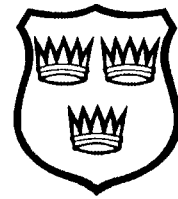




Foras Cultúir Gael Aontuighthe



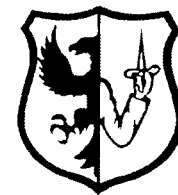
# United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.



2700 - 45th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116

Tel: 415-661-2700 Event Hotline: 415-741-8803

E-mail: info@irishcentersf.org www.irishcentersf.org



Volume XLVIII No. 12  
December 2023

2023  
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## BOARD MESSAGE

### FROM YOUTHFUL PASSION TO SEASONED LEADERSHIP: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR CENTER



Liam Reidy

As I observe the bustling activity at the Center throughout November - filled with celebrations, diverse classes, and engaging events - it strikes me how rich our offerings have become. Amidst all this, what truly ignites my enthusiasm are the programs involving children. We now host STEM classes after school three times a week, provide education in Irish music and dance, and have introduced a Kids' Reading Hour at the Library, drawing a thriving crowd each week. Our annual summer camp welcomed 75 kids last June, and throughout the year, we've showcased numerous Irish dancers from the community as part of our cultural programming.

**A Vibrant Hub for Kids** — Without a doubt, the Center has blossomed into a vibrant hub catering to the younger generation - an incredible transformation considering previous perceptions of limited offerings for children here. Among our middle-aged community members, many fondly reminisce about days spent racing around the center as children, while their parents dined in the adjoining dining room. Though those cherished moments remain as memories for the time being, we eagerly anticipate a future where we can once again welcome entire families within a few years, following the Center's reconstruction. Investing in and embracing children within the Irish Center is critical; they embody our future stewards, board members, musicians, dancers, and supporters. Their presence today ensures the enduring vibrancy of our legacy tomorrow.

**Today's Juveniles to Tomorrow's Seniors** — Recognizing that today's juveniles are the seniors of tomorrow is fundamental for securing the Center's long-term sustainability. Actively engaging and investing in the younger generation fosters a community that not only thrives presently, but also lays the foundation for a dedicated, knowledgeable, and supportive senior community in the future. Their involvement today shapes these youngsters into the pillars that will uphold the continued success and sustainability of the Irish Center for generations ahead.

**Talented Youth** — This year has marked remarkable progress in our music program, particularly with the influx of talented youngsters embracing the tin whistle and fiddle through our youth music initiative. Notably, five budding bagpipe players have transitioned to practicing on actual pipes, while others have embarked on their journey into drumming. Our facility witnesses over sixty dedicated Irish step dancers honing their craft each week during regular practice sessions. It's evident that securing the future of the Center hinges on our ongoing commitment to nurturing and investing in the potential of our youth.

**Join Our Team** — Embark on an extraordinary journey with us: become a vital part of a once-in-a-lifetime movement dedicated to rejuvenating the Irish Center. Now is the moment to take action. Whether it's signing up as a new member, renewing a lapsed membership, or actively participating in our building committee or fundraising team, your involvement matters greatly. Our journey has been remarkable thus far, and your support will drive us towards new heights. Together, we uphold tradition and guarantee that the vibrant Irish essence flourishes in San Francisco for the generations ahead. Join us in shaping our legacy!

*(President's Message continued on page 2)*

(President's Message continued)

**What's Ahead for 2024** — Several live musical acts have already been planned for the spring. Included in the Center's lineup are: Aoife Scott, Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones, Patrick Ball, Vince Keehan, Paddy Egan & Nicola Stathers, Máire Ní Chathasaigh and Chris Newman. Artist exhibitions, an Irish dance residency, three week summer camp, traditional music festival, third annual music Fleadh, Rock the Gates, and much more are planned for next year.

**Line Dancing Classes** — Several members of the community suggested we host Line Dancing classes here at the Center, which is very popular across this country and at home in Ireland. Over 60 people turned out in cowboy boots and western attire for the first class on November 16. Next class is Thursday December 21.

**December Blood Drive** — The SFFD Community Blood Drive takes place on December 13 from 8am to 12 noon. Last September's Blood Drive collected 33 units of blood which helped 99 people.

