



Foras Cultúir Gael Aontuighthe

United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.

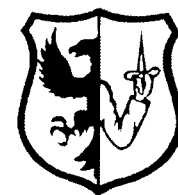
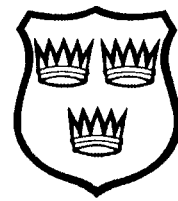
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Volume XLVI No. 2
February 2021

2021
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BOARD MESSAGE

Irish Center Reopens Under the Wawona Gates Big Top

Historically, the months of January and February at the Irish Center are spent preparing for the St. Patrick's season which is only a few short weeks away. This year has been no different (although we have been shuttered since early December) we have been busy behind closed doors preparing for the year ahead. This past month several volunteers and Board members came together to do some spring cleaning throughout the facility. Much of the focus has been in the St. Patrick's room, with the chandeliers getting some much needed TLC, along with all the woodwork and furniture getting cleaned and polished. The carpets in the room and entry staircase on the Wawona side of the building will be professionally cleaned in early February. We also did some maintenance painting in the high traffic areas of the second floor.

While we will certainly miss hosting the United Irish Societies sponsored Grand Marshals Dinner this year, we welcomed the news from Mayor Breed on January 25 that we could re-open our outdoor dining experience-Wawona Gates. Upon hearing the news that outside dining was being allowed again, the Board immediately moved to install the canopy which it had purchased last Fall in the back parking lot. The grand re-Opening of Wawona Gates is scheduled for Superbowl weekend February 6th-7th. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again. Wawona Gates will be open every Saturday in February.

Got Irish Bread? We are organizing our First Annual Irish soda and brown bread competition this February. Entry fee is \$10, and all entries have to be dropped off at Irish Center on February 13th, so get baking and send in your best brown bread or soda cake creation to impress the judges and possibly win a prize. Judging will happen on St. Valentine's Day February 14th, and the top 5 winners will be announced daily online via Facebook and Instagram until the Grand Prize Winner is named on February 19th.

Our retail activities have remained strong with steady in person and online sales, throughout the most recent Shelter In Place order. The Irish Shoppe offerings are expanding to include fresh Irish soda and brown bread baked at Fiddlers Green, Millbrae. Bread orders can be made online and picked up in person at the weekend.

In March, the St. Patrick's Day festivities and celebration have always been a big boost for the Irish community and (to our annual revenue), as throngs of people flock to the Center to celebrate. We hope many of our members and supporters will drop by to see us and the new Big Top which will shield us from the elements until the weather warms up. During the first weekend of March 6th-7th we



Past UICC President Anne Cassidy Carew passes the UICC President's gavel to Liam Reidy, incoming President for 2021.

(President's Message continued on page 2)

(President's Message continued)

will host a Spring Boutique, featuring local artisans, and small business owners. The boutique was a big success last December and we are hoping for the same this time round. We will have the added attraction of being open for outside dining, with Corned Beef and Cabbage on the menu throughout March.

In our Cultural Programming Department, Director Anne Cassidy Carew has been busy organizing events coming up in the next few weeks. Highlights include a Facebook live interview on February 3rd to celebrate St. Brigid's Day (February 1st) with Sr. Mary Teresa, Brigidine Sisters, originally from Ireland and now residing in San Antonio Texas. On Thursday February 11th, a Facebook live event called Biscuits and Books, will examine the rare and antiquarian books available in the Library holdings with Librarian Jennifer Drennan. On Sunday February 28th, Anne will be in conversation with best-selling Irish author Ruairi McKiernan, who recently published the book entitled "Hitching for Hope: A journey into the Heart and Soul of Ireland". Based on the success of the online Christmas concert, Anne is co-producing another virtual entertainment show for the St. Patrick's season on Wednesday March 17th at 7pm PST, with the Cooley-Keegan branch of Comhaltas and Boscaí Beaga Artistic Director Michael Dillon. Check back to our website for additional events, details and information.

During St. Patrick's week we will be serving Corned Beef and Cabbage on March 13th, 14th & 17th, in person dining and also Dinner to Go.

The annual Memorial Mass for deceased members of the UICC will take place at St. Gabriels Church at 8am on February 28th. Online reservations are required on the parish website.

On behalf of the Irish Center, I want to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Catherine Linehan who passed away on Jan 20th. Catherine was a great supporter of the Irish Center, and was heavily involved with the Cork Ladies club and was ever present in organizing the Cork Dinner every year. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam. May her soul be seated on God's right hand.

