

Foras Cultúir Gael Aontuighthe

United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.

2700 - 45th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116





Volume XLVII No. 8 August 2022



Fax: 415-661-8620

www.irishcentersf.org

IRISH ARTS TAKE CENTER STAGE THIS FALL



Liam Reidy

Building upon the robust slate of Irish cultural programming and community-wide activities during the first part of the year, we have plenty more in store this fall here at the Center. The lineup and variety of events suggest that we are returning to a more normal season of activities as we look ahead to the remainder of 2022.

While the three week summer camp held during June ended with a resoundingly successful concert entitled "Muirsheen Durkin: The Golden Years" on July I - we also hosted amateur boxing and pro-wrestling which were driven primarily by partnerships with local community groups that find it difficult to find spaces to run their events. These community partnerships have been well received not only by our members but also by a broader section of the Bay Area community that

did not even know the Irish Center existed prior to the events.

Tel: 415-661-2700

C-mail: info@irishcentersf.org

Rock the Gates Summer Fleadh — Our inaugural "Rock the Gates" music and Irish dance festival tops the bill this August as the event not to be missed. On Saturday August 27 we will host music, song and Irish dance across three festival stages: Wawona Gates, the Emerald and St. Patrick's room. The festival kicks off at 1pm and runs until 8pm. Highlights include performances by the Irish pipers, LA.vation (U2 tribute band), the Hooks, A License to Chill (Jimmy Buffet tribute band), Karl McHugh, Mangobus, and other local Irish music groups and Irish dance schools. We will also have kids' activities such as a bouncy castle and face painting. Truly a family affair!

To close out the blockbuster day on August 27, the tribute musical "Tommy and the Brothers" will retell the folk music history of Tommy Makem and the Clancy Brothers. Fresh from taking gold at the recent Hollywood Fringe, this live music event is the brainchild of LA based Thom McNamara and Ken O'Malley and promises to be one of the highlights of the summer. Tickets for all events are at www.IrishCenterSF.org

Comedy Night with Ardal O'Hanlon — On Saturday, September 10, we welcome the star of Father Ted (C4) and Death In Paradise (BBC) and guest in the last two series of Derry Girls (C4), Ardal O'Hanlon, one of the world's bestloved stand up comedians. The event starts at 8pm.

Murphy School Feis — We welcome 250 Irish step dancers participating in the Murphy Irish Dance School Feis on Saturday Sept 24 and Sunday 25. Dancers must register in advance and spectators are most welcome.

The Byrne Brothers — The Byrne Brothers return to the Irish Center for a mid-week concert on September 28 before heading to Los Angeles the following weekend to pick up the Young Artist Academy Award for Music Ensemble 2022.

Hinterland West — The US edition of one of Ireand's most popular literary festivals will host several prominent Irish commentators at the Irish Center between September 30 and October 2. This year's lineup of writers and scholars includes Fintan O'Toole, Liz Nugent, Róisín Ingle, Catriona Crowe, Myles Duggan and Noah Griffin. Hinterland West is a San Francisco-based collaboration with the Hinterland Festival in Kells, County Meath, Ireland. Full line-up of events at www. hinterlandwest.org

(President's Message continued on page 2)

2022 **OFFICERS** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Grab your best hat and join us for the Mad Hatter Tea Party

Fundraiser for the Latrick J. Dowling Library Sunday, September 25th ~ 1pm-3pm Wawona Gates

CONTACT ANNE CASSIDY CAREW 415-531-6087 OR SALLY CASSIDY 415-665-0689 TICKETS ARE \$30 ADVANCE PURCHASE OR \$35 AT THE DOOR.

THE TURF DEBATE RAGES IN IRELAND

Harvesting, extraction, selling or burning turf from Ireland's native peat bogs has ignited a fiery debate during the past few months across many rural parts of Ireland.

The commercial turf industry leader - Bord na Móna - ended all peat harvesting from its lands in 2020. Now the government is turning its attention to the mom and pop operations scattered across the country who frequently spend time in the bog harvesting turf for burning in their homes and what ever extra they have left over for sale commercially.

The government wants to end all turf burning in the country with little input from the small time operators and families who continue to harvest peat with great effort as much of the work is done by hand. Cutting, footing, and bagging turf to take home is a back breaking exercise! I've spent many a day in the bog with my grandparents and footed turf as a hired gun as late as when I was 20 years old!

Bord na Móna, is a semi-state company in Ireland which was created by the Turf Development Act in 1946. The company since it's inception developed the peatlands of Ireland with the aim to provide economic benefit for Irish Midland communities and achieve security of energy supply for the country.



