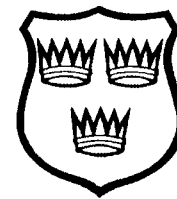




Foras Cultúir Gael Aontuighthe

United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.



2700 - 45th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116

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



Volume XLVIII No. 3
March 2023

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BOARD MESSAGE

BLOCKBUSTER MARCH PROGRAM OF EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE IRISH CENTER



Liam Reidy

The recent cold snap and wintry weather indicates that we are still in winter mode, and we look forward to a return of warmer springlike temperatures. However, blooming daffodils and cherry blossoms are a sure sign that spring is in the air and that St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner. March has historically been the busiest month of the year for our community, and this year's St. Patrick's season is no different with a jam-packed host of offerings for the community to enjoy—it's REEL March Madness.



2023 Grand Marshal — A capacity crowd of 400 people attended the United Irish Societies Grand Marshal dinner on Friday February 24th here at the Center which marks the official kick off of the St. Patrick's season. Galway native Pat Uniacke is this year's St. Patrick's Day Grand Marshal—a well-deserved honor indeed for a man that has given so much to the Bay Area community over the years. Congratulations to Pat and his wife, Úna, and family. We also congratulate the families of the Honorary Grand Marshals; Nicole Killegrew, Jerry Keohane, Katherine (Katy) O'Shea, Mike Alvers, and Barry McGrath.

Irish Ministerial Visit — Consul General, Micheál Smith will be busy around the St. Patrick's season as Irish government representative Simon Harris, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science will be hosted here in San Francisco. Minister Harris plans two visits to the Irish Center during his time here. He will attend the Post Parade Party with the community on March 11 and will meet the Irish Center Board on March 12 to discuss the 2025 Project.

Entertainment Galore — Hats off to the St. Patrick's Board subcommittee who have spent the last several weeks preparing for the festivities during March. Pre-planning began in January, led by Events lead, Aileen Duloherly, and a team of board members and volunteers. There is something for everyone who is Irish (or Irish at heart) this month at the Center. The Black Brothers (Michael and Shay), along with Felim Egan and Eamonn Flynn kick off the musical entertainment with a show in the Emerald Pub on Friday, March 3. We have a multitude of local musicians performing on March 11, 12, and 17. I must highlight the music concert featuring Co. Wexford, Ireland group The Green Road with soprano Clodagh Kinsella on Sunday, March 12 (after Green Fest). Not to be missed. Then we have Runa, a Celtic American roots band performing on March 19—their guitarist is fresh from the red carpet having received a Grammy nomination. Not to mention all the local dance schools and pipe bands that will be sharing their talents throughout the season.

Green Fest Block Party — We host the annual Green Fest block party on March 12 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. Enjoy a classic car show on Wawona Street during the festival, and wander into Wawona Gates for a respite. Party starts at 11am and runs until 5 pm. Entertainment will continue in the Emerald Pub after.

Be Proud to Be Irish, and Look for Us in the SF St. Patrick's Day Parade — This St. Patrick's season proudly hang an Irish flag from your home or business. This year 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 11 and on Friday March 17. Cheer on the UICC parade bus along the route—classic

(President's Message continued on page 2)

(President's Message continued)

cars, youth music program students, and live music by members the The Green Road touring band from Co. Wexford.

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 17th, delivered to the Irish Center. You can also sponsor a scholarship in your name or in the name of a loved one.

Irish Camp—Youth Summer Program —Drama, sport, art and music will feature again in this year's summer camp. We will broaden our computer offerings to include website development, digital animation, and computer programming. Registration is now open for early bird pricing. The camp turns from June 12 and June 30th. Sign up before March 30th for the Early Bird Special of \$300/week. www.irishcentersf.org/irish-camp/

Lá Fhéile Bríde — February 1, 2023 marked the inaugural year of a national holiday for St. Brigid in Ireland. We celebrated the occasion with a week-long line-up of events and activities highlighted by a St. Brigid's Cross Weaving Workshop on Saturday February 4. A collaboration between Irish Marvels and the UICC brought together an inter-generational crowd for a delightful afternoon. From reeds and rushes to pipe cleaners and more, nimble fingers of all sizes followed their guides and made their crosses.

Rumble at the Beach — Boxing returns to the Center on March 18 featuring USA and Ireland amateur boxers. Irish boxers from

counties Cork, Down, Meath, and Westmeath are traveling to the Bay Area to participate. This is the third boxing card at the center since April 2022. The earlier two sold out; Boxing is popular in the outer Sunset. This event is being held as a partnership with Fire in the Ring Boxing based in Brisbane, and the UICC.

Hibernian of the Year — Congratulations to long time Irish Center member and supporter Roger Gargano who is being honored as the 2023 Hibernian of the Year downtown by the San Francisco Hibernian Newman Club on March 17.

March Charity Feis — We host our second Feis of the year on the weekend of March 25 -26 here at the center. Patricia Kennelly and Michael Dillon School of Irish dance are the organizers.

Kids Movie Pizza Night — Our second kids movie night of the year will be held on Friday March 24 from 7-9pm in the St. Francis room. We look forward to watching *The Secret of Roan Inish*.

New UICC Members — We continue to add new members to the UICC member roll, many of those joining are first timers. Welcome aboard! The spring is an important time for renewals so check your email for your dues payment request.

