



*Foras Cultúir Gael Aontuighthe*

# United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.

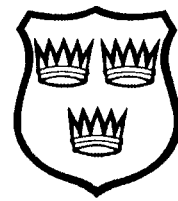
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Volume XLVI No. 45  
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2021  
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## BOARD MESSAGE

*Spring is in the air and signals a new beginning for the Center*



*Liam Reidy*

We are well and truly now in the middle of spring that for eons has been a time of great change and regrowth in nature. Spring marks the beginning of warmer weather and longer daylight hours, the blooming of flowers and the budding of leaves. Spring also coincides with the second quarter of the financial year. The Center continues to perform well on the financial side of operations-as we have maintained strong performances from Wawona Gates and the Irish Shoppe since the turn of the year. We continue to be prudent in our expenditures but recently invested in financial and cloud-based accounting technologies to run a more efficient operation. This investment will provide considerable fixed cost savings down the road across all our operations.

Our loyal membership continues to provide support with ongoing gifts, donations and membership renewals that all help boost the financial health of the Center and support our wider community where we can. This month we give pride of place to all the members and families who have contributed over \$40,000 since last summer to the Leo Walsh Education Scholarship Fund. The funds will be dispersed in June to local 8th graders attending high school in the fall, and local high school seniors who are college-bound this Autumn. Applications are currently under review by the Scholarship committee. Since 1994, over 500 scholarships have helped educate young members of the local Irish American community. Please review the currently named scholarship awards on our website: <https://irishcentersf.org/scholarships/>

Members are encouraged to contribute to the scholarship fund or create their own legacy by establishing a named award for their Family or in memory of a loved one.

I am glad to report that bulletin subscriptions are up for the year, and so if you have not paid your annual subscription-this may be your last one! Please take a moment to continue to subscribe to the monthly newsletter. Use the bulletin page in this month's edition to renew.

The UICC finances are on a solid foundation (despite the impact of the pandemic) after two years of amazing work by a dedicated and hard-working board with the support of the 1,150 active members, volunteers, and the broader community. Members should make every effort to attend the in-person public meeting on Friday, May 7th at 7 pm which outlines the plans for the future of the Irish Center. While the meeting will be conducted in the St. Patrick's room following local mandated Covid guidelines, we will also simultaneously stream it into the Wawona Gates canopy. Please register to attend the meeting at [www.irishcenter2025.org](http://www.irishcenter2025.org).

We have spent much of the past year developing plans to make the Irish Center a destination once again. Come and hear about the exciting plans for the future of the building.

Now that Covid restrictions are shaking loose and more and more people can gather safely, our private event bookings are on the rise. Delayed and canceled meetings, birthday parties, memorials, and weddings are filling up the UICC calendar. It is great to have the "event excitement" in the building again. Longer-term,

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

(President's Message continued)

we are happy to see some of our larger clubs and organizations secure dates for their annual events. The Connaught Club has scheduled their annual dinner for Saturday, Oct 9th, the Emerald Society is penciled in for Oct 23rd, while the Rebel Cork clubs have secured Dec 11th.

We are also happy to report that we have three different Irish dance schools currently teaching out of the Center. Welcome to the Dillon, Murphy, and Kennelly schools. Irish dance schools and the dancers themselves have had a tough time during the pandemic as classes and competitions were heavily restricted. The dance schools were the first to kick start our cultural programming last fall on our outdoor stage, and we are delighted to host classes inside now.

Our kid's Storytime classes on Saturday mornings via zoom during March and April were a big hit with kids and parents alike. Máire Clerkin from Los Angeles was the "seanachai" (storyteller) who kept the kids on the edge of their seats and sometimes out of their seats to dance and play each Saturday. It is hoped to bring the kid's storytime back in the fall.

Our Irish Summer Camp runs from June 7th to June 25th, and interest has been robust to date, to say the least. The camp will take place at the St. Cecilia's Collins Center, at 2560 18th Avenue between Vicente and Ulloa. Early bird pricing until May 15th, \$750 for three weeks of camp from 9 am to 3 pm each day. Learn to play the drums, or keyboards, speak Irish, participate in drama, storytelling, multi-media production, art classes, and even hip hop!

