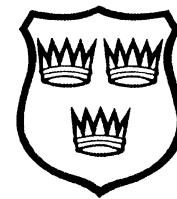




Foras Cultúir Gael Aontuighthe



# 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. 4  
April 2023

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## BOARD MESSAGE

### PROUD TO BE IRISH AMERICAN



Liam Reidy

Participating in many of last month's St. Patrick's season festivities around town and at the Irish Center, I felt a great sense of pride as an Irish American. I have spent the last twenty-six years living here in the San Francisco area, which means I have spent more time in the U.S. than I have in my native Ireland! I never saw myself staying long term in America upon my initial arrival via Brooklyn, New York in 1995, but my journey west in 1997 (following a sojourn in Ireland in 1996) sealed my fate.

Since then, I have built a life here in San Francisco, and it has become my home. Yet, I have always felt a strong connection to my Irish roots and culture, and I have made a point to celebrate and honor my heritage. Over the years and through raising a family here, I have made many friends and created a community that has become my extended family. The Irish Center has been a second home to me—a place where I can go to connect with my heritage and feel a sense of belonging. I have attended and organized countless events at the Center—from dinners, concerts, music classes, and camps to cultural workshops.

**Everyone Celebrates Irish Culture** — The St. Patrick's season festivities are always a highlight of the year for me. From the colorful parade to the lively Irish music sessions, there is an energy and excitement that is infectious. I love seeing people of all ages and backgrounds come together to celebrate and share in the joy of Irish culture.

Attending events at the Irish Center is always a special treat for me because of the connections and community, but it's not just about the celebrations and events. Being Irish American is a part of who I am, and it has shaped my values and perspective on life. The Irish are known for their warmth, humor, and resilience, and these qualities have been passed down through generations of my own family. They have helped me navigate the challenges and joys of life with a sense of grace and gratitude.

As I reflect on the past month's festivities, I feel a deep sense of pride and gratitude for my Irish heritage and the community of Irish Americans of which I am a part. Through my experiences in San Francisco, I have learned that being Irish American is not just about celebrating St. Patrick's Day or wearing green, it is about embracing and preserving the rich culture and traditions that have been passed down through generations. It is about connecting with others who share a similar sense of cultural pride and creating a community that celebrates and supports one another. I look forward to continuing to celebrate my heritage with all of you and contribute to the vibrant community that I have come to love. I may have spent more time in America than I have in Ireland, but the connection to my roots is as strong as ever. And that is something to celebrate.

**Green Road Shines** — We hosted the Irish music group Green Road from Co. Wexford over the parade weekend. The group were enthusiastically involved in several productions with us. The band joined us in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, delivered master classes and workshops with local musicians, performed a jam session at Wawona Gates, and closed out the weekend with a concert in front of a capacity audience in the St. Patrick's room. Míle Buíochas (Thank you) to Sean Reidy (organizer) and to PJ Sinnott and the band.

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

(President's Message continued)

**St. Patrick's Report Card** — While Parade Day attracted the usual bumper crowd, the Green Fest block party had reduced crowds due to the poor weather. We had the best ever St. Patrick's Day on March 17th and welcomed a raucous crowd of local boxing aficionados watch the boxers from Ireland and California on March 18th to support a community partner, Fire in the Ring Boxing. We nearly sold out of corn beef dinners on March 17th. And based on the number of reports, I heard personally, it was delicious! We shared the extra corn beef and other food items with the St. Vincent Paul Society Food kitchen on Fifth Street. Overall, a few weeks of activity. Special thanks to all the musicians and Irish dancers who did so well entertaining the crowds. Bookended by the fantastic Black Brothers concert to kick off the season, the St. Patrick's Day week-end concluded with a fantastic Celtic roots concert by RUNA.

**Spring Membership Drive** — Our spring membership drive is now on, and we welcome you to continue supporting us here at the Center. Contact Maggie Overbay at 650-892-4050.

**Rock the Gates** — Throughout the month of April, we will announce the entertainment line-up for our second annual Rock the Gates music festival in August.

**Summer Camp** — Our Summer camp has already over 40 participants signed up for the annual camp which starts in June. Registration is open throughout the spring until the camp is fully enrolled. The camp is ideal for kids aged 6 years and up.

**Leo T. Walsh Scholarship** — Many thanks to all those donors and supporters who have graciously contributed to the annual scholarship awards. The deadline for applying has now passed, and the judges are busy reviewing the entrants. It is hoped to hold the award ceremony in late May. Good luck to all the eighth graders and high school seniors who applied for a scholarship.

**Landlines Move to Cell Phones** — After almost five decades of physical landline telephone use at the Center, we recently moved our available telephone numbers to cell phone lines. The motivation to do this was because AT&T are no longer supporting landlines, and doubled their pricing to maintain them. In consultation with the finance team, and AT&T we decided to move to cellular, and we will now have more flexibility in managing incoming calls and controlling voice messaging.