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

Liam Reidy, President
lreidy@irishcentersf.org



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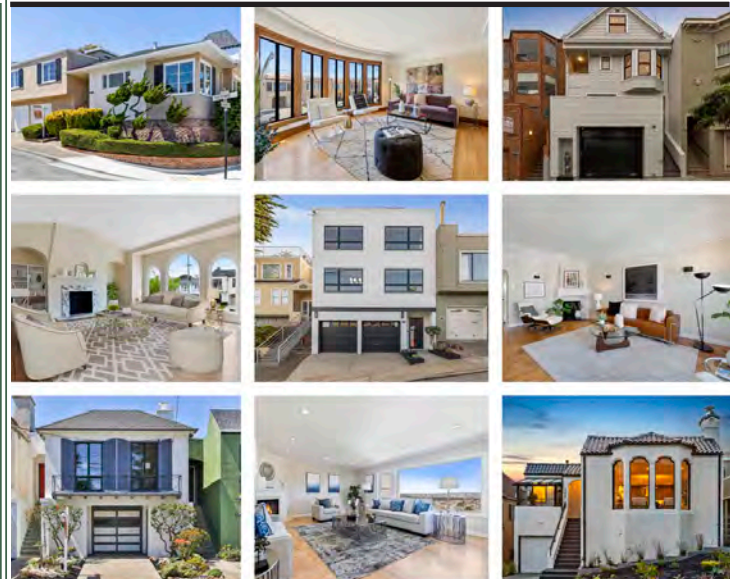



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MARCH CALENDAR

■ MARCH 2, THURSDAY

- Joan Brown Exhibit - Irish Center SFMoMA Outing
Meet at the 151 Third Street entrance - 5:30pm

■ MARCH 3, FRIDAY

- The Black Brothers in Concert ~ 7:00pm

■ MARCH 11, SATURDAY

- St. Patrick's Day Mass & Reception ~ 9:00am
St. Patrick's Church, 756 Mission St at 3rd Street
- St. Patrick's Day Parade Celebration ~ 11:30am
Location: 2nd and Market Streets to Civic Center
- Annual Post-Parade Party - live bands & Irish Dancing
- Corned Beef Meal available for purchase ~ 2:30 - 6:30pm

■ MARCH 12, SUNDAY

- Annual Green Fest Block Party Celebration
- The Green Road with Clodagh Kinsella ~ 7:00pm
Visiting from Co. Wexford, Ireland

■ MARCH 17, FRIDAY

- St. Patrick's Day Celebration

■ MARCH 18, SATURDAY

- Rumble at the Beach ~ 5:30pm - 10:00pm
Amateur Boxing in partnership with Fire in the Ring Boxing

■ MARCH 19, SUNDAY

- Runa ~ Celtic Roots Music ~ 7:00pm - 10:00pm

■ MARCH 23, THURSDAY

- Biscuits & Books, Live! ~ 4:00 - 4:45pm
A post-St. Pat's festivities live chat featuring book sale cart titles, topical collection materials and upcoming programming. Watch it happen Live on the Library's Facebook page, or be our guest in the discussion by attending on Zoom

■ MARCH 24, FRIDAY

- Kids Movie & Pizza Night ~ 7:00pm - 9:00pm
The Secret of Roan Inish ~ St. Francis Room

■ MARCH 25, SATURDAY - 26, SUNDAY

- Patricia Kennelly & Michael Dillon Charity Feis
St. Patrick's Room ~ 8:00am - 6:00pm

Irish Marvels Past & Present

Next Meeting: April 8, 11:00 AM - 1:00pm
Group lead: Lisa Hilmoe, hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com



Irish Genealogy Club

Next Meeting: April 8, 2:30 - 4:30 PM
2023 club leads: Pati Traktman patitraktman@gmail.com
& Nancy Sanchez nmsanchez86@yahoo.com.



HIBERNIAN OF THE YEAR 2023

Congratulations to long time UICC member and supporter Roger Gargano who is being honored as the 2023 Hibernian of the Year by the San Francisco Hibernian Newman Club on March 17 at the Hotel Hilton at 333 O'Farrell Street.

The Hibernian Newman Club was founded in 1964. It was established by San Francisco Bay Area Irish Americans dedicated to:

- The Newman Centers in the San Francisco Archdiocese.
- The appreciation of the contributions made to this community by the Irish Americans, and
- The promotion of friendship, community and charity among its members.



Congratulations
Roger!

SAVE THE DATE 2023

SUNDAY APRIL 2

St. Patrick's Céilí



FRIDAY MAY 12

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 AUGUST 12

Amateur Boxing in partnership with
Fire in the Ring Boxing



THURSDAY AUGUST 24 - FRIDAY AUGUST 25

Irish Echo

4th Annual Big Irish Campfire 2023
on the West coast for the first time at the UICC



SATURDAY AUGUST 26

2nd Annual Rock the Gates Music Festival



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19

Piper Jones Band ~ 7:00pm



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IRISH CENTER 2025 PROJECT

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Support YOUR UICC

**DEADLINE for April 2023 BULLETIN
is March 15**

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

PATRICK J. DOWLING LIBRARY

Greetings from the Library...

Thank You! to the Library Volunteers who have stepped up to keep the library open to our community whilst I am caught up in the post-operative physical therapy schedule for my son. I am so grateful to you all for making a challenging time easier. To our community: I am still in and active, but on a wildly variable timetable.

The Library wants YOU! Expanded volunteer opportunities are available behind the scenes to public-facing. Prior library or archive experience is not required. Bring your love of all things Irish, along with your enthusiasm, positivity and creativity. Welcome.

What lovely celebrations of Brigid we just experienced. Thank you to all who gave of their time and talents in creating such an array of ways to mark Brigid, who now has her “official day” in Ireland. Thank you to all who attended, bringing your curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm. Our programming efforts would come to nought without you. And now we look ahead to Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday, Saint Patrick’s Day, and the Spring Equinox. We don’t talk about Daylight Savings Time. Follow our social media as we highlight materials from the library’s collection relevant to the season. Come in any time to read old favourites and find new ones.

Collection Hion Highlight: *The Definitive St. Patrick’s Day Festivity Book*, by Michael Fallon

Enjoyed the Ulysses Abridged talk with Michael Fallon? Yes, we did! Here’s another title of his for your pre-St. Pat’s festivities reading enjoyment.

