Irish Arts Take Center Stage This Fall

Building upon the robust slate of Irish cultural programming and community-wide activities during the first part of the year, we have plenty more in store this fall here at the Center. The lineup and variety of events suggest that we are returning to a more normal season of activities as we look ahead to the remainder of 2022.

While the three week summer camp held during June ended with a resoundingly successful concert entitled “Muirshen Durkin: The Golden Years” on July 1 - we also hosted amateur boxing and pro-wrestling which were driven primarily by partnerships with local community groups that find it difficult to find spaces to run their events. These community partnerships have been well received not only by our members but also by a broader section of the Bay Area community that did not even know the Irish Center existed prior to the events.

Rock the Gates Summer Fleadh — Our inaugural “Rock the Gates” music and Irish dance festival tops the bill this August as the event not to be missed. On Saturday August 27 we will host music, song and Irish dance across three festival stages: Wawona Gates, the Emerald and St. Patrick’s room. The festival kicks off at 1pm and runs until 8pm. Highlights include performances by the Irish pipers, LA.vation (U2 tribute band), the Hooks, A License to Chill (Jimmy Buffet tribute band), Karl McHugh, Mangobus, and other local Irish music groups and Irish dance schools. We will also have kids’ activities such as a bouncy castle and face painting. Truly a family affair!

To close out the blockbuster day on August 27, the tribute musical “Tommy and the Brothers” will retell the folk music history of Tommy Makem and the Clancy Brothers. Fresh from taking gold at the recent Hollywood Fringe, this live music event is the brainchild of LA based Thom McNamara and Ken O’Malley and promises to be one of the highlights of the summer. Tickets for all events are at www.IrishCenterSF.org

Comedy Night with Ardal O’Hanlon — On Saturday, September 10, we welcome the star of Father Ted (C4) and Death In Paradise (BBC) and guest in the last two series of Derry Girls (C4), Ardal O’Hanlon, one of the world’s best-loved stand up comedians. The event starts at 8pm.

Murphy School Feis — We welcome 250 Irish step dancers participating in the Murphy Irish Dance School Feis on Saturday Sept 24 and Sunday 25. Dancers must register in advance and spectators are most welcome.

The Byrne Brothers — The Byrne Brothers return to the Irish Center for a mid-week concert on September 28 before heading to Los Angeles the following weekend to pick up the Young Artist Academy Award for Music Ensemble 2022.

Hinterland West — The US edition of one of Ireland’s most popular literary festivals will host several prominent Irish commentators at the Irish Center between September 30 and October 2. This year’s lineup of writers and scholars includes Fintan O’Toole, Liz Nugent, Róisín Ingle, Catriona Crowe, Myles Duggan and Noah Griffin. Hinterland West is a San Francisco-based collaboration with the Hinterland Festival in Kells, County Meath, Ireland. Full line-up of events at www.hinterlandwest.org

(President’s Message continued on page 2)
The Turf Debate Rages in Ireland

Harvesting, extraction, selling or burning turf from Ireland's native peat bogs has ignited a fiery debate during the past few months across many rural parts of Ireland.

The commercial turf industry leader - Bord na Móna - ended all peat harvesting from its lands in 2020. Now the government is turning its attention to the mom and pop operations scattered across the country who frequently spend time in the bog harvesting turf for burning in their homes and what ever extra they have left over for sale commercially.

The government wants to end all turf burning in the country with little input from the small time operators and families who continue to harvest peat with great effort as much of the work is done by hand. Cutting, footing, and bagging turf to take home is a back breaking exercise! I've spent many a day in the bog with my grandparents and footed turf as a hired gun as late as when I was 20 years old!

Bord na Móna, is a semi-state company in Ireland which was created by the Turf Development Act in 1946. The company since its inception developed the peatlands of Ireland with the aim to provide economic benefit for Irish Midland communities and achieve security of energy supply for the country.

Recent changes in the Irish governments Climate Change policy had seen Bord na Móna expand and diversify its portfolio of businesses to include biomass procurement and supply, power generation (peat based and renewable), waste recovery, domestic fuel products and professional and consumer horticulture products. The famous Bord na Móna peat briquettes will no longer be made after 2024.

It's a whole new world now as the Irish government aims to be carbon neutral by the year 2050. A lofty goal indeed. The ultimate aim is to phase out all harvesting of turf from the peat lands and spend €115 million on restoration in the next few years.

It's hard to see the wider global impact of the few hardy souls that are still working the bog in rural Ireland - at least that's the sentiment emerging from parts of west Limerick and north Cork where I spent time last month.

