

Foras Cultúir Gael Aontuighthe

United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.





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BOARD MESSAGE

You Never Miss the Water Until the Well Runs Dry!



Liam Reidy

A Look Back in Time Growing up as a "garsún" (small boy) in rural west Limerick, I often spent weekends and holidays in Ashford, Co. Limerick, with my grandparents Michael and Josephine O'Connor. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, small farm enterprises dotted the Irish countryside and most families "out in the country" held a few cows if they had the land to support them. My grandparents, into their sixties by then, were part of the population of small farmers that were quite happy managing three milking cows. It was really a pastime for them, as I heard my own parents say many times. They had no grandiose ideas about expanding their holdings or getting any bigger. Self-sufficiency was the order of the day on most Irish farms regardless of size, as the food harvested from

the haggart came mostly in the form of vegetables: carrots, parsnips, turnips, potatoes, cabbage, onions, lettuce, and my favorite after dinner custard topping – rhubarb. Eleven children were raised on the small holding (about five acres). My mother (Ita Reidy, née O'Connor) was the second youngest, and only two of her other siblings remained in Ireland; the rest emigrated to England in the late 1950s and 1960s.

Change in Rural Ireland Looking back now, this period of my youth was a time of great transition in Ireland as the fabric of rural society based on an agricultural economy was being broken up. The large milk processing firms in the area like Kerry Co-Op and Dairygold commenced a process of rationalization and consolidation of farm milk collection by squeezing out the small farmer. Efforts were focused on the larger farmer with 50 or more milking cows. It just made economic sense. It was the start of what one might call the "Industrial Farm Complex" in Ireland.

Quiet in the Yard Eventually, a combination of old age, and stringent rules around milk production from small holdings forced the shutdown of Nana and Grandad's operation. This ensured that the "tabulated milk book" that recorded milk output every morning at Kantoher Creamery was soon relegated to the kitchen cupboard, and the cows sold off.

The cow house and milking machine went quiet, no more clanging of tankards in the yard in the morning or evening, and the electrical pump switch that brought water from the well remained in the off position. There were no more daily trips to the Creamery or Murray's shop in Ashford on the way home for Bulls Eyes, Bon Bons, or Kojak Lollipops (the currency by which I was paid for my farmyard efforts and housework).

My grandparents didn't last long after the cows left the yard. There was no reason to get up early in the morning or stay active outside of the house, or to bother with the front yard, haggart, or fields anymore. The cows were gone and there wasn't much else to do after that. They were forced into isolation, and disconnected from the world outside, beyond the regular visits from neighbors, friends, and family. There were no more regular trips to the Creamery to discuss the world, national or local affairs. The shops too in the small village in Ashford all closed as the passing trade of Creamery folks dried up. It was as if the water in the well ran dry, and all you could do was lament its disappearance. You cannot turn back the hand of time to happier days, although we often find ourselves reminiscing back to how things were in by gone days.

(President's Message continued on page 2)

2022 OFFICERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Volume XLVII No. 3

March 2022

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(President's Message continued)

Four Decades Later And so here I am forty years later, in San Francisco, looking back to how the proverbial "well" of St. Patrick's celebrations ran dry during the last two years. We last celebrated the annual St. Patrick's Day in 2019 without public health restrictions. In the interim period, celebrations have been muted due to Covid-I9 regulations. The pandemic has wreaked havoc worldwide, taking many lives, and causing all kinds of economic, cultural, and societal upheaval.

Call to Celebrate Again However, we aim to put all that right this St. Patrick's season once again, to ensure a "full well" of Irish celebrations lifting up what it means to be Irish in a way that is refreshed and renewed. So come out and celebrate the return of the St. Patrick's Day festivities this year! Proudly hang an Irish flag from your home or business. Tell the world you are Irish and show how proud you are of your Irishness. Celebrate your Irish heritage by coming out to the parade and wearing of the green on Saturday, March 12 and on Thursday March, 17.

We look forward to hosting you for several of our Irish arts and cultural events at the Center this March which have been energetically put together by Mark Burke, Chairman of St. Patrick's Committee along with support from the Board of Directors and team of volunteers. You can order Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinners online this year to eat at the Center or To Go.