“...Fallon covers creating the ambiance of Ireland at home, Gaelic food & grog, Irish games and limericks, Irish skits, Irish songs, stories, recipes, blessings, and much, much more. It is a treasure chest of ideas for school teachers, a “joke book” for the bartender, and a time-saver for party planners at home or at work. An added benefit is that a portion of proceeds from sales of [the book] are ear-marked for the Irish Children’s Fund.” – goodreads.com



The library holds over 40 titles on Saint Patrick the man, the saint, the celebrations. From light to scholarly, 19th century to present publications. You’ll surely find one to suit your inclinations

Calling all 8th graders and HS Seniors! Put the finishing touches on your Leo T. Walsh scholarship essays with source material from the library. Cannot make it during our regular hours? Email the Library we’ll do our best to accommodate research appointments. Essays are due March 17.

Library Hours, February

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

Saturday, March 11 - post parade, hours TBD

Sunday, March 12 - during the Green Block Party

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

Biscuits & Books, Live!

Thursday, March 23, 4:00 - 4:45 PM

A post-St. Pat’s festivities live chat featuring book sale cart titles, topical collection materials and upcoming programming. Watch it happen Live on the Library’s Facebook page, or be our guest in the discussion by attending on Zoom



Irish Marvels Past & Present

Next Meeting Saturday, April 8, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Group lead: Lisa Hilmoe, hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com

Irish Genealogy Club

Next Meeting Saturday, April 8, 2:30pm - 4:30 pm

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

Happy St. Patrick’s Day, and all of the Spring celebrations to you,

Jennifer Drennan, Librarian

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

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A Grand Tour Of Ireland

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Join us for a fun-filled adventure on our Grand Tour of Ireland in October, 2023. Take in the sights, sounds, flavors and culture of the Emerald Isle and witness first hand its stunning scenery, its storied past, and the world famous warmth of the Irish people. Travel on board a luxury coach and stay in great hotels, selected for their central location in the various cities we will visit.

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WELCOME NEW CULTURAL PROGRAMMERS TO THE UICC

The UICC's commitment to expand cultural programs and increase opportunities for youth engagement is stronger than ever. Thanks to the financial support from the Irish government sponsored Emigrant Support Program and the 2022 UICC Annual Appeal, we are excited to add to our team to ensure a robust calendar of offerings. Join us in welcoming two new (but not unfamiliar) faces to the team. Meet Eileen Mize who heads up our "Keepers of the Steps" program and lends her graphic design and social media talents and the accomplished actor, teacher, writer, storyteller, choreographer Máire Clerkin who has been involved with several UICC youth programs from Irish Camp to Zoom storytelling events.



Eileen Mize is a veteran communications professional with a passion for Irish arts and culture. Her toolbox of creative skills including graphic design, writing, storytelling, social media, and marketing communications, coupled with a lifelong passion for Irish culture and arts that began at a young age with her involvement in Irish step dancing, make her an asset to the Irish Center. Eileen is a 3rd generation SF Irish American and enjoys giving back to a place that has been at the heart of many events in her life — from feiseanna, the Rose of Tralee, and dance-outs, to concert going and special events.

Eileen's professional career with non-profits in Catholic and independent schools and currently with the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, give her the broad experience of managing projects and programs as well as fundraising and events. Eileen is a builder—she builds community, creates interest, develops relationships, and is adept at creating and cultivating social media engagement.

Eileen is a proud alumni member of the McBride School of Irish Dance having enjoyed many years of competition and comradery in the SF Bay Area Irish dance community—including a couple of visits as a solo competitor to Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne. She was an active performer in various festivals and stage shows featuring Irish step dancing including the California Revels' production of "Christmas in an Irish Castle," the Northern California Renaissance Faire production of "Shanachie, the Challenge of the Sidhe" (for several seasons), and The Great Dickens Christmas Fair, as well as providing dance accompaniment for several Irish musicians and bands including The Black Brothers, Melanie O'Reilly, Avalon Rising, Cat Taylor and Fiddler's Fancy, Ellery Klein, and many others. Her work with these musicians sometimes extended into marketing and communications and even album cover design! Eileen loves supporting Irish artists and attending feiseanna and supporting our local dancers and dance schools in any way she can.

As a member volunteer, Eileen leaned on her relationships within the local Irish dance community to play an integral role in creating "Keepers of the Steps"—a UICC special collection of stories and ephemera collected (and still being collected) that tell the history of Irish step dancing in the San Francisco Bay Area. Embracing "Keepers" as her passion project, Eileen continues to develop new and exciting ways to expand the program and the collection and is currently working on the script for a virtual tour of the exhibit to be launched on International Irish Dance Day, September 17. "Keepers of the Steps" is planning a summertime Pop-Up Exhibit at the UICC in August, and is investigating other venues in the Bay Area as well.



Máire Clerkin is a choreographer, director, teacher, actor, writer, storyteller, voice actor, performance coach, and former Irish dance adjudicator with An Coimisiun le Rincí Gaelacha. Máire was recently appointed external examiner for Irish Dance Performance at University of Limerick. She is a Master Teaching Artist with Los Angeles Music Center, Segerstrom Center for the Arts and LA Arts Group.

Máire specializes in Irish dance and drama, with a background in theatre and journalism, designing programs for California's arts curriculum. Teaching credits include Loyola Marymount University, University of Limerick, Royal Festival Hall, Weekend Arts College (Youth Program), Yorkshire Dance, Cois Ceim, Blás Summer School, United Irish Cultural Center San Francisco Summer Camp, The Players Conservatory, Aman Dance Educators, and Santa Monica College.