**Annual Giving Campaign** — At this significant time of the year, our Annual Appeal donation forms have reached the doorsteps of our valued members, inviting support for our year-end giving campaign. Your generous contributions are the cornerstone of our ability to sustain and enrich our Cultural Programming activities. We deeply rely on your philanthropic spirit to continue nurturing and promoting the vibrant cultural experiences that define and unite our community. Your support ensures that our programming remains robust, engaging and accessible to all, fostering the celebration and preservation of our cherished traditions.

**Library and Scholarship Raffle** — Many thanks to all those who have purchased and returned raffle tickets in support of the Patrick J. Dowling Library and Leo T. Walsh Scholarship programs. The lucky winners will be announced on December 31 in the Library.

**Annual Boutique** — Local artisans, vendors, chocolatiers, and crafts people will have plenty of Christmas gifts to offer at the Holiday Boutique on Saturday December 16th. Festive holiday music by David Austin. The Irish Shoppe will be fully stocked with a large range of Irish biscuits and chocolates.

**Thank you** — Best wishes to board directors Tom McKeon and Kathleen Kraus who are stepping away from their roles on the UICC Board at the end of December. Tom has been involved with the Center for the past 25 years, the most recent five years as a board member, and a volunteer for the first twenty years. Kathleen was our Human Resources lead for the last three years. Thank you for all your help behind the scenes!

**Members Meeting** — On Thursday December 14 at 7pm, the UICC Board will meet with UICC members during the Christmas Social for the December meeting. Come and hear how the Center performed in the past year and what is planned for 2024. The UICC will celebrate 49 years on 45th and Wawona in 2024.

**Merry Christmas** — On behalf of the Board of the Center I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Liam Reidy, President  
lreidy@irishcentersf.org

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*Celebrations of Life*



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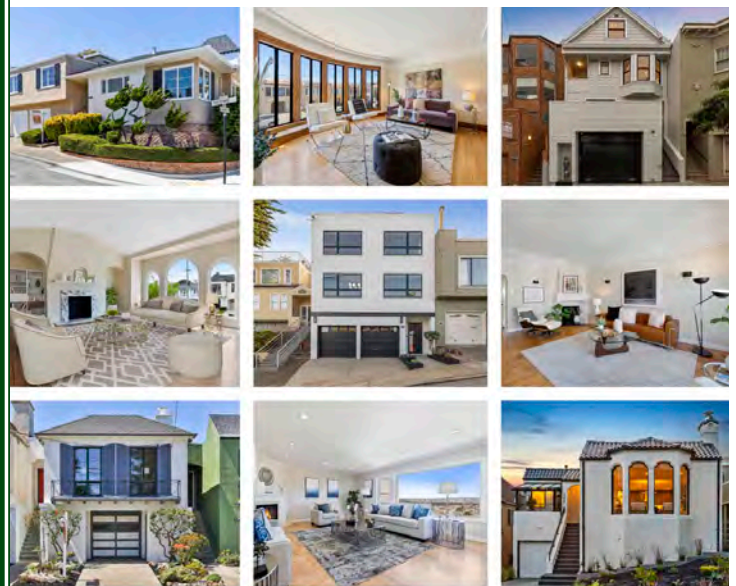


Matt, Dan and Joey Duggan

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Over 45 Million Dollars of properties SOLD in 2022!

# DECEMBER CALENDAR

## ■ DECEMBER 2, SATURDAY

• 3rd Library Read Aloud with Ms. Nancy ~ 4:00pm-4:30pm  
Live music with Cormac & Friends. Community craic.  
Dance, sing, explore: library display, kids activity pages.

