



Foras Cultúir Gael Aontuighthe

United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.

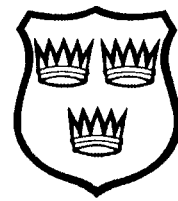
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Volume XLVIII No. 1
January 2023

2023
OFFICERS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BOARD MESSAGE

NEW YEAR WITH NEW GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS FOR 2023



Liam Reidy

As we turn the corner into another new year, the Irish Center will mark forty eight years as the hub of all things Irish in the community. During the past five decades since the Center opened on March 8th, 1975, many wonderful events and gatherings have taken place here. We are fortunate to have the Center as a resource for the community. The longevity of the Center has been made possible by supporters in the community, and this has been very evident in the past few years as the Center encountered some economic headwinds. The future is much more positive now, as we exit the Covid era and look forward to writing the next chapter in the Irish Center history. 2023 will be a significant year for the 2025 Project as we move into the next phase of the redevelopment process. Watch this space!

We rounded out December at the Center, on a high note across all sections of our operations. While our event staff were kept busy with many holiday and community events, philanthropy dominated the last month of the year with a tremendous response to our 2025 Project pledges, annual appeal, Leo T. Walsh scholarship and library fundraisers. This year's appeal campaign focused on continuing to expand our Irish culture and programming footprint in 2023 with proposed expansions in library offerings, theatre, summer camp, and Irish music classes for kids.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023 — We can look forward with renewed optimism for a full year of uninterrupted activity at the Center. It's been a number of years since we have been able to do that. The SF Rose committee will select a San Francisco rose for the International Rose of Tralee competition on January 28th. The 2023 Grand Marshals Dinner (honoring San Bruno resident Pat Uniacke) will take place on February 26th. A jam-packed St. Patrick's season will see full houses at the Center on the parade day March 11th and the annual Block party on March 12th. The following weekend will be epic as March 17th falls on a Friday. One of the biggest boxing nights of the year takes place the following day on March 18th in association with Fire in the Ring boxing club. Should be a great first quarter of the year.

2025 PROJECT — Many thanks to all those members who funded their second pledge towards the 2025 Project, and to our new first time donors who stepped up to support the dream for a new building. The 2025 Project is moving along nicely and the building group team is chipping away each week on various tasks. The bi-weekly meetings with the planning Dept. continue to drive the project forward. We anticipate being before the planning commission sometime by early summer.

NEW D4 SUPERVISOR — There has been a change in the local neighborhood political landscape since the November elections. Joel Engardio won the District 4 supervisors race against incumbent Gordon Mar. Joel will now be the supporting voice for the 2025 project at city hall and we look forward to working with him to get the new building in place. Joel is hosting his District 4 community celebration here at the Center on Saturday January 7th. In recent communication with Joel, he mentioned that he would like to have his re-election party in the new building in 2026! I told him we would do everything in our power to honor that request!

(President's Message continued on page 2)

...ALL ENJOYED FIRE'S VERY SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS



John and Jeanne Connolly.



Leslie and Joe Conaghan.



Nancy and Roy Stotts.



*Nancy and Michael Sanchez,
San Mateo.*



*Sam Lubow, Brittany Ramsey (Portland, OR)
and Andreas Dongo.*

3rd Annual Raffle

Benefitting the

Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program and Patrick J. Dowling Library

Congratulations!

1ST Draw Renee L. ~ \$1,500

2nd Draw Gloria B. ~ \$500

3rd Draw D. Carey ~ \$250

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

to everyone

that participated through

ticket sales,

donations and underwriting.



COMHALTAS CHRISTMAS CÉILÍ 2022

The 2022 Cooley-Keegan Comhaltas Christmas Céilí took place at the Center on Sunday December 11th. Over 70 participants danced to a lively and varied selection of set dances and sang Christmas Carols during the break in the program. Michael Murphy was the MC and kept everyone moving, from the novices and to the experienced dancers. Set dance classes return in the New Year on Tuesday January 17th at 7.30pm.



Dancers enjoying the music during the Christmas Céilí on Dec 11.



Pat McManus, Finbar McPoland, Frank Rooney, and Kasey Curtin.



Autumn Rhodes, Darcy Noonan and Hector Machado.



Michael Griffith (Castleisland, Co. Kerry) and Catherine Jones, (Glencolmcille, Co Donegal).



Theresa Joyce and Dan McAuliffe.



Aoibhínn, Roisin and Stephanie Reidy with Joanne Harnett.



Maggie Stephenson and Susan Keith, Cooley-Keegan Comhaltas President.



Maureen Callanan, Kim. Taylor and Nellie Magee.

*All the latest Comhaltas news is online at:
<https://sfcooleykeegancce.org/>*

CULTURAL DIRECTORS TO BOOST PROGRAMMING AT THE UICC IN 2023

by Liam Reidy

The Center is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Emma Hanley and Aidan Stone as Directors of Cultural Programming, Education and Community Outreach. The positions aim to continue our promotion of Irish arts and cultural programming which is set to expand its footprint at the Center in the coming year. Now that we are on solid financial ground we can devote more attention and energy to our core mission as a non-profit. Several new initiatives and programs are coming online next spring, including theatre productions (local, national and international productions), music sessions, kids music lessons, and additional kids activities centering around education and movie nights. Funding from the Irish government through the Emigrant Support Program has allowed the Irish Center to fund these positions.

EMMA HANLEY



Emma Frances Hanley was raised in San Francisco and is lucky enough to have parents and siblings still in the city (even a brother across the street). Emma worked for 5 years in the arts in New York City, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Christie's auction house and at Jack Hanley Gallery (her father's gallery). In 2017, she returned to the Bay Area for a masters and began working at Amazon on Whole Foods grocery delivery after graduation. This month, Emma is starting a new product marketing job at a new company called Lumafeld. She holds a B.A. in History of Art from University of California, Berkeley and an M.B.A. from Stanford University.

Emma is thrilled to join the UICC as a Cultural Programmer to be more connected with her father's Irish heritage/nationality, and to expand artistic and community outreach.

AIDAN STONE



Aidan Stone is a writer and director, born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, with a wide array of interests and experiences. Manager of Feldman's Books in Menlo Park, Director of New Media at the Magic Theatre, and head of his own production company, Stone Film Production, Aidan balances several gigs and projects. In 2021, Aidan produced his first feature film, *You'll Lose A Good Thing*, starring John Flanagan and Jimmie Fails; it is currently in post-production. Otherwise, Aidan has produced animations for Aleksandr Petrov Studios in Yaroslavl, Russia, he co-wrote a screenplay called *Hombrecito*, currently in production in Mexicali, and he has sold multiple original scripts. Recently Aidan shot a documentary in Galway focusing on the release of Vincey Keehan's album *Great Highway*. He holds a B.A. in English from UMass Amherst and a Masters in Education from University of San Francisco.

Aidan is glad to join the UICC as a Cultural Programmer. His grandmother, Frances Hughes, was a founding member of the UICC, and many family memories and milestones took place there.



SF rose of tralee

JOIN US!

San Francisco Selection Night
Saturday, January 28, 2023

United Irish Cultural Center
St. Patrick's Room

TICKETS AND INFORMATION
sfroseoftralee@gmail.com | www.sfroseoftralee.com

roseoftralee

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

SAN FRANCISCO
CENTER

WELCOME TO THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS



SUZIE SHEEDY — Suzie Sheedy is a highly skilled fundraising professional with more than 20 years of experience in philanthropy, relationship building, and marketing. During the course of her career, she has helped raise more than \$70 million for Bay Area organizations including Catholic Charities, Hamilton Families, Sequoia Hospital, Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep and St. Anthony's. Suzie's experience includes capital campaigns, annual giving, planned giving, fundraising events, major gifts, donor stewardship, and foundation and corporate grants procurement.

Suzie's grandparents, Jim & Helen Fitzpatrick, were founding members of the United Irish Cultural Center. She is married to Declan Sheedy and they have two children: Erinn – a teacher at St. Thomas More School, and Connor – a senior at Marquette University. Suzie also sits on the board of The Hibernian Newman Club and is the Club Secretary of Pearse Og Football & Hurling Team.



ANNE CASSIDY CAREW — Anne Cassidy Carew born and raised in the Sunset neighborhood of San Francisco. Attended Holy Name and Mercy High School, married at Saint Anne's and baptized her children at Saint Cecilia's. Anne was raised by Sally from Sligo and Jerry from Cavan, who taught her to be a strong Irish woman and to not stand idle when there is work to be done. Married at Saint Anne's with the reception at the United Irish Cultural Center

Anne's father Jerry was a part of the original crew that built the United Irish Cultural Center in the early 70's and a board member for the UICC. Anne followed in his footsteps starting in 2005 and got involved with the UICC.

During the last 17 years Anne served on the UICC board as President, Treasurer and Secretary. And when she was not on the board: volunteered where she was needed, event planner for the Mad Hatter Tea Party, Brick campaign coordinator, and engineer of the Keepers of the Steps Exhibition.

Anne has a great love for her community and education. For the last 17 years Anne has found her purpose working with high school students, as a school counselor and vice principal. Living and raising her children in Pacifica, Anne has worked with great parents supporting and collaborating on Parent Teacher Organizations and parcel tax campaigns designing creative ways to raise funds.

Anne has many loves in life: gelato, Irish chocolate and travelling with her husband Ed and her children Ryan and Shannon! (not necessarily in this order.)



REBECCA L. HARRINGTON — Rebecca Harrington is Co-Founder and CEO of The Leadership Institute (LI). She was responsible for the original planning and launch of LI in 1991 and has overseen strategy, product development, growth and executive management of all operations since its inception. LI is a national member organization comprised of 65+ of the most preeminent health systems in the country, represented by their CEOs and senior executive teams, who come together through a variety of services to share insights, learnings, and best practices. In addition, LI established the LI National Behavioral Health Forum for member systems to collaborate in treating addiction and mental illness.

Prior to launching LI, Ms. Harrington was Vice President of Operations for Diabetes Treatment Centers of America, part of American Healthcorp, a publicly traded company specializing in chronic disease management. Before joining DTCA, she served as Assistant Director of Operations at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center where her responsibilities included ambulatory, ancillary and inpatient areas, and management of a statewide healthcare program. She also served as Special Assistant to the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies where she was responsible for the development of health-related regulatory initiatives including lobbying at the state and federal levels on a variety of health policy issues.

Active now as a healthtech startup mentor, board advisor and investor, Ms. Harrington is passionate about supporting and advising Founders creating the future of health care. She is energized every day by the passion, curiosity, optimism, and commitment of amazing leaders with whom she is privileged to work.

Ms. Harrington has a Master of Science degree in Health Administration from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where she was awarded a two-year US Public Health Fellowship. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies from Wellesley College. She currently is a member of the Business Leadership Council of Wellesley College and the Advisory Board of GuardaHeart. She has several published interviews and articles relating to healthcare, lives in San Francisco and is the co-creator of three amazing human beings.

UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER of SAN FRANCISCO

Céad míle fáilte

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Mark Aaker
Jen Burke Anderson
David Joseph Barrett
Tracy Boes
Thomas P. Byrne
Kathleen Ann Canright
John F Caramucci
Jennifer Carr
Bill Carr, IV
Deirdre Cassidy
John Kevin Conneely
Julie Cotter
Verne Deason
Katie Dinneen
John Donelan
Lauraine Edir
Conor Forde
Leah Grace Ingram Gilbert
Robert Michael Graham
Jacqueline Graham
Regina M. Grogan
Mary Ellen Guerrero
Erik Joseph Gulseth
Kevin Anthony Hackett
Sean E. Halligan
Ray Hickey

Sheila Keating
Mary Ann King
Myk Klemme
Denise Lee Lagomarsino, RN
Alex Lentz
Cornelius Anthony Lucey
Brendan Fitzgerald Lynch
Vincent X. Maguire
Kristen Malone
Brendan Maloney
Heather Maloney
Jeff Marcaletti
Brian Alfred McCarthy
Robert Dean McDonald
Reagan Mather McDonnell
Anne McLean
Michael Thomas Mitchell
Matthew Andrew Moore, RN
Keith Mulligan
Dennis E Murphy
Joan Nahurski-Dionisio
Kara Newport
Fiona O'Connor
Dave O'Donnell
Emily O'Rourke
Faith Christine Lydia Proctor

Leann Proud
Gregory Quinn
Janet Lee Reisner
Diane Mae Robinson
Jacqueline Rowan
Gregory Russie
Christopher Jeffery Rust
Catherine Ann Sharpe
Susan Barrett Shields
Margaret Smith
Shaun Cargile Stewart
Aidan Hughes Stone
John Francis Strain
Kirsten Cavanaugh Strobel
Kevin Sweeney
Tracy Ann Tynan
Scott Tracy Van Tassell
Nicholas Anthony Yenson

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

www.IrishCenterSF.org

Names listed became members between July 2022 and Dec. 2022.



UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER of SAN FRANCISCO



2022 by the Numbers



128



NEW MEMBERS

3

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

(Keepers of the Steps, Annie Holland, and Irish Veterans); and



2 travelling exhibits

Digital Data



- ♦ 37,000 WEBSITE VISITORS
- ♦ 3,503 INSTAGRAM FOLLOWS (659 NEW)
- ♦ 6,364 FACEBOOK FOLLOWS (690 NEW)
- ♦ 717 TWITTER FOLLOWERS
- ♦ 3,840 NEWSLETTERS MAILED
- ♦ 62,400 EMAILS SENT



65

PARTICIPANTS

ON OUR 1ST PLACE PARADE BUS IN THE SF ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

2

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVES



IrishCenterSF.org

2700 45th Ave | San Francisco, CA 94116



54

STUDENTS AWARDED \$44K IN LEO WALSH SCHOLARSHIP MONEY

450



PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY HOURS



32

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS SERVED

58



YOUTH IN 3 WEEKS OF SUMMER CAMP



3

COMHALTAS CÉILÍS

8

IRISH LANGUAGE CLASSES



18

CONCERTS/SHOWS



AMATEUR FIGHT NIGHTS



1K



IN ATTENDANCE

AT OUR 1ST SUMMER FLEADH—ROCK THE GATES
8 BANDS ON 3 STAGES
+ PIPERS AND DANCERS

6



IRISH DANCE SCHOOLS OFFERING CLASSES + 2 FEISEANNA



278

VOLUNTEERS

57

YOUTH MUSIC CLASSES OFFERED



@IrishCenterSF

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AN EMERGENCY!!**

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*Get Certified
in First Aid
& CPR*

Space is limited to
20 people.

**Register by
January 10, 2023!**

This course is
instructed by
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certified by the
American Heart
Association

Sunday, January 22, 2023

at the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center
from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

cost \$105/person

**First Aid and CPR
training will teach you:**

- Care for conscious choking victims
- CPR, AED for all age groups
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- Treat sudden illnesses
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REGISTER AT: [LINKTR.EE/SFIIPC](https://linktr.ee/SFIIPC)
OR CALL SHANNON AT 415.432.2552



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:



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme
an Bliain Ceannaircneacha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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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
fáilte

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 | 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):

☐ Single Membership Renewal (Dues) \$150 ☐ Couple Membership Renewal (Dues) \$250

The term for annual dues is 365 days from the date your dues are recorded. Dues are regulated by the UICC Board of Directors.

Name #1:	Member #:
Name #2 (Couple):	Member #:

MEMBERSHIP (per schedule above) \$ _____

BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTION (\$40.00/Year) \$ _____

DONATION (thanks for your generosity) \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FEES/DONATIONS can be paid by **Check** or **Credit Card** or online at irishcentersf.org

Name as it appears on Credit Card:
(Please Print Clearly)

Check One* MasterCard: ☐ VISA: ☐ DISCOVER: ☐ * UICC does not accept AMEX

Credit Card NUMBER:

Expiration Date (mm/yyyy): CVV: AMOUNT:

SIGNATURE:

Thank you so much for supporting the Membership Program! ~ The UICC Board!

United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.



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San Francisco, CA 94116-2696

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FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

Saturday, January 21, 2023
7-9 pm

St. Francis Room
at the United Irish Cultural Center
2700 45th Ave, San Francisco

Tickets: www.IrishCenterSF.org

(President's Message continued)

BOARD TRANSITIONS — After almost four years on the Board here at the Center, Mark and Molly Burke are stepping away for some well deserved rest and relaxation. They leave the board as Vice-President and Secretary respectively. The dynamic duo have put in an incalculable amount of time and effort into the Center. The Burkes bravely stepped up to re-open the Center in the spring of 2019. Since that time they have helped to drive the rescue and recovery of the Center's operations. While they will always be synonymous with Wawona Gates, they also gave us incredible St. Patrick's Day season festivities, Fight nights, Oktoberfest and a host of other great entertainment events at the Center.

We have three new Board members stepping up. Anne Cassidy Carew returns for her third spell on the board, and will embark on her 17th year of service to the Center. The other additions are Suzie Sheedy and Rebecca Harrington who are coming onboard with a strong record in fundraising and will dedicate much of their efforts to the 2025 Project. Delighted to have each of you as part of the team going forward.

CHRISTMAS CÉILÍ — I took my wife and girls along to the Christmas Céilí last month and had an absolute blast. I took part in some of the set dances and was left breathless by all the dancing. Michael Murphy is a patient and dedicated teacher and all levels are encouraged to participate in the céilí dances. It was also good to meet many of the dancers during the break in activity. Set dancing classes restart on Thursday January 17th at 7.30pm. What a great way to stay fit for the new year!

FESTIVE SHOWS — We had two traveling Christmas shows during December here at the Center. To kick off the festive season we had the Kerry Productions "An Irish Christmas" on December 1. The following week we hosted the Fires "Scottish Christmas" complete with wonderful singing, Highland step dancing, organ reed, guitar, fiddle, flute and bagpipe playing a whole host of Christmas tunes and songs.

CORK REBELS SHINE — Hats off to the Rebel Cork Ladies and Mens club for a wonderful Christmas dinner dance celebration last month. Martin Connolly was honored by the Rebel Cork Benevolent Association as Corkman of the Year. Mary O'Leary was honored for her twenty seven years of service to the Cork Ladies.

WONDERFUL BOUTIQUE — Forty local vendors and artisans participated in the annual Holiday Boutique in December. Many community members were able to secure some excellent gifts for loved ones, as there was something for everyone on the day.

KIDS MUSIC LESSONS — Music lessons for kids return on January 7th. Sign up online at irishcentersf.org

FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE — We will hold the first ever Father Daughter dance at the Center on January 21st. Should be a great night! Tickets online.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

All the best for a happy New Year in 2023. See you at the Center soon!

Liam Reidy, *President*
lreidy@irishcentersf.org



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JANUARY CALENDAR

■ JANUARY 7, SATURDAY

- Inauguration ~ 6:00 - 8:00pm

Joel Engardio District 4 Supervisor

Community Celebration ~ St. Patrick's Room

■ JANUARY 14, SATURDAY

- Irish Genealogy Club ~ 11:00am-1:00pm

Topic is TBD. We'll post it on the library's social media.

2022 club leads: Pati Traktman patitraktman@gmail.com

& Nancy Sanchez nmsanchez86@yahoo.com.

See Library page for Zoon information

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

"History and Traditions of the Trad Seisiún"

Presented by Lisa Winch, a local trad musician.

Questions? Contact Lisa Hilmoe at:

hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com

See Library page for Zoon information

■ JANUARY 14-15, SATURDAY- SUNDAY

- Kennelly Memorial Feis

St. Patrick's Room ~ 8:00am - 6:00pm

■ JANUARY 17, TUESDAY

- Set Dancing Classes ~ 7:30 - 9:30pm

■ JANUARY 21, SATURDAY

- Father Daughter Dance ~ 7:00 - 9:00pm

St. Francis Room

■ JANUARY 28, SATURDAY

- San Francisco Rose of Tralee Selection Night

7:00pm ~ St. Patrick's Room

■ JANUARY 26, THURSDAY

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

Live chat featuring antiquarian books, interesting titles

and upcoming programming. Watch it happen Live on the

Library's Facebook page, or be our guest in the discussion

by attending on Zoom



SAVE THE DATE 2023

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5

St. Brigid's Céilí

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7

Set Dancing Classes

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21

Set Dancing Classes

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26

United Irish Societies

Grand Marshal Dinner



SATURDAY MARCH 11

St. Patricks Day Parade Celebration

SUNDAY MARCH 12

Annual Block Party Celebration



7PM ~ Visiting from Co. Wexford, Ireland,

The Green Road with Carol Kinsella



FRIDAY MARCH 17

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

SATURDAY MARCH 18

Amateur Boxing in partnership with

Fire in the Ring Boxing

SUNDAY MARCH 19

Runa ~ Celtic Roots Music

SUNDAY APRIL 2

St. Patrick's Céilí

Date TBD MAY

Fishamble, Irish theatre company presents
Humours of Bandon a play by Margaret McAuliffe.

MONDAY JUNE 12 - FRIDAY JUNE 30

Irish Center Summer Camp

Ages 6-14 yrs

SATURDAY JUNE 17

Amateur Boxing in partnership with

Fire in the Ring Boxing

SATURDAY AUGUST 26

Rock the Gates II Music Festival

IRISH SHOPPE



at the UICC

OPEN
online
24/7

IrishCenterSF.org



Josephine Brogan
Shopkeeper

Open Saturday & Sunday

January 14 & 15

Feis Weekend

Call Ahead, Order Ahead

415-264-8856



UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals
Sports Medicine Center for Young Athletes



ucsfbenioffchildrens.org/orthopedics

IRISH CENTER 2025 PROJECT

S A N F R A N C I S C O

The
Future
Is Now



Riordan Sykes McFadden, P.C.

Kerry Riordan Sykes
Maureen S. McFadden

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

Free Initial Consultation

Support YOUR UICC and
the BUSINESSES that
Support YOUR UICC

**DEADLINE for February 2023 BULLETIN
is January 15**

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

PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY

Happy New Year from the Library...

What a way to end the year. The digitising of our original Leader issues are now available online! Thanks primarily to a generous ESP Grant award from the Irish Government last year, all of the physical pages of the Leader are now available to be read online, directly from the print. Issues which we held only the microfiche of will still appear in their original form. Read all about it from 1902 - 1938.

The Keepers of the Steps pop-up at the Oireachtas downtown was very well received. So many dancers, teachers and parents stopped in, read our local stories and told their own. It was wonderful. Thank you to the Keepers of the Steps committee members for keeping the exhibition active and sharing it with new audiences. More than once we were asked if we'd be at next year's Western US Region in Phoenix!

Cataloguing and collection processing is picking up speed with the addition of new volunteers. Check our Titles tab on the website for more information. Digital periodicals are linked via BMI Digital Reel, and books are in our Online Catalogue. Many hands make light work. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact the library.

The Irish 49ers and Keepers exhibitions return to the halls of the UICC. With their travels completed, the exhibitions are hanging here again, rejoining Annie Holland's Children of the Free State which hangs in the Member's Room. It was good to hang the 1916 retrospective panels briefly in the interim.

3rd Annual Raffle a success! Congratulations to our winners: Renee, Gloria and Deborah. A heartfelt Thank You! to everyone who bought tickets and supported the library and scholarship programs. Special thanks to Duggan's Serra for the ticket printing and anonymous underwriters for the prizes. Our scholarship applicants, families and volunteers are grateful.

Book Sale on Biblio: <https://www.biblio.com/bookstore/patrick-j-dowling-library-san-francisco>! Shop our Book Sale Cart from anywhere, anytime. Featuring our antiquarian and uncommon duplicated titles, it's a lovely way to find unique gifts while supporting the Library. Local pickup and media rate shipping available.

Library Hours, January

Thursdays & Fridays: 2:30 – 5:00 pm ; Saturdays: 1:30 – 4:30 pm

Special hour updates will appear on the library's Facebook and Instagram pages.

Irish Genalogy Club - Zoom Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

"Deciphering Old Handwriting in Documents" A look at interpreting the writing of our ancestors. Worksheets will be emailed the week before. Please email the club leads to receive them.

2023 club leads: Pati Traktman patitraktman@gmail.com & Nancy Sanchez nmsanchez86@yahoo.com.

Irish Marvels Past & Present - Special Holiday Presentation Zoom Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

"History and Traditions of the Trad Seisiún" Presented by Lisa Winch, a local trad musician.

Questions? Contact Lisa Hilmoe at hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com

Biscuits & Books, Live!

Thursday, January 26, 4:00 - 4:45 PM

Live chat featuring antiquarian books, interesting titles and upcoming programming. Watch it happen Live on the Library's Facebook page, or be our guest in the discussion by attending on Zoom

NOTE: all new Zoom links coming in 2023

New Zoom links will be posted prior to the meeting dates on the calendar, the Library's social media and via club emails.

In-kind Donations

Please email to arrange a drop-off appointment in January, 2023. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you regarding your materials.

Thank you and happy new year to all! Go raibh maith agat agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir!

Jennifer Drennan, Librarian

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

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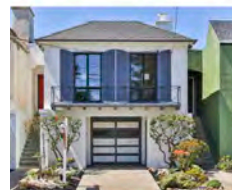
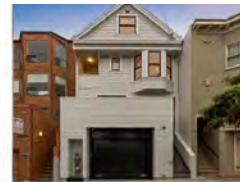
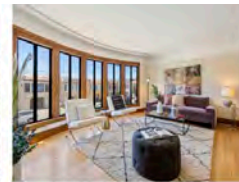
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THE BONANZA KING TALK

We had a wonderful talk by Gregory Crouch on gold and silver miner Jack Mackay following the Holiday party on December 14th. The Bonanza King is an engaging rag to riches story of the life of John Mackay an Irish immigrant who leaves NYC & travels west during the Gold Rush era. Fascinating story.



Maggie Overbay, Kathleen Kraus, Shannon McAuliffe and Anne Cassidy Carew.



John Blaney, Anne Cassidy Carew and Gregory Crouch.



Gregory Crouch with UICC President Liam Reidy.



Eileen Mize and Neal Kassner.



John and Jeanne Connolly with Aidan Stone.



Jennifer Zabkuni and Heidi Ward.

Gregory Crouch signs his book for Rebecca Harrington.



IN MEMORIAM



WILLIAM SHAW

DECEMBER 15, 1943 - NOVEMBER 17, 2022

William Thomas Shaw of Kelseyville, CA and Manchester, NH passed away peacefully November 17, 2022 in Manchester after a brief illness. William was born December 15, 1943 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, the second child of William and Isabella Shaw. After marrying his wife Elaine in 1968, they immigrated to San Francisco, eventually moving to Marin. He was a longtime member at Aldersgate United Methodist Church and co-owned Corte Madera British and European auto repair. William played bass guitar in the band Irish Connection at many UICC events over the years and will be remembered for his personality that could not be tamed by medical issues in recent years. He was ever present at shows and concerts at the UICC after he had retired from playing. William was predeceased by his wife and his parents. He is survived by his sister Helen (John) of Dundonald, Northern Ireland; sons Duncan (Deirdre) of Manchester, NH and Craig (Tisha) of San Rafael; and grandchildren Skylar, Bode, Ryan and Liam. William was laid to rest at Mount Tamalpais Cemetery in San Rafael alongside the wife he adored.



Since 1994, the **United Irish Cultural Center** Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program has awarded more than 600 scholarships to 8th graders and high school seniors entering the next level of their education thanks to the hard work of volunteers, community support, and loyal donor generosity.



2023 LEO T. WALSH SCHOLARSHIP

Honor your Irish Heritage

Give a gift of Irish culture by making a tax-deductible donation to the UICC Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program, benefitting 8th Grader and High School Senior finalists entering their next level of education.

Name a scholarship after your family, a relative, or beloved friend. Any and all donations gladly accepted; 100% tax deductible.

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Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program
2700 45th Avenue SF, CA 94116

ONLINE:

www.irishcentersf.org/scholarships

Apply

2023 APPLICATIONS

Open to graduating 8th graders and High School Seniors continuing their education.

DOWNLOAD (STARTING 2/1/23):

www.irishcentersf.org/scholarships

Applications due: March 17, 2023

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

Thank to Mark and Molly Burke!

Mark and Molly Burke stepped away from the Executive Board last month after almost four years of service on the UICC Board. Most recently Mark served as Vice-President while Molly served as Secretary. The dynamic duo have been at the forefront of the huge turn around in fortunes at the Irish Center during the past four years. Since the spring of 2019, it is incalculable how many volunteer hours both have logged in an effort to reopen and reinvigorate the Center as a focal point for the community. While it has been a team effort from all across the board, there is no doubt that Mark and Molly helped to stabilize the Irish Center "ship" and have set the Center up for continued success going forward. Mark in particular has been the board liaison with the staff, which was skeletal for much of 2019 and 2020, and into 2021. During the past year has seen the Center in a much better position to hire staff as the number of pre-Covid community events have returned.

On behalf of the UICC family and Irish American community we thank Mark and Molly for their herculean efforts over the past four years. We are delighted to know that they will not be going far from us in 2023, as they plan to return to help out with some of the our regular volunteer events during the year.



Liam Reidy, UICC President presents a token of appreciation to Mark and Molly Burke from the UICC. A photo book compiled by volunteer graphic designer Eileen Mize captures fifty years of Irish bread making in the Murphy and Burke households that Molly had talked about putting together for a long time. Molly said upon the receipt of the book "they are my Dads hands on the front cover. I love it, I absolutely love it. Thank you."

This month we hear from Irish Center member Sarah Lawlor about her trip home last July to participate in the world famous “Mary from Dungloe” Festival held each year in Dungloe, Co. Donegal.

MY JOURNEY TO THE ‘MARY FROM DUNGLOE’

by Sarah Lawlor

I started my journey to the ‘Mary from Dungloe’ (MFD) festival in County Donegal back in late 2019 after being inspired by my cousin, Molly Carroll, who was the Chicago Mary in 2019. As I watched her posts on social media, I thought that this festival and all these activities looked like a lot of fun and that I wanted to do that, too. And then a second thought came to my mind, “Has anyone in San Francisco done this before?” And that is when I contacted the MFD committee and asked if I can participate in the next festival and they graciously took me on board and that is how I became San Francisco’s very first ‘Mary from Dungloe’. The reason why I wanted to do this festival is to bring a new tradition to the San Francisco Irish Community, to represent the Donegal crowd in our community, but to inspire young women as well.

As I befriended the other Mary’s around the world, we had numerous Zoom calls and took plenty of pictures and posted them online and in the process tried to raise money for the festival, which all developed into a sisterhood. The sisterhood even got deeper when we all met for the first time in Dungloe and lived together at Lough Meela Lodge. We are all connected now with a ‘Tree of Life’ necklace and still keep in touch to this very day with the other Mary’s.

The Mary committee wanted us Mary’s to be very active on social media and that’s how I met the fellow Mary’s and a lot of people with strong Donegal connections. Little did I know a love story was going to happen by my involvement in the festival. On August 21, 2020 (feast day of Our Lady of Knock) I met my sweetheart Dylan Murray - who is a well known magician in Ireland. As we corresponded and got to know one another sparks ignited and we became a couple. Dylan has been very supportive since the beginning and always has been there telling me that his family has adopted me as their own as well such as helping me buy my dress for the MFD.

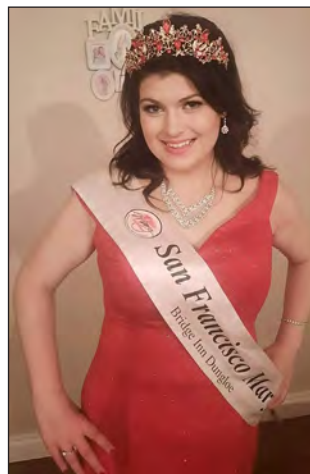
I felt a sense of accomplishment that I made it into this year’s St. Patrick’s parade introducing the “Mary From Dungloe”. Thank you to the United Irish Societies for letting me have a spot in the parade and to Suzanne and Rich O’Toole for lending their vintage mustang with my MFD banner on their car. I also want to thank the Irish Herald for media coverage. Sponsorship came from the Bridge Inn in Dungloe and they have been my cheerleaders.

Last July I flew back to Donegal, Ireland and I took part in the ‘Mary from Dungloe’ festival. It was a weeklong festival of numerous events. I am honored and privileged to be the very first San Francisco Mary of the ‘Mary from Dungloe’ festival and my job was to represent San Francisco and the Irish Community while I was on this journey. It was an honor to meet dignitaries such as Pat ‘the Cope’ Gallagher and entertainers such as Daniel O’Donnell. I saw lots of different sights around Donegal and I am proud to say that I have Donegal in my blood. One day at a soccer field I wore my San Francisco Glens soccer jersey to represent my grandfather, Neil Hagan, in his homeland. I also got to show off my teddy bear making skills.

Congratulations to the London Mary who won, Caitlin Flinn. Thank you to my family, friends and followers who have supported me throughout my journey. Without you I wouldn’t have made history.



Sarah Lawlor with her beau Dylan Murray.



Sarah Lawlor, 2022 San Francisco Mary



Sarah Lawlor and Daniel O'Donnell.

Have a story to tell the community about your work, volunteer activities, or travels, get in touch with us: culture@irishtcentersf.org

THE FIRE'S DEBUT SHOW AT THE CENTER STRIKES A VERY FESTIVE CHORD!

The Fire's Very Scottish Christmas show filled the St. Patricks with festive cheer, song and dance on Friday Dec 9th, 2022. The audience was mesmerized from the off and were kept entertained all evening until the standing ovation had the applause ringing in one's ear long after the curtain came down. It was high energy traditional music all evening long combined with world class performances of blazing Scottish music with a distinctly Californian flare. Hats off the amazing musicians Rebecca Lomnicky (Fiddle), Adam Hendey (bouzouki, guitar, reed organ and vocals) and David Brewer (bag pipes, percussion, flute and whistle). Overall, a wonderful unique performance showcasing the spirit of the holiday season. Everyone had a great time!



The Fire's very brilliant musicians: David Brewer, Rebecca Lomnicky and Adam Hendey.



Kathy Jackson, Lisa Holme, and Patti Traktman.



Carolyn and James Coe with Maureen Revel.



Cathy McGarvey, Joann Prior, and Anne McGarvey.



Kara and Vern Deason.



Nicola Finnerty, Jeremiah O'Shea and Brian Finnerty.



Alina Larson, Jenny Milne, Rebecca Lomnicky, Steve Jones and Michael Jones.



Matthew and Peter Samkauska with Ben and Erica Whaley.