From London of Irish parents, Máire's dance theatre companies performed throughout Ireland and the UK since the 1980s. Her award-winning solo show *The Bad Arm – Confessions of a Dodgy Irish Dancer* toured North America, Dublin, Edinburgh Festival & London's West End and culminated at Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne in Greensboro, North Carolina in 2019. Máire has created numerous dance dramas which enjoyed regional, national and international success. Other credits include *Telling LA* on PBS TV; *World City* at Walt Disney Concert Hall; *Music Makers Schools* on BBC TV; *Revolver* on BBC World Service; *Dancing on Dangerous Ground*, Radio City New York and Theatre Royal Drury Lane; *Unconnected Soundings*, Royal Opera House; *Centenary Knees Up*, South Bank; *Fennels, Flannels & Funnels* with John Hegley, The Place; collaborations with DV8 and Peter Sheridan; artistic director/ co-founder *The Hairy Marys* and *Clerkinworks*.

Máire's program *Once Upon a Time in Ireland - Irish Storytelling for Children* – is performed in schools & libraries, and online. Her screenplay, *The Jig is Up* is currently in development for production.



30th Anniversary!

Since 1994, the **United Irish Cultural Center** Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program has awarded more than 600 scholarships thanks to the hard work of volunteers, community support, and loyal donor generosity.



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

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THE UNITED IRISH SOCIETIES HONOR PAT UNIACKE, GRAND MARSHAL OF THE 2023 ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

by Tony Bucher



The United Irish Societies of San Francisco have selected Pat Uniacke—one of the most popular members of the Irish community—as the 2023 St Patrick's Parade Grand Marshal. It is a well-deserved honor for someone who has given so much to the cause of Irish sport and to the broader community. Pat is truly a good friend to all who meet him and a wonderful representative of the Irish in the Bay Area.

He was genuinely surprised to be selected as Grand Marshal: "That is something that one never thinks about, it comes as a complete shock to me. It is a huge honor for the family and myself."

Pat was born in 1954 as the sixth of thirteen children born to Michael and Bridie Uniacke in rural Craughwell, County Galway. Pat's father Michael who "came from a family of craftsmen, coach builders," was the local hurley maker, and with eight brothers and four sisters they were never short of players for a puck around the back field. Hurling was in his blood as his grandfather, Brian Uniacke, held three Galway Senior Hurling medals.

Pat learned about the crafting of hurley sticks from his father: "You have to find the ash, it should be growing from the side of a hill," the most suitable branches "grow out horizontally and then vertically, making a half circle or an arc, you cut the tree and can make 5 to 10 hurleys out of each tree." Of course, not every hurley is the same—it can be like a bespoke suit ordered by discerning players.

After completing his Leaving Cert in 1973, Pat spent a memorable summer in San Francisco working for his uncle, Jim McNamara: "I arrived on the 4th of July 1973 to work for the summer with my uncle Jim (who turned 90 last year). McNamara lived in Bernal Heights and was a successful contractor. Pat recalls the joys of after-work drinking in the City back then: "Black Friday meant you would work till noon, assemble with Danny Boyle and Fintan Lawlor at the Ireland's 32 at 22nd and Guerrero" for early weekend festivities. Later in the weekend they would go down to the infamous Rathskeller next door to the Irish Embassy near the Federal Building. Eventually that period ended, and he returned again to Ireland for some work in Dublin.

In 1982, Pat took a two-year job in the Gaza Strip working with a company that built the Palestinian Cultural Center. The plight of the Palestinians there affected him deeply as a people divided by the British colonial power similar to what the Irish had experienced in their homeland.

After two years, he returned to San Francisco, and with work too plentiful to turn down he ended up staying and starting his own business here. By that time in the early 1980s Irish immigration had picked up again: "You go down to Ireland's 32 on Geary with my brother Joe, and half the people there are from your hometown! I was a joiner, a skilled carpenter, there was a lot of work back then."

As a young man in his prime he took to the field of Irish sport, which incidentally led to the most important moment of his life: I met my wife Una through the GAA in Chicago, culture brought us together!"

Pat had captained his local hurling team back home at a young age, and so when he arrived here, he was able to take up the sport again, welcome on any team. "In San Francisco I went out to Golden Gate Park, where the Gaels and the Rangers were playing. The Gaels were short a few players and asked me to join the game." That was the start of Pat's playing career here.

The team found glory on the field after an early loss. "We played in the North American championship in Boston. We lost. We swore this would never happen again." The team asked him to be captain in 1985, and they won it all. But In 1988, playing again in the North American finals, Pat broke his ankle, ending his playing career. The following year he was elected Secretary of the GAA's North American County Board, and then elected Chairman four years later.

On the subject of hurling vs. football, Pat offers this quote from Joe McDonough: "I consider Gaelic football to be merely light entertainment compared to the serious business of hurling." His love of the GAA comes from his own life

(continued)

experience back home, where “you can walk up to any GAA champ,” they’re accessible and often come from the very communities they represent. “Ordinary people but extraordinary athletes, playing for their home county and home club.” After the arrival of his children Pat devoted himself to the growth of local youth sport, helping to craft the huge success of the GAA here to the present day. Undoubtedly “the future was really secured with the building of the fields at Treasure Island eight years ago.”

In 2008, Pat served as Chairman of the Treasure Island GAA Development which developed 20 acres of sports fields and a clubhouse. In 2009, he was awarded the President’s Award by then President of the GAA in Croke Park, Nicky Brennan.

This is part of a growing national movement: “Adult hurling is spreading like wildfire throughout the US, they love the excitement of it. It’s called ‘The Riverdance of Sport.’”

When Irish President Mary McAleese visited Treasure Island, she observed that in the local sporting community “the greatest strength is their voluntary endeavor”—so many skilled contractors contributed so much, and the fields were seeded in six months in an extraordinary accomplishment. Pat believes that: “If an organization like the GAA can build the facility on Treasure Island, there is no reason that the Irish community cannot rebuild the Irish Center (UICC).”

Pat continues to give his talents and energy to the broader community. In 2018, he was elected Chairman of the San Francisco Famine Memorial Committee, which has selected an epic site near the Palace of the Legion of Honor for the memorial and will begin the first phase of construction in the coming months. There is little doubt that Pat will see this important project through to completion, in yet another example of his talent, dedication, and community spirit. It is a fitting honor that Pat Uniacke should walk in the 2023 St Patrick’s Parade as the Grand Marshal, in due recognition of all that he has given to the community.

