



Foras Cultúir Gael Aontuighthe

United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.

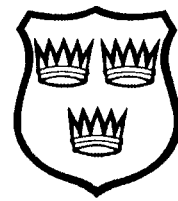
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Volume XLVI No. 7
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2021
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BOARD MESSAGE

Busy Summer Activity Bucks Recent Historical Trend



Liam Reidy

Historically, summertime is generally a quiet period around the Center, but this year the level of weekly activity is bucking that former annual trend. The Center has been busy since reopening for private events back in late April. We have hosted several parochial, high school, and college graduation celebrations and birthday parties since late May, along with many memorials for loved ones delayed during pandemic restrictions of the last year.

While Wawona Gates each Saturday is our weekly mainstay public event supporting ongoing operations and an expanding Irish cultural program, there are now several private events bookending our own activity. During the week, the Center is bustling from early morning to late afternoon, as the kids attending Camp Edmo are busy moving from one activity to the next throughout the building. EDMO is a national education nonprofit that organizes summer camps for kids, and we will host the group until early August.

We continue to develop our partnerships with local Irish American community organizations, and pride of place this month goes to our friends at the SFBALLES (San Francisco Bay Area Law Enforcement Emerald Society). On June 12th, the Emerald Society, spearheaded by President John Hallisy and Vice President Kevin Lynch, held a very successful day of music, song, and dance at Wawona Gates celebrating the club's Irish heritage. A great line-up of local Irish musicians including Ivor Collins, Eoin O'Sullivan, and Brian Lynch provided the entertainment on the day. The Emerald Society supplied several volunteers including John Hallisy, Kevin Lynch, Joan Cronin, Val Kirwan, and Patrick Burke to ensure the day was a huge success.

The return of the John and Maureen Kennelly Memorial Irish dance Feis to the Center, late last month after an absence of two decades, was another well-attended event. Two hundred young dancers from across California, Nevada, and Oregon competed, many in preparation for the National Irish dance championships in Arizona this month. The annual Kennelly Feis is normally organized and scheduled away from the Center due to the need for a large facility to accommodate the number of entrants. Due to a capped number of entrants, it was possible to host the Feis once again, and as the organizer, Patricia Kennelly said, "It was great to come home to the Center after such a long hiatus." It is certainly a huge win for the Cultural Programming team at the Center this year to get a Feis back into the building.

On Saturday, June 19th, we celebrated the one-year anniversary of Wawona Gates, our outdoor dining and event space, with an all-UICC volunteer cast line-up. Like many hospitality and cultural event spaces across the country, the UICC was scrambling this time last year to stay afloat as restrictions to indoor events and any activity was very limited. The Center was fortunate to have a parking lot to create an outdoor dining space which later became an outside cultural event space when gathering restrictions eased up. No mention of Wawona Gates can forget the three Board members who became the regular event leads and who staffed it voluntarily all year -- Mark and Molly Burke, along with Josephine Brogan. In short, it was a herculean effort to be open three days a week (Friday nights, Saturdays, and Sunday afternoons), but we had no other choice, as otherwise we would have had to put the locks on the doors of our beloved Center.

(President's Message continued on page 2)

(President's Message continued)

We cannot forget all the other board members and volunteers that regularly helped out on weekends, which all went a long way to pay the bills and keep the Center going during the dark days of the pandemic. Without Wawona Gates, it's fair to say we would have been in serious financial trouble. It's great to now look back and feel proud of the fact that we were able to keep things going and the Irish flag flying over the Center.

The Irish Center Irish Summer Camp, a new initiative this year from the Cultural Programming Dept., was an outstanding success. For its inaugural year, the camp was held inside the beautiful St. Cecilia's Collins Center on 18th Ave. We had more than 30 kids participate during the three-week period which catered to children between the ages of 7 and 14. The camp culminated in an entertaining concert with a capacity crowd held at the Irish Center on Friday, June 25th. The show, produced by the camp leaders and campers themselves, was a look at "Ireland in the Rare Ould Times." What an experience for all the campers, learning about Irish history through drama, music, song, and dance. There were rave reviews about the camp overall. I spoke to many parents before and after the concert, and many said that their child had an amazing experience at the camp. Statements like "They loved it," "They never came home and said they were bored," "Wake me up early for Camp tomorrow," and "Mom, sign me up for Irish summer camp next year!" were just some of the feedback.