Recent changes in the Irish governments Climate Change policy had seen Bord na Móna expand and diversify its portfolio of businesses to include biomass procurement and supply, power generation (peat based and renewable), waste recovery, domestic fuel products and professional and consumer horticulture products. The famous Bord na Móna peat briquettes will no longer be made after 2024.

It's a whole new world now as the Irish government aims to be carbon neutral by the year 2050. A lofty goal indeed. The ultimate aim is to phase out all harvesting of turf from the peat lands and spend €II5 million on restoration in the next few years.

It's hard to see the wider global impact of the few hardy souls that are still working the bog in rural Ireland - at least that's the sentiment emerging from parts of west Limerick and north Cork where I spent time last month.

You can no longer commercially sell or buy turf at a retail outlet -that's all banned with immediate effect. However if you harvest turf yourself you can gift it to someone without any government push back!

Looks like there will be many "gifting" turf this winter in Ireland by the hardy men and women who rely on the side income from saving a few extra loads of turf!

Watch for updates as the debate continues!



Fintan, Shane and Roisín Reidy exploring the raised bog near Rockchapel, in north Co. Cork and getting to grips with dried sods of turf which are footed all around them ready for harvesting and collection.



THE UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER

PROUD TO ANNOUNCE AN EXCITING FAMILY~FRIENDLY
SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

ROCK THE GATES—SUMMER FLEADH 2022

Join us on Saturday, August 27 from I-8 pm at the Irish Center for fun for the whole family! Featuring multiple stages (Wawona Gates, St. Patrick's Room, and the Emerald Pub), this festival will showcase a variety of bands from tribute bands, Irish favorites, and will also include some Irish Dancing from some of our local dance schools. Face painting and bounce house for kids during the afternoon hours, Irish Shoppe and Wawona Gates—and more!

The entertainment line-up includes:

A License to Chill (Jimmy Buffet tribute)

The Shams (Irish rock)

Mangobus (SF reggae)

L.A.vation (U2 tribute)

The Hooks (Alternative Rock)

Fret & Fiddle (Celtic)

Karl McHugh (pop/folk)

The Gas Men (Irish trad)

Lucky ol' Bones (Celtic folk/punk)

The Irish Pipers

Irish Dancers from the Murphy, Kennelly, McBride, Whelan, Boyle, and more dance schools!



Join us for a musical treat like no other—
"a tribute to The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem"
—brought to you live from the stage in the St. Patrick's Room!

"Tommy and the Brothers" delights audiences with the stories, the lives, the history, but most of all the music and songs of one of Ireland's greatest national treasures. The show pays homage to the greats who brought the music and traditions of Ireland into the concert halls and living rooms of millions of Irish, Irish Americans, and the international diaspora of Ireland and, no doubt, contributed greatly to the fledgling tourist industry in Ireland.

Gather your friends for a night of nostalgia and relive The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem's rise to worldwide fame in Greenwich Village at the beginning of the 60's American Folk Revival. Friends with Bob Dylan, Josh White, Pete Seeger, and Odetta, they changed Irish folk music forever. Savor their story and a sampling of their biggest hits to sing along with. All music presented live with acoustic instruments. A wonderful show for all ages.

Tickets: IrishCenterSF.org

Teaming up to Save Lives









COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE FOR SF FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 798

Meeting the needs of our community is our top priority, and there is a blood shortage, especially post-COVID. Please support our community partnership blood drive event as we team up with SFFD Local 795 and plan to donate blood on August 23 at the Irish Center.

San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 have been conducting blood drives with Vitalant for 20 years, during which time they've collected over 6,400 lifesaving units of blood! Support the San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 and patients who rely on a steady blood supply by donating blood. Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. When you donate blood, you provide a life-saving treatment for patients undergoing surgery, experiencing trauma, or battling cancer and blood disorders. Schedule your appointment today to make a difference in someone's life.

Coffee and donuts will be served for breakfast and sandwiches will be served for lunch.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IIPC WELLNESS PROGRAMS





HELP BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY!

IIPC is seeking volunteers who would like to visit members of our community in their homes to provide social connection and support

Building connections and making a difference

INTERESTED?