Liam Reidy, *President of the UICC*
lreidy@irishcentersf.org



Irish Shoppe

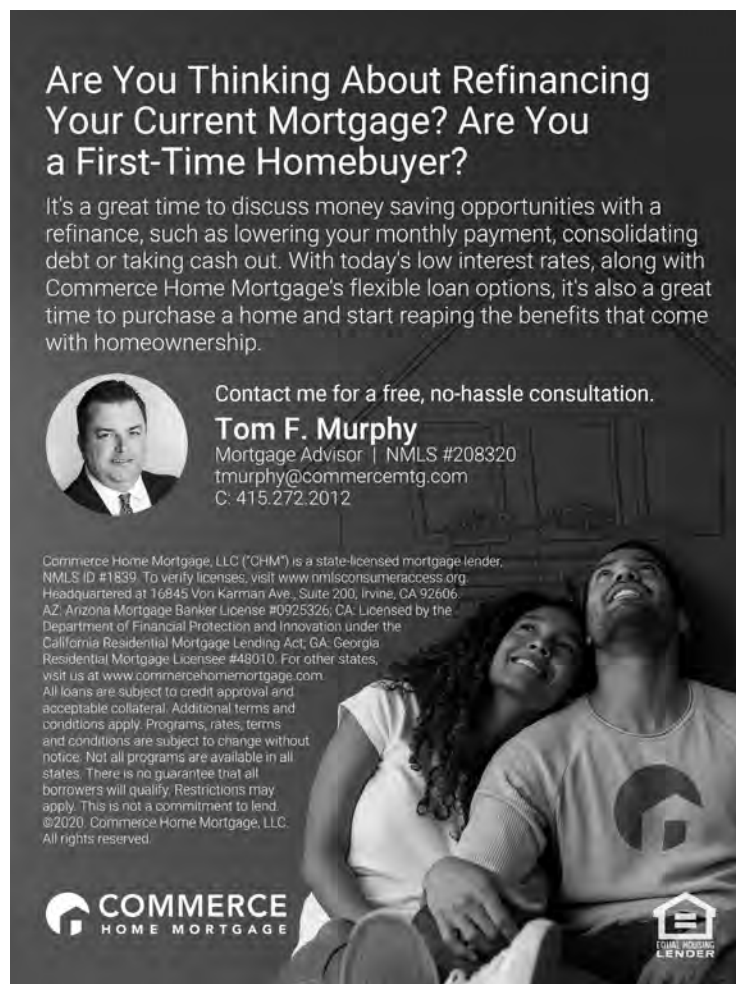


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PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY

Greetings from the Library of 365 new days!

The library and scholarship committee members remain deeply grateful for your support over the past strange year. Through your generosity and that of our sponsors, including Duggan's Serra Mortuary, just over \$10k each was raised for the library and scholarship funds with a record 1,125 tickets returned.

Looking ahead, we'll continue to bring the collection to you digitally. Look for new programs on YouTube, images of ephemera joining the searchable titles in our catalogue and more club meetings, speakers and special events. On Instagram, feel free to comment in the chat, send a DM or email if you know details or fun facts about items we share or to suggest items you'd like to see. We want to add your knowledge to our own. The Book Sale will be held in conjunction with Irish Shoppe pick up hours as often as possible.

Biscuits & Books - Live from the Library's Facebook page

Thursday, February 11 — 4:00pm

Pour a cuppa and join Anne Cassidy Carew and Jennifer Drennan as they offer up a peek at some of the antiquarian and rare books the Library has available for sale.

Watch: @dowlinglibraryattheuicc Interested in a title? Email: library@irishcentersf.org

Irish Genealogy Club - Celebrating its 1st year - Zoom Meeting

Saturday, February 13 — 11:00am – 1:00pm Monthly on the second Saturday.

Questions & Answers. A work day focused on specific challenges.

Members will work from a pooled job log of pre-submitted questions and resources; sharing solutions during the meeting.

~ Irish Genealogy Club contacts: Pati Traktman patitraktman@gmail.com & Kevin Dineen, dineen5@att.net

Irish Marvels, Past and Present Zoom Meeting

Saturday, February 13 — 2:30 – 4:30pm Monthly on the second Saturday.

St. Brigid's Cross Making. Creating separately, together.

Celebrating Ireland's goddess saint. Weaving Brigid's crosses using wheat straws during the meeting or try using pipe cleaners, they're very forgiving and colourful.

~ Lisa Hilmoie, Irish Marvel contact: hilmoie.gleason@gmail.com

Zooms Hosted by Jennifer Drennan of the Patrick Dowling Library.

Save the Date! Author talk in partnership with the UICC

Sunday, February 28 — 2:00pm – 3:00pm PST

Ruairi McKiernan, author of #1 Irish Times Best Seller Hitching for Hope, in his first West Coast engagement.

Registration information can be found on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-journey-into-the-heart-and-soul-of-ireland-with-ruairi-mckiernan-tickets-137320835315>

Want to join in on the Zoom fun? Email the club leads or library@irishcentersf.org at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Fáilte!

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 supporting the Library's modernization, preservation and programming efforts? Please use the Library's specific Donation button on the UICC's donation page: <https://irishcentersf.org/generations-fund/> Thank you.

To all the new days before us. Slainte!

