



• UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER • How Can You Contribute To The Irish Center?

by Liam Reidy, President, United Irish Cultural Center, (lreidy@irishcentersf.org)

PEOPLE OFTEN ASK ME, "Liam, how can I help the Irish Center?" It's a question with numerous answers, depending on how one wishes to assist. For some, simply becoming a member is a significant form of support. Yet, many potential supporters desire a deeper involvement, eager to align themselves with the organization's mission. I always appreciate those unexpected encounters where someone taps me on the shoulder, expressing their desire to lend a hand. I have had several incidents in the past three years and many turned out to be great connections to help us in our efforts.

Typically, these individuals possess skills that are useful to various aspects of our nonprofit endeavors.

Rebuilding Project

Now that we are moving forward with our rebuilding project, our new center will be a beacon of Irish culture, heritage, and community spirit. This ambitious project aims to provide a dynamic space for cultural events, educational programs, and community gatherings, serving as a hub for people of all backgrounds to come together and celebrate the richness of Irish heritage.

Want to Volunteer?

But to make this vision a reality, we need your help. We're seeking volunteers who are willing to roll up their sleeves and contribute their time, energy, and expertise to the construction of our new

center. If you have a passion for lending a helping hand, there's a place for you on our team.

Volunteering with us isn't just about building a physical structure—it's about building community, forging connections, and leaving a lasting impact for generations to come. By joining our volunteer team, you'll have the opportunity to work alongside like-minded individuals who share your love for Irish culture and your dedication to strengthening our community. After all, there are 750,000 Irish Americans in the Bay Area, each with a unique story to tell and a passion for preserving and celebrating our shared heritage.

Everyone is Welcome

No matter your skill level or background, there's a role for you at the Irish Center. Whether you can commit to a few hours a week or a few days a month, your contribution will be valued and appreciated. Together, we can turn our vision for the future into a reality.

Got Talent?

Are you a professional with expertise in engineering, interior design, web management, finance, or other fields? The Irish Center is seeking individuals like you to lend your skills and knowledge to our volunteer team. As we work towards the construction and development of our new center, we recognize the value of having professionals on board who can contribute their expertise to various aspects of the project.

Whether you're an experienced engineer who can help oversee construction plans, an interior designer with a flair for creating inviting and functional spaces, a web master who can maintain our engaging online presence, or a finance professional who can assist with budgeting and financial planning, your contributions are invaluable to our success.

Teamwork Impact

By joining our team of volunteers, you'll have the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the future of the Irish Center and the communities we serve. Your expertise will help us create a vibrant and inclusive space that celebrates Irish culture, fosters community connections, and enriches the lives of all who enter our doors. Volunteering with us is not only a chance to showcase your skills and talents but also a way to give back to your community and be part of something truly special. Your contributions will be instrumental in shaping the future of the Irish Center and ensuring its success for years to come.

Join Us

If you're ready to be a part of something truly special, we invite you to join us in building the future of the Irish Center. To learn more about volunteering and how you can get involved, please visit our website or contact us directly. Thank you for considering this opportunity, and we look forward to welcoming you to our team

as we work together to build a brighter future for the Irish Center and the communities we serve.

KOTS Museum Exhibition

The UICC sponsored Keepers of the Steps museum exhibition will be on display at the San Francisco Historical Society this month. The exhibition opened on Thursday, February 29, in the historic "Mint" building at 608 Commercial Street in the financial district. The exhibition showcases the history of Irish Dance in the Bay Area since the 1850s. Well done to Eileen Mize, Anne Cassidy Carew, Jamie O'Keefe, Kathleen McKeon, Ann Baglin, Noreen Boyle and Jennifer Drennan for their tireless work in taking the exhibition to a wider audience.

March Entertainment

Our St Patrick's sub-committee have spent the last several weeks preparing for the busy March season. Pre-planning began in January, led by Aileen Duloherly and board members headed up by Josephine Brogan and a team of volunteers. There is something for everyone who is Irish this month at the Center. We welcome harpist Patrick Ball, the Black Brothers, Vince Keehan and Friends, The Hooks and a host of musicians on March 16 and 17. Not to mention all the local dance schools that will be performing throughout March.

Green Fest Block Party

We host the annual Green fest block party on March 17

with our partners the United Irish Societies, Java Beach and Cooley-Keegan Comhaltas. Ivor Collins, the Irish pipers and Irish dancers are just some of the entertainers lined up for the day. We will have face painting for the kids as well. Party starts at 11am and runs until 5pm.

2024 Summer Camp

Drama, sport, art and music will feature again in this year's summer camp. Additional offerings include website development, digital animation, and computer programming. Registration is now open for early bird pricing. The camp runs from June 8 and June 28. Sign up by March 17 for the Early Bird Special of \$350/week. www.irishcentersf.org/irish-camp/

Rumble at the Beach

Boxing returns to the Center on March 9 featuring local amateur boxers. Boxing is popular in the outer Sunset. This event is being held as a partnership with Fire in the Ring Boxing based in Brisbane.

Leo T Walsh Scholarship

Applications for our annual scholarship program are now open for 8th Graders and High School Seniors entering the next level of their education. Completed applications are due on March 17, delivered to the Irish Center. You can also sponsor a scholarship in your name or in the name of a loved one.

*Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh!
Happy St. Patrick's Day!*

Sean's Shadow Puppet Show A Success

A WET AND WINDY SUNDAY AFTERNOON in early February forced many kids and their families indoors. Several families came out to the Shadow Puppet Theatre show with Sean Powers, and the workshop following the show. The kids had a great time with the shadow puppetry once they had created their own. The show was made possible by your contributions to the Annual Appeal which designates a portion of those funds to children's programming.