2022 Grand Marshals Hearty congratulations to Grand Marshal Jim Byrne, and Hon. Grand Marshals; Pat Aherne, Marie Doherty,

Margaret Kerns, James "Frank" Materson and Charlotte Shultz.

2025 Project Plans The new Irish Center building plans were submitted to the SF Planning Dept. on Thursday Feb 17. This is a major milestone on the roadway to a new building. Well done to the Building Committee, and Dane Bunton and Nastaran Mousavi at Studio BANAA for all their efforts to date.

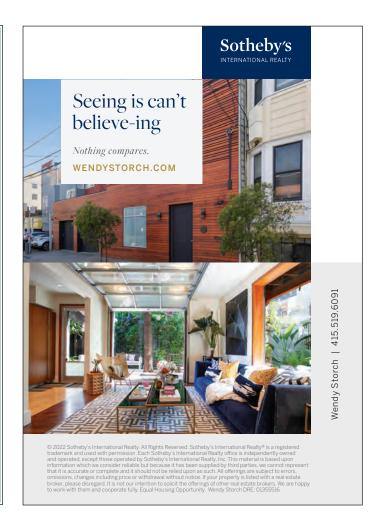
Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Applications for our annual scholarship program open this month, for 8th Graders and High School Seniors entering the next level of their education. Completed applications are due on March 17.

Summer Camp Registration Registration is now open for the Annual Summer Camp taking place between June 13 and July I at St. Cecilia's School at 660 Vicente. Sign up here before March 15 for the Early Bird Special. www.irishcentersf.org/irish-camp/

New UICC Board Treasurer We welcome to the UICC Board Patrick J. Carlin, CPA, of Carlin & Associates. Patrick is coming on board to replace outgoing Treasurer Craig Viehweg, who has termed out and did not seek re-election as he plans to spend more time with his grandkids. Many thanks Craig for all your help, energy, and guidance over the past two years; it has been invaluable to the organization, most especially during the pandemic. Enjoy your retirement!

Enjoy the St. Patrick's Season, and be safe! Liam Reidy, President lreidy@irishcentersf.org





MARCH CALENDAR

■ MARCH 10, THURSDAY

Annie Holland Irish Art Exhibition ~ 6:00-9:00pm
 "Children of the Free State"

■ MARCH II, FRIDAY

- Irish Flag raising at San Francisco City Hall ~ I:00pm San Francisco City Hall (North Light Court)
 I Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco
- Eileen Ivers in Concert ~ 8:00pm The Jimi Hendrick of the Violin

■ MARCH 12, SATURDAY

- Post Parade Party with Corned Beef and Cabbage with Live music and Irish Dancing ~ 2:00-II:00pm
- Irish Genealogy Club 2 Zoom Meeting
 II:00-I:00pm PacificTime (US and Canada)
 A general discussion on anything members want to share:
 Aha! moments, tips, tricks, etcetera. Pre-register on Zoom:
 https://us02web.zoom.usj/89007236093?pwd=aEFPb
 GlWamluOW80dGM4MzJEelAzUT09

■ MARCH 13, SUNDAY ~ 11:00am-4:00pm

Annual St Patrick's Sunday Block Party
in association with Java Beach Cafe, United Irish Societies and
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

■ MARCH 17, THURSDAY ~ 12:00-11:00pm

• St Patrick's Day @the Irish Center The best St. Patrick's Day party in San Francisco: indoor & outdoor options. Music, dance, food, fun, and more.

■ MARCH 24, SUNDAY

• Biscuits & Books, Live!

Put your feet up after all that walking in the parade, grab a cuppa and join in the chat featuring the Library's Book Sale and programming.

Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/registertZ0qc-6qrjgjGdS-rTdd8T6-8DTFhpdQfMcL

■ MARCH 26, SATURDAY ~ 3:00-6:00PM

• Wawona Gates

Musical Duo "Stepwise" Touring from Los Angeles. Stepwise is a traditional Celtic folk duo consisting of Liam Lewis (mandolin, guitar, fiddle, voice) and Olivia Breidenthal (fiddle and voice). Also, Irish music, dance and song appreciation day featuring the kids from the Spring Music program under the direction of Eamonn Flynn.