The Irish Dance exhibition organizing group spearheaded by Anne Cassidy Carew is busy collecting memorabilia and documenting Irish dance stories at the moment. The group will continue their efforts through the summer in time for the fall presentation. If you have a story to tell or something to contribute you can reach her at [acarew@irishcentersf.org](mailto:acarew@irishcentersf.org)

Thank you to all the members who have taken the time to write to me, or email me in the recent past. I do take time to respond to each and everyone one of you. I know the Irish Center is close to your heart, and I want to reassure you that the Center is in good hands. It's been a real baptism of fire, and learning experience the last two years since I first got on the Board. It takes a lot of human energy to keep things going week in week out with so many different aspects of the job to deal with. It's been a real labor of love and I am enjoying it!

I want to end this month's message to acknowledge all the Mothers and Grandmothers out there. Mothers Day is May 9th and so make sure you treat the mother in your life with special love and care on the one day of the year dedicated to them. Happy Mother's Day!

Liam Reidy, *President*  
[lreidy@irishcentersf.org](mailto:lreidy@irishcentersf.org)



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## MAY CALENDAR

### ■ MAY 1, SATURDAY

- Wawona Gates Open ~ 1-8pm  
Kentucky Derby Day. Patrick J Dowling Library Fundraiser

### ■ MAY 2, SUNDAY - 12PM

- The ILHS present the renowned New York author and historian Peter Quinn, in conversation with James Fisher, by Zoom

### ■ MAY 7, FRIDAY

- Wawona Gates Open ~ 5-9pm
- Public Meeting ~ 7pm  
Discussion on the Future of the UICC

### ■ MAY 8, SATURDAY

- Irish Genealogy Club ~ 11:00am - 1:00pm  
via Zoom Meeting
- Irish Marvels, Past and Present ~ 2:30 - 4:30pm  
via Zoom Meeting
- Wawona Gates Open ~ 1-8pm
- Grab and Go Lasagna for 4  
Homemade Lasagna from Vitorrios Restaurant on West Portal.  
Pick-up between 4:00 - 5:30pm
- Jimmy Buffet tribute band, "License to Chill ~ 4:00pm  
as part of the best Cinco De Mayo celebration in SF!

### ■ MAY 9, SUNDAY

- HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! Wawona Gates Closed

### ■ MAY 13, THURSDAY

- Members General Meeting ~ 7:30pm  
Link online at [www.irishcenter.org](http://www.irishcenter.org)

### ■ MAY 15, SATURDAY

- Wawona Gates Open ~ 1-8pm

### ■ MAY 22, SATURDAY

- Wawona Gates Open ~ 1-8pm  
Afternoon of Jazz with Terence Brewer

### ■ MAY 29, SATURDAY

- Wawona Gates Open ~ 1-8pm  
UICC Member Appreciation Weekend

## SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday June 19th, 2021**

First Anniversary  
Celebration of Wawona Gates

•

**Saturday October 9th, 2021**

Connaught Club Dinner

•

**Saturday October 16th, 2021**

Octoberfest

•

**Saturday October 23rd, 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 11th, 2021**

Rebel Cork Club Dinner



**FRIDAY MAY 7TH AT 7PM AT THE UICC**  
**"THE FUTURE OF THE IRISH CENTER"**

**THURSDAY MAY 13TH ~ ONLINE VIA ZOOM**  
**MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING AT 7.30PM**

LINK ONLINE AT [WWW.IRISHCENTERSE.ORG](http://WWW.IRISHCENTERSE.ORG)



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

## ***Greetings from the Library, tra-la, it's May!***

Or nearly so, as I type this. There are so many exciting things coming up including special author talks, Derby Day fundraiser, and more. We are honoured to be a repository for much of the collective Irish and Irish American history in the Bay Area, and welcome new additions always. As the volunteers return to the library, we are making digital copies of items in our and local family collections. The Dowling and Lynch-Mibach previews in the St. Patrick's Day parade was just the start of an ongoing effort to preserve our local history and make the collection more accessible.

## ***Celebrate the Kentucky Derby at the Wawona Gates - A Benefit for the Patrick J. Dowling Library***

Saturday, May 1st, 1:00 - 4:30pm

Support your Library! Watch the Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports! We're thrilled to welcome celebrity bartender Joanne Hayes-White. Join us for Mint Juleps and Best Derby Hat competition: bring your own or make one there! Fascinator making! My Old Kentucky Home sing-along! Purchase authentic vintage Kentucky Derby glasses from Kathleen Dowling McDonough's collection!

