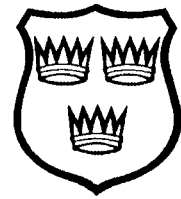




*Foras Cultúir Gael Aontuighthe*

# 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](mailto:info@irishcentersf.org) [www.irishcentersf.org](http://www.irishcentersf.org)



*Volume XLVI No. 1  
January 2021*

2021  
OFFICERS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Liam Reidy  
*President*

Mark Burke  
*Vice President*

Craig Vichweg  
*Treasurer*

Molly Burke  
*Secretary*

Ann Baglin\*  
Josephine Brogan  
Brian Gaffney  
Mark Gorman\*  
Kathleen Kraus\*  
Shannon McAuliffe  
Kathleen McKeon\*  
Thomas McKeon  
Maggie Overbay

\* New Board Member

## BOARD MESSAGE

### *Challenging Year Ahead for the Irish Center*

While 2020 might now be in the rear view mirror, the fallout from the disruption to normal life and economic activities caused by Covid-19 during the last nine months are expected to last well into the first quarter of this year, and perhaps beyond. It's too early to predict when there will be a return to normalcy at the Irish Center and across the city which everyone has craved for many months now. The financial success of our outdoor dining experience "Wawona Gates", our Irish Shoppe and our St. Patricks Appeal have been highlights in a mostly forgettable year. The revenue generated by all of above were not even in existence in 2019 but have helped put the Center on a solid financial foundation during the pandemic and provided us with much need revenue to pay our bills while our indoor event space has been shuttered.

Cultural institutions like The Center, face an uncertain future and will continue to experience major fiscal challenges going forward, especially since our facility is temporarily closed. Based on the most recent San Francisco coronavirus case load and recent surge in numbers of people affected-it could be several weeks before we reopen. The fixed costs and bills for keeping the lights on in our 20,000 square foot facility continue to arrive. We have done all we can over the past two years to reduce our overhead costs. We are down to bare bones at this stage-and we continue to monitor our expenses and take cost cutting measures as needed. The only part of our enterprise that continues to operate is our online Irish Shoppe, which provides access to purchase Irish goods 24/7, with pick up from the Center by appointment, or assigned days.

A large and critical part of our annual budget are the funds received from members in the form of Membership dues. This is especially crucial now, while we are closed indefinitely. So please take a moment to bring your membership up to date if you have allowed it to lapse. Email: [membership@irishcentersf.org](mailto:membership@irishcentersf.org) to find out your status. Thank you in advance for your sustaining membership dues.

We had big plans last month for events at Wawona Gates-Breakfast with Santa Claus, a Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony, St. Stephen's Day and New Year Eve celebrations-however all had to be cancelled due to the latest Shelter in Place order. There were some bright spots during the month, as we showcased many local vendors in the Christmas Boutiques over two Saturdays (Dec 5th and Dec 12th). This was a new offering this year and thank you to Angela Tickler and Nora Daly for making it such a success all round. On Saturday Dec 19th, the UICC cultural program got a major shot in the arm, with a wonderful virtual concert produced, in association with the

*(President's Message continued on page 2)*

Purpose ~ Respect ~ Organization ~ Unity ~ Determination

*(President's Message continued)*

local Cooley-Keegan Comhaltas and Boscaí Beaga Drama Director Michael Dillon. Entertainment from across the globe included contributions from Japan, Australia, England, Isle of Man, Scotland, and Ireland, in addition the US cities of St. Louis, Chicago, New York and here at home in San Francisco were also represented. Proceeds from the concert will go towards future cultural programming in 2021. Hats off to all those behind the scenes who made the concert possible. Many thanks to all those who contributed to our Food Bank collection at the end of November - we have donated over 1,000 lbs of food to local food banks this year. To all those who contributed to the SFPD Toy Drive last month-Thank You!

December also saw the results of our first Board election in over a decade made known. It has provided four new people to the 2021 Board; Ann Baglin, Mark Gorman, Kathleen Kraus and Kathleen McKeon. Welcome to each and everyone of you. Thank you to Kate Paterson for your service to the Board during your tenure. A special thank you to Past President Anne Cassidy Carew who has stepped down after two terms on the board since 2006, accumulating 10 years of service during that time. Anne reached out to me back in the fall of 2018 to take an active role at Irish Center, and so with a little encouragement I came

on aboard in January 2019. I want to thank Anne for her service as President during a most extraordinarily tumultuous 2020. Anne's dedication and steady hand all year is unmatched. I am glad to report that Anne is not going far and will be back to raise the profile of our cultural and educational programs this year.

