Manal	cashin Demand /Duran 6250	
Single Membership Renewal (Dues) \$150			Couple Membership Renewal (Dues) \$250		
The term for annual dues is 365 day Membership Renewals with flexible					
Name #1		Member	Member #		
Name #2 (Couple)		Member	Member #2 (Couple)		
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	FEES: Fees can be pa	id by Check or Cre	dit Card or online	at irishcentersf.org	
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Check One*: M/C		ASE PRINT CLEARLY		* UICC does not accept A	
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#### ST. PATRICK'S APPEAL

#### St. Patrick's Appeal 2020

As we have reported in our recent communications, we have fully complied with "Shelter In Place" orders issued the week of March 15 by shutting down our facility and it will remain closed for the duration of this COVID-19 health crisis. As such, we have had to cancel all events and meetings and we are anxiously awaiting news about the summer months.

Please help us weather this storm and keep the momentum we built last year by making a donation to our St. Patrick's Appeal. The campaign goal is \$150,000 and we are well underway.

Visit irishcentersf.org/appeal to view our St. Patrick's Appeal 2020 video and to see the fundraising stories from Board Members and Appeal supporters alike.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, volunteers, and community partners – you make our work possible.

John Ring, 2020 St Patrick's Appeal Chairperson UICC 2020 Board of Directors

To donate online: irishcentersf.org/appeal For further information email: give@irishcentersf.org

• Enclosed is my contri	ibution of \$ towa	ards the St. Patrick's Appeal
Name		
Address		
	State	Zipcode
Membership #	Email	

Please make your check payable to: UICC — Add Note/Memo: St. Patrick's Appeal

Mail this form with payment to: United Irish Cultural Center 2700 - 45th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116-2647

#### Our St. Patrick's Appeal is Proudly Supported By:

















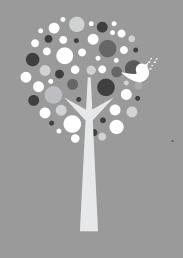








#### **ACTIVE RETIREMENT CLUB OUTREACH PROGRAM**





#### You, Me & A Cup of Tea

Tuesdays from 10.30 a.m. - 11.30a.m.



Each Tuesday mornings, we come together over a cup of tea to chat, share stories, and generally have a bit of craic to get the week off to a good start. Join Joan and our guest speakers during October for some entertaining conversation!

Tuesday, October 6 - Elizabeth Creely, writer, public historian & speaker Tuesday, October 13 - Catherine Barry, Crossroads Oral History Project

Join us on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m at https:/linktr.ee/sfiipc

If you would like to join by phone, call Joan at 415.432.2551 for dial in details.

#### **BINGO** with Janette & Friends

Thursdays from 10.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.



Join us on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m at https:/linktr.ee/sfiipc

Participants will be entered into a draw for a gift card from a local small business!

# MUSIC HOUR WITH CORMAC GANNON

Cormac Gannon was born in County Mayo in the West of Ireland and moved to San Francisco in 1991.

With the lively Irish music scene at The Plough and Stars Pub in San Francisco, Cormac met with other musicians and formed a group Orla and The Gasmen.

Cormac sings, plays guitar, bodhrán, & the uilleann pipes. Enjoy his music at www.cormacgannon.com



### UICC BOARD MEMBERS



MARK BURKE As a lifelong resident of The Sunset District of SF, the United Irish Cultural Center has always been "my backyard". My mom, Anne T. Burke, raised our family in/around The Center. My Aunt, Katheleen Loftus, the 1st UICC Treasurer, dedicated her single-adult life to The Center. As an active Member, I joined the Board in 2019 with the idea of finding new ways to attract Members and customers, while meeting cultural objectives and engaging volunteers. The UICC has added 200 Members since early 2019 and our Board strives to reach new levels of engagement and grow the UICC to new heights. Please join us all on this exciting journey with your financial, volunteer, and/or active support!



MOLLY MURPHY BURKE I am a 4th generation, native San Franciscan, and very proud Irish-American from the Sunset District. The United Irish Cultural Center has been a part of my life – all my life. I recently joined the Board of Directors' to help secure the future of this 20,000 square foot amazing edifice that has been the centerpiece of the Irish community in San Francisco for 45 years. I'm working to preserve her past, while paving the way for her future. Long may she remain ours to enjoy, appreciate and share with our SF community and beyond. I hope you will join me in this effort.



JOSEPHINE BROGAN For me, the Irish Center has been the place to enjoy many events over the years, from Irish Set Dancing, Irish Language Classes, Ceili's, Concerts, Dinner Dances, and many other fun events. More recently I have enjoyed volunteering at Wawona Gates Outdoor Dining and Full Bar and the Irish Shoppe. Please show your support to help ensure the Center is there for generations to come.



ANNE CASSIDY CAREW Mom and Dad were born and raised in Sligo and Cavan, I have grown up with Irish music, lilt and laughter. My family has been a part of the United Irish Cultural Center community since the beginning. Ed and I had our reception at the UICC in 1995. I worked for a short time as a banquet waitress and my dad has been a board member and committee member since 1975. I am a proud Irish American woman who is now the President of the UICC and proud to support this wonderful relic of Irish history and legacy. Join us as we continue to carry on 170 years of the Irish in San Francisco. Make a donation today.