## ***Live Chat with Brigid Kavanaugh, author***

Sunday, May 2nd, 1:00 - 2:00pm

Join us as our Anne Cassidy Carew chats with Brigid Kavanaugh, born in 1926. During lockdown, her family helped gather a whopping 95 short stories and poems she had penned throughout her lifetime. In *My Mind's Eye: Walking Amongst Ghosts* contains dozens of stories reflecting on her experiences in London throughout the chaos of World War II, raising her family upon her return to Ireland, and her own childhood growing up in Roscommon. [www.irishpost.com, 2021]

Register at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=register&url=us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=register&url=tZAucOugqjsH9y\\_ou\\_s72tMkMH7qgVP7h5B](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=register&url=us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=register&url=tZAucOugqjsH9y_ou_s72tMkMH7qgVP7h5B)

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

Saturday, May 8 — 11:00am - 1:00pm

"Parochial and civil boundaries, Poor Law Unions, websites and databases for Irish ancestors, Griffith's Valuation, use of 19th century maps and contemporary map overlays" presented by Sean Conley.

~Irish Genealogy Club contacts: Pati Traktman [patitraktman@gmail.com](mailto:patitraktman@gmail.com)

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

Saturday, May 8 — 2:30 - 4:30pm

"Rivers, Mountains and other Sacred Places in Ireland and Elsewhere" presented by Jo Coffey. A brief overview of sacred places, and people's relationship to them historically and in the present.

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

Zooms Hosted by Jennifer Drennan of the Patrick Dowling Library.

## ***Biscuits & Books - Live Zoom chat***

Thursday, May 20 — 4:00pm - 5:00pm

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](mailto:library@irishcentersf.org). We're happy to rehome all the wonderful titles off the book cart and antiquarian shelf.

Want to join in on the Zoom fun? Fáilte! Welcome! Zoom pre-registration links will be published on the Library's Facebook and Instagram accounts as well as the UICC Event Calendar. Pre-register from anywhere the link is published. Having troubles day of ? Email [librarian@irishcentersf.org](mailto:librarian@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: [pjdowlinglibra](https://www.instagram.com/pjdowlinglibra)

*Stay safe, stay well. Sláinte!*

Jennifer Drennan, Librarian

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

# WAWONA GATES

## SATURDAY APRIL 17TH, 2021

Local Sunset resident Dan Dectis provided the music on the afternoon of April 17th at Wawona Gates, which continues to attract a large audience to the live music offerings each Saturday. Here are some photos of those in attendance.



*Leslie Laurence and Tammy Miller*



*Ron and Julie Maykel*



*Musician Dan Dectis*



*Mary McKeever and Eamon*



*Beth Fergus and Maura Devlin Clancy*



*Veronica O'Brien, Sue and Pat O'Halloran*



*Christine Cota and Virginia Casey*

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## SEASON OF CELEBRATION

Congratulations to all the younger members of the Irish American community who celebrated First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Graduations at this time of year. The Center held several private events to celebrate these milestones during April, and will continue to do so well into the month of June. We are happy to be back hosting private parties after an absence of 14 months.

Photographed here are second graders from St. Cecilia's School in the Parkside who celebrate their First Holy Communion on April 24th, 2021.



*Left to right: Tommy Harvey, Brendan Mullen and Fintan Reidy*

## JOHN JOSEPH CASEY RIP

*March 2nd, 1930 - April 19, 2021*

John Joseph Casey was born on 03/02/30 to Catherine Cross and John Joseph Casey Sr. in Askeaton County Limerick, Ireland. John was one of six boys: Mike, Billy, Jim, Tossie and Paddy and two girls, Lily and Mary in a large Irish catholic family of eight. He had many endeavors in his life. His youngest brother Paddy always said, "He was always going somewhere." One day he did. In 1956 he left Ireland for the great USA. He left home two years after Ellis Island closed, and was bound for Australia. However upon his initial glance of San Francisco bay and reaching out of his Haight Ashbury apartment window to find an orange in hand without any effort from a tree decided to make San Francisco his new home. Where home was to John there was construction. He worked many jobs in his life: Riker's Island in NY harbor, Chicago fireman, Lawrey's construction, Cahill construction, Presco construction and construction for the City and County of S.F. John help build and repair many S.F edifices : S.F Hilton, S.F. Mint., etc. As an avid member of the UICC in its infancy John helped with many construction projects. According to his wife, "He was flying where no Irishman has gone before." upon high height repairs on the center. John Joseph was the first on his 27th ave block in S.F to build up a third level on a two level house structure. He was a master fly fisherman self-taught on the Shannon River in Ireland, an avid camping cowboy and dreamed of always being a sea captain. John passed away on 04/19/21 at the age of 91. He believed in duty, honor and strength. John Joseph is survived by his devoted wife, Donna and partner of 58 years, his eldest daughters, Anne Casey-Nielson, Carol Casey, and his only grandson Vincent Casey Nielson.