Jennifer Drennan, Librarian

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

*MANY THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS AND BOARD MEMBERS
WHO CAME OUT FOR THE SPRING CLEANING EVENT ~ SATURDAY JAN 23.*

Included here are some of the attendees.



ELINOR LEARY AND MOLLY BURKE



ANN BAGLIN, ANGELA TICKLER
AND BRENDA LYONS



MAUREEN MURPHY, JOSEPHINE BROGAN
AND JOANNIE O'LEARY



MOLLY BURKE

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.

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This is a great way to honor your Irish legacy.

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

To donate by check, payable to UICC, mail to:

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To donate online:

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

2021 Scholarship Applications will be available February 1, 2021

Online at UICC website <https://irishcentersf.org/scholarships>

For further information email: scholarship@irishcentersf.org

Applications are due: March 14, 2021

WELCOME TO THE READING ROOM

We hope you can join our newest Community Outreach program, The Reading Room, a book club for the Irish community.

Our February Reading Room will be on **Thursday, February 25** at **7:00 p.m.** when we will discuss the novel, **The Secret Scripture** by Dublin born author, **Sebastian Barry**.

His novels and plays have won, among other awards, the Kerry Group Irish Fiction Prize, the Costa Book of the Year award, the Irish Book Awards Best Novel, the Independent Booksellers Prize and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. His novels, *A Long Long Way* (2005) and *The Secret Scripture* (2008), shortlisted for the MAN Booker Prize.

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

SHOP LOCAL!

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

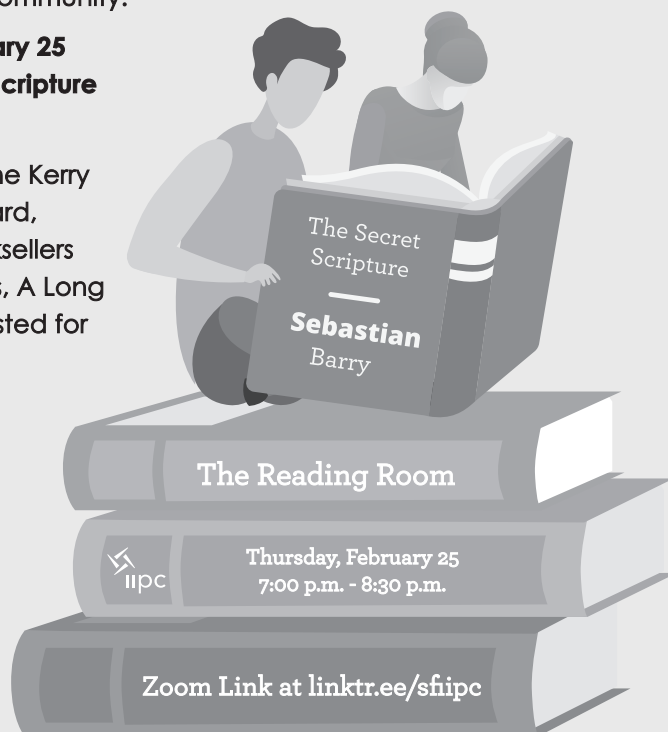
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Questions? Call Joan at 415.432.2551

or email joan@sfiipc.org



SMARTEN YOUR PENCILS AND YOUR WITS TO JOIN US FOR:

TRIVIA AFTERNOONS

A COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT FROM THE IRISH IMMIGRATION
PASTORAL CENTER'S ACTIVE RETIREMENT PROGRAM

EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

(STARTING FEBRUARY 3, 2021)

ZOOM LINK: [LINKTR.EE/SFIIPC](https://linktr.ee/sfiipc)

BY PHONE: CONTACT JOAN AT

415.432.2551 FOR DETAILS



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 Buidéal Gníomhaíochas Éireannach
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

You, Me & A Cup of Tea

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



Our lively and spirited coffee morning, You, Me and a Cup of Tea continues in February every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

We invite you to join us for a chat, to share stories, and generally have a bit of craic to get the week off to a good start.

Joan Cuddihy will lead our conversation each week, occasionally joined by guest speakers for some great conversation.

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 to get your bingo cards. You can now also play online!

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 KEVIN ROCHE AND KATHLEEN SMITH



We are delighted to welcome San Francisco natives, and cousins, Kevin Roche and Kathleen Smith as our musical guests on Sunday, February 21.

Join us for an afternoon of traditional Irish music and song with Kathleen on the button accordion and Kevin on any combination of piano accordion, drums, guitar, piano, and of course, vocals!

Don't forget to send your requests to
Joan@sfiipc.org or call 415.432.2551
by Thursday, February 18



Sunday, February 21, 2021

4:00 p.m. PST

Join us at <https://linktr.ee/sfiipc>
or call +1.669.900.6833, webinar id 876 6434 8593

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céad míle
fáilte

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

Lic. #415600306

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Free Initial Consultation

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and the
BUSINESSES that
Support YOUR UICC

**DEADLINE for MARCH 2021 BULLETIN
is February 15**

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