• Traditional Irish Music Seisiún ~ 5:00pm-7:00pm  
in the UICC Emerald Pub

## ■ DECEMBER 3, SUNDAY ~ 6:30pm-9:30pm

• Annual Christmas Céili  
Comhaltas Members \$15 - Non members \$20  
Contact Josephine Brogan at 415/264-8856

## ■ DECEMBER 9, SATURDAY

• Irish Genealogy Club Zoom ~ 11:00am-1:00pm  
Holiday Social in the UICC Member's Room!  
All genealogical skill levels are welcome  
2023 club leads: Pati Traktman & Nancy Sanchez  
Email: IrishGenealogyClub@gmail.com

• Irish Marvels, Past and Present ~ 2:30pm-4:30pm  
Zoom Meeting 2:30-4:30 PM Presentation by Jo Coffey:  
"The Inner Tri-Spiral at Bru na Boinne" (Newgrange)  
Questions? Contact Lisa Hilmoe at Hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com

• Rebel Cork Dinner Dance - See Ad



## ■ DECEMBER 12, TUESDAY ~ 7:30pm-9:30pm

• Set Dance Classes  
Cost is \$10 - Contact Josephine Brogan at 415/264-8856

## ■ DECEMBER 13, WEDNESDAY ~ 8:00am-12:00pm

• SFFD Blood Drive - St. Patrick's Room

## ■ DECEMBER 14, THURSDAY

• Biscuits & Books, Live! ~ 4:00-4:45pm  
Zoom and shared live on Facebook featuring the library's book sale, collection highlights and community programming.

• UICC Member Christmas Social & Monthly Meeting  
in the St. Francis Room ~ 7:00pm-8:30pm

## ■ DECEMBER 16, SATURDAY ~ 12:00pm-5:00pm

• Holiday Boutique Artisan Fair - See Ad

## ■ DECEMBER 21, THURSDAY

• Line Dancing Class - St. Patrick's Room ~ 7:00pm  
Sign up online: Irishcentersf.org

## ■ DECEMBER 31, SUNDAY ~ 1:00pm

• 4th Annual UICC Scholarship - Library Raffle Drawing.  
Winners contacted by phone/email.

# SAVE THE DATE 2024

•  
TUESDAY JANUARY 30, 2024  
Irish Heritage Night at the Warriors  
Chase Center ~7pm

\*  
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2024  
Aoife Scott in Concert

•  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2024  
Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones

•  
THURSDAY MARCH 7, 2024  
Patrick Ball "Come Dance with Me in Ireland"  
Yeats Show

•  
SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024  
Amateur Boxing Night with our partner  
Fire in the Ring Boxing Club

•  
THURSDAY MARCH 14, 2024  
Vince Keehan & Friends  
Paddy Egan & Nicola Stathers

•  
SATURDAY MARCH 16, 2024  
2024 San Francisco St. Patrick's Day Parade  
UICC Post Parade Party

•  
SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2024  
St. Patrick's Day/Block Party

•  
WEDNESDAY MAY 8, 2024  
Máire Ní Chathasaigh and Chris Newman  
(Irish Harp and Guitar) in the Emerald Room

•  
JUNE 10 - 28, 2024  
Irish Camp ~ Youth Summer Camp

•  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2024  
Irish Pipers of San Francisco Dinner Dance



## Support Your Irish Center

# IRISH SHOPPE

at the UICC



**Josephine Brogan**

Shoppe Open 12-5pm

Saturday Dec 16th

During Holiday Boutique

**Irish Chocolates**

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**DEADLINE**  
for January 2024  
**BULLETIN**  
is January 15

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



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**IRISH CENTER**  
**2025 PROJECT**

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

**The Future Is Now**



# PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY

## Greetings from the Library ... into the Winter

Read Alouds with Ms. Nancy has been well received and is growing in attendance. Plus what a fun-tastic Seisiun Saturday with three generations attending, dancing and singing along. Littles also created art while antique and new items in our music collection were admired. See you again on December 2nd.

**Breaking News! The microfilm reader is fixed!** Down for a few years now, a hundred thousand Thank Yous! Céad míle buíochas leat! to Jeffrey, a recent patron from the South Bay, and his skill set. He had come to the library wanting to confirm some information on his Irish ancestors. We had the information on microfilm. He generously volunteered his skill set. Now he has read what he'd looked for, and you can too. What he has to say about our microfilm collection: "The library owns a priceless collection of assets. Included among these are approximately (300) 35mm rolls of microfilm and (120) individual microfiche."

## The Library & Scholarship Programs Raffle Returns!

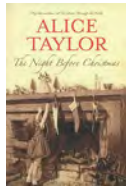
Watch your mailboxes for your 2023 raffle tickets. Need more? Tickets will also be available at the Library Book Sale at the UICC Holiday Boutique on Dec 16, and in the Library.