■ MARCH 27, SUNDAY

• Ulster Social Club Get Together Contacts for more information: Marie Gavney 415/731-0787 Jerry Cassidy 415/665-0689

SAVE THE DATE 2022

Saturday April 16 UICC Amateur Boxing Night

In partnership with Fire in the Ring Boxing

Saturday April 30 Tim Flannery and The Lunatic Fringe "Love Harder Project"

An evening of music , storytelling, and good-natured fun, all in the name of The Love Harder Project,
which strives to put an end to bullying and violence

Friday-Saturday May 20-21 Save the Planet Feis

hosted by the Dillon School of Irish Dancing

Friday June 9 Gregory Harrington

June 13-July I Irish Summer Camp

Ages 6-20 years St. Cecilia's School, 660 Vicente Street, SF, CA 94116 Kids Variety Show Friday July I featuring kids from the Summer Camp

July Professional Boxing

featuring Callum Walsh

Sunday July 17 ~ 7:00am 2022 All-Ireland Hurlling Final

16 foot screen and full Irish Breakfast

Sunday July24 ~ 7:00am 2022 All-Ireland Football Final

16 foot screen and full Irish Breakfast

Saturday September 10 Ardal O'Hanlon

Comedian (Fr. Ted Fame)



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UCSF Health

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Open each Saturday in March from 1-3pm Longer Hours on March 12th/13th and 17th

Online 24/7 (a)
IrishCenterSF.org
415-264-8856



Josephine Brogan 2021 Citizen of the Year

Support YOUR UICC and the BUSINESSES that Support YOUR UICC

DEADLINE for April 2022 BULLETIN is March 15

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

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PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY

From the Library...in the month of Saint Patrick and Spring

It's beginning to look alot like a proper March from the Before Times. The parade is going forward - wear good shoes! The center and library will be your place for all things Irish this March. We are gathering, and celebrating in person with art, music and special events. On the library's calendar are joint programmes with San Jose Public Library, and the Holland Sisters' exhibition. Also in the works are events with the Irish Veterans Association, Sunnyvale's Heritage Park Museum, authors and genealogy partners.

Housekeeping for the Keepers: Thank you again to all who donated and/or loaned their treasures to make the exhibition such a smashing success. If you have not already done so, please email the library to make arrangements to pick up your loaned items.

Irish Genealogy Club 2- Zoom Meeting

Saturday, March 12, 2022, 11:00 AM - 1:00PM Pacifica Time (US and Canada)

A general discussion on anything members want to share: Aha! moments, tips, tricks, etcetera.

Pre-register on Zoom:

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

Irish Marvels Past & Present - March break

We'll see you in April! Happy St. Patrick's season!

Biscuits & Books, Live!

Thursday, March 24, 4:00 - 4:45 PM

Put your feet up after all that walking in the parade, grab a cuppa and join in the chat featuring the Library's Book Sale and programming.

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

March 10 - Opening Night event March 10, 6 - 9pm.

Annie Holland, http://www.anniehollandphotography.com/, returns to the UICC with her "Children of the Free State" exhibition. Annie's talented sister Kathleen Holland, https://kathleenhollanddesigns.com/, will be joining the exhibition with her beautiful jewellery as well as select pieces by her colleague, Christopher Samuels.

Tickets on Eventbrite: \$20 - general admission/at the door; \$15 - UICC Member; Under 17 Free;

Irish bread by Knights Catering, no-host beer & wine.

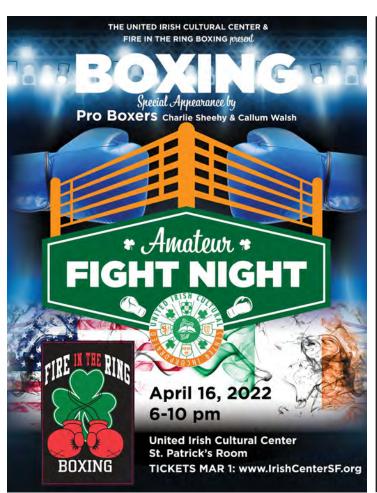
The sisters will also be on site March 12, 13 and 17 during the St. Patrick's Day festivities to showcase and discuss their work. These days tickets are no charge, however a \$5 donation per attending adult will be deeply appreciated. All ticket sales and donations go to support the library's programs and preservation efforts.

