



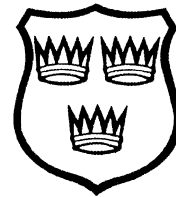
*Foras Cultuir Gael Aontuighthe*

# United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.

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Volume XLV No. 9  
September 2020

2020

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2020

ST. PATRICK'S APPEAL

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## BOARD MESSAGE

Dear Members,

*The darkest nights produce the brightest stars!*

On what can only be described as a glorious sunny afternoon on Saturday, August 15, we had a small ceremony in the back parking lot of the United Irish Cultural Center (UICC) to dedicate the Grand Opening of 'Wawona Gates'—our 2020 outdoor dining venture. It was a brilliant, bright day—toastier than a normal San Francisco summer's day, without a cloud in the sky or any sign of the fog belt that usually hugs the coast and envelopes the Irish Center in a gray mist at this time of year.

Board member Mark Burke and I spoke briefly from the double staircase to patrons and supporters gathered before us, about the efforts behind the scenes during the past six months to be now officially open and provide a safe place for people to come and dine out. Meeting the challenges related to running the Irish Center on a shoe string revenue stream is no small undertaking.

We spoke about how grateful we were to our hardworking fellow board members, volunteers, patrons, employees, sponsors, caterers, builders, and our members. I reserved the largest thank you for Mark and Molly Burke, and Josephine and Paddy Brogan who have been at Wawona Gates since the very beginning from open to close each day. Re-opening chairman Liam Reidy, and the UICC staff (Angela and Ligia) have worked tirelessly in the background, focused on Covid-19 compliance, bar staff, volunteers, facilities upgrades and maintenance, to ensure Wawona Gates runs smoothly.

The goal of our outside dining plan, (which began last April), was to throw open our "gates" to provide what would likely become our only financial lifeblood to help defray the costs associated with maintaining such a large physical plant—without the usual revenue streams that have supported the Irish Center during the previous past five decades.

I was six years old when the Irish Center first opened and had its original dedication. I have seen many photos from that day and I can only imagine the immense pride that was felt among the people who were responsible for carving out a corner for the Irish in this southwest part of the city. I too was bursting with immense pride on August 15 when we officially opened our latest venture, Wawona Gates.

This board has had to endure some radical curve balls in the last six months and our objective is to successfully navigate through this pandemic and not allow the UICC to be wiped away like other local Sunset district businesses which have already fallen victim. For example, gone are Louis' restaurant overlooking the site of the former Sutro Baths after 83 years, the eatery at Seal Rock Inn shuttered after 43 years, and small cafes like Beachside Coffee Bar and Kitchen and Art's Cafe.

Unfortunately, longevity and previous success are not determining factors in whether or not a business can survive the pandemic. Some successful eateries rely entirely on patrons coming inside to dine; they just can't move to the sidewalk or an adjacent parking lot.

So what is going to keep the UICC open? Luck? Creativity? Supporters? Community? I don't think it is just one of these. Maybe it is a combination of all of the above? So let's talk about these.

Luck—we have the 'Luck of the Irish' on our side! Thank goodness for our parking lot at the rear of the building!

(continued)

Creativity—we developed new ideas and started new ventures like the Irish Shoppe, Wawona Gates and Dinners to Go. When we couldn't meet in person we used YouTube and social media to bring cultural events to our members. We launched the successful Saint Patrick's Appeal, and Comhaltas Irish classes transitioned to the online Zoom platform.

Supporters—we have amazing financial support from so many people. To date we have had 417 donors and sponsors step up and make pledges to the Annual Appeal to ease the pressure on our financial need. Thank you for believing in us!

Community—we have a very strong locally based Irish-American community that dreamed up the idea of the center, and built and maintained the facility for the last 45 years, and I'm confident it will continue well into the future.

While our elderly members and supporters in the community maybe waiting out the pandemic at home, we will be ready to welcome you all back with open arms as soon as it is possible.

In the meantime, we have put a call out to start sourcing and collecting items of a personal or historical nature that might be of interest to the broader Irish-American community. Plans are afoot to expand the library at the Irish Center into a Heritage Center of sorts.