## Collection Highlights: Christmas



### **An Irish Christmas, John B. Keane**

Short stories including: A Christmas gander -- The hermit of Scartnabrock -- Johnny Naile's Christmas -- Mackson's Christmas



### **The Night Before Christmas, Alice Taylor**

Alice Taylor takes a nostalgic, loving look back to a family firmly rooted in tradition and humour and in particular the Christmas traditions of her childhood.

## Programming

### **Seisiún Saturday**

**December 2, 5 - 7 pm.**

Live music with Cormac & Friends, including a tribute to Sinéad O'Connor.

Community craic. Dance, sing, explore with a library display, and kids activity pages.

### **Ms. Nancy's Read Aloud**

**Saturday Dec 2, 4:00 - 4:30 pm**

**Winter celebrations.**

In-person read aloud with volunteer Ms. Nancy in the Library. Short stories read aloud from our collection, with colouring sheets, stickers, and activity pages.

### **Biscuits & Books, Live! December 14, 2023**

Zoom & Shared Live on FB: 4:00-4:45 pm

Christmas & Winter Holiday themes in the collection.

### **Library & Scholarship Raffle Draw:**

**New Year's Eve**

December 31, 1:00 pm in the Library.

## Clubs

### **Irish Genealogy Club - In Person**

*Holiday social in the UICC Member's Room!*

A chance to gather live. Materials swap.

All genealogical skill levels are welcome.

Saturday, Dec 9, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

2023 Club leads: Pati Traktman & Nancy Sanchez ; Email:

[IrishGenealogyClub@gmail.com](mailto:IrishGenealogyClub@gmail.com)

### **Irish Marvels Past & Present - On Zoom**

Presentation by Jo Coffey:

*"The Inner Tri-Spiral at Bru na Boinne" (Newgrange)*

Saturday, Dec 9, 2:30 - 4:30 pm

Club lead: Lisa Hilmoe

Email: Lisa, [Hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com](mailto:Hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com) by the 2nd Friday to be added to the Zoom Invitation email list.

## Programming Preview, January:

Movie Night, w/Irish Shoppe & Book Sale ; Ms. Nancy's Read Aloud - music themed ; Seisiún Saturday

## Library Hours ~ December

Thursdays & Fridays: 2:30 - 5:30 pm

Saturdays, Dec 9, 16 & 23: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Saturday, Dec 2: 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Closed: December 28 - 30

Merry Christmas to all & a Joyous New Year! Nollaig Shona do chách & Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Duit!

Jennifer Drennan, Librarian

[librarian@irishcentersf.org](mailto:librarian@irishcentersf.org) — 415/661-2702 [Th, F, Sat]

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# Rebel Corks

WWW.RCBASF.ORG

## CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE



**SATURDAY**

**DEC 09 , 2023**

**DOORS 6.30PM**

**DINNER 7.30PM**

**FOR TICKETS CONTACT**

John Buckley 415-298-6704

Imelda Daly 415-215-0569

Danny Guiney 650-676-0923

Valerie McGrew 415-672-0375

Kathleen Manning 415-203-1027

**\$125/TICKET**

**Tables of 8 or 10**

**Filet Mignon, Salmon  
or Vegetarian**



**CHRISTY O'CONNELL**

**Corkman  
of the Year**

**RCBA CELEBRATING  
140 YEARS**

**RCLA CELEBRATING  
110 YEARS**

**MUSIC BY CELTIC SCANDAL**

**AT THE UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER, 2700-45TH AVE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116**

The Rebel Cork Benevolent Association celebrates 140 years in 2023 while the Rebel Cork Ladies Association celebrates 110 years since its establishment in 1923. The annual Cork dinner has been a fixture at the Irish Center since opening in 1975. The first dinner dance held at the "new" Irish Center in 1975 was the Rebel Cork Ladies Dinner on October 4, 1975. The only time the dinner did not take place was in 2020 due to public health restrictions around large gatherings imposed by the city of San Francisco.