RUMBLE AT THE BEACH
Amateur Fight Night!

PRESENTED BY: **SATURDAY 3.18.23**

Ringside at the UICC!
ST. PATRICK'S ROOM
2700 45TH AVE.

TICKETS
IrishCenterSF.org

DINGLE BASED COUPLE VISIT THE CENTER ON FEBRUARY 3RD



Dingle. Co. Kerry based couple Tommy and Sandra O’Sullivan performed at the Center on February 3rd as part of the Centers week long St. Bridget’s festivities. The duo stopped off in San Francisco as part of their 2023 Western Highway tour, which also included visits to Arizona, Texas, New Mexico and Oregon. The tour was partly sponsored by Culture Ireland. Culture Ireland is the Irish State Agency established to promote and advance Irish Arts internationally. Set up in 2005, a total of 6.6m was allocated to Culture Ireland in Budget 2023 by Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin.



FATHER MICHAEL HEALY HONORED

Father Michael Healy was honored at the SFPOA Building on Friday February 17, 2023, upon his retirement from the Priesthood after more than 50 years of Illustrious Service to the Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco.

Fr. Michael J Healy, born in Cork City, Cork Ireland was ordained in 1970 and sent to San Francisco to begin his Priestly Ministry there. Fr. Healy is extremely active in the Irish immigrant community as well as the United Irish Cultural Center where in 2019, he was honored as "Corkman" of the Year by the Rebel Cork Benevolent & Ladies Associations

He loves English Football and reportedly was quite adept as a young man before he entered the seminary and he was also a mighty champion playing Irish "Gaelic" Football. He participated in many thrilling games with the great Shannon Rangers Team in San Francisco. He relates how he introduced Irish Football to Greg Suhr (destined to become a great Police Chief of the SFPD) by them kicking the football over the spire at Saint Brendan's Church.

In the 1980s and early 1990s when Irish immigration to the city was at a modern peak, Father Michael was a driving force in what was called the 'Joseph and Mary' group which offered support to the new immigrants, later becoming the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center.

He has served at a Pastor at All Soul's Parish in South San Francisco (1986-1991), Pastor at St. Phillip's Parish in San Francisco (1991-2004), Pastor at St. Peter Parish in Pacifica (2004-2005), Pastor at St. Bartholomew (2005- 2019), longtime Chaplain of the SF Police Department, active Chaplain of the SF Fire Department, and Chaplain to Ancient Order of Hibernians among others.

For the past six years (2013-2020), he has served on the Advisory Board of Junipero Serra High School. In 2020, Fr. Michael celebrated his Golden Jubilee and is currently in residence at St. Stephen's parish. He retired earlier this year. He came out of a short retirement to join the SVDP Parish as Administrator from 2020-23.



Supervisor Stefani with Fr. Healy.



Fr. Healy being presented with a plaque by Marty Halloran, Former SFPOA President on behalf of grateful Police Officers Association Members.



*Marycora Pattison with her Dad Michael and Fr. Healy
Marycora is Fr.Healy's Great Niece
and Micheal is Fr.Healy's Nephew in-Law (Husband Of Nolen Pattison).*



Kathy Grogan, Ger Keightley with Fr. Healy and Patrick Burke.

Photos courtesy of Patrick Burke



Ed Carew, Brian Burke, Fr. Healy and Patrick Burke.

Former Presidents of the San Francisco Bay Area Law Enforcement Emerald Society with Fr. Healy.



Captain Tom Redmond SFSO (ret.) with his longtime buddy Fr. Healy.



Brian Burke (SFPD Sgt) Former President of the San Francisco Bay Area Law Enforcement Emerald Society (SFBAALES) and National Law Enforcement Emerald Societies - Sgt. Arms - presented a Plaque to Fr. Michael Healy on behalf of SFBAALES.



Ger Keightley, Fr Healy and SFPD Deputy Chief (RET) Diarmuid Philpott.

Photos courtesy of Patrick Burke.

THE BLACK BROTHERS
with Félím Egan & Eamonn Flynn

Join Shay, Michael, and friends as they kick off the St. Patrick's Day Season at the UICC!

FRIDAY 3.3.23
DOORS @ 6:30
EMERALD PUB

IRISH CENTER SF
in The Sunset
2700 45TH AVE.
between Sloat & Wawona

TICKETS ONLINE AND AT THE DOOR. @IrishCenterSF IrishCenterSF.org

The IrishEcho
IrishEcho FOURTH ANNUAL
BIG IRISH CAMPFIRE 2023

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF IRISH AMERICA

Join us at the 2023 Campfire—coming to the West Coast for the 1st time!

Brought to you by The Irish Echo and proudly hosted at the United Irish Cultural Center of San Francisco

Community & Irish Centers, Festivals & Events, Culture & Arts, Arts & Heritage, Sports, Media, Heritage, Community Service, Tourism, Business, Government

August 24 – August 25, 2023
United Irish Cultural Center of San Francisco
2700 45th Ave San Francisco at Wawona

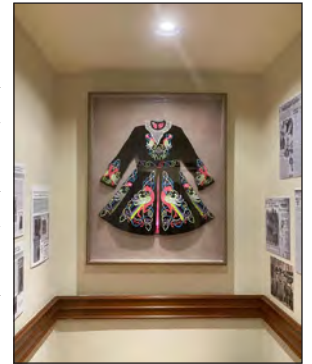
DANCE ART TELLS A STORY

By Eileen Mize

Our Keepers of the Steps Committee members are thrilled to reveal a recent acquisition to the growing “Keepers” dance costume collection. This beautiful, early 90s Threads of Green dress belonged to Healy Dance alum Meghann Elsbernd. Meghann shared her recollection of acquiring her beautiful solo dress from the “it” Irish dance costume maker of the day. “My family and I went to Kilkenny to pick it out at Threads of Green. A very memorable trip for sure! Picking out the patterns, threads, and silk.” She noted the then-new exciting trends of a bright, fluorescent color scheme and lovely scalloped cape. “I can picture [my teacher] Ann Healy’s face when she first saw my dress. A little mix of emotions on my new trendy dress. Couldn’t quite tell if she loved or hated it,” she recalled.