EMAIL: SHANNON@SFIIPC.ORG OR CALL 415.432.2552

IIPC is generously funded by:









TEA DANCE & SOCIAL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2022

4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

ST. FRANCIS ROOM, UICC 2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO

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REGISTER AT LINKTR.EE/SFIIPC OR CONTACT SHANNON AT 415.432.2552 OR SHANNON@SFIIPC.ORG

ACTIVE RETIREMENT CLUB OUTREACH PROGRAM

** SPECIAL EVENT ** MASS & LUNCHEON

We are SO excited to be hopping on a bus and heading back to see Fr. Aidan McAleenan at St. Columba Parish in Oakland!

The bus will depart the UICC at 10:00 a.m., to arrive at St. Columba for 11:00 a.m. Mass celebrated by Fr. Aidan. Following Mass, we will gather in the beautiful garden at St. Columba for lunch and to spend time together. The bus will return to the UICC at approximately 4:00 p.m.

As part of our COVID safety protocols, masks will be required on the bus.

Thursday, August 11, 2022

10:00 a.m. Bus departs UICC11:00 a.m. Mass at St. Columbafollowed by buffet luncheon4:00 p.m. Bus returns to UICC

Tickets \$40 (inc. bus)

Advance registration required at linktr.ee/sfiipc or contact Shannon at 415.432.2552 or shannonesfiipc.org





WITH AGE, COMES WISDOM



THE WISDOM EXCHANGE



CALL IIPC FOR MORE INFORMATION

Shannon Cotter - (415) 432-2552 shannon@sfiipc.org Who do you go to when you need support?

Join The Wisdom Exchange and let's talk about what it is about those friends or family members who help us when we're needing it most.

Share your lived experience.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24
11:00 A.M.

ZOOM LINK @ LINKTR.EE/SFIIPC



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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 <u>Bridget Kelly - Administrator</u> to arrange a tour of the facility and enjoy a complimentary lunch.



UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER of SAN FRANCISCO

Céad mile fáilte

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Harry Arthur Kathy Banks Frances Baxter

Cecilia Bell Bobby Bell

Erin Byrne Olivia Canniffe

Jennifer Carr Bill Carr IV

Patrick Casserly

Erin Chin

Hannah Sullivan Comiskey

Cynthia Ann Conway

Jennifer Corry Desmond Cotter

Brittany Ann Cunningham

Daniel Joseph Currie

Verne Deason Hilary M Dillon Michael John Dolan Aileen Dulohery

Michael David Dunbar Consuelo Margaret Evans

Kevin Cox Flannery

Eamonn Flynn Mary Geasa Cynthia Gilson Marie Gonella Denise Grey John Grey Barbara J. Griffin Lisa Hamrick Daniel Hayes

Dr. Anna Hennessey

Jason Hogrefe

John Kent Hopkirk

Michael David Johnson

Cathleen Kaprosch

Niall Kavanagh

Jason M King

William Lacey

Melissa Kelleher Lewis

Timothy Looney

Jody McCown

Caroline McLaughlin

Michael McMahon Shane McNulty

Eileen Mize

Kevin Patrick Moloney

James Moylan Lori Muller Caitlin Mullins John P. Murphy Michael Neary

Kara Newport

Else Ryan Harding Nye

Margaret Nye Fiona O'Connor Megan O'Donnell Katie O'Donnell Eamon O'Driscoll Stephen O'Driscoll Maureen O'Keefe Barbara O'Learv

Thomas O'Brien

Thomas O'Brien

Tomas Michael O'Hara

Jennifer O'Keeffe

Maureen Burke Perry

Karen Pierotti

Gregory Quinn

Brendan Robinson

San Francisco Glens Soccer Club

Cynthia Sheehan

Georgia Stigall

Kirsten Cavanaugh Strobel

Dr. Regan Boyd Stuart-Killion

Kevin Sweeney

Carol Thornton

Heidi Anne Ward

Walker Whalen

Kristina Whalen

Peter Williams

Michele Williams

William Woodfill

Sarah Woods

Elizabeth Bissa Zamboldi

We are so grateful for our members. Did you know that a membership makes a great gift? Interested in learning more about the benefits?

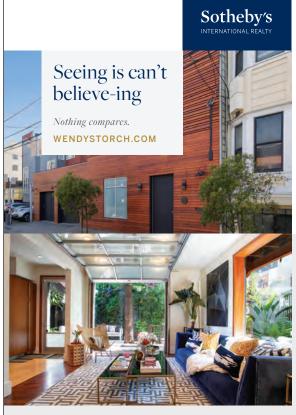
Questions? Maggie Overbay at 650.892.4050



United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.