It would be great if you could reach out to me at the Center if there is something you would like to donate and put on display permanently or on loan for a period. Items like an old pass-

port, your first green card, a boat ticket from your first trip to the US as an immigrant, a plane or train ticket to San Francisco?

Maybe you saved your first pay check from your time at the Sante Fe railroad or the PG&E company? Perhaps you have the meeting minutes from an organization that you were once a part of? Items in shoe boxes under your parents bed or stashed away in an old armoire are sometimes treasure troves of artifacts and relics that tell the story of the Irish in San Francisco. Don't let that history be lost to a dump truck or the weekly garbage pickup. Let the Irish Center be guardians of the material to put it on display in the Heritage Center and allow us to tell your story.

Finally, my daughter and I attempted some stargazing recently. Every year during the second week of August the night sky puts on a dazzling display for stargazers in Earth's northern hemisphere. The Perseid meteor shower was streaking across the sky for three nights. For the first two nights it was meant to be visible the sky was overcast and we were not able to see anything. On the third and final peak night of the meteor streak I woke up at 4:30am and looked out the window. It was the darkest, and clearest night of the three. I woke my daughter up and we laid out in the backyard, turned the lights off and watched a dark sky come alive with shooting stars.

*The darkest nights produce the brightest stars!*

Anne Cassidy Carew, *President of the UICC*

## Wawona Gates

### Eat Drink & Be Irish



The new outdoor dining option at the United Irish Cultural Center "Wawona Gates" held its Grand Opening during the weekend of Aug 14-16th. UICC President Anne Cassidy Carew, and Mark Burke who spearheads the enterprise addressed the gathered patrons during a small ceremony on Saturday afternoon August 15th to dedicate the space, which has become a financial lifeblood for the center to make ends meet during the pandemic.



Local musicians Kyle Alden, Vince Keehan and Cormac Cannon provided a live acoustic set of music to entertain patrons on Sunday, August 16th.



Mark and Molly Burke, with Anne Cassidy Carew officially dedicate Wawona Gates.



Celebrity bartenders on Grand Opening Day included Joe McCarthy, Marty Kinahan and Dan Casey.



Stephen McGovern, Daniel Hagan, Monica Murphy, Peggy O'Brien, Johnny O'Brien.



## 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](http://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](http://irishcentersf.org/appeal) For further information email: [give@irishcentersf.org](mailto:give@irishcentersf.org)

- Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ towards the St. Patrick's Appeal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ 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:



Donations are Tax Deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please consult your tax advisor.  
The United Irish Cultural Center Federal Tax ID # is 26-0610341

# PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY

Greetings from the Library of Characters old and new,

We want You! Your letters, minutes, and records. The Patrick J. Dowling Library also acts as an archive and repository to preserve the history of the Irish and Irish American communities, especially in the Bay Area. If you're not ready to donate or long term loan your originals to the Dowling Library, we now have a scanner which can safely scan bound material, ephemera, photos and letters for addition to our collection. These primary and secondary source materials: images, letters, minutes, and records are of significant interest to our local community, academics and genealogy enthusiasts. Please reach out to the Library with your questions or to arrange for donations.

## *Interested in telling your story?*

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.

## *Special Event: Covid-19 and the Rekindling of Friendship between the Choctaw and Irish People*

**Public** Hosted by Irish Railroad Workers Museum

Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 11 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern DT

<https://www.facebook.com/events/361282108205565/>

Researcher and presenter Ava Tynan, a senior at St. Ignatius College Preparatory in San Francisco. Ava volunteers at the Patrick J. Dowling Library, the first all-Irish library in the US. She is particularly interested in Irish language and history.

## *Irish Genealogy Club Zoom Meeting*

Saturday, September 12— 11:00am – 1:00pm Monthly on the second Saturday.

## *Irish Marvels Zoom Meeting*

Saturday, September 12 — 2:30 – 4:30pm Monthly on the second Saturday.

Pati Traktman presents "Rebel Priests of San Francisco"

Lisa Hilmoe, Irish Marvel contact: [hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com](mailto:hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com) Hosted by Jennifer Drennan of the Patrick Dowling Library

## *SF History Days*

Saturday & Sunday, September 26 - 27

Largely virtual this year. Log in to view special programming, including the story of the Irish halls in San Francisco from the mid-1800's to our beloved UICC. SF History Days website: <https://sfhistorydays.org/> Links will be posted on the Center's website and social media as they become available.