I want to say a special thank you to Mitzi Samson and Maureen Hickey who have spearheaded the collation, advertising, subscriptions, and publication of the bulletin during the past seventeen years. They retired the position last month, and we thank them for their service.

While we enter a period of not knowing when we can open to the public again, I want the membership to know, that the Board is working tirelessly behind the scenes to develop ideas to keep the Irish Center on an upward trajectory. We will need your help to make that all possible during the year.

"Ní neart go cur le chéile!" - There's no strength without unity!

We will see you soon when it is safe to do so, until then Stay Healthy!

Liam Reidy, *President of the UICC*



**Irish Shoppe**

**ONLINE STORE**

**SHOP NOW**  
**24/7**

[www.IrishCenterSF.org](http://www.IrishCenterSF.org)

Peas, Taytos, O'Donnells Crisps, Beans, Digestives, Erin & Knorr Soups, Barrys Tea, Club Milks, Mi-Wadi Orange, Bisto, Face Masks, Birds Custard, Chef Sauce, Odlums Flour, Salad Cream, Hot Cups, Curry Sauce, HP Sauce, Colmans Mustard and Lots More!

Call or Text  
Josephine Brogan  
415-264-8856  
For Pick-Ups

# ***PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY***

*Greetings from the Library of it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!*

There are faery lights up, a wee [fake] tree and several adorable Santas from around the World [thank you, Angela] set up as well as the banner of the archangel Gabriel. Glimpses of the library and its festive decor were a part of the Boutique both weekends. Some knotwork colouring pages copied out of the library's colouring book were allowed to be accepted by parents of younger children and many books found new homes.

I hope those of you who follow the library on Instagram and Facebook have enjoyed the *Shop Local editions* featuring Leader adverts from 1918, 1920, 1930 and 1940 as well as the events and information we've shared. I welcome your suggestions on themes for 2021.

## ***Irish Genealogy Club Zoom Meeting***

Saturday, January 9 — 11:00am – 1:00pm Monthly on the second Saturday.

Please stay tuned! - topic and registration links will be posted as available.

Irish Genealogy Club contacts: Pati Traktman [patitraktman@gmail.com](mailto:patitraktman@gmail.com) & Kevin Dineen, [dineen5@att.net](mailto:dineen5@att.net)

## ***Irish Marvels, Past and Present Zoom Meeting***

Saturday, January 9 — 2:30 – 4:30pm Monthly on the second Saturday.

Traditional Irish celebration “Nollaig na mBan” aka Women's Little Christmas

After working through the holidays, hang up your kitchen apron, relax and share a cup of tea with friends. We will share stories of important women in our lives, 5-10 mins. each

Lisa Hilmoie, Irish Marvel contact: [hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com](mailto:hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com)

Zooms hosted by Jennifer Drennan of the Patrick Dowling Library.

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)

To directly support 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/>

*Wishing you all a very Happy & safe Holiday Season and Bright New Year.*

*Slainte!*

Jennifer Drennan, Librarian

[librarian@irishcentersf.org](mailto:librarian@irishcentersf.org) — 415/661-2700 ext 106

# **1000 UICC Members Growing Strong**

## **What is your membership status?**



**Contact Board Member Maggie Overbay**

**650-892-4050**

**Email: [membership@irishcentersf.org](mailto:membership@irishcentersf.org)**



# UICC PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY & LEO T. WALSH SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE!

*AND THE WINNERS ARE:*

GRAND DRAW - \$1,500 - Katie O'Reilly

2<sup>ND</sup> DRAW - \$500 - JB Shea Insurance Agency

3<sup>RD</sup> DRAW - \$250 - Maeve O'Reilly

Congratulations to each of you! Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's raffle! We are overwhelmed by your generosity in this strange year of 2020. The raffle netted \$20,815 to be shared between the UICC's Patrick J. Dowling Library and Leo T. Walsh Scholarship programs.