## JARLATH THOMAS O'CONNOR RIP

*November 21, 1935 - March 29, 2021*



Jarlath "J.T." O'Connor died peacefully at home in Tiburon, California on March 29, 2021, of natural causes, surrounded by his devoted family.

A towering pillar of the Irish community of San Francisco for many decades, Jarlath was born into a large family in rural Milltown, County Galway, Ireland and attended St. Jarlath's College in Tuam, County Galway. He worked with, and for his brother at Tony's grocery business in Tuam, but like so many other young people of Ireland in the mid 20th Century, including his brothers Michael and James, both priests, he was drawn to immigrate to America.

Jarlath arrived in California in 1958 where he was welcomed by his brother Fr. Michael O'Connor and found a new home in San Francisco, where he met his wife Iris (Edgeworth) of Ballyconnell, County Cavan. He was drafted into the US Army, stationed briefly in Germany, and served in the San Francisco Police Department for eight years. Along with Iris, he purchased Harrington Brothers Moving and Storage in 1968 and later expanded the business to buy and sell used furniture and antiques. They soon moved Harrington Brothers to the building at Valencia and I7th Streets that houses the family business today. He was a fixture on Valencia Street for over fifty years and helped countless young immigrants from Ireland and elsewhere to find their footing in San Francisco without ever losing their connection to the homes they had left behind.

He returned to Ireland innumerable times and instilled a great love of the country in his children and grandchildren. He worked tirelessly in support of the Irish community in San Francisco, with particular focus on the United Irish Cultural Center (where he served time as a board member in 1987), the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, the Irish priests and nuns of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, and the San Francisco GAA.

Jarlath was the living embodiment of the Irish American dream. He was a singer, a storyteller, and the hardest working man you ever met. He shared his good fortune with people all over Ireland and the Bay Area. There won't be another one like him.

Jarlath is preceded in death by his wife Iris, his son Stephen, his father and mother Anthony and Mary, sisters Eileen, Kathleen, and Julia, brothers Patrick, Michael, James, Tony, and Sean. He is survived by his daughter Fiona, his sons Michael and Shane, grandchildren Micaela, Aoife, Pilar, Claire, Iris, Declan, and Evelyn, and his sister Theresa.

# WELCOME TO THE READING ROOM

Our chosen read for our Reading Room on May 27 is **The Walking People** by **Mary Beth Keane**.

A profoundly moving, compassionate story of self-discovery, *The Walking People* is a powerful and compelling story about our connection to the past.

Greta Cahill never believed she would leave her village in the west of Ireland until she found herself on a ship bound for New York. As the years pass, Greta longs to revisit the past, but she must protect a family secret, decades old. So when her children conspire to unite the worlds she's kept so carefully apart, Greta fears she could lose it all . . .

Our June event will take place on Thursday, June 17 when we will discuss **The Gathering** by **Ann Enright**

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:

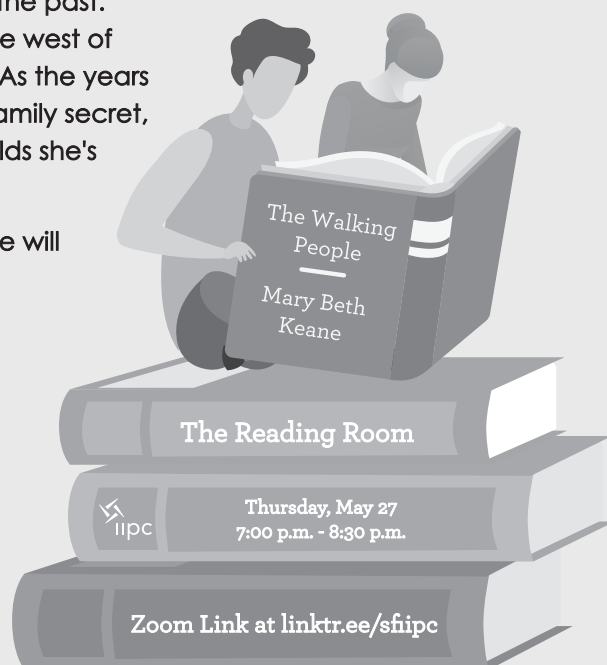
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Questions? Call Joan at 415.432.2551

or email [joan@sfiipc.org](mailto:joan@sfiipc.org)



SHARPEN 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.