### ~ 2023 CORKMAN OF THE YEAR ~

Christy was born on August 26th, 1960 in the front room of #2 'The Green', Ballyphehane to Christy and Maura O'Connell. Christy was the younger sibling to his late and dearly missed sister, Antoinette. His father, Christy, was the Sacristan of Ballyphehane Church.

Four months after Christy was born, his dad passed away so him and the rest of his family moved to 'The Lough' to live with his grandparents, Jack and Hannah. The house was full of music and sport. Notably, Christy's uncle, Mick Keating, played a huge part in his childhood, guiding him along and instilling a love for all things GAA.

Christy attended Greenmount NS and moved on to Cork City Technical School. He left school at the young age of 14 and began his apprenticeship as a baker. Christy spent his spare time playing guitar with friends in local bands, ultimately leading to a lifetime of music. Christy was lucky enough to tour the length and breadth of Ireland, England, and all over Europe.

Christy moved to London in 1983. In 1985, his son, Christopher, was born. Christy then made the trek to New York City in 1988 and 5 years later, traveled over to San Francisco where he met his wife, Dympna. They got married back in Ireland in 2001 and are now proud parents to Hannah and Molly.

Christy got involved in the San Francisco Irish community the minute he touched down. He had the good fortune of working with Ranger Pipelines for many years and now works with SF Park and Rec. Upon his arrival in San Francisco, Christy became a familiar presence at local Irish venues, bringing his songs and craic to his gigs no matter how big or small. His level of involvement grew significantly once his daughters started getting involved in the GAA. After being told at a tournament over 10 years ago to help carry a bag of hurls onto the pitch and give the girls a few pointers, he has yet to leave the sidelines. Coaching was one of the best decisions he made here, as it got him further involved in the incredible SFGAA community. To Christy, there is no better way to spend a Sunday than watching the games out on Treasure Island.

Christy and his family feel truly blessed to be a part of San Francisco and its vibrant Irish community. He is very honored to be chosen as Cork Man of the Year, and according to Christy, "You can't get better than that, boy."



SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 7 2024

PATRICK BALL

Come Dance with Me in Ireland: A Pilgrimage to Yeats Country



www.irishcentersf.org



UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER of SAN FRANCISCO



Holiday Boutique

& ARTISAN CRAFT FAIR

12.16.23



Shop local this holiday season at the UICC!

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TRAD & FEST West June 21, 22, 23 2024

A festival of traditional Irish music on the west coast

UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER

SAN FRANCISCO

New in 2024!

Calling all trad musicians & lovers of Irish Music!



We wish you a Merry Christmas! & Happy New Year!





# OUR UICC COMMUNITY



## 25 Years of Volunteer Service

After a quarter of a century of volunteering, most recently as a board member since 2019, Tom McKeon has stepped away from the Board of the UICC. Tom was instrumental in building out the technological infrastructure for the Irish Center during his tenure (website, email, security and firewalls) Tom will still be available in the background to support the Center going forward which is great news.

On behalf of the Board of Directors-Thank you Tom for your service over the years !  
Liam Reidy, *UICC President*

## 2025 Project News

Liam Reidy, President of the UICC, accepts the Rebel Cork Benevolent Association's Year 3 Pledge for the 2025 Project from RCBA President, Danny Guiney on Tuesday November 7th at the Kolping Center at 438 Taraval Street, San Francisco.



## Line Dancing Classes

Line Dancing classes returned to the Center for the winter season and we had 60 participants for the first class on November 16. A thoroughly enjoyable evening kept everyone on their toes and heels! The class provides lessons for the first hour and social dancing for the second hour. Here are some photos of the those who attended. The next class is Thursday December 21 at 7pm.

Claire Hinchion, Michelle Green  
and Josephine Brogan

Aileen Duloherly  
and Anne Marie Carr



Caroline Dahill, Margaret Daly,  
Trish Quirke

## IIPC November Luncheon Attendees



Margaret Baxter, Peggy O'Sullivan, Carol Barazi, Anne Flores  
and Monica McGuire attended the IIPC November  
luncheon at the Center.