2025 Project

The preplanning work on the proposed 2025 development project

is ongoing behind the scenes with the building group and architects. Redmond Lyons (welcome back from your recent trip to Ireland) and Leo Cassidy are driving the project forward with Studio BANAA on a weekly basis as the floor plans and layout of the interior of the building are refined and tweaked. The Project 2025 group hopes to formally apply to the city for a permit to redevelop in mid-July, all going well!

We recently had a topographic and soil survey undertaken at the Center to help prepare for the formal application to the San Francisco Building Department. Redeveloping and rebuilding the Center is a very complicated process, and there are so many things to happen prior to putting a shovel in the ground for the new building. Suffice to say it is no small undertaking, and I'm so glad to have Redmond and Leo in the driving seat here.

We continue to monitor the feedback provided by our members to our online survey at www.irishcenter2025.org. Many thanks to all those who have taken the time to review the conceptual designs and drawings and made suggestions. We have included the reviews and comments with the building group and the architects in our weekly meetings.

On a final note, I want to wish all the members a happy and safe 4th of July celebration.

Liam Reidy, *President*

lreidy@irishcentersf.org



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JULY-AUGUST CALENDAR

■ JULY 3, SATURDAY

- Wawona Gates ~ 1:00-8:00pm
- Music with Dan Dectis ~ 4-6pm

■ JULY 4, SUNDAY ~ CLOSED

Happy 4th of July!

■ JULY 10, SATURDAY

- Irish Genealogy Club ~ 11:00am-1:00pm
See information on Patrick J. Dowling Library page
- Irish Marvels, Past and Present ~ 2:00pm
See information on Patrick J. Dowling Library page
- Wawona Gates ~ 1:00-8:00pm
- Music with the Gas Men ~ 4-6pm

■ JULY 11, SATURDAY

- Wawona Gates ~ 1:00-8:00pm
- Euro Soccer Final Watch Party ~ 12:00pm

■ JULY 17, SATURDAY

- Wawona Gates ~ 1:00-8:00pm
- A License to Chill -
Jimmy Buffett tribute Band ~ 4-6pm

■ JULY 24, SATURDAY

- Wawona Gates ~ 1:00-8:00pm
- Music with Thomas Power ~ 4-6pm

■ JULY 29, SATURDAY

- Biscuits & Books ~ 4:00-5:00pm
Live Zoom chat with Anne & Jennifer
See information on Patrick J. Dowling Library page

■ JULY 31, SATURDAY

- "The First Rose of Tralee" - Book Discussion
See information on Patrick J. Dowling Library page

■ AUGUST 7, SATURDAY

- Wawona Gates ~ 1:00-8:00pm
- Kevin Roche Trio ~ 4-6pm

■ AUGUST 14, SATURDAY

- Wawona Gates ~ 1:00-8:00pm
- Boys of Malin ~ 4-6pm

■ AUGUST 21, SATURDAY

- Wawona Gates ~ 1:00-8:00pm
- Anthony Presti ~ 4-6pm

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday August 28, 2021

Mad Hatter Tea Party ~ 1-3pm

•

Sunday September 12, 2021

San Patricio Battalion Event

•

Saturday September 18, 2021

Halfway to St. Patrick's Day

•

Saturday-Sunday September 18-19, 2021

Irish Dance Feis (Dillon School of Irish Dance)

•

Friday October 8, 2021

JigJam ~ Live in Concert

*JigJam are a multi-award winning quartet
from the heart of the midlands in Ireland.*

•

Saturday October 9, 2021

Connaught Club Dinner

•

Saturday October 16, 2021

Octoberfest

•

Saturday October 23, 2021

Emerald Society Annual Dinner

•

Saturday November 13, 2021

Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones

•

Sunday November 14, 2021

Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones,
Unplugged

•

Saturday December 11, 2021

Rebel Cork Club Dinner

• 2022 •

Saturday February 5, 2022

Phil Coulter in Concert

•

Friday March 11, 2022

Eileen Ivers in Concert

PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY

Greetings from the Library of Re-opening!