BRIAN GAFFNEY practices environmental law representing non-profit organizations. Brian was raised in San Francisco, the son of Irish immigrants. Brian joined the UICC Board in 2019 and is on the Development Committee. The UICC is important to Brian as a place to learn the Irish language and continue Irish American culture. Please make an impact on future Irish Americans by donating generously to the Irish Center, and including the Irish Center in your estate planning.



TOM MCKEON The Irish Center has always been the gravitational center of my life: wedding & funeral receptions, parties, concerts, Gaelic games, St. Patrick's Day activities and family dinners. Thankfully, my wife Susan and I were able to raise our boys at the Irish Center and watch them enjoy the place in the very same way I did when I was their age. (Well, maybe they played a bit less on the elevator than my brothers and I did back in the day.) Please consider making a monetary donation or a donation of your time & talents to ensure the Irish Center is there for all of our life events and for future generations to enjoy.



SHANNON DURKAN MCAULIFFE The Irish Center has always been like a second home to me. For five years, I enjoyed serving the community as a waitress and had the pleasure of getting to know so many of the members. I was honored when asked to be on the Board and wanted to help the UICC in any way I could. I realized, for the first time, what it would be like if the community lost this incredible facility built to celebrate and preserve Irish culture. We are very fortunate to have a place like the Irish Center for our community and we need help. Many helping hands at this critical time can ensure this valuable asset will remain open for many generations to come.



MAGGIE O. OVERBAY Our Cultural Center brings joy and fond memories to the hearts of our members, family, friends and community. I recall UICC's Groundbreaking Day in 1973. I was in my late teens and my father reminded me that day, that I was the product of Irish immigrants and that his hope was for me to participate in Irish events and help perpetuate our culture. In 2019, my dear father passed away from dementia. Two months before his passing, he was able to deliver a beaming smile at his last UICC family celebration dinner. It is because of that first event day in 1973 and my father's last UICC dinner that drives me to carry on his wishes. I therefore, will continue to work passionately and devotedly with this team of dedicated board members in an effort to sustain the Center's existence. I've been on this board for a few years. The Center has been through many good times and challenging times but 2020 put us through the most difficult test! Let's remain strong and hopeful towards pursuing our vision of hard work, preservation and building a new and grander future for all! "Tabhair aire" (Stay safe, take care)



KATE PATTERSON I'm a proud member of a massive, and I mean huge, Irish family with deep roots in San Francisco. The United Irish Cultural Center has been the backdrop for so many important life moments. For our family, it has served as a hearth, where moms-to-be and future generations are showered with love and affection, where milestones, like graduations, are feted and where family and friends can count on a warm embrace after the passing of someone dear. It was the place we all found and comforted each other after the sudden passing of our beloved cousin Danny "Kid" Carlin last year. As a new member to the Board with over twenty years working in arts and culture, I'm proud to help build upon the incredible legacy of this institution. I am passionate about contemporary Irish culture and building bridges to younger generations of Irish Americans who are looking to connect with their heritage. As the City rapidly changes and evolves, there is so much potential to expand our offerings and to reach deeper into the community. I believe that our greatest chapters have yet to be written.



LIAM REIDY The Irish are indelibly linked to the history of modern San Francisco from its nascent beginning as a small hamlet serving as a military outpost in what was then Mexico's northernmost frontier, to the sprawling metropolis it is today. We have such a strong historical connection to the history and evolution of San Francisco spread across all walks of life- political, municipal, cultural, ecclesiastical, educational, scientific and more recently the information technology industry that there should always be a place for the Irish to meet and help contribute to the city's lifeblood of activities. It is in such a gathering place, we can plan the next chapter of not only our own contributions to the Irish American story but also to those of San Francisco itself. We are currently entrusted to ensure we maintain the legacy of an Irish meeting place for the next generation of Irish Americans. Won't you join my family and I, to help maintain, preserve and secure our "gathering place" for the future. Please show your support by contributing to this years —St . Patricks Appeal.



CRAIG VIEHWEG joined the Board as Treasurer in February 2020. He was formerly a CPA with a national accounting firm, before taking on finance and accounting responsibilities for a series of start-up companies in the telecommunications industry. Craig was introduced to the Center by his Irish wife, Cathy, and the Center became a hub of family activity with their kids participating in Irish dance and Gaelic sports. Craig's goal is to create financial transparency at the Center so members and donors have full confidence their generous contributions are being managed wisely.