Diarmuid Philpott  
and Lynn Burkart



Margaret O'Neill  
and Joan Spaargaren

# WESTERN USA IRISH DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Western USA Irish Dance championships took place in Phoenix, AZ the weekend before Thanksgiving. There were some outstanding results from the San Francisco Bay area. Here is the list of local dancers in action during the weekend. Congratulations to all!

## U8 girls:

5th Myaan Solomon, Rohan Murphy Academy  
10th Josephine Wallis, Kennelly  
13th Maeve Mitchelson, Kennelly  
14th Cecile Wallis, Kennelly

## U9 boys:

1st Oireachtas Champion Brendan Sheridan, Murphy School  
3rd Rian Spillane, Murphy School

## U9 girls

14th Cameron Donovan, Rohan Murphy Academy

## UI10 boys:

4th Aidan Pecko World Qualifier, Murphy School

## UII boys:

6th Fintan Reidy World Qualifier, Whelan  
7th Tanner Manning National Qualifier, Whelan

## UII girls:

6th Lyla Quinones World Qualifier, Kennelly  
7th Ruby Kincaid World Qualifier, McKeever School  
14th Olive Lake, McBride

## UI2 girls:

6th Niamh Lowry World Qualifier, Whelan Academy  
11th Cora Gallagher National Qualifier, Whelan Academy  
13th Emily Rogers National Qualifier, Rohan Murphy Academy  
26th Aneka Houghton National Qualifier, Murphy School  
29th Madeline Donnelly, Kennelly  
30th Claire Tompkins, Rohan Murphy Academy  
32nd Heidi Slight, Rohan Murphy Academy

## UI2 boys:

6th Ciaran Wallis National Qualifier, Kennelly

## UI3 boys

5th Tristan Lacerda WQ, Kennelly  
7th Callum Karr National Qualifier, Murphy School

## UI3 girls

10th Cassidy Howard WQ, Rohan Murphy Academy  
15th Audrey Oh NQ, McBride  
20th Vivian Nielson NQ, Keenan School  
22nd Olive Kincaid NQ, McKeever School  
22nd Reese Kong NQ, McBride  
24th Molly Pesce NQ, Rohan Murphy Academy

## UI4 boys

7th Liam Kehoe, Jackie Flynn Academy

*Fintan Reidy, Tanner Manning and Isla Ford from the Whelan Academy, San Francisco at the 2023 Oireachtas Irish Dance championships in Phoenix, AZ on November 18th, 2023.*



*Peggy O'Sullivan, Aoibhinn and Stephanie Reidy pictured at the Oireachtas in Phoenix, AZ.*



*Rian Spillane and Brian Cunningham  
(Murphy School of Irish Dance)  
competed in Phoenix, AZ.*



*Fintan Reidy (Whelan Academy) 6th  
Overall U-11 Boys and 2024 World  
Qualifier in Phoenix, AZ*



**UI4 girls**

14th Aileen Ward NQ, Whelan  
20th Maeve Tran, Healy  
21st Francesca Bessette, Jackie Flynn Academy  
25th Lillian Fannin, Keenan School  
28th Clare Myles, Kennelly  
38th Hannah Habermeir, Rohan Murphy Academy  
42nd Megan Dale, Rohan Murphy Academy

**UI5 boys**

James Mcloughlin NQ, Whelan

**UI6 girls**

4th Aoibhinn Reidy, World Qualifier, Fisher-McLeod  
10th Katie Doherty World Qualifier, Keenan School

**UI7 girls**

9th Betty Chang WQ, McBride  
11th Scarlett Roberts WQ, Whelan School  
26th Samantha Dale National Qualifier, Rohan Murphy Academy  
43rd Tilly Haskell, Kennelly  
46th Jane Stephens, Keenan

**UI8 boys**

5th Rhys Lewis WQ, Kennelly

**UI8 girls**

6th Claire Donohue WQ, Boyle School  
14th Fiona Tran, Healy

**UI9 girls**

3rd Phife MacGabhann WQ, Healy  
4th Marsha Houlihan WQ, Healy

**U20 girls**

5th Amelia Maybrun WQ, Healy

**22&O ladies**

1st Hannah Logar WQ, Whelan



*Roisín Reidy, First Place in the U-9 Traditional And Girls U9 Reel Mini Feis Champion. Set in Phoenix, AZ.*