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

Facebook: [@dowlinglibraryattheuicc](https://www.facebook.com/dowlinglibraryattheuicc) YouTube: Librarian P.J. Dowling Library

Instagram: [pjdowlinglibrarysf](https://www.instagram.com/pjdowlinglibrarysf)

Thank you! Stay safe!

Slainte!

Jennifer Drennan, Librarian

[librarian@irishcentersf.org](mailto: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@IrishCenterSF.org](mailto:store@IrishCenterSF.org)

# ACTIVE RETIREMENT CLUB OUTREACH PROGRAM



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



Government of Ireland  
Emigrant Support Programme  
An tAon Gníomhaíocht Eagraíochas agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## You, Me & A Cup of Tea

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



*You, Me, and a Cup of Tea*

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 September for some entertaining conversation!

Tuesday, September 1 - **Elizabeth Creely**, writer, public historian & speaker

Tuesday, September 8 - **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.



To join Bingo with Janette & Friends, please contact Joan by **noon on Wednesdays** by calling her at

**415.432.2551** or emailing [Joan@sfiipc.org](mailto:Joan@sfiipc.org) to get your bingo cards.

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

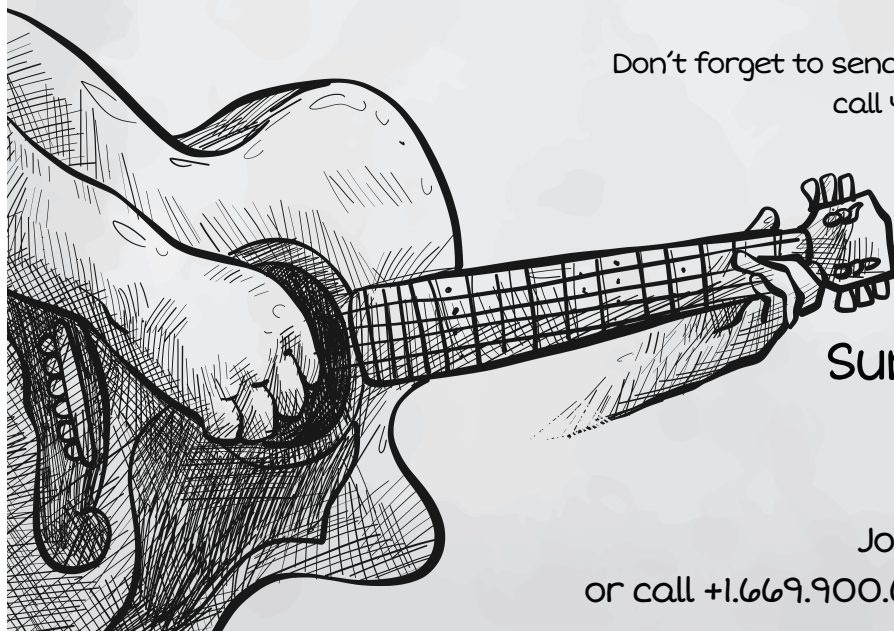
Participants will be entered into a draw for a gift card from a local small business!

# MUSIC HOUR WITH VINCE KEEHAN

Vince Keehan has been a mainstay of the San Francisco Irish music scene since he immigrated from Shanaglish, Co. Galway in the early 1980's.

A founding member of the Gas Men, we are delighted to welcome Vince for an afternoon of Irish ballads and lot of great craic!

Don't forget to send your requests to [Joan@sfiipc.org](mailto:Joan@sfiipc.org) or call 415.432.2551 by Thursday, September 17



Sunday, September 20

4:00 p.m. PST

Join us at <https://linktr.ee/sfiipc>  
or call +1.669.900.6833, webinar id 815 3890 4295

# JOIN THE IIPC READING ROOM

We are delighted to welcome you to our newest Community Outreach 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.