Our Welcome, Fáilte mat is out! Now on our Facebook page - Make your reading room appointments on Thursdays or Saturdays, 2:00 - 3:00pm or 3:15 - 4:15pm; volunteers' schedules permitting.

1. Book through FB or Email your appointment request to library@irishcentersf.org.

a. Include your title list, and/or research subject request and preferred date/time.

b. Use our OPAC <https://19552.rmwebopac.com/> to find your books, up to 3 titles.

c. Requests will be confirmed or an alternate date/time offered by 3:00pm on Tuesdays or Fridays.

2. Appointments: Are you double vaccinated? Or, have a negative covid test result within the last 3 days? Bring your docs and c'mon in during your time!

Library capacity is two [2] guests at a time, for an hour, to read, research and relax. Walk-ins will happily be accommodated as appointments allow.

Thank you to...

An anonymous lovely donor for such an exquisite set of Belleek! So excited to have it on display in the main hall next to the Emerald Room stairs.

The families who have offered us an opportunity to add their Irish ephemera and memorabilia to our nascent digital archive. Programs, event posters, photographs, news clippings; if it's Irish in the Bay Area especially we're happy to add it.

The dance schools who are so generously allowing us to photograph and document their archives and stories in preparation for an in-person exhibition of "150 of Irish Dance by the Bay" planned for January, 2022. If you have costumes, ephemera, photos, programs, relating to the Irish Dance community, please reach out to Anne Cassidy Carew at acarew@irishcentersf.org or the library.

"The First Rose of Tralee" - Book Club discussion with Dublin-based author Patricia O'Reilly

Saturday, July 31 — 10:00am Pacific/6:00pm Dublin

Read Patricia's book "The First Rose of Tralee", and register for the book club discussion with her at the end of July. Discussion points will be sent out to registrants in advance. Available on Amazon.com in the US: https://smile.amazon.com/First-Rose-Tralee-Inspired-Irelands/dp/1781997748/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+first+rose+of+tralee&qid=1624369921&s=books&sr=1-1

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

Saturday, July 10, 11:00 am — 1:00 pm

Speaker TBA - Discussion focusing on local groups, organizations and resources.

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

Irish Marvels Past & Present Zoom

Saturday, July 10 — 2:00pm

Pati Traktman presents "Los San Patricios and the Irish / Mexican connection"

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

Biscuits & Books - Live Zoom Chat with Anne & Jennifer

Thursday, July 29 — 4:00 - 5:00 pm Pacific time.

Our next episode of Biscuits & Books. Grab a cuppa and join in while we explore the Library's Book Sale antiquarian and rare book opportunities. See a title you're interested in? Please reach out: library@irishcentersf.org.

Want to join in on the Zoom fun? *Fáilte! Welcome!*

Pre-register from anywhere the links are published. Having troubles day of? Email library@irishcentersf.org.

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: [pjdowlinglibrary](https://www.instagram.com/pjdowlinglibrary)

Donate here to support the Library's modernization, preservation and programming efforts: <https://irishcentersf.org/donations/>

Keep well. Sláinte!

Jennifer Drennan, Librarian

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

Kennelly Memorial Feis at UICC on June 27th

It's hard to imagine that it's been more than two decades since the Irish Center hosted an Irish Dance Feis. Since the popularization of Irish Dance worldwide beginning in 1994 with the advent of the global phenomenon "Riverdance" it has been difficult for smaller venues to accommodate all those who wanted to participate and compete competitively. This increase in participation led to local dance schools seeking out larger venues downtown to hold their Feis. Now however, due to recent Covid-19 restrictions across the nation, and a cap on the number of entries to Feiseanna, places like the UICC are becoming popular again as they make economic sense with smaller competitive fields. So, the UICC was delighted to be chosen by the Patricia Kennelly School of Irish Dance to hold the long running John and Maureen Memorial Feis on June 27th.