*Elena and Lucy Faberty (Kennelly School) placed in the Oireachtas championships in Phoenix, AZ.*



*Zell Brady, Ashlyn Cunningham and Molly Grace Spillane (Murphy School).*

*U-12 Mixed Céili Western USA Champions 2023 - The Whelan Academy, San Francisco.*

*Back Row: Shelia Whelan, Roisín Reidy, Stella Plato, Cailen Fabey, Isla Ford, and Sharon Whelan.*

*Front Row: Roisín O'Leary, Fintan Reidy, Tanner Manning, and Mary Keaveny.*



*Murphy Irish Dancing boys photographed in Phoenix, AZ: Brendan Sheridan, Andrew McGovern, Patrick Brady, Brian Cunningham, Ryan Sheridan in front.*





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SF Firefighters Local 798

# BLOOD DRIVE


Because of you, life doesn't stop.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023**  
8 am – 12 noon @ the UICC (2700 45TH AVE, SF)


APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED. VISIT:  
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Give the Gift of Blood this Christmas!

**2023 ANNUAL APPEAL**



**Library & Leo T Walsh Scholarship Raffle**



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**IRISH HERITAGE NIGHT**





Jan 30, 2024  
7 pm  
Chase Center



*Save the Date!*



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# KEEPERS OF THE STEPS TAP INTO THE IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC ARCHIVES IN DUBLIN

As many know by now, Keepers of the Steps is the UICC special cultural program begun in 2020 that collects and shares the history of Irish step dancing in the San Francisco Bay Area. Committee members are actively planning another exhibition in 2024 and have begun research on some new aspects of the history they have been gathering - and this time their research is taking them to Dublin, Ireland!

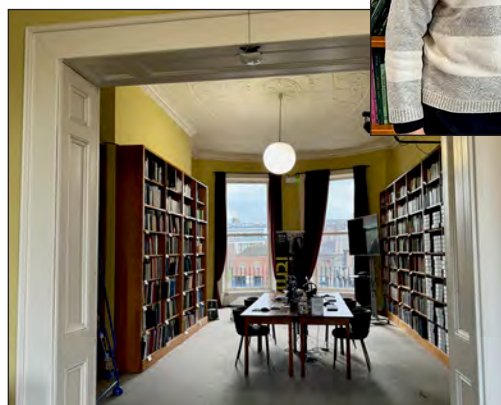
Keepers committee lead, Eileen Mize has long been following an international authority on Irish Dance - historian Dr. John Cullinane who is also a longtime teacher and adjudicator (who also happened to be on the judging panel at the first Western Regional Oireachtas in San Francisco held in 1974). Eileen has a collection of Dr. Cullinane's various books on different aspects of his research, and they were of great help to her when curating the first Keepers of the Steps exhibition at the UICC in 2021.

By following the Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA) located in Dublin, Ireland on social media, Eileen was alerted to a very interesting acquisition in 2021. Dr. Cullinane donated his decades-old collection of research and historical facts and articles on Irish Dance to An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha (CLRG) who then in turn entrusted it to the ITMA in a special arrangement where the items will be preserved, organized, and made available on behalf of CLRG. Eileen enjoyed following the ensuing weeks and months of reports on cataloging the collection, often thinking how similar the meticulous efforts were to what the Keepers are doing on a localized west coast scale.

Energized by increased global efforts to preserve and document the history of Irish step dancing, and anticipating a planned trip to Ireland with her sister, Eileen reached out to Maeve Gebruers, ITMA head archivist, to inquire about the possibility of taking a look at the collection while she was in town in late November - and plans were made! The Cullinane Archive Collection is an extensive multimedia collection of material relating to the history of Irish dance compiled by Dr. John Cullinane over his lifetime - and the native Corkman is now in his 80s!

Eileen spent several hours on November 20, 2023 in the Merrion Square archive room of ITMA and was amazed and inspired by the amount and breadth of content. She was particularly looking at items related to the western expansion of the CLRG and the emergence of Irish dance in the west with notable names such as Maureen McTeggart Hall and the Healy School. "It was fun to see important pieces of our San Francisco story carefully cataloged in the Dublin archive, and exciting to think how our Keepers of the Steps program at the UICC can play a part in this global effort," shared Eileen.