When she retired from dancing, her father had the dress lovingly framed, and it hung in their family home for years. This piece of the collection is now on display in the 2nd floor elevator lobby adjacent to the St. Patrick’s Room, and will, no doubt, be enjoyed by all who pass by. Thanks to the efforts of UICC Librarian and Keepers Committee member Jennifer Drennan for organizing the installation. Please be sure to take a peek next time you are at the Center. And, if you have any old dance costumes (they do not need to be framed!), Keepers of the Steps wants them! Reach out to Eileen Mize at emize@irishcentersf.org to make arrangements.



Keepers of the Steps Pop-Up Exhibit coming to the UICC this August—if you have Irish dance stories, gear, photos, etc to share, contact Eileen Mize at emize@irishcentersf.org

ULYSSES ABRIDGED TALK

By Aidan Stone

February 2nd, 2023 marked James Joyce’s 141st birthday plus the 101st anniversary of *Ulysses*’s publication. To ring in the occasion, as part of its weeklong St. Brigid’s Day Festival, the UICC welcomed Lecturer Emeritus Michael James Fallon (San Jose State) to discuss his abridgement of Joyce’s complex novel. About 15 community members attended the dynamic, far-ranging discussion. The conversation focused on Professor Fallon’s method for abridging *Ulysses*, plus whether such a project was possible—or even desirable. Comparisons were drawn between Professor Fallon’s abridgement and the Argentine author Jorge Borges’s short story “Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote.” Highlights of the evening included an appreciation of two first American editions of *Ulysses*, volumes which attendees brought to the discussion from their personal collections, as well as readings from the text, and finally, an enthusiastic comparison between episodes of *Ulysses* and tracks from The Beatles’s album *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*.



Lecturer Emeritus Michael James Fallon (San Jose State).



Part of the attentive crowd for Michael James Fallon’s talk on *Ulysses*.



Jennifer Drennan, Dowling Librarian at the *Ulysses* abridged talk.



Reel March Madness



@ **THE IRISH CENTER SF**



2700 45TH AVE @ WAWONA

MUSIC • DANCING • FOOD • ART • FUN

March 3

The Black Brothers—*Shay and Michael*
will be joined by *Félim Egan* and *Eamonn Flynn*

March 11

San Francisco St. Patrick's Day Parade
look for the UICC Parade Bus!

Post Parade Celebration *with*
Corned Beef & Cabbage
with live music and Irish Dancing

March 12

Annual "Green Fest" Block Party *with*
United Irish Societies, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann,
& Java Beach with live music and Irish Dancing

The Green Road—*on tour from County Wexford*
performing with soprano Clodagh Kinsella

March 17

St. Patrick's Day Headquarters
with Corned Beef & Cabbage
live music and Irish Dancing

March 18

Rumble at the Beach
Ireland vs. USA amateur boxing
in partnership with Fire in the Ring Boxing

March 19

Runa—*Celtic-American Roots Music*

April 2

St. Patrick's Céilí—*with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí*
Éireann—Cooley Keegan Branch

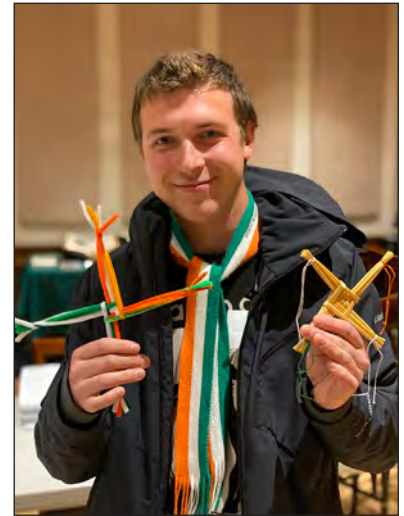


Your Irish Center SF
is your headquarters
for St. Patrick's Day
Season *and so much more!*



ST. BRIGID'S CROSS WEAVING WORKSHOP

A highlight of the UICC week-long St. Brigid's Day Celebration, marking the inaugural year of a national holiday in her name in Ireland, was the St. Brigid's Cross Weaving Workshop on February 4. This wonderful collaboration between Irish Marvels and the UICC brought together an inter-generational crowd for a delightful afternoon. Filling up the St. Francis Room on a cold winter Saturday, guests were warmed by tea and brown bread while they kept their hands warm with weaving. From reeds and rushes to pipe cleaners and more, nimble fingers of all sizes followed their guides and made their crosses. All were treated to some fine music to add to the day thanks to Eamon Flynn, Vincey Keehan and Kenny Sommerville. In addition, we had a Fulbright scholar visiting from Ireland—jazz singer Edel Meade who shared a couple of songs. Many thanks to our event coordinators who thought of all the finest details to make for such an enjoyable afternoon!



Logan Caraway.



Anne Cassidy Carew and Jo Coffey.



Music provided by Vince Keegan, Eamonn Flynn and Kenny Sommerville.



del Meade, jazz singer on Fulbright from Ireland.



Aidan Stone and his parents.



Catie O'Shea and Jo Coffey.



Tommy Noonan getting to grips with the weaving.



Theresa Flynn Houghton giving her daughter Anneka advice on weaving a cross.



Anne Cassidy Carew offering some weaving tips.