Many people were delighted to be back at the Center after the long absence, as it brought back many memories for the Feis parents, who themselves competed at the Center decades ago themselves. Here are some photos from the Feis.

The Next Feis at the Center will take place on Friday and Saturday Sept 18th and 19th, organized by the Dillon School of Irish Dance.



Boys U-16 Preliminary Champion Rhys Lewis with his teacher Patricia Kennelly.



Girls U14 Preliminary Champion Paige McGrath with her teacher Patricia Kennelly.



Patricia Kennelly (Irish Dance Teacher and Feis Organizer) with Liam Reidy (UICC President), and Anne Cassidy Carew (UICC Cultural Programming Director).



There were several Bay Area Irish Dance teachers present at the Feis including: Annie McBride, Trish Feeney, Sharon Whelan McSweeney, Fidelma Keenan, Sheila Whelan Gallagher, Mary Jo Feeney, Patti Ann Ranum, Lisa Brosnan Hynes, Alisa Ranum Bellev, and Eileen McBride Parker.



Anne McBride and Mary Jo Feeney



Tanner Manning, Fintan Reidy and Aidan Pecko all competed at the Feis.

ENJOYING WAWONA GATES



Jennifer Corry, Michael Dillon and Sarah Van Middleworth enjoy the Irish Dance exhibition at Wawona Gates on June 19th.



Presidents Liam Reidy (UICC) and John Hallisy (Emerald Society) volunteered at Wawona Gates on Saturday, June 12th.



Grace Devlin and Eoin Clancy from the Murphy School of Irish Dance, participated in the Irish dancing exhibition on June 19th



Sunday July 11
Euro Soccer
Final
Watch Party
12 Noon

AT WAWONA GATES



With the
SF Glens
Soccer
Club



MUSIC AT JULY/ AUGUST WAWONA GATES

OPEN 1-8PM

SAT 3RD DAN DECTIS 4-6 PM



SAT 10TH THE GAS MEN 4-6 PM



SAT 17TH LICENSE TO CHILL 4-6 PM

(JIMMY BUFFETT TRIBUTE BAND)



SAT 24TH DEBUT APPEARANCE 4-6 PM



THOMAS POWER

SAT 31ST FRET AND FIDDLE 4-6 PM



AUGUST

SAT 7TH KEVIN ROCHE TRIO SAT 21ST ANTHONY PRESTI

SUN 10TH THE BOYS OF MALIN SAT 28TH THE GAS MEN

Inaugural Irish Camp Proves A Big Hit with Local Kids

The inaugural Irish Center Summer Camp proved to be a huge success for three weeks this past June. Over thirty local kids participated in the camp which was held at the Collins Center at St. Cecilia's Church in the Parkside. The camp culminated with a show produced by the camp leaders and participants at the United Irish Cultural Center on Friday June 25th. The theme of the show was "Ireland in the Rare Ould Times". The audience was transported back in time via a magical "Bosca Telefón" (Telephone Box) to a time when monastic monks were producing works of art like the Book of Kells in the 8th Century, the Viking invasions, The Famine, and all the way up to modern day. Great credit is due to Camp Directors Máire Clerkin and Michael Dillon, and camp leaders Eamonn Flynn, AJ Rogers, Jennifer Corry, Maureen Brady and Mary Radonovich for the fantastic work in preparing the kids for the show, many of whom were on stage for the very first time. High School students Shane Reidy (University HS) and JT Hardiman (Saint Ignatius) provided on site support for the camp.

This years camp was made possible by financial support from the UICC Irish Cultural Programming Dept. which is primarily funded by Wawona Gates activities. Many thanks to UICC President Liam Reidy and UICC Cultural Program Director Anne Cassidy Carew for initial and continued support for the camp. The camp will return next year, and there will possibly be mini drama camps during this upcoming year.

Here are some photos of the camp attendees and those that came out to the show.



Michelle, Walker, Patrick, Kevin and Donovan.



Michele, Andrew, Patrick, Pete, and David Williams.



Paola, John, Sofia, and Eliana O'Riordan



Gina Tribulato, Sofia O'Riordan, Valeria Pulido-Gencbik, and Julia Beyer.