In addition to all the entries mailed in and dropped off at Wawona Gates, there was a flurry of ticket sales on the Boutique weekends and some last minute tickets mailed in. The mailbox was checked on Sunday midafternoon, yielding two last envelopes.

The highlight of our final weekend of sales was when a young man attended the Library's book sale on December 12th. He asked UICC Librarian Jennifer Drennan about the raffle and when hearing what it supported, he purchased a \$1000's worth. He wished to be known only as "Pete" and filled out one single ticket. He stated that he had been a Leo T. Walsh Scholarship recipient and it had made all the difference in helping him with his college education. He wanted to pay it forward. We appreciate both his act of generosity and kindness. Indeed, we thank all of you who supported our fund raising efforts by purchasing tickets as well as donating funds. A special thank you to Duggan's Serra Mortuary for underwriting the ticket printing.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to Jennifer Drennan, for her processing, management and reporting of raffle ticket sales as well as her coordination of the live streaming of the ticket draw. Thank you, Jennifer!

Thank you for your support!

Outgoing UICC President Anne Cassidy Carew, Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program Co-Chairs Peggy Nevin & Carmelle Reiser, and Library & History Committee Chair Valerie McGrew

## Thank You

Mitzi Samson &  
Maureen Hickey

**For 17 Years of Service  
to the UICC Bulletin**

The UICC Board,  
Jan 2021

*Every ending brings  
a new beginning*

## Are You Thinking About Refinancing Your Current Mortgage? Are You a First-Time Homebuyer?

It's a great time to discuss money saving opportunities with a refinance, such as lowering your monthly payment, consolidating debt or taking cash out. With today's low interest rates, along with Commerce Home Mortgage's flexible loan options, it's also a great time to purchase a home and start reaping the benefits that come with homeownership.



Contact me for a free, no-hassle consultation.

**Tom F. Murphy**

Mortgage Advisor | NMLS #208320  
tmurphy@commercemtg.com  
C: 415.272.2012

Commerce Home Mortgage, LLC ("CHM") is a state-licensed mortgage lender. NMLS ID #1639. To verify licenses, visit [www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org](http://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org). Headquartered at 16845 Von Karman Ave., Suite 200, Irvine, CA 92606. AZ: Arizona Mortgage Banker License #0925326. CA: Licensed by the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act. GA: Georgia Residential Mortgage Licensee #48010. For other states, visit us at [www.commercehomemortgage.com](http://www.commercehomemortgage.com). All loans are subject to credit approval and acceptable collateral. Additional terms and conditions apply. Programs, rates, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Not all programs are available in all states. There is no guarantee that all borrowers will qualify. Restrictions may apply. This is not a commitment to lend. ©2020 Commerce Home Mortgage, LLC. All rights reserved.

 **COMMERCE**  
HOME MORTGAGE



# 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 & Trade

## You, Me & A Cup of Tea

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

We are delighted to welcome you all back to our Tuesday morning Cup of Tea as we kick off the New Year on January 5 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.

Our January events will take place on January 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Joan Cuddihy will lead our conversation each week, joined by guest speakers for some great conversation. Our first guest for 2021 will be **Dr. Colman Ryan from Seton Medical Center** who will join Joan on January 12.

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. 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 KENNY SOMERVILLE

Join us for our first Music Hour of 2021 when we will be joined by Kenny Somerville, a Fermanagh native who has been a fixture in the Irish music scene in San Francisco since 1993.

A mandolin and guitar player who didn't start playing an instrument until he was 17, Kenny will entertain us with his American style fingerpicking and your favorite ballads.

Don't forget to send your requests to [Joan@sfiipc.org](mailto:Joan@sfiipc.org) or call 415.432.2551 by Thursday, January 14



Sunday, January 17

4:00 p.m. PST

Join us at <https://linktr.ee/sfiipc>  
or call +1.669.900.6833, webinar id 886 5754 7047

# 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 first Reading Room of 2021 will be on **Thursday, January 28** at **7:00 p.m.** when we will discuss a selection from **Collected Stories** by **Frank O'Connor**. Our chosen short stories will be:

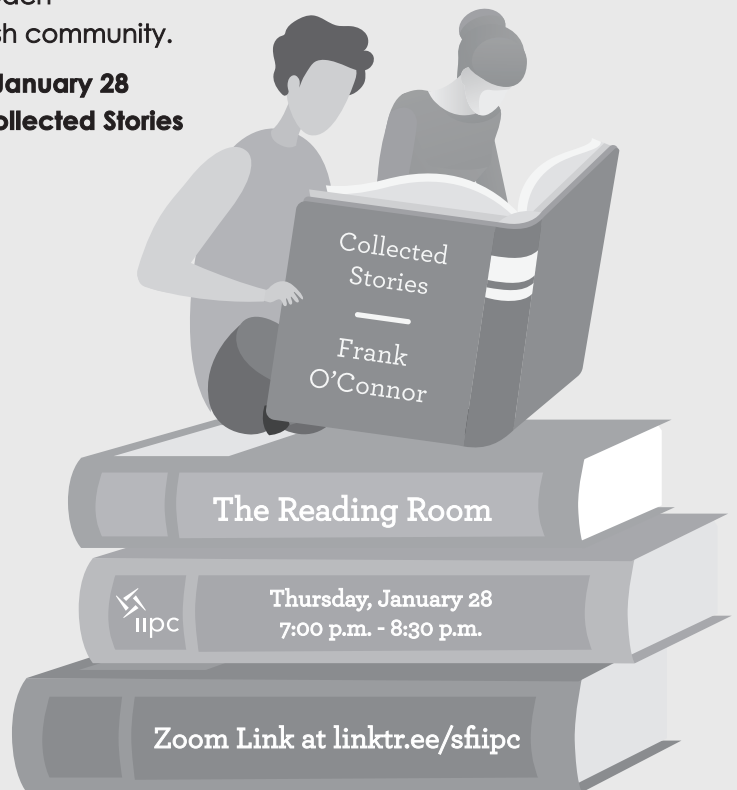
Guests of the Nation  
The Bridal Night  
The Majesty of the Law  
The Babes in the Wood  
The Long Road to Ummerra  
The Impossible Marriage

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)



## Celebrate our First Anniversary!

It has already been a year since we launched our Golden Gate Men's Shed at the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center.

The Shed's first year was not quite what we had imagined, but we would not change the conversations, friendships and building of community that has happened in 2020.

The Golden Gate Men's Shed meets on Zoom every **Monday evening at 6:30 p.m.** and will celebrate it's First Anniversary on Monday, January 25. We look forward to welcoming some special guests to mark the occasion!

We hope you can join us each Monday evening at 6:30 p.m - link at <https://linktr.ee/sfiipc>

## GOLDEN GATE



## Mondays from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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



# Westborough Royale

## Retirement & Assisted Living

89 Westborough Blvd.  
South San Francisco, CA 94080  
**(650) 872-0400**

[www.westboroughroyale.com](http://www.westboroughroyale.com)



### Our Fee Includes:

The comforts of home plus the safety and security that comes with having trained, experienced caregivers at hand ready to assist with the following:

- Medication management
- Assistance with showering
- Three chef prepared meals daily with 24-hour snacks available
- Full housekeeping, linen and personal laundry service
- 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).

céad míle  
fáilte

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

Lic. #415600306

BERG  
SENIOR  
SERVICES, LLC

# United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.



2700 45th Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94116-2696

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
San Francisco, CA  
PERMIT NO. 9909

## DEADLINE for FEBRUARY 2021 BULLETIN is January 15

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

Support YOUR UICC  
and the  
BUSINESSES that  
Support YOUR UICC

## Riordan Sykes McFadden, P.C.

**Kerry Riordan Sykes**  
**Maureen S. McFadden**

Certified Specialists in Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law  
by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization

381 West Portal Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94127  
(415) 661-9050

Free Initial Consultation



"Our Family Serving Yours"

*Celebrations of Life*



Please contact our Pre-Planning Department for  
your **FREE** Personal Planning Guide

Duggan's Serra Mortuary® FD1098  
500 Westlake Avenue, Daly City  
650/756-4500 [www.duggansserra.com](http://www.duggansserra.com)

Sullivan's and Duggan's Serra Funeral Services FD 228  
6201 Geary Blvd., San Francisco  
415/621-4567  
[www.sullivansfh.com](http://www.sullivansfh.com)

*My Funeral, My Cremation, My Way®*  
Traditional & Cremation Services