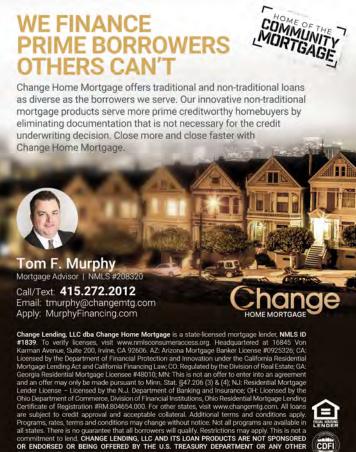


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Board Member Transitions — This fall we will see several UICC Board members vacating their roles within the organization after serving as many as four years. Many of these positions were initially two year terms but many members stayed on to help out the Center during the upheaval and uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. These were extraordinary times and required an even greater effort by the volunteer board members to steady the ship. We have slowly hired back staff during the past year to alleviate the workload on the volunteer board members. We expect to continue a more supervisory role as board members going forward and begin to focus on oversight, guidance, and continue with developing and funding the 2025 project.

While all the exiting board members will be sorely missed, we plan to recruit and fill most vacant positions and consolidate the board, with board elections planned for October. Interested in getting involved? We have needs in many areas, especially in finance, marketing and video editing. If interested in a role going forward, reach out to me via email.

District 4 Info Evening — This November, the local San Francisco Board of Supervisors District 4 seat will be contested by three candidates: incumbent Supervisor Gordon Mar, Joel Engardio, and Leanna Louie. To give the community and Irish Center members the chance to hear these candidates in person, there is an informational meeting on Thursday, September 28 between 7-9pm. The Irish Center lies at the heart of District 4.

SF Fire Blood Drive — On Tuesday, August 23, San Francisco Fire

Fighters Local 798 are holding a community-wide blood drive in the St. Patrick's Room from 9am to 2pm.

All-Ireland Champions — Well done to Limerick hurlers and Kerry Gaelic footballers who won the All-Ireland inter-county championship finals last month in Ireland. There was great interest in the finals this year as there were no restrictions on attendance, with more than 82,000 people attending each final, and countless others watching from home including those here at the Irish Center.

I was fortunate to be on vacation to see my home county of Limerick defeat Kilkenny in the hurling final after a titanic struggle with the result in the balance right up to the final whistle. It was Limerick's fourth success in five seasons. Rarified air for sure for Limerick supporters, but there is no doubt that all GAA followers would agree that this is a once-in-a-generation team with household names sprinkled all over the field. Worthy Liam McCarthy cup recipients — well done, Limerick! Congratulations to Kerry on securing the Sam McGuire cup after a tense battle with Galway on Sunday July 24. Four unanswered points late in the game by the Kingdom saw them bridge an eight year gap since their last title and saw them collect their 38th All-Ireland title in total.

Labor Day Weekend — Enjoy the last break of summer which signals the end of summer holidays.

Liam Reidy lreidy@irishcentersf.org





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AUGUST CALENDAR

■ AUGUST 13, SATURDAY

Irish Genealogy Club - Zoom Meeting
 II:00am-I:00pm (US and Canada)
 Kelly Shepherd presents on the use of DNA in tracing your ancestral history.

 2022 club leads:

Pati Traktman patitraktman@gmail.com and Nancy Sanchez nmsanchez86@yahoo.com.

Pre-register via Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89007236093?pwd=aEFPbGlWamluOW80dGM4MzJEelAzUT09

■ AUGUST 18, THURSDAY

• Biscuits & Books, Live! ~ 4:00 - 4:45pm

Grab a cuppa and join the conversation. We'll look at some of the new additions to the Book Sale and to the collection. This episode will again find the library open to patrons as well. Anything may happen.

Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qc-6qrjgjGdS-rTdd8T6-8DTFhpdQfMcL

■ AUGUST 20, SATURDAY

 Irish Marvels, Past and Present ~ Zoom Meeting 2:30-4:30pm

"Distant Relations", Part 2 with by Ardie McDermott. Join us for the 2nd of a 4 part series about Mexican/Irish connections. Questions? Contact Lisa Hilmoe at hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com

Pre-register via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkf-qgrzgvGdaenGKpG8k4vlY7qRaBiONO

- AUGUST 23, TUESDAY
- Blood Drive ~ 9:00 am 2:00pm
- AUGUST 27, SATURDAY
- Rock the Gates Music Festival
- Tommy and the Brothers
 A tribute to the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Maken



Irish Comedian Ardal O'Hanlon (Fr. Ted TV Fame)

Live at the Irish Center 8pm, September 10, 2022

> Tickets at: IrishCenterSF.org

SAVE THE DATE 2022

Friday September 9
UICC Dinner Honoring
Mary Lou McDonald, President of Sinn Féin