**Thank You to the Staff** — A big thank you to our event staff Aileen, Lauraine, and Heidi, the team of part time workers and volunteers for the trojan work undertaken all through the month of March. The St. Patrick's committee headed up by Event Manager Aileen Duloherly and her team—made up of volunteers and Board members also deserve a special mention. Go raibh raith agaibh go léir!

**Happy Easter** — While we are closed on Easter Sunday, we extend our warmest thoughts to you and your family this Easter.

Liam Reidy, President  
lreidy@irishcentersf.org

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# APRIL CALENDAR

## ■ APRIL 2, SUNDAY

- St. Patrick's Céilí

## ■ APRIL 8, SATURDAY

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

Tracing ancestors who were in religious orders.

Focus will be on Catholic priests and nuns here in the U.S. and in Ireland.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/811111111111>

2023 club leads: Pati Traktman [patitraktman@gmail.com](mailto:patitraktman@gmail.com)

& Nancy Sanchez [nmsanchez86@yahoo.com](mailto:nmsanchez86@yahoo.com)

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

“The Basque, Irish DNA Cousins”

Zoom meeting & presentation with Lisa Hilmoe

Email Lisa Hilmoe to RSVP or ask questions at:

[hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com](mailto:hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com)

## ■ APRIL 20 THURSDAY

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

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 discussions by registering on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/811111111111>

## ■ APRIL 28 FRIDAY

- Lá Bealtaine Festival Weekend ~ 7:00 - 9:00pm

Kyle Alden & Friends — Rebecca Richman (fiddle and concertina), Paul Eastburn (Bass).

Followed by a session, 9-11pm.

## ■ APRIL 30 SUNDAY

- Lá Bealtaine Festival Weekend ~ 3:00 - 5:00pm

Dublineseque, featuring Eamonn O'Flynn (Piano), Darcy Noonan (fiddle), Felim Egan (accordion and bodhran) and Hector Bragado (banjo) with Céilí dancing.

Followed by Bealtaine bonfire session at Ocean Beach—5:30-7:30pm.

# SAVE THE DATE 2023

FRIDAY MAY 12

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

SATURDAY JUNE 10

San Francisco Youth GAA Amateur Boxing Night  
St. Patricks Room ~ 6:00pm - 9:00pm

MONDAY JUNE 12 - FRIDAY JUNE 30

Irish Center Summer Camp  
Ages 6-14 yrs

SATURDAY JUNE 17

Wawona Gates 3rd Birthday Party

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

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30

Octoberfest by the Beach with music by Alpine Sound

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19

Piper Jones Band ~ 7:00pm

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9

Rebel Cork Annual Dinner Dance

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16

Christmas Boutique

SATURDAY MARCH 16, 2024

2024 St. Patrick's Day Parade



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415/468-4130 or email: [falconassoc@earthlink.net](mailto:falconassoc@earthlink.net)



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*Price Includes:*

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- 1 night in Kilkenny • 4 nights in the City of Dublin.*

*Daily Breakfasts. 6 Hotel Dinners, a Restaurant Dinner in Galway, and a Dinner Show at The Merry Ploughboy in the Wicklow Mountains.*

*Visit castles and stately homes, museums and places of outstanding natural beauty, picturesque seaside towns such as Kinsale, Cobh and Dingle, and explore the wonderful cities of Cork and Galway. Many more attractions and sightseeing opportunities. Full itinerary available on request.*

*All taxes and fees included.*

**Pat Burke, (ret. SFPD), Travel Agent**

**Seán Canniffe, Publisher, Irish Herald Newspaper**

**Catherine Quinn, Quinn Travel**

**CST #: 2021374-70**

# MINISTER SIMON HARRIS VISIT TO THE IRISH CENTER

Minister for Justice Simon Harris visited the Irish Center over two days during the St. Patricks parade weekend. Mr. Harris was amazed at the crowds that assembled at the Center to celebrate the post parade party. Mr. Harris also got to discuss the 2025 Project with the community on Sunday March 12th and offer the support of the government of Ireland for the project as we move ahead.



*Minster Harris with Liam Reidy and Consul General Micheál Smith.*



*Librarian Jennifer Drennan welcomes Minster Simon Harris to the Library.*

*Minister Harris chats with Sean Elsbernd and daughter Olivia.*



*Consul General Micheal with Minister Harris and Anne Cassidy Carew.*



*Mary, Liam and young John Frost with Minister Harris.*



*Minister Harris chats with Irish Pipers; Maggie Baglin, Mike Bowler and Ben O'Leary.*



*Kate Gunning with Minister Harris.*



*Patricia O'Reilly with Minister Harris.*



*Minister Harris with Celine Kennelly and Fr. Brendan McBride.*



*Minister Harris with John O'Riordan.*



# IS YOUR PASSPORT IN DATE??

As summer approaches, ensure your US and Irish passports are in date and ready for your travel plans!