You can no longer commercially sell or buy turf at a retail outlet - that's all banned with immediate effect. However if you harvest turf yourself you can gift it to someone without any government push back!

Looks like there will be many "gifting" turf this winter in Ireland by the hardy men and women who rely on the side income from saving a few extra loads of turf!

Watch for updates as the debate continues!
The United Irish Cultural Center
Proud to Announce an Exciting Family-Friendly Summer Music Festival

Rock the Gates—Summer Fleadh 2022

Join us on Saturday, August 27 from 1-8 pm at the Irish Center for fun for the whole family! Featuring multiple stages (Wawona Gates, St. Patrick’s Room, and the Emerald Pub), this festival will showcase a variety of bands from tribute bands, Irish favorites, and will also include some Irish Dancing from some of our local dance schools. Face painting and bounce house for kids during the afternoon hours, Irish Shoppe and Wawona Gates—and more!

The entertainment line-up includes:

A License to Chill (Jimmy Buffet tribute)
The Shams (Irish rock)
Mangobus (SF reggae)
L.A.vation (U2 tribute)
The Hooks (Alternative Rock)
Fret & Fiddle (Celtic)
Karl McHugh (pop/folk)
The Gas Men (Irish trad)
Lucky ol’ Bones (Celtic folk/punk)
The Irish Pipers
Irish Dancers from the Murphy, Kennelly, McBride, Whelan, Boyle, and more dance schools!

Join us for a musical treat like no other—
“a tribute to The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem”—brought to you live from the stage in the St. Patrick’s Room!

“Tommy and the Brothers” delights audiences with the stories, the lives, the history, but most of all the music and songs of one of Ireland’s greatest national treasures. The show pays homage to the greats who brought the music and traditions of Ireland into the concert halls and living rooms of millions of Irish, Irish Americans, and the international diaspora of Ireland and, no doubt, contributed greatly to the fledgling tourist industry in Ireland.

Gather your friends for a night of nostalgia and relive The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem’s rise to worldwide fame in Greenwich Village at the beginning of the 60’s American Folk Revival. Friends with Bob Dylan, Josh White, Pete Seeger, and Odetta, they changed Irish folk music forever. Savor their story and a sampling of their biggest hits to sing along with. All music presented live with acoustic instruments. A wonderful show for all ages.

Tickets: IrishCenterSF.org
Community Blood Drive for SF Firefighters Local 798

Meeting the needs of our community is our top priority, and there is a blood shortage, especially post-COVID. Please support our community partnership blood drive event as we team up with SFFD Local 795 and plan to donate blood on August 23 at the Irish Center.

San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 have been conducting blood drives with Vitalant for 20 years, during which time they’ve collected over 6,400 lifesaving units of blood! Support the San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 and patients who rely on a steady blood supply by donating blood. Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. When you donate blood, you provide a life-saving treatment for patients undergoing surgery, experiencing trauma, or battling cancer and blood disorders. Schedule your appointment today to make a difference in someone’s life.

Coffee and donuts will be served for breakfast and sandwiches will be served for lunch.

WELLNESS IN NATURE
A Community Outreach Program of the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center Wellness Program

Join us in the great outdoors - walk, breathe, rejuvenate, connect.

WALK IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS
Presidio, San Francisco
Wednesday, August 3 | 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, August 17 | 5:00 p.m.

HIKE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS
Fort Funston, San Francisco
Saturday, August 20 | 10:00 a.m.

Register at linktr.tee/sfiipc or contact Shannon at 415.452.2552 or shannon@sfiipc.org

The outdoors is calling.
IIPC WELLNESS PROGRAMS

HELP BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY!

IIPC is seeking volunteers who would like to visit members of our community in their homes to provide social connection and support

Building connections and making a difference

INTERESTED?

EMAIL: SHANNON@SFIIPC.ORG
OR CALL 415.432.2552

IIPC ARC PROGRAM WELCOMES YOU TO OUR FIRST

TEA DANCE & SOCIAL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2022
4:00 - 6:00 P.M.
ST. FRANCIS ROOM, UICC
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO

COME ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC AND DANCING

$15.00 PER PERSON
TEA, COFFEE, IRISH SODA BREAD | WINE, CHAMPAGNE INCLUDED

REGISTER AT LINKTR.EE/SFIIPC OR
CONTACT SHANNON AT 415.432.2552 OR SHANNON@SFIIPC.ORG
**ACTIVE RETIREMENT CLUB OUTREACH PROGRAM**

**SPECIAL EVENT**

**MASS & LUNCHEON**

We are SO excited to be hopping on a bus and heading back to see Fr. Aidan McAleenan at St. Columba Parish in Oakland!

