



• UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER •

Exciting Summer Programs & Events At The Center!

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

Leo T Walsh Program

PRIDE OF PLACE THIS MONTH goes to the 2024 Leo T Walsh scholarship program committee which disbursed a record \$71,000 in financial awards this year to 69 students graduating eighth grade or high school. The program has awarded a total of 739 scholarships since its start in 1994. The 2024 financial payouts to students increased by \$13,000 over last year's number, and several new awards were made this year including the Robert F Reinland and Paul T Reynolds memorial scholarships. Special thanks to the Paul Reynolds family who contributed a significant donation this year to the educational endowment fund. The success of the program is owed to the generous contributions of community supporters and donors. The organizers extend their gratitude to everyone who played a part in this year's success. Special recognition to Peggy Nevin and Carmelle Reiser for their tireless efforts behind the scenes in administering the scholarship program. More than 300 people attended the 2024 awards event on May 19.

Summer Camp Kick Off

The fourth annual summer camp begins on Monday, June 10, and runs through Friday, June 28. This year, more than 90 kids have signed up,

a significant increase from the camp's inception in 2021, when it started with just 30 kids. This rise in participation reflects the camp's growing reputation for quality programs and engaging activities. This year's camp explores the sounds and stories of Ireland's songs, singers, and vocal legends in a show production created by campers and camp staff on the final night of the show on June 28. While the camp continues to emphasize musical theatre, singing, music, dance, and hip hop, it also offers a variety of other activities. Kids can explore computer programming, web design, art, and set design, ensuring a well-rounded experience that caters to diverse interests and talents.

Record Three Céilís in June

We have three Céilí dances penciled in for June, which might be a record for the Center. Up first is the Mary McDonagh Tribute Céilí on Sunday, June 2, 6:30pm to 9:30pm, featuring the Sourdough Céilí Band. There will be a special performance of the Rose Tree Youth Céilí Band at the beginning of the event starting around 6.25pm. Renowned Scottish accordionist Gary Blair will play for the Céilídh on Friday June 14 at 7:00pm. During the Trad Festival weekend there will be a Céilí Mór on Saturday June 22, between 6:00 to 9:00pm with

music by the Sourdough Céilí Band.

Bloomsday, June 15

As part of the global Bloomsday Festival for Ulysses by James Joyce, author Michael Fallon will discuss Bloomsday Eve, A Personal Reflection on Ulysses in the St Francis Room starting at 3:30pm (doors open at 3:00pm). This event is sponsored by the Dowling Library and will feature live music and refreshments.

Benefit for Children of Gaza

Also on Saturday, June 15, the Center will hold a benefit concert for the Children of Gaza. Held in the Emerald Pub, Gig for Gaza will raise funds for MECA (Middle East Children's Alliance). All ages are welcome at the concert, which will feature Irish Music from 4:00pm to 10:00pm; there will also be art for sale by Gazan artists during the event.

Trad Fest Weekend

We will host our first annual Traditional Irish music weekend at the Center between Friday, June 21 and Sunday, June 23. Irish music session band Paddy on the Binge from Davis, CA will kick off the festival at 7.30pm on Friday evening. Harpist Amelia Romano will also perform during the

evening. On Saturday we host several Irish music workshops sponsored by the Cooley-Keegan Comhaltas branch. Live music will take place in Wawona Gates from 2:00pm to 5:00pm performed by Turf in the Bog out of Yosemite, CA. On Sunday The Gas Men perform at Wawona Gates between 2:00pm and 5:00pm with the Irish pipers and Irish dancers.

UIS Raffle Winners

The fundraising raffle for the United Irish Societies was held on May 19 at the Center. The grand prize winner of the return flights to Ireland was Steve Murray of Pacifica. Other raffle winners included Margaret Cornish (\$500), P. and M. Kelliher (\$150), and Tom Cunnane (\$100).

Community Art Exhibition

The Center hosts a local community art exhibition on the weekend of June 21 to June 23. Photographer Dan McCarragh and artists Gerry Daly, Jim Gleeson, and Deimante Stankeviciute (who is visiting from County Carlow, Ireland) will showcase art that they have been recently working on. Opening night is June 21 at 7:00pm in the St Francis Room.