ZOOM LINK: [LINKTR.EE/SFIIPC](https://linktr.ee/sfiipc)  
BY PHONE: CONTACT JOAN AT  
415.432.2551 FOR DETAILS







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**~The Bulletin Team!**

## Public Meeting on The Future of the Irish Center



**You Are Invited to Participate in the Future of the Irish Center**

**St. Patrick's Room at the UICC**

**May 7th, 2021 | 7:00 PM**

**[www.IrishCenter2025.org](http://www.IrishCenter2025.org)**

UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER PRESENT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH BOSCAÍ BEAGA

**AGES  
8-20**

**JUNE 7TH  
THRU  
JUNE 25th**

## 2021 IRISH SUMMER CAMP

**9AM-3PM / \$750 TOTAL (EARLY BIRD SPECIAL)**

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**On Mother's Day Weekend**

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# 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 Buidéala  
Department of Foreign Affairs & 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 May 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](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>

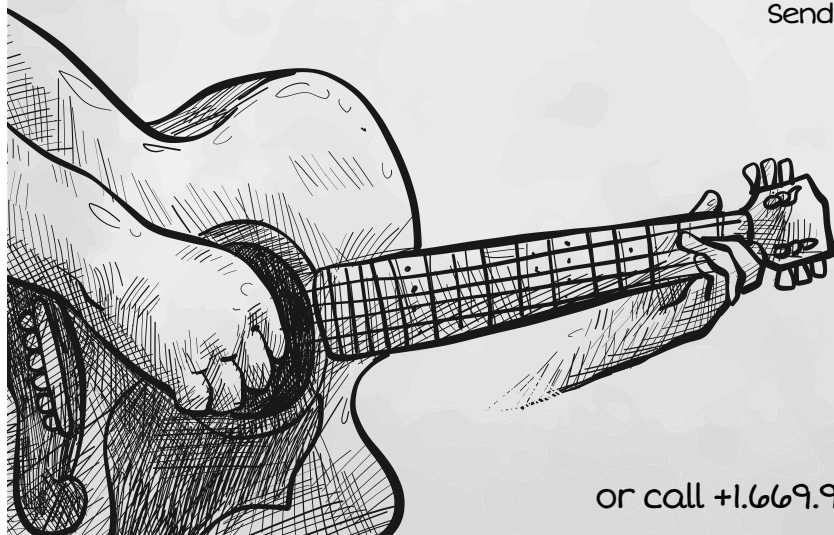
Participants will be entered into a draw for a gift card from a local small business!

## MUSIC HOUR WITH IVOR COLLINS

We are delighted to welcome back to our May Music Hour, Co. Waterford native, Ivor Collins! Join us for another wonderful afternoon of music & song!

Ivor has been on the SF Irish music scene since 2008, and is a member of Celtic Voices Choir. Ivor's songbook includes favorite Irish Ballads and the music of legends such as Elvis, Dire Straits and Neil Young. We hope you can join us!

Send your song requests to [Joan@sfiipc.org](mailto:Joan@sfiipc.org) or call 415.432.2551 by Thursday, May 13



Sunday, May 16, 2021

4:00 p.m. PST

Join us at <https://linktr.ee/sfiipc>  
or call +1.669.900.6833, webinar id 880 6933 7831



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## UICC Irish Shoppe-Open Weekends

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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).



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

Lic. #415600306

BERG  
SENIOR  
SERVICES, LL



# UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER INCORPORATED



*A California Nonprofit Corporation*  
2700 45th Avenue San Francisco, CA 94116  
Telephone: (415) 661-2700 | Fax: (415) 661-8620  
[www.irishcentersf.org](http://www.irishcentersf.org) | [membership@irishcentersf.org](mailto:membership@irishcentersf.org)

Hello,

Want to renew your membership or purchase a membership for someone? Want to make a donation to the Irish Center on behalf of yourself or in memory of someone? Want to support the Library or Cultural Programming? The Irish Center relies on dues and participation from its Members so that it can continue to grow and help connect current and future generations with their Irish heritage.

## MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE (Check One):

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Single Membership Renewal (Dues) \$150</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Couple Membership Renewal (Dues) \$250</b>
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The term for annual dues is 365 days from the date your dues are recorded. Dues are regulated by the UICC Board of Directors.

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