For Tickets Contact: Seamus Canning 415-310-9103 Ciarán Scally 510-333-2677

Saturday September 10 ~ 8pm Ardal O'Hanlon Comedian (Fr. Ted Fame)

Saturday September 24 and Sunday September 25 Murphy Irish Dance School Feis 8am - 6pm

Sunday September 25 ~ I-3pm

Mad Hatter Tea Party

Fundraiser for the Patrick J. Dowling Library

Wednesday September 28 ~ 7:30pm The Byrne Brothers ~ Live in Concert www.thebyrnebrothers.com

Thursday September 29 ~ 7-9pm District 4 Supervisor Information Meeting St. Patrick's Room

> Saturday October 15 ~ 6-10pm Octoberfest Music by the Internationals





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

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PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY

Greetings from the Library in midsummer...

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteer staff who have returned to help keep the library open and running smoothly during the summer. It is wonderful to have everyone feel comfortable enough to be back in and welcoming in our members, neighbours, and wider community.

We were honoured the other day to have the 2x great-granddaughter of Jasper O'Farrell in. She brought with her several family albums, allowing us to create digital copies for the Library's collection, meanwhile telling wonderful stories about her ancestor throughout her visit.

Library Hours:

August 1 - 15: Thursday, Friday, Saturday: I:30 - 4:30 pm.

August 16 - 31: Thursday, Friday: 2:30 - 5:00 pm, Saturday: 1:30 - 4:30 pm.

In-kind Donations

Please continue to make arrangements for physical donations via email initially. Appointments to accept materials will be made upon confirmation of the volume of materials in the donation and staff availability. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you regarding your collections.

Irish Genealogy Club - Zoom Meeting

Saturday, August 13, 2022, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (US and Canada)

Kelly Shepherd presents on the use of DNA in tracing your ancestral history.

2022 club leads: Pati Traktman patitraktman(a)gmail.com & Nancy Sanchez nmsanchez86(a)yahoo.com.

Pre-register via Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89007236093?pwd=aEFPbGlWamluOW80dGM4MzJEelAzUT09

Irish Marvels Past & Present- Zoom Meeting

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"Distant Relations" Part 2, presented by Ardie McDermott.

Join us for part 2 of a 4 part series about Mexican/Irish connections.

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Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qc-6qrjgjGdS-rTdd8T6-8DTFhpdQfMcL



~ Save the Date~ Saturday, September 10, 2022

Sunnyvale Historical Society and Museum Association proudly presents:

A "Walk Through Time", A FREE "Living History" community event. The Library's booth features the Irish 49ers.

Where: Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum 570 E. Remington Drive

When: Saturday, September 10, 2022, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A 'Walk Through Time' will introduce you to the way of life 200+ years ago and allow you to journey through time as you experience the evolution of Sunnyvale and our neighboring communities. You will learn about the different groups of people who called this area home. https://heritageparkmuseum.org/a-walk-through-time

Sláinte

Jennifer Drennan, Librarian

librarian@irishcentersf.org — 415/661-2700 ext 106 [Th, F, Sat]

Facebook: @dowlinglibraryattheuicc • YouTube: Librarian P.J. Dowling Library • Instagram: @pjdowlinglibrarysf



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Muirsheen Durkin: The Golden Years Show Rounds out a successful Irish Camp

The Irish summer camp which ran from June 13 to July I was another huge success for the younger members of the Irish center community. Hats off to Michael Dillon, the campers and leaders who produced a wonderful show on July I that entertained all the families and friends that came out to support the young artists.

Here are some photos from the event.

The entire cast of the July 1 show.



Katy Porter, James Ward-Mallison, and Eamonn Flynn.





Narrator Fintan Reidy.

Felim and Deirdre Crossan.







Fintan Reidy, Cillian Cudden, Seamus Stannard and Francis Dilleshaw during the show.



Shane Reidy (banjo) and Eamonn Flynn (keyboards) provided backing music for the show.

MORE IRISH CAMP...



Kennedy Green and Ryan Fitzpatrick.



Aoibhínn and Shane Reidy with JT Hardiman and Patrick Williams.



Cecily, Ciaran & Josie Wallis.



Fionnula McEvoy-Pecko with Shane and Aidan Pecko.



Nora Robbinson, Isla Ford, Jack Ford.



Dunya Tuohy, with Mila and Scarlett Kennedy.



Gaelen Gooch, Ryan Fitzpatrick, and Cillian Cudden.