## WELCOME TO THE READING ROOM

program, The Reading Room, a book club for the Irish community. Join us by Zoom on the fourth Thursday of every month to discuss the book of the month. We will meet on Thursday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the New York Times bestseller Trans Atlantic by Colum McCann

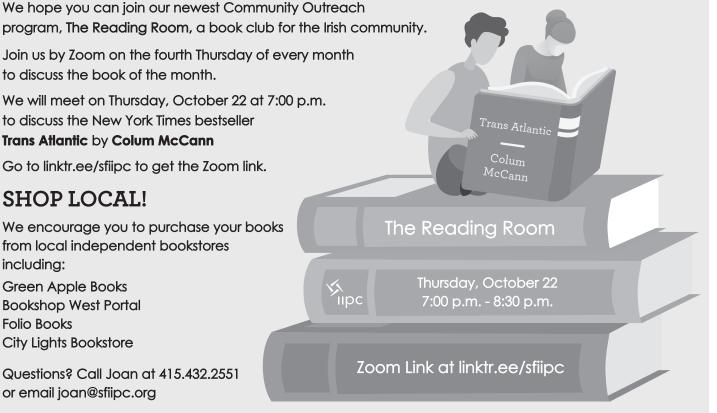
Go to linktr.ee/sfiipc to get the Zoom link.

#### SHOP LOCAL!

We encourage you to purchase your books from local independent bookstores including:

**Green Apple Books Bookshop West Portal** Folio Books City Lights Bookstore

Questions? Call Joan at 415.432.2551 or email joan@sfiipc.org



## APPLYING FOR IRISH CITIZENSHIP



Wednesday, October 21 6:00 p.m.

Register at linktr.ee/sfiipc

Under the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act of 1956, people born outside Ireland can claim citizenship, if their parents were born in Ireland, but ALSO if a grandparent was born there.

So, if you are an American (or any nationality) with an Irish grandparent, you have the right to claim Irish citizenship under this law.

We are excited to co-host a webinar with the Irish Consulate on Wednesday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m. to outline the eligibility requirements for Irish citizenship and give an overview of the process to apply for your foreign birth registration, including an outline of the documents that you will need to provide.

If you would like to join the webinar by phone, please call Joan at 415.432.2551 for registration assistance.



Generously supported by:



If you have any questions, please call Celine at 415.432.2550 or email celine@sfiipc.org

A Community Outreach Service of the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center of San Francisco

#### HALF WAY TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND LIFT SPIRITS

While we all may have missed out on the 2020 St. Patricks festivities last March, the Irish Center is looking towards the future and lifted the spirits of its members, with lively music and and Irish dancing by local Irish Dance schools during the weekend of Sept 18-20th-which is about half way to the 2021 St. Patricks Day.

Kevin Roche, Kathleen Smith and Eamon Flynn entertained the Wawona Gates diners on Saturday with Kyle Alden, Sean O'Donnell and Cormac Gannon keeping the toes tapping on Sunday afternoon.

Dance schools have been hit hard by the pandemic with no indoor activities allowed in the past 6 months. To help Irish dance schools get back to into practice mode the Irish Center recently built an outdoor stage for dance which sees young dancers practicing their steps most weekday afternoons, and on weekend mornings. A special thank you to Frank and Joe Casement, Michael Dillon, Shane and Liam Reidy who built the dance stage last month.

Thank you to the Murphy, Dillon, and Butler Fearon O'Connor schools of Irish dancers that took part in the Half Way to St. Patrick's Irish Dance exhibition.

There will be more Irish dancing and music the weekend of Oct 9-11th at the Irish Center as part of the UICC Member Appreciation month.



Jim Sullivan, Josephine Brennan, Karen Brennan, and Mary Jo Murphy.



Murphy dancers; Marycora Pattison, Ellie Gatney, and Sarah Howie.





Dillon dancers, Shane and Aidan Pecko, Donovan and Patrick McCauley.





Murphy dancers; Eithne Clancy, Grace Delvin, Molly Grace Spillane, and Jamie Fogarty.





Katie Carouba, Vera Burke, PJ McGee



Monica McGuire, and Mary Anne Maguire-Hickey enjoy the Saturday afternoon at Wawona Gates.



Noeleen Pattison, Caroline Fogarty, Jeanni Catney, Brenda Howie.



Musicians Kevin Roche, Kathleen Smith and Eamonn Flynn.



#### PANCAKE BREAKFAST A BIG SUCCESS AT IRISH CENTER

The Irish Center continues to build partnerships in the community with local businesses by offering a Pancake Breakfast in association with the Millbrae Pancake House on Sunday morning Sept 13th.

Volunteers were up as early as 6am prepping for the two sold out breakfasts which featured coffee from nearby Java Beach. Many thanks to all the early riser volunteers who helped to make the event a huge success for all the families that came out.

An Irish Pancake Breakfast returns on Sunday morning October 25th. Breakfasts are pre-sold on a first come basis online. Sign up for Email Alerts at www.IrishCenterSF.org



John and Kathleen Greene, Maureen Maguire, and Dan Foley.



Lily Maguire, Gracie Burke, Brianna Kyne, Reilly Moriarty, Celine Maguire.



Sean Duffy, Will Lucey and Michael McKeon.



John McCaffrey, Pat McLoughlin, Brian Burnett and Jim Keenan.



Eoin McLoughlin, Con McKeon, Joe and Tommy Maguire, with Eoin Burke.



Peggy O'Brien, Ann Baglin and Mark Burke part of the early morning setup crew.

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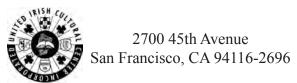
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Questions? Contact: Adrienne Verreos 415/468-4130 or email: falconassoc@earthlink.net

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