D4 SUPERVISOR JOEL ENGARDIO INAUGURATION CELEBRATION

New District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio held his inauguration celebration at the Center back in January. There was a large cross section of San Francisco politicians in attendance including Mayor London Breed. Joel hit the ground running in January and rolled up his sleeves to go to work for the people of District 4. Joel recently met with members of the 2025 Project development team to learn more about the rebuilding plans for the Center. Joel is fully supportive of having a new Irish Center come to fruition. We look forward to working with Supervisor going forward as we head towards the finish line in the pre-permitting planning permit process.



UICC President Liam Reidy, with Mayor London Breed and Leo Cassidy.



UICC President Reidy with District Attorney Brooke Jenkins.



UICC President Reidy with District 2 Supervisor Catherine Stefani.



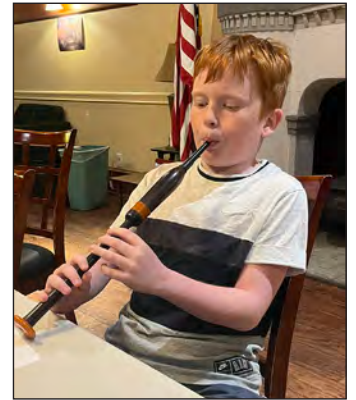
UICC President, Liam Reidy, with District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio and Leo Cassidy, UICC Board member.

YOUTH MUSIC CLASSES IN FULL SWING THIS SPRING

Thanks to all those who graciously supported the 2022 Annual Appeal to support our spring music classes for kids in the community. A special thank you to Irish pipers, John Carlin, Tom Harvey, Alex Lentz and Mike Bowler who are providing tutoring in the Irish pipes.



Brendan Mullen



Fintan Reidy



Tommy Harvey



Banjo teacher Kenny Sommerville with students Shane Reidy and Bruce Druzin.

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE, FROM 45TH AND WAWONA

By Liam Reidy, UICC President
lreidy@irishcentersf.org

The United Irish Cultural Center building turned 48 years old on March 8, 2023. Over the past five decades, the Center has been a wonderful servant to the Irish American community and continues to be a valuable resource and important anchor point for our members and neighbors. After falling on hard times at the end of 2018, the Center has roared back to life since then. Much of the recent success has been won by the combined generosity of our members, a plethora of new Board members and dedicated volunteers. New ideas, expanded cultural programming, improved levels of service, and broad community support has now put the Center on solid ground.

Relevance to the Community

While many cultural institutions shuttered due to the pandemic, the Irish Center came through the contagion as a much stronger entity. The past four years has proven that there is plenty of appetite in the community to have a permanent place like the Center going forward. As long as the Center remains relevant to the community by providing programming that is entertaining and culturally significant, and offers educational opportunities and experiences (music, theatre, dance, art or language), then we can be safe in the knowledge that there always will be a need for such a building to serve and be supported by the community.

2025 Project: Two Years On

Many are now aware that there is a major effort going on behind the scenes to replace the existing facility with a new modern six story building. The reimagined Irish Center (or 2025 Project) redevelopment plans which were developed in 2021 outline a newly envisaged building dedicated to Irish arts and culture. The plans have been under review at the SF Planning Department since February 2022. As we near the end of the pre-permit planning process, we anticipate that we will move on to the Planning Commission by late summer. By the fall we hope to have our new building permit in hand, which will then kickstart a dedicated capital campaign that will reach from the Bay Area all the way to Ireland.

Rationale for a New Building

A new building solves one of the Centers most critical current needs: providing sufficient space for Irish arts and culture programming and local Sunset community based programming (e.g. large event celebration spaces, summer camps, ballroom dancing, and after school programs for kids). There is just not enough functional space across the 20,000 square feet we have presently to accommodate everyone. Unfortunately we have to turn away events and activities due to being previously



A view of the proposed new Irish Center from the corner of 45th and Wawona Streets looking east. Rendering courtesy Studio BANNA

booked or not having available space to hold concurring events.

Being adjacent to the Pacific Ocean has not been kind to our rooftop HVAC, plumbing and electrical systems, which need constant upgrading and maintenance. While the building looks fine outwardly, there are plenty of regular issues to maintain an aging facility which has taken its toll over the years.

To make the new Irish Center more attractive as a destination and hub for the community, a sports hall, gym and aquatic center is included in the ambitious plans. A new modern contemporary building that is ADA compliant on every floor with panoramic views of the surrounding area is an easy selling point for our members.

Expanding the package of activities in “the box at the corner” of 45th and Wawona is the best way of activating the building with multi-purpose uses to sustain it well into the future. A new facility regardless of size will be a much sought after community resource. Event space for nonprofits, social

(continued)

Looking Toward the Future, From 45th and Wawona continued

clubs, dance and music schools, fraternal and religious organizations are in short supply on the west side. We all know that the city wide priority now is the construction of housing - but how many of these developments contain space for art exhibitions, dance studios, event space music halls? We plan to build it and they will come!

Next Steps in the Process

Up until now, we have relied on generous members in our community who contributed financial resources toward the pre-construction soft costs to help us develop plans, undertake a myriad of geotechnical and engineering studies and move through the planning process. With widespread support from our members, citywide support from Mayor London Breed and local District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio, who hope to get over the goal line later this year. Once the new building gets the green light from the City, we will only then be in a position to expand our fundraising activities to include all our supporters and community members. It is going to take one powerful effort to raise the money needed to rebuild the Irish Center. I encourage you to become a member of the Center, as we embark on what will be an amazing journey here on the west side over the next few years.

As the Irish Center celebrates another St. Patrick's Day, we look forward to engaging our community going forward to realize our dreams for a new home!



(This article appeared in the 2023 St. Patrick's Day Supplement produced by the United Irish Societies and published by The Irish Herald)

Our Golden Gate Men's Shed will be in session each Monday evening from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. continuing their Men's Life Speaker series.

This one is for the men, so step on in!