Check your passport expiration dates TODAY!

If you need assistance renewing your passport, please contact Roisin at 415.752.6006 or [admin@sfiiipc.org](mailto:admin@sfiiipc.org)



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Government of Ireland  
Emigrant Support Programme

## ACTIVE RETIREMENT CLUB OUTREACH PROGRAM

# MASS & LUNCHEON

Spring has sprung and we are excited to welcome you back to the St. Patrick's Room at the UICC for our April Mass & Luncheon!

Fr. Brendan McBride will celebrate Mass at 12 noon followed by a hot buffet lunch hosted by Espostos Catering.

We look forward to seeing you for another wonderful afternoon of comraderie and friendship! Make sure to get your reservation in early!

**Thursday, April 13, 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**  
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Government of Ireland  
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# KEEPERS OF THE STEPS PROGRAM

## EARNING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

**Céad míle fáilte**

The United Irish Cultural Center of San Francisco  
presents

**KEEPERS OF THE STEPS**

**SPECIAL EXHIBIT CELEBRATING  
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IRISH STEP DANCING  
IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA**

Step back through time and explore the roots, rhythms, and rituals of one of the most enduring traditions of our Irish heritage.

UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER INFORMATION

IRISH CENTER 2025 PROJECT

@KeepersoftheSteps #KeepersoftheSteps

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www.IrishCenterSF.org

Since their debut Irish Dance history exhibit in January 2022, the Keepers of the Steps cultural program of the UICC has been busy seeking other exhibit avenues, broadening their reach through social media, soliciting and procuring new items for their growing collection, and increasing their visibility from regional to national, and now an international level.

This special program which celebrates and curates the history and stories of Irish step dancing in the San Francisco Bay Area dating as far back as the Gold Rush in the 1850s, created a special pop-up exhibit to much acclaim at the Western Region Oireachtas which was held in San Francisco last November. Locals and visitors alike marveled at the volume of history and related stories as the exhibit seemed to further foster a sense of community within the Irish Dance world as well as help younger dancers and families new to Irish Dance understand that they are part of a rich history that spans decades and generations.

The efforts of the program organizers, headed up by Eileen Mize (herself a proud Irish dance alumna of the McBride School of Irish Dancing), are now gaining national attention. Keepers of the Steps is being honored at the *Irish Echo* Irish American Arts and Culture Awards at a special ceremony “born from a desire to salute Irish America’s cultural champions.” Honored in the category of “Dance” the program is being recognized for their efforts in promoting Irish Dance through preserving and sharing its rich history.

Most recently, Keepers of the Steps applied for and has been approved for grant money from Ireland—from a prestigious organization at the very heart of the Irish step dance world. The Committee just received word from An Coimisiún Le Rincí Gaelacha [CLRG] (The Irish Dancing Commission), that their request has been approved. The Dublin, Ireland based CLRG works to ensure the preservation and promotion of Irish Dancing, including step dancing, céilí dancing and other team dancing, as well as promote all aspects of Irish culture including the use and promotion of the Irish language. Throughout the year, CLRG provides funds for the development of the Irish dancing community around the world. The Dance Development Committee invites creative proposals to advance the initiatives of the CLRG, and so our Keepers of the Steps committee submitted a proposal that caught their attention.

According to program lead, Eileen Mize, “This level of recognition serves as a significant endorsement of the work we are doing. We are so grateful for the support of the UICC, and now to be expanding our footprint only serves to open more doors of possibilities. This is urgent, never-before-collected history that we aim to document and catalogue particularly while we are still lucky

enough to have access to primary sources, practitioners, and storytellers. We are only getting started!”

Keepers of the Steps is planning another Pop-Up Exhibit this August at the UICC in conjunction with two high profile summer events—the Big Irish Campfire and the 2nd Annual Rock the Gates Summer Fleadh. In addition, they plan to launch their virtual (video) tour of their first exhibit (2022) on International Irish Dance Day, which is September 17 with an event marking the occasion. So, stay tuned for more information on plans as they develop. Meanwhile, if you come across any old dance costumes (no matter the condition), dance shoes, medals, feis programs, photographs, or literally anything related to Irish dance, please reach out to the committee via Eileen at emize@irishcenter.org.



# ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADE PHOTO GALLERY

Great showing of Irish pride at the Parade and Post-Parade Party at the Irish Center despite the inclement weather. Thanks to all who helped with the UICC's own parade bus! Enjoy photos from the weekend's festivities.



Tara Moriarty, Liam Reidy and Deputy Chief Sheriff Stephen Tilton.