Battle of the Bands

We have three live music bands playing at the Center on Saturday, June 29. Local bands

Bag of Nails, featuring Kevin McCarthy, and Noise in the Room, headlined by Nick Downs, will be joined on the night by The Bracers out of Modesto, CA. Should be a fun evening of music as they battle to gain an invite to Rock the Gates on August 24. Doors at 7:30pm.

Wawona Gates Turns Four

We will mark the fourth anniversary of Wawona Gates on Sunday, June 23 with an Irish music session led by The Gas Men, Irish dancers and Irish Pipers, and a large birthday cake! The Irish Shoppe will be open throughout the event, and there will be a bounce house and kids games and activities throughout the afternoon.

Camp Showcase, June 28

The culmination of the Irish summer camp will be a grand showcase on Friday, June 28 at 7:00pm produced by the campers themselves. The eagerly awaited performance will feature an enchanting blend of Irish music, captivating dance routines, heartfelt songs, and even the melodious tones of the Irish language.

Michael Moriarty, RIP

Sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Michael Moriarty, a past President of the Irish Center who passed away last month.

Leo T Walsh Scholarship Program Continues To Grow

The 2024 Leo T Walsh Scholarship awards program disbursed a record \$71,000 to 69 students on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at the United Irish Cultural Center. Thirty-seven high school seniors and thirty-two eighth grade students earned a financial award for the next phase of their academic careers. The scholarship program was established in 1994, and in its first year had two recipients. Since then, 740 scholarships have been awarded over the years, with a record 69 awards this year.

Many thanks to Scholarship Co-Chairs Peggy Nevin and Carmelle Reiser for all their efforts. Thank you to all the wonderful donors and especially Tom McGarvey who has supported seventy scholarships down through the years. A special thank you to the family of the late Paul Reynolds who provided a significant contribution to the Leo T Walsh Endowment Fund last year.

The success of the program is due to the many generous contributions of community supporters and donors, and we are so grateful.



The O'Shea Family; Jeremiah, Paula and Elizabeth.



The Houghtons; Therese, Noah and Anneka.



Pat O'Brien, Luke O'Brien, Anne O'Brien and Sasan Taheri.



Carmelle Reiser, Liam Reidy and Peggy Nevin.



Nicola, Sam and Conor Finnerty.



Roger Gargano and Tom McGarvey.

• UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER •

Irish Tech Leaders Discuss AI's Global Impact At Stanford Gathering

ON MAY 9, TECHNOLOGY LEADERS from Ireland and Irish America gathered at the Stanford Faculty Club to discuss the global economic impact of artificial intelligence (AI) with Silicon Valley innovators. The event highlighted cutting-edge companies and entrepreneurs from Ireland and featured discussions on the transformative impact of generative AI on business. Participants included representatives from Queen's University Belfast, University of Galway, Invest Northern Ireland, and companies like Options Technology, Kainos, and Unosquare. The Irish Center also presented its rebuilding project to local attendees, receiving positive feedback and support.



UICC Treasurer Jeanne Connolly, Betty Yee & Rabbi Steven Jacobs.



Paul Fitzpatrick and Shane Reidy.

Local YMI Council 613 Sponsors 2024 Summer Camp

MANY THANKS TO THE LOCAL CHAPTER of the Young Mens Institute (Council 613) who donated \$250 to the Centers Irish Summer Camp program which starts on June 10th and runs until June 28th. This year's enrollment stands at 97 and is the highest number of kids to ever sign up for the three week camp.

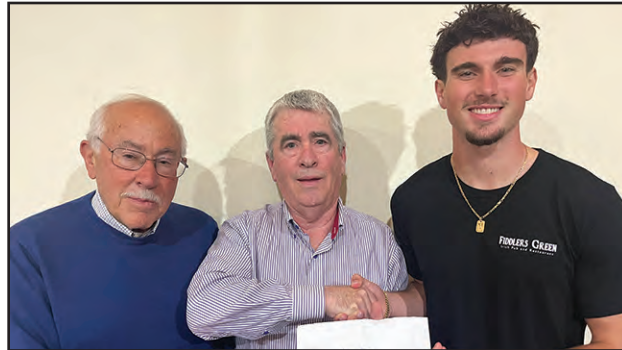
Pictured right: YMI Council 613 President Bob Fiorito presents UICC President Liam Reidy with a sponsorship check for the 2024 Summer Camp. Also pictured is YMI Chaplain Rev Fr Joe Landi. The funds will help defray the costs of art supplies for the camp.