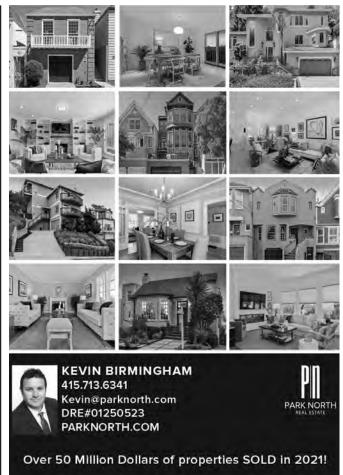
The Social Library

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

Happy Saint Patrick's day and welcome Spring! Lá fhéile Pádraig sona dhuit agus fáilte roimh an Earrach

Jennifer Drennan, Librarian librarian@irishcentersf.org — 415/661-2700 ext 106









PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION "CHILDREN OF THE FREE STATE" OPENS MARCH 10TH

Following a successful "Keepers of the Steps" exhibition during the month of January, the UICC hosts Irish artist and photographer Annie Holland this March with her "Children of the Free State" photo exhibition. Annie's talented sister Kathleen Holland will also join the exhibition with her beautiful jewelry.

Tickets in advance are \$20/adult and \$15 for active UICC Members and youths are free. Tickets at the Door will be \$23.

Grand Opening Night is Thursday March 10, 6-9 pm and the ticket price includes admission, light appetizers, and proceeds help support cultural programs at the United Irish Cultural Center.

The exhibit will also be available on March 12, 13, and 17 during the UICC's St. Patrick's Day festivities to showcase and discuss their work. See: https://anniehollandsf.eventbrite.com

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Laois artist, Annie Holland had conversations with older people from rural Laois born before or just after 1922, taking photographic portraits and engaging in conversations about the past and the present. These conversations create the framework for the exhibition 'Children of the Free State'

The project offers an enquiry and perspective into 'A Sense of Place' the overarching theme of the Laois Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 – 2022. It encompasses and articulates our socio-cultural heritage through a range of art media. The photographic and video materials will form part of the Laois County Library Digital Repository and Archive.

Using photography and video, Annie focuses on how the process of documentation and storytelling can itself create space, physically and emotionally, for real dialogue and the narration of personal stories – past and present. She also explores old family photos, dating back generations, as the only tangible bridge that connects the past with the present and her photographs that will connect current and future generations.

Speaking about her work, Annie says: 'I believe that the past of any human being is never permanent, but constantly being reconstructed in the present'.

See http://www.anniehollandphotography.com or https://kathleenhollanddesigns.com









GRAND MARSHAL DINNER PHOTO GALLERY

The United Irish Societies Grand Marshal Dinner took place on Feb 25th in the St. Patricks room at the UICC. Over 350 were treated to a wonderful meal catered by Knights Catering. The Annual UIS dinner is the traditional kick-off event for the Saint Patrick's celebration season.



Grand Marshal Jim Byrne and his wife Maureen Byrne.



Consul General San Francisco Robert O'Driscoll and St. Patricks Day Parade Director Kathleen Manning.



UICC Director Shannon McAuliffe and UIS President Liam Frost.



Mary and Joe Cassidy.



Paige and Dennis O'Keeffe.



Martin and Elizabeth Falvey.



Diarmuid Philpott (Retired SFPD) and Lynn Burkart.



Liam Reidy and Monica McGuire.

Guiney.

Paul and Jenny O'Sullivan, Fr. Michael Healy, Melissa and Danny



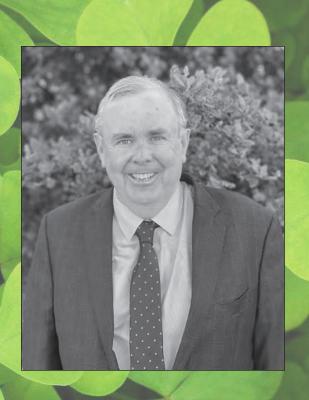
Michael and Marie O'Malley, Mary and Redmond Lyons, Jim Byrne and Colleen O'Malley.



Pat Burke (Retired SFPD), Danny Guiney, President of the RCBA and Geraldine Burke.