**MONDAY EVENINGS
6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.**

JOIN BY ZOOM AT [LINKTR.EE/SFIIPC](https://linktr.ee/sfiipc)

**For more information,
call Shannon at 415.432.2552
or email shannon@sfiipc.org**

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

IIPC is generously funded by:



**Golden Gate
Men's Shed**



IIPC ARC PROGRAM WELCOMES YOU TO OUR

TEA DANCE & SOCIAL

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023

3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

ST. FRANCIS ROOM, UICC
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO

COME ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF CONVERSATION, MUSIC & DANCING

\$15.00 PER PERSON

TEA, COFFEE, IRISH SODA BREAD | WINE, CHAMPAGNE INCLUDED

REGISTER AT [LINKTR.EE/SFIIPC](https://linktr.ee/sfiipc) OR
CONTACT ROISIN AT 415.752.6006 OR ADMIN@SFIIPC.ORG



ACTIVE RETIREMENT CLUB OUTREACH PROGRAM

MASS & LUNCHEON

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with IIPC and the ARC community! We are back in the St. Patrick's Room at the UICC for our March Mass & Luncheon!

Fr. Brendan McBride will celebrate Mass at 12 noon followed by a hot buffet lunch hosted by Esposos Catering and live entertainment by the amazing Christy O'Connell!

We hope to see you for another great gathering. Make sure to get your reservation in early!

Thursday, March 9, 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
(limited capacity for social distance)

Call Roisin at 415.752.6006 or email admin@sfiipc.org



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

ACTIVE RETIREMENT CLUB
OUTREACH PROGRAM

CAIRDE CAFE



We hope you can join our in-person Cairde Cafe Coffee morning at the United Irish Cultural Center!

Enjoy your morning tea or coffee, delicious treats over a chat and perhaps a game of bingo or cards. We cannot wait to see you!

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

United Irish Cultural Center

St. Francis Room
2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco

Cost: \$5

For more information, call Shannon at 415.432.2552 or email shannon@sfiipc.org

IIPC is generously funded by:



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



save
the
date



BROADWAY★SAN JOSE

A NEDERLANDER PRESENTATION

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023

2:00 P.M. MATINEE

**TICKETS: \$60 AT [LINKTREE.EE/SFIIPC](https://linktree.com/sfiipc)
[BUS & ADMISSION INCLUDED]**

**CALL ROISIN AT 415.752.6006 OR
EMAIL ADMIN@SFIIPC.ORG**

RIVERDANCE 25th ANNIVERSARY SHOW is Riverdance, as you've never seen it before! A powerful and stirring reinvention of this beloved favorite, celebrated the world over for its Grammy Award-winning score and the thrilling energy and passion of its Irish and international dance.

Composer Bill Whelan has rerecorded his mesmerizing soundtrack while producer Moya Doherty and director John McColgan have completely reimagined the ground-breaking show with innovative and spectacular lighting, projection, stage and costume designs.
DON'T MISS IT!

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

GREEN ROAD LEADS TO THE CENTER ON MARCH 12TH

By Dan McGovern

The Irish band Green Road, featuring Irish opera star Clodagh Kinsella, will kick off their first American tour in the Bay Area in March. Green Road will present concerts at the Village Theatre in Danville on March 10 and at the United Irish Cultural Center (UICC) in San Francisco on March 12. Green Road will ride on the UICC float in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in San Francisco on Saturday, March 11.

Green Road's concert in the 250-seat Village Theatre in Danville sold out five weeks in advance. However, good seats remain available for their concert at the UICC on March 12.

Green Road is already a major hit in Ireland. For example, this month Green Road sold out the 855-seat National Opera House in Wexford, Ireland, weeks in advance of their concert there.

After the Bay Area, Green Road will fly to Savannah for a concert there on March 15. The concert, in a 950-seat venue, will be a fundraiser in support of Georgia Southern University's campus in County Wexford, Ireland. The event is particularly fitting. More than half of the Irish immigrants arriving in Savannah in the wake of the Potato Famine were from County Wexford, and the members of Green Road hail from County Wexford.

The final stop on Green Road's American tour will be on March 17, at the Irish Cultural Center in the Boston area, where they will headline the Irish Cultural Center's St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Green Road's performance at the Village Theatre in Danville is in celebration of the Friendship City partnership between Danville and New Ross, Ireland. The civic partnership between Danville and New Ross grew out of cultural partnership of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House, in Danville and the O'Neill Ancestral Trust of Ireland. The cultural partnership between the two cities, in turn, grew out of the fact that Eugene O'Neill's father James emigrated from New Ross to America as small boy.

The two nonprofit organizations hold festivals featuring Eugene O'Neill's plays in Danville in September and in New Ross, Ireland in October.

Eugene O'Neill is the only American playwright ever to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. O'Neill lived in Danville while he wrote his greatest plays, including *Long Day's Journey Into Night* and *The Iceman Cometh*.

O'Neill's home in Danville, Tao House, is now a National Historic Site managed by the National Park Service.

About the Green Road

Green Road is a five-piece ballad and folk band from Co. Wexford. They play a blend of Irish Folk favorites and traditional



tunes infused with a Country and Bluegrass flavor. The band has a wealth of experience. From the vibrant folk and ballad scene in Ireland's pubs and clubs, traditional sessions and Fleadh competitions across the country, and theatre and television performances at home and abroad.

PJ Sinnott is one the great singers to emerge on the contemporary Folk and Ballad scene. Combined with the lively sounds of 5 String and Tenor banjos, Flatpicked guitar, Mandolin, Uilleann Pipes and Whistles, Bass guitar and vocal harmonies, Green Road have forged a unique sound that will have you singing along from start to finish.

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- Fitness, wellness and social programs as well as stimulating community entertainment
- 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).



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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St. Patrick's Day Tour of the U.S.

United Irish Cultural Center of San Francisco *presents*

with special guest soprano
Clodagh Kinsella

Sunday, March 12, 2023
Doors at 6:30 pm | Show at 7 pm
TICKETS: www.IrishCenterSF.org
2700 45th Avenue | San Francisco, CA 94116