We look forward to sharing exhibition and other programming dates regarding Keepers of the Steps in the new year and look forward to seeing the unfolding of our rich history of Irish Dance. In the meantime, visit their table at the UICC Christmas Boutique on December 16 and find out how you can get involved. They are still collecting stories and ephemera! More: [www.irishcentersf.org/keepers-of-the-steps](http://www.irishcentersf.org/keepers-of-the-steps)



*Eileen Mize at the Irish Traditional Music Archives (ITMA) Merrion Square, Dublin  
With ITMA head archivist Maeve Gebruers.*

 **IIPC ACTIVE RETIREMENT CLUB OUTREACH PROGRAM**

# DECEMBER MASS & LUNCHEON

Gather your friends for an afternoon of Christmas spirit, delicious food, and amazing music with Corkman of the Year, Christy O'Connell! Book your seats and send your seating requests to Christina soon! We are looking forward to celebrating with you!

**Thursday, December 14, 2023**

**12 noon Mass**  
followed by buffet luncheon

**United Irish Cultural Center**  
St. Patrick's Room  
2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco

**Tickets \$30**

**Advance registration required**

**Call Christina at 415.432.2552, email [wellness@sfiipc.org](mailto:wellness@sfiipc.org) or visit [linktr.ee/sfiipc](https://linktr.ee/sfiipc) to purchase online**

Our ARC program is supported in part by:



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**01**  
**18**  
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# CASINO OUTING

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024**

10:00 A.M. - BUS DEPARTS UICC  
11:00 A.M. - ARRIVE AT GRATON CASINO  
4:00 P.M. - DEPART GRATON CASINO  
5:00 P.M. - ARRIVE AT UICC

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED AS SPACE IS LIMITED

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SLEEPING BEAUTY**



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023**

Presidio Theatre, 99 Moraga Avenue, San Francisco

**SHOW: 6:00 P.M.**

**TICKETS: \$42.50**

This is the perfect family kick-off to the holiday season, so grab your grandkids and join us at the Presidio Theatre for the triumphant return of the Christmas Panto!

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A Community Outreach Program of the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center ARC Program

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- Remember, you don't have to answer calls from numbers that you don't recognize
- If you think you have been the victim of a scam, call your local police station
- Do not click on a suspicious link in your email or on your phone

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- Need advice? Call Christina at 415.432.2552 or call the IIPC at 415.752.6006.

**We are here to help.**



A Community Outreach Notice from the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center





## Harnessing our HERITAGE through the power of YOU

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[www.irishcentersf.org/donations](http://www.irishcentersf.org/donations)

We are delighted to announce the return of **The Reading Room**, our virtual Book Club, on **Wednesday, January 17, 2024!**

The Reading Room will meet through Zoom every other month to discuss the chosen title. All of our books are by Irish authors or authors of Irish descent.

The six books for 2024 and our meeting dates are:

- Old God's Time** by Sebastian Barry [January 17]
- How to Build a Boat** by Elaine Feeney [March 20]
- Prophet Song** by Paul Lynch [May 15]
- Did Ye Hear Mammy Died** by Seamas O'Reilly [July 17]
- The Bee Sting** by Paul Murray [September 18]
- A Guest at the Feast** by Colm Toibin [November 20]

All titles are available at local bookshops or should be in your local library.

From the two-time Booker Prize finalist, Sebastian Barry, **Old God's Time** is a dazzlingly written novel exploring love, memory, grief, and long-buried secrets. It is a beautiful, haunting work, in which nothing is quite as it seems, **Old God's Time** is about what we live through, what we live with, and what may survive of us.

Join us on **Wednesday, January 17, 2024** at **7:00 p.m.** for another lively and entertaining discussion!

Go to [linktr.ee/sfiipc](http://linktr.ee/sfiipc) to find the link! See you there!

## THE READING ROOM



A Community Outreach Program of the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, San Francisco

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Want to purchase a membership for a friend? Or for someone's Birthday?  
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<input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership Renewal (Dues) \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple Membership Renewal (Dues) \$250
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