Andrew, Cillian, Seamus, Caoimbe and Olivia.



Caitlin, Camilla, Clementine Kavanagh, and Celine Curran



Saoirse Roman



Anna, Devon and Gareth Selfe



Fintian Reidy, Francis Dillesbaw, Eliana O'Riordan.



Brendan, Owen, Calla, Hailey, Brittany and Scarlett.



Sarah Bennett, Brian Stannard, Seamus Stannard



Guiliana Torpis, Vianna Dillesbaw and Anneka Houghton



Cillian Cudden learning piano from Shane Reidy



Eamonn Flynn and Maureen Bra



Roisín Reidy, Camilla and Clementine Kavanagh



Fintian Reidy, Aidan Pecko and Cillian Cudden



JT Hardiman, Patrick Williams, and Shane Reidy



Roisín Reidy, AJ Rogers, and Vivienne Pasquini.



Jennifer Corry, Máire Clerkin, and Michael Dillon

Jigs and Reels Through the Streets of San Francisco

by Anne Cassidy Carew

During the last couple of months, a research team has been interviewing several people that have spent a lifetime involved with Irish dancing here in the San Francisco bay area. It has been a real labor of love as the collection expands one story and one photo at a time about their experiences in Irish dancing in San Francisco and further afield.

What is your Irish dance story? How long did you dance? What friendships were forged and never forgotten? Is there a costume, some medals, feis booklets, photos of parades or events that you danced at and want to share?

One of the funniest stories that I have heard, well I won't give it away just yet but it has to do with some creative ways of curling one's hair before the curling wigs and curling irons were around.

The exhibit will take place in January 2022. When tickets go live, make sure you get your ticket. This will be an exhibit not to miss! If you are interested in sharing your story or photos please email Anne Cassidy Carew at acarew@irishcentersf.org

A youthful Patricia Kennelly was declared the winner of the 1971 Feis Erin Junior championship. Patricia accepts her trophy from Thomas C.O'Neill (Irish Festival committee member). Patricia now teaches in San Francisco, Roseville, Burlingame, Los Gatos, Sacramento, and Reno, NV. The Kennelly School of Irish Dancing held the John and Maureen Memorial Feis at the United Irish Cultural Center on Sunday, June 27th last.



The Ann Healy School of Adult Irish Dancing Step champions from 1972. Left to Right: Ann Marie McMabon, Katie Burke, Katie O'Brien, and Joanne O'Malley



Article from December 1971 promoting Irish Dancing in SF.



UICC PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY

MAD HATTER TEA PARTY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28th, 2021 1PM-3PM
Tickets go on sale July 28th
\$30 for Adults/\$15 for Children 12 and under

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or receive a negative covid test within 72 hours.

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ACTIVE RETIREMENT CLUB OUTREACH PROGRAM



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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!

TRIVIA AFTERNOONS

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY | 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?!

Where are the islets of Langerhans?

When was Boxer Revolution?

To get the answers to these and other fascinating questions,
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By phone, contact Joan at 415.432.2551 for dial-in details



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Join us to discuss the health and wellness needs
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Program can continue to support you!

THURSDAY, JULY 8 @ 6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14 @ 11:00 A.M.

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

WELLNESS OPEN FORUM



CALL IIPC FOR MORE INFORMATION
Shannon Cotter - (415) 432-2552
shannon@sfiipc.org

IIPC is generously funded by:



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Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Escape to the Great Outdoors

IIPC Wellness Program Meet Up

Let's take some time to enjoy the incredible place in which we
live, get off the screens, and go outside for some fresh air!

Join us in person at San Francisco's Ocean Beach on:

Tuesday, August 10 at 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, August 18 at 5:00 p.m.

Exact location will be announced via social media
and on our registration page at linktr.ee/sfiipc

For more information,
call Shannon at 415.243.2552
or email shannon@sfiipc.org

A Community Outreach Program of
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Center Wellness Program

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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.

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Free Initial Consultation

DEADLINE for AUGUST 2021 BULLETIN is JULY 15

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

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believe-ing

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