The bus will depart the UICC at 10:00 a.m., to arrive at St. Columba for 11:00 a.m. Mass celebrated by Fr. Aidan. Following Mass, we will gather in the beautiful garden at St. Columba for lunch and to spend time together. The bus will return to the UICC at approximately 4:00 p.m.

As part of our COVID safety protocols, masks will be required on the bus.

**Thursday, August 11, 2022**

10:00 a.m. Bus departs UICC
11:00 a.m. Mass at St. Columba
followed by buffet luncheon
4:00 p.m. Bus returns to UICC

Tickets $40 (inc. bus)
Advance registration required at linktr.ee/sfiipc or contact Shannon at 415.432.2552 or shannon@sfiipc.org

---

**WITH AGE, COMES WISDOM**

Who do you go to when you need support?
Join The Wisdom Exchange and let's talk about what it is about those friends or family members who help us when we're needing it most.

Share your lived experience.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24**

11:00 A.M.

ZOOM LINK @ LINKTR.EE/SFIIPC

---

**THE WISDOM EXCHANGE**

CALL IIPC FOR MORE INFORMATION
Shannon Cotter - (415) 432-2552
shannon@sfiipc.org
Westborough Royale

Retirement & Assisted Living

89 Westborough Blvd.
South San Francisco, CA 94080
(650) 872-0400
www.westboroughroyale.com

Our Fee Includes:
The comforts of home plus the safety and security that comes with having trained, experienced caregivers at hand ready to assist with the following:

- Medication management
- Assistance with showering
- Three chef prepared meals daily with 24-hour snacks available
- Full housekeeping, linen and personal laundry service
- 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.
Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Harry Arthur
Kathy Banks
Frances Baxter
Cecilia Bell
Bobby Bell
Erin Byrne
Olivia Canniffe
Jennifer Carr
Bill Carr IV
Patrick Casserly
Erin Chin
Hannah Sullivan Comiskey
Cynthia Ann Conway
Jennifer Corry
Desmond Cotter
Brittany Ann Cunningham
Daniel Joseph Currie
Verne Deaseon
Hilary M Dillon
Michael John Dolan
Aileen Dulohery
Michael David Dunbar
Consuelo Margaret Evans
Kevin Cox Flannery
Eamonn Flynn
Mary Geasa
Cynthia Gilson
Marie Gonella
Denise Grey
John Grey
Barbara J. Griffin
Lisa Hamrick
Daniel Hayes
Dr. Anna Hennessey
Jason Hogrefe
John Kent Hopkirk
Michael David Johnson
Cathleen Kaprosh
Niall Kavanagh
Jason M King
William Lacey
Melissa Kelleher Lewis
Timothy Looney
Jody Mccown
Caroline McLaughlin
Michael McMahon
Shane McNulty
Eileen Mize
Kevin Patrick Moloney
James Moylan
Lori Muller
Caitlin Mullins
John P. Murphy
Michael Neary
Kara Newport
Else Ryan Harding Nye
Margaret Nye
Fiona O'Connor
Megan O'Donnell
Katie O'Donnell
Eamon O'Driscoll
Stephen O'Driscoll
Maureen O'Keefe
Barbara O'Leary
Thomas O'Brien
Tomas Michael O'Hara
Jennifer O'Keefee
Maureen Burke Perry
Karen Pierotti
Gregory Quinn
Brendan Robinson
San Francisco Glens Soccer Club
Cynthia Sheehan
Georgia Stigall
Kirsten Cavanaugh Strobel
Dr. Regan Boyd Stuart-Killion
Kevin Sweeney
Carol Thornton
Heidi Anne Ward
Walker Whalen
Kristina Whalen
Peter Williams
Michele Williams
William Woodfill
Sarah Woods
Elizabeth Bissa Zamboldi

We are so grateful for our members. Did you know that a membership makes a great gift? Interested in learning more about the benefits?

Questions? Maggie Overbay at 650.892.4050

www.IrishCenterSF.org Names listed became members between July 2021 and July 2022.
Board Member Transitions — This fall we will see several UICC Board members vacating their roles within the organization after serving as many as four years. Many of these positions were initially two year terms but many members stayed on to help out the Center during the upheaval and uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. These were extraordinary times and required an even greater effort by the volunteer board members to steady the ship. We have slowly hired back staff during the past year to alleviate the workload on the volunteer board members. We expect to continue a more supervisory role as board members going forward and begin to focus on oversight, guidance, and continue with developing and funding the 2025 project.