CONGRATULATIONS TO JIM BYRNE OUR 2022 GRAND MARSHAL AND THE HONORARY GRAND MARSHALS





PAT AHERNE



MARIE DOHERTY



MARGARGET ANNE KERNS



FRANK MASTERSON



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IrishCenterSF.org

IRISH CENTER 2025 PROJECT

The United Irish Cultural Center is your headquarters not only for St. Patrick's Season, but all year long!

IRISH PIPERS GIVING BACK IN THE COMMUNITY



Mike Bowler teaching Tommy Harvey.

The San Francisco Irish Pipers are now entering the busiest time of the year for their band playing members.

The St. Patrick's season is around the corner and a full turn out is expected for the Parade on Saturday March 12th and Thursday March 17th. There are several local parochial corned beef and cabbage dinner to play for aswell.

This past spring the Pipers have had a busy time teaching the next generation of Pipers, as they have partnered with the UICC in providing tuition to young kids in the community that want to play the Irish pipes. A big thank you to instructors: John Carlin, Alex Lentz and Mike Bowler who are teaching the young kids.

A piping workshop for 12-18 year olds starts soon. Call 415-225-4451 for more information.



Alex Lentz playing with Tanner Manning and Brendan Mullen.



Irish pipe instructor John Carlin teaching Julian Farrah and Eoin O'Keeffe

TOMMY CLUNE 1933-2022

On Friday, January 7th, Thomas Clune passed away in his sleep, just two months shy of his 90th birthday. Tom was the dearly beloved father of Michelle Zauss (husband Robert Browne); beloved brother of John and Noreen (husband Ted); dear uncle of Sharon and Lucinda (and daughter Hannah); and loving cousin of Rosemary, Bridgette, and James. Tom came from the lovely village of Crusheen in County Clare. He also lived in Dublin, London, and Toronto, before landing in his beloved city of San Francisco in 1962. In 1976 Tom began work at the newly built United Irish Cultural Center and spent 35 years greeting everyone with his sly smile and that twinkle in his eye. He was many things during his long life, but at his core, he was a husband, a father, a brother, an uncle, a cousin, a friend,



a mentor, a demanding boss, an open ear to talk to, and a joker who always knew how to bring a smile to anyone's face. He lived his life as we all should - with love, laughter, and being of service to those around him. Tommy will be dearly missed by the many lucky people who knew him.

Sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Tommy.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

May his soul be seated on God's right hand.

The UICC Board of Directors

KEEPERS OF THE STEPS PHOTO GALLERY



Sisters Cathy Mibach and Connie Lynch-Sorensen dropped by the St. Francis room to visit the Keepers of the Steps exhibition.



Keepers Committee member Eileen Mize, with Cultural Programming Director, Anne Cassidy Carew and Dowling Librarian, Jennifer Drennan.



Frank Jordan and Jack Cleary, Irish step dancing at St. Anne's Home on Lake Street, San Francisco in 1960.



Nonie Roche reviews a photo of herself as a young girl dancing in the 1960 St. Patricks Day Parade in San Francisco.

The Future Is Now



1RISH CENTER 2025 PROJECT



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.

Name a scholarship after your family, a specific family member or beloved friend.

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: UICC Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program 2700 – 45th Avenue SF CA 94116

To donate online: https://irishcentersf.org/scholarships/

2022 Scholarship Applications Available NOW!

Applications open to graduating 8th graders & High School Seniors continuing their education.

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

For further information or question email: scholarship@irishcentersf.org

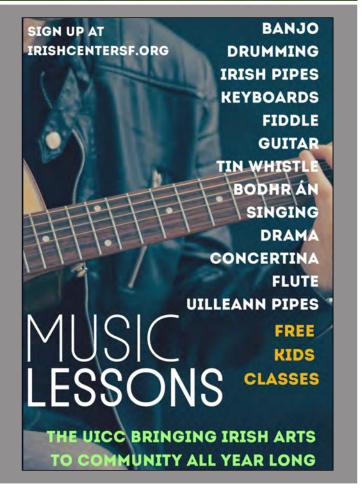
Applications are due: March 17, 2022











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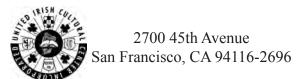


Our monthly fees are substantially less than what you would pay elsewhere and we are just 15 minutes away from the UICC (taking Skyline Blvd or the 280 South).

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



United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.



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