AOH Div 17 Young Ambassadors

TWO OF SAN FRANCISCO'S Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 17, young members: Shane Reidy and Tony Sheridan will be traveling to Downpatrick, County Down, for the first two weeks in June 2024 and will become the first ever AOH Young Ambassadors from the west coast.

The Young Ambassador Program is run by the Saint Patrick Center in County Down to create a network of informed and influential young individuals throughout America with specialist knowledge and links to the northern part of Ireland.

Pictured here: Roger Gargano and Mike Keohane (Div 17 President) present Tony Sheridan with his award.



Alcatraz Ghost Story

LOCAL HISTORY ENTHUSIASTS had a real treat last month when Sunset resident Brian Stannard—a Golden Gate National Park employee (stationed on Alcatraz) came to the Center and spoke about his latest book on Alcatraz inmate Roy Gardner. Brian kept the audience entertained for an hour on the roller coaster and energy-infused life of Gardner. You can find a copy of the book at two local bookstores—West Portal Books and Black Bird books on Irving Street.



Eóin Lyons with author Brian Stannard.

Large UICC Presence At The Giants Irish Heritage Night, 2024



Consul General Micheál Smith, Paul Cunnie (Irish American Baseball Ambassador), with Lifetime Achievement award winner John Donohue.

THRONGS OF IRISH FANS turned out in orange and black for Irish Heritage Night at the Giants ballpark on May 10. The event featured performances from the Healy School of Irish Dance and the Rohan Murphy Irish Dance Academy. Consul General of Ireland Micheál Smith threw the first pitch, showcasing his hurling skills to the delight of the crowd.

Eleven-year-old Tanner Manning from the United Irish Cultural Center sang the national anthem, impressing the audience.

The Irish American Baseball Society posthumously inducted Lefty O'Doul into the Irish American Baseball Hall of Fame. Former UICC Board member John Donohue also received the Lefty O'Doul Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to high school baseball, including being named National Coach of the Year in 2013.

Painting Of Fr. Peter Yorke Donated To AOH Div 17



LOCAL SAN FRANCISCO ARTIST JIM GLEESON donated a painting of Fr Peter Yorke, the former pastor of St Peters Church at 1200 Florida Street in the Mission to the local Ancient Order of Hibernians Div 17 on May 21st, 2024. The painting depicts the imposing Peter Yorke, the front facade of St Peter's church, an Irish Celtic cross and an assembly of working men to whom Fr Yorke was a great friend. The 100 Year anniversary of Fr. Yorke's death will be remembered next April 4th, 2025. *Photographed left to right are: Oliver Sheridan, Dan Cotter, Artist Jim Gleeson, Roger Gargano and AOH Div 17 President Mike Keohane.*

THE NO. 1 IRISH PODCAST IS GOING GLOBAL

THE 2 JOHNNIES PODCAST

WORLD TOUR 2024

JUNE 13

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SAN FRANCISCO

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Calling all trad musicians & lovers of Irish Music & Arts!

TRAD & FEST West

A festival of traditional Irish arts on the west coast

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SAN FRANCISCO

Fri, June 21	Sat, June 22	Sun, June 23
Irish Music "Paddy on the Binge" Pub Show	Family Day & Céilí	Wawona Gates 4th Anniversary Party & Family Day with The Gas Men: Irish Pipers and Irish Dancing; Art Exhibition
Irish Harpist Amelia Romano	Music workshops; Turf in the Bog band; Bounce House; Art Exhibition; Irish Pipers and Irish Dancing	
Art Exhibition		

JUNE 21, 22, 23, 2024

@ UICC—2700 AVE 45TH SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Look Who's 4!

UICC WAWONA GATES

VISION + COMMUNITY + HEART

Join us in