Our first discussion will be on Thursday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m. beginning with *Midwinter Break* by Bernard MacLaverty

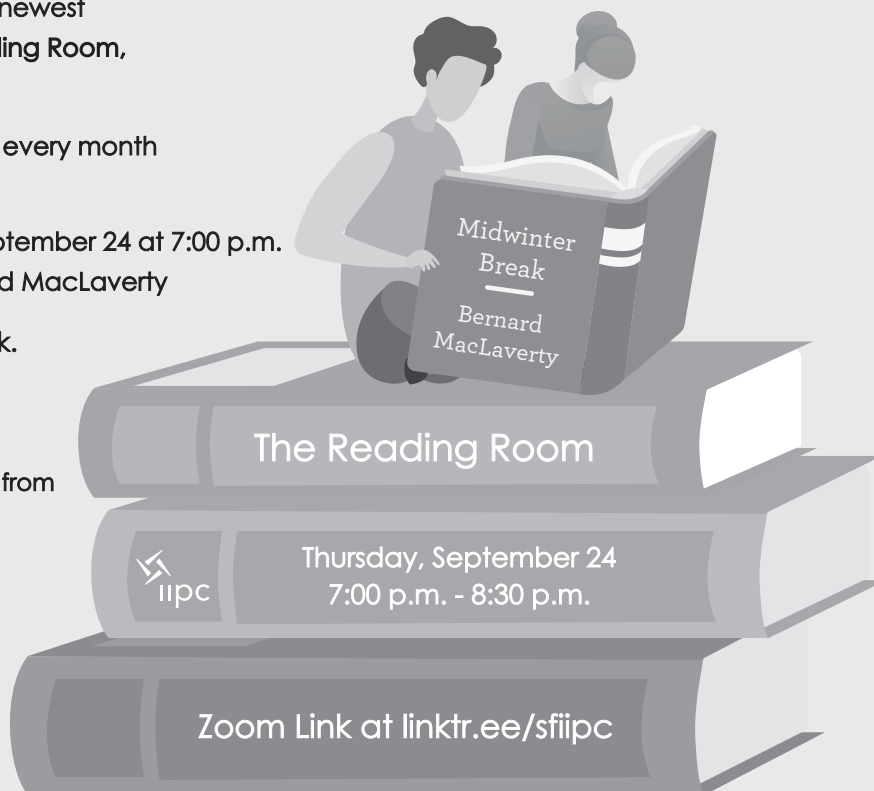
Go to [linktr.ee/sfiipc](https://linktr.ee/sfiipc) to get the Zoom link.

## 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](mailto:joan@sfiipc.org)



## Pastoral Provisions



### A pantry to support our Irish community through crisis

**Saturdays and Tuesdays**  
**1612 Noriega Street, San Francisco**  
**10:00 a.m. - 12 noon**

We continue to collect non-perishable food and non-food items for distribution to families who need a helping hand as COVID-19 remains.

Pantry boxes are delivered once a week with no contact - it is 100% discrete and confidential.

If you or someone you know may need some supplies to get through this period of time, please go to [linktr.ee/sfiipc](https://linktr.ee/sfiipc) for registration details.

**This program is discrete and confidential. All are welcome.**

We encourage anyone who is struggling with food or financial security to please **call Celine at 415.432.2550**.

Food donations can be dropped off at **Whelan's School of Irish Dance, 1612 Noriega Street, San Francisco** on Saturdays and Tuesdays between 10:00 a.m and 12 noon.

If you prefer to drop off gift cards to grocery stores and pharmacies, please do not drop these in the food donation containers.

Gift cards can be left in the mailboxes at either:

1612 Noriega Street, San Francisco, CA 94122 or

5340 Geary Boulevard, Ste 206, San Francisco, CA 94121

Gift cards can be also be mailed to those addresses.



Generously supported by:



Government of Ireland  
Emigrant Support Programme  
An Boinn Gnóthaí Éireannacha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

If you have any questions, please call Celine at 415.432.2550 or email [celine@sfiipc.org](mailto:celine@sfiipc.org)

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

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- 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).

céad míle  
páilte

Please call Bridget Kelly - Administrator to arrange a tour of the facility and enjoy a complimentary lunch.

Lic. #415600306

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# United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.



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**DEADLINE for OCTOBER 2020 BULLETIN  
is SEPTEMBER 15**

Questions? Contact: Adrienne Verreos  
415/468-4130 or email: [falconassoc@earthlink.net](mailto:falconassoc@earthlink.net)

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*Celebrations of Life*



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