Irish Pipers: Joe O'Leary, Hal Wilkes, Mike Bowler, Brendan O'Leary, and Frank Hagan.



Pat Uniacke Grand Marshal, and his wife Una.



Diarmuid and Michael Philpott.



Fintan Reidy



Tanner Manning



Kathleen Kraus, Maggie Overbay, Mary Teaban, and Eileen Mize.



Matt Haney with his Dad Crais and Liam Reidy.



2023 SF Rose of Tralee Katie McFadden with Mayor London Breed.



Jack Duncan with Catriona, Andrea, Caitlin, and Ivan Diviny.



Cecilia Murphy, Bernadette Scully and Joanne Hartnett.

# VISIT FROM GREEN ROAD FROM CO. WEXFORD PROVES SUCCESSFUL

The Co. Wexford based Green Road musical group were hosted by the United Irish Cultural Center over the St. Patrick's Day parade weekend. Green Road musicians joined us on our parade bus, held an impromptu Irish music sing along under the tent at Wawona Gates and provided master classes in the banjo and uilleann pipes to local musicians. Green Road toured and performed in Danville, San Francisco, Millbrae here in California, and also toured the east coast with stops in Savannah, GA and Boston, MA. The nationwide tour was supported in part by Culture Ireland. A capacity crowd enjoyed the concert at the Center on the evening of March 12th.



Sean Reidy (O'Neill Ancestral Trust, Wexford, Ireland) with Dan McGovern (Eugene O'Neill Foundation)



Jon Reville and Fergal O'Hanlon play during the session under the Wawona Gates tent.  
Mike Dunbarr in the center signals his approval of the music.



PJ Sinnott and Ned Wall entertain the crowd in Wawona Gates.



Eileen Mize with Green Road lead singer PJ Sinnott.



Green Road uilleann piper Ned Wall with local San Francisco pipers Dave Winter and Michael Drane at the Irish Center on March 12th.



Green Road banjo player Jon Reville with Kenny Sommerville, Bryce Drukin and Shane Reidy, San Francisco as part of the cultural musical exchange with the visiting band and local musicians.

The United Irish Cultural Center presents

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# RUMBLE AT THE BEACH BOXING SHOWCASE IS HUGE SUCCESS

Boxing returned to the UICC on Saturday March 18 with the “Rumble at the Beach”. The standing-room-only crowd enjoyed 14 bouts of very competitive boxing. Ten boxers travelled from Ireland to compete with a slate of Bay Area fighters. Meath man Gavin Ryan was the outstanding boxer of the night, using his reach and an excellent jab to defeat Mike Fairhurst of the Lions Den boxing club at 118 lbs. “Rumble at the Beach” was the third boxing card at the UICC in the past two years and each has played out to capacity crowds. Next Fight Night is Saturday June 10th and is a fundraiser for San Francisco Youth GAA who host the Continental Youth Championships next July in Dublin, CA.



Odbran Clancy vs Jose Aguilar



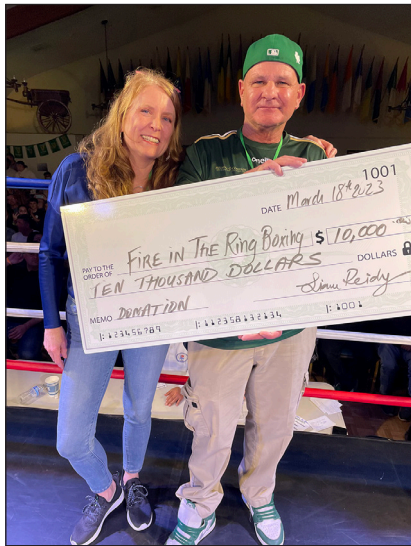
George Goff vs Blake Pfffer



Daniel Lucey vs Dejbon Butler



Davey O'Neill vs Blake Pfffer



UICC Vice President, Anne Cassidy Carew presents Jimmy Ford (Fire in the Ring Boxing Club) with a \$10,000 donation from the UICC as part of the Amateur Fight Night Fundraiser on March 18th, 2023. Anne said “the UICC is proud to partner with another local community non-profit and support after school programs for at risk youth in the San Francisco area”.



Tara Moriarty raised the roof with her rendition of the Star Spangled Banner as part of the boxing pre-show.



Three generations of the Philpott family. Terence, Diarmuid, Mickey and Michael Philpott.



Diarmuid Philpott gave a wonderful rendition of Ambrán na bhFiann, the Irish National Anthem before the boxing event started. Here Diarmuid punches the air upon completion of the anthem.



Fintan Reidy and Cailen Fabey (Whelan Academy of Irish Dance) perform.



Tanner Manning and Roisin Reidy (Whelan Academy of Irish Dance) dance as part of the boxing intermission show.

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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.

# United Irish Cultural Center, Inc.



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