Sean Powers with the Shadow puppet workshop participants on February 4.



Shadow Puppeteer Sean Powers with Roisín Reidy.

Gift Of Music

WE HAD A wonderful gift of musical instruments donated to our youth music program by the family of the late Milton and Hazel Hoehn formerly of Santa Rosa, CA. Granddaughter Stephanie Miles (Hoehn) reached out to us via the Internet to see if we would like to accept the instruments. We said yes of course! Here Jon Miles (Stephanie's husband) presents music teacher Dan Cotter with the very sizable collection of tin whistles, flutes and recorders. During their life Milton and Hazel Hoehn family were life long music enthusiasts.

If you have musical instruments lying around the house that are in need of a good home where they will be cherished and enjoyed by the next generation of musicians here at the Center, reach out to us.

Email: Info@irishcentersf.org



Our Newest Member

OUR NEWEST IRISH CENTER member Anthony Price who signed up on February 17th is photographed here with Vice-President Anne Cassidy Carew.

If you are not already a member of the Center you can sign up at www.irishcentersf.org. New member dues are only \$150 a year (approximately \$13 a month). The member dues may be tax deductible.

The web site also has a full list of member benefits.



• UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER •
2024 San Francisco Rose, Maggie Baglin



MAGGIE BAGLIN WAS CROWNED the new San Francisco Rose at the Center on February 10. She will represent our City at the Rose of Tralee pageant this summer.

Pictured left are Maggie and her family: Mike Baglin, Peggy Sheridan, Maura Baglin, Maggie, Oliver Sheridan and Ann Baglin. *Pictured right:* Maggie made her first appearance as the 2024

SF Rose at the Grand Marshal's Dinner honoring Tom Hunt at the Center. Maggie fulfilled dual duties as the 2024 SF Rose and the only current female member of the SF Irish Pipers Band, piping in the honored guests at the beginning of the ceremony.

For more on the Rose selection night please see the story on page 36 of this edition.

New Irish Center Website Launched In February

BUILDING ON A STANDARD of excellence long ago established by former Board member and long-time volunteer Thomas McKeon, the UICC volunteer marketing team embarked on an ambitious project to update and enhance the online home for the Irish Center. For the past three months UICC members Eileen Mize, Mary Teahan, and Paula O'Shea, in consultation with Thomas McKeon, have logged countless hours lending their skill and expertise in creating what they hope will be a dynamic and engaging site with an energy level on par with the Center itself.

In an effort to capture as much of the vibrant culture the Irish Center celebrates throughout the year, Mary and Paula took the helm mastering the WordPress infrastructure and behind the scenes coding, designing all page layouts, installing plug-ins and creating new and improved forms while Eileen



New Website Development Team: Eileen Mize, Mary Teahan and Paula O'Shea.

tackled the visuals, graphics, and copy. The team hopes the new visuals and navigation will increase engagement and help people learn more about what the Irish Center has to offer.

Eileen, Mary, and Paula launched the new site over the

President's Day weekend in advance of all the REEL March Madness events which are about to get underway. They wish to thank the Board of Directors and team of proofreaders and site checkers for their diligence and feedback.

Dublin's Aoife Scott At The UICC

THE CENTER OFFICIALLY KICKED-off the 2024 St Patrick's Day Season as it welcomed award-winning folk singer/songwriter from Ireland's first family in song—Aoife Scott on February 16, 2024. Aoife, with Andy Meaney on guitar and back-up vocals, performed an intimate concert to a packed room with plenty of family and friends on hand. Her songs and stories of family connections, origins of her singing tradition, tales of her native Dublin, and her genuine personality made all who were gathered feel like a friend. Her brother Eoghan Scott managed the sound board, and guests delighted when she called her mom, Frances Black, up for a song. She played for two hours straight and concluded with a bit of a Black Family reunion for a rousing rendition of her hit "All Along the Wild Atlantic Way."

For this special encore, Aoife and Andy were joined by her brother Eoghan Scott and their mother Frances Black, in addition to her uncle Shay Black and his daughter Shosi, and her uncle Michael Black and his daughters Catriona and Maeve. So much talent—just a fantastic night of music, family, and community. Shay and Michael play in the UICC Emerald Pub on Friday, March 8.

Tickets at www.irishcentersf.org.



Frances Black joins her daughter Aoife on stage with Andy Meaney.



Frances Black, Andy Meaney, and Shay Black.



Vince Keehan, Josephine Brogan and Patricia Keehan.

THE BLACK BROTHERS
 Félim Egan and Eamonn Flynn

FRIDAY
3.8.24
 DOORS @ 6:30
 EMERALD PUB

www.irishcentersf.org

IRISH CENTER SF | 2700 45TH AVE.

VINCE KEEHAN
and Friends

Joined by
 Nicola Stathers on pipes
 & Paddy Egan on concertina

3.14.24
 DOORS @ 7 PM
 SHOW @ 8 PM

EMERALD PUB at the UICC
 2700 45th Ave, SF

DETAILS/TICKETS:
www.irishcentersf.org

Ringside at the UICC! Amateur Fight Night!

TICKETS ONLINE AND AT THE DOOR
irishcentersf.org

Featuring local boxers!

ST. PATRICK'S SERIES!
RUMBLE AT THE BEACH

SATURDAY
3.9.24

PRESENTED BY:

IRISH CENTER SF
 2700 45TH AVE

FIRE IN THE RING BOXING