While all the exiting board members will be sorely missed, we plan to recruit and fill most vacant positions and consolidate the board, with board elections planned for October. Interested in getting involved? We have needs in many areas, especially in finance, marketing and video editing. If interested in a role going forward, reach out to me via email.

District 4 Info Evening — This November, the local San Francisco Board of Supervisors District 4 seat will be contested by three candidates: incumbent Supervisor Gordon Mar, Joel Engardio, and Leanna Louie. To give the community and Irish Center members the chance to hear these candidates in person, there is an informational meeting on Thursday, September 28 between 7-9pm. The Irish Center lies at the heart of District 4.

SF Fire Blood Drive — On Tuesday, August 23, San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798 are holding a community-wide blood drive in the St. Patrick’s Room from 9am to 2pm.

All-Ireland Champions — Well done to Limerick hurlers and Kerry Gaelic footballers who won the All-Ireland inter-county championship finals last month in Ireland. There was great interest in the finals this year as there were no restrictions on attendance, with more than 82,000 people attending each final, and countless others watching from home including those here at the Irish Center.

I was fortunate to be on vacation to see my home county of Limerick defeat Kilkenny in the hurling final after a titanic struggle with the result in the balance right up to the final whistle. It was Limerick’s fourth success in five seasons. Rarified air for sure for Limerick supporters, but there is no doubt that all GAA followers would agree that this is a once-in-a-generation team with household names sprinkled all over the field. Worthy Liam McCarthy cup recipients – well done, Limerick! Congratulations to Kerry on securing the Sam McGuire cup after a tense battle with Galway on Sunday July 24. Four unanswered points late in the game by the Kingdom saw them bridge an eight year gap since their last title and saw them collect their 38th All-Ireland title in total.

Labor Day Weekend — Enjoy the last break of summer which signals the end of summer holidays.

Liam Reidy
lreidy@irishcentersf.org
**AUGUST CALENDAR**

- **AUGUST 13, SATURDAY**
  - Irish Genealogy Club - Zoom Meeting  
    11:00am-1:00pm (US and Canada)  
    Kelly Shepherd presents on the use of DNA in tracing your ancestral history.  
    2022 club leads:  
    Pati Traktman patitraktman@gmail.com and  
    Nancy Sanchez nmsanchez86@yahoo.com.  
    Pre-register via Zoom:  
    https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89007236093?pwd=aEFPhGWamluOW80dGM4MzJTeelAzUT09

- **AUGUST 18, THURSDAY**
  - Biscuits & Books, Live! ~ 4:00 - 4:45 pm  
    Grab a cuppa and join the conversation. We’ll look at some of the new additions to the Book Sale and to the collection. This episode will again find the library open to patrons as well. Anything may happen.  
    Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qe-6qrgjGdS-rTdd8T6-8DTFhpGoMcL

- **AUGUST 20, SATURDAY**
  - Irish Marvels, Past and Present ~ Zoom Meeting  
    2:30-4:30 pm  
    “Distant Relations”, Part 2 with by Ardie McDermott. Join us for the 2nd of a 4 part series about Mexican/Irish connections. Questions? Contact Lisa Hilmoe at hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com  
    Pre-register via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkf-qgrzgyGdaenGKpG8k4vY7qRaBiONO

- **AUGUST 23, TUESDAY**
  - Blood Drive ~ 9:00 am - 2:00pm

- **AUGUST 27, SATURDAY**
  - Rock the Gates - Music Festival  
    Tommy and the Brothers  
    A tribute to the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Maken

---

**SAVE THE DATE 2022**

- **Friday September 9**
  UICC Dinner Honoring  
  Mary Lou McDonald, President of Sinn Féin

  For Tickets Contact:  
  Seamus Canning 415-310-9103  
  Ciarán Scally 510-333-2677

- **Saturday September 10 ~ 8pm**
  Ardal O'Hanlon  
  Comedian (Fr. Ted Fame)

- **Saturday September 24 and Sunday September 25**
  Murphy Irish Dance School Feis  
  8am - 6pm

- **Sunday September 25 ~ 1-3pm**
  Mad Hatter Tea Party  
  Fundraiser for the Patrick J. Dowling Library

- **Wednesday September 28 ~ 7:30pm**
  The Byrne Brothers ~ Live in Concert  
  www.thebyrnebrothers.com

- **Thursday September 29 ~ 7-9pm**
  District 4 Supervisor Information Meeting  
  St. Patrick’s Room

- **Saturday October 15 ~ 6-10pm**
  Octoberfest  
  Music by the Internationals
Support YOUR UICC and the BUSINESSES that Support YOUR UICC

DEADLINE for September 2022 BULLETIN is August 15
Questions? Contact: Adrienne Verreos
415/468-4130 or email: falconassoc@earthlink.net

Kerry Riordan Sykes
Maureen S. McFadden
Certified Specialists in Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization
381 West Portal Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94127
(415) 661-9050
Free Initial Consultation
Greetings from the Library in midsummer...

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteer staff who have returned to help keep the library open and running smoothly during the summer. It is wonderful to have everyone feel comfortable enough to be back in and welcoming in our members, neighbours, and wider community.

We were honoured the other day to have the 2x great-granddaughter of Jasper O’Farrell in. She brought with her several family albums, allowing us to create digital copies for the Library’s collection, meanwhile telling wonderful stories about her ancestor throughout her visit.

Library Hours:
August 1 - 15: Thursday, Friday, Saturday: 1:30 - 4:30 pm.
August 16 - 31: Thursday, Friday: 2:30 - 5:00 pm, Saturday: 1:30 - 4:30 pm.

In-kind Donations
Please continue to make arrangements for physical donations via email initially. Appointments to accept materials will be made upon confirmation of the volume of materials in the donation and staff availability. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you regarding your collections.

Irish Genealogy Club - Zoom Meeting
Saturday, August 13, 2022, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (US and Canada)
Kelly Shepherd presents on the use of DNA in tracing your ancestral history.
2022 club leads: Pati Traktman pattitraktman@gmail.com & Nancy Sanchez nmsanchez86@yahoo.com.
Pre-register via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89007236093?pwd=aEFPbGlWamIuOW80dGM4MzJJeIAzUT09

Irish Marvels Past & Present - Zoom Meeting
Saturday, August 13, 2022, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM
“Distant Relations” Part 2, presented by Ardie McDermott.
Join us for part 2 of a 4 part series about Mexican/Irish connections.
Questions? Contact Lisa Hilmoe at (hilmoe.gleason@gmail.com)
Pre-register via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qc-6qrjgjGdS-rTdd8T6-8DTFhpQfMwC

Biscuits & Books, Live!
Thursday, August 18, 4:00 - 4:45 PM
Grab a cuppa and join the conversation. We’ll look at some of the new additions to the Book Sale and to the collection. This episode will again find the library open to patrons as well. Anything may happen.
Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qc-6qrjgjGdS-rTdd8T6-8DTFhpQfMwC

~ Save the Date ~
Saturday, September 10, 2022
Sunnyvale Historical Society and Museum Association proudly presents:
A “Walk Through Time”, A FREE “Living History” community event. The Library’s booth features the Irish 49ers.
Where: Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum 570 E. Remington Drive
When: Saturday, September 10, 2022, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
A ‘Walk Through Time’ will introduce you to the way of life 200+ years ago and allow you to journey through time as you experience the evolution of Sunnyvale and our neighboring communities. You will learn about the different groups of people who called this area home. https://heritageparkmuseum.org/a-walk-through-time

Sláinte
Jennifer Drennan, Librarian
librarian@irishcenters.org — 415/661-2700 ext 106 [Th, F, Sat]

Facebook: @dowlinglibraryattheuicc • YouTube: Librarian P.J. Dowling Library • Instagram: @pjdowlinglibrarysf
Over 50 Million Dollars of properties SOLD in 2021!

KEVIN BIRMINGHAM
415.713.6341
Kevin@parknorth.com
DRE#01250523
PARKNORTH.COM

Over 50 Million Dollars of properties SOLD in 2021!
Muirsheen Durkin: The Golden Years Show Rounds Out a Successful Irish Camp

The Irish summer camp which ran from June 13 to July 1 was another huge success for the younger members of the Irish center community. Hats off to Michael Dillon, the campers and leaders who produced a wonderful show on July 1 that entertained all the families and friends that came out to support the young artists.

Here are some photos from the event.

Katy Porter, James Ward-Mallison, and Eamonn Flynn.

Felim and Deirdre Crossan.

Narrator Fintan Reidy.

Eamonn Flynn, AJ Rogers, Jennifer Corry and Michael Dillon.

Fintan Reidy, Cillian Cudden, Seamus Stannard and Francis Dilleshaw during the show.

Shane Reidy (banjo) and Eamonn Flynn (keyboards) provided backing music for the show.
More Irish Camp...

Kennedy Green and Ryan Fitzpatrick.

Cecily, Ciaran & Josie Wallis.

Fionnuala McEvoy-Pecko with Shane and Aidan Pecko.

Nora Robinson, Isla Ford, Jack Ford.

Dunya Tsooby, with Mila and Scarlett Kennedy.

Garlen Gooch, Ryan Fitzpatrick, and Cillian Cudden.