

Lá Fhéile Bríde—St. Brigid's Celebration 2024 at the UICC

The UICC is delighted to celebrate St. Brigid's Day—Lá Fhéile Bríde—which for centuries has been associated with the pre-Christian pagan festival Imbolc, a festival of returning light and the beginning of spring, sometimes called Candlemas. In 2023, Ireland recognized February 1 as a new National Bank Holiday—first-ever to be named for a woman.

The UICC has teamed up with the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Cooley-Keegan Branch of San Francisco, Irish Marvels, the Patrick J. Dowling Library, Solas Bhríde (a Christian Spirituality Centre in Kildare Ireland), and a team of volunteers to organize a days-long celebration of St. Brigid so that we may all join together in celebrating the woman, the life, the legacy that is Brigid as we herald the spring through a variety of ways.

St. Brigid was a dynamic woman and was called many names such as Goddess of Fire and Hearth; Brigid the Peacemaker, The Skillful Healer, Patron Saint of Poets, Caretaker of the Earth, and Druidess the Brig (meaning 'exalted one')— a goddess of pre-Christian Ireland appearing in Irish mythology as a member of the Tuatha Dé Danann. Our events and activities are designed to highlight the many facets of and traditions related to St. Brigid.

Calendar of Events

The week will be marked with big and small events – some at the UICC, some done in your own home, some by following along online with resources in Ireland. Build your own schedule of what works for you—there is something for everyone!

Saturday, February 3, 2024

Dowling Library Read Aloud with Ms. Nancy

2:30-3pm

UICC Dowling Library

Free event; register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/803239429757/?aff=oddtcreator>

Story time for the wee ones featuring stories about St. Brigid and Imbolc

Saturday, February 3, 2024

Cross Weaving Workshop—Conas Cros Bhríde a fhí

3-5 pm

St. Francis Room, UICC

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/781033802127?aff=oddtcreator>

Back by popular demand and hosted by the UICC, the Irish Marvels cultural program, and the Patrick J. Dowling Library, this family friendly workshop offers instruction and

materials for making your own cross. Tea, soda bread, and other refreshments will be provided. Brigid's crosses are the most common and enduring tradition associated with Brigid. Traditionally woven on St. Brigid's Eve the crosses are placed in the home, usually over the door, to bless all who come and to gain protection for the household from fire and disease.

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Sean's Shadows Children Puppet Show & Workshop

1 pm Puppet Show: "Tales from the Emerald Isle"

2 pm Puppet Making Workshop

St. Francis Room, UICC

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/777377957397?aff=oddtcreator>

Sean Powers has been performing with shadow puppets since 1996 and has performed over 1,000 shows—libraries, schools, museums, community center, private parties, and wherever it's dark. Enjoy a show followed by a puppet making workshop.

"Sean is a gifted story teller, telling his stories by memory using props and instruments to illustrate the stories and encouraging the children to both listen and participate enthusiastically."

Sunday, February 4, 2024

St. Brigid's Day/Mary McDonagh Tribute Céili

6:30-9:30 pm

St. Patrick's Room, UICC

\$15 for members, \$20 for nonmembers

Dance the night away with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Cooley-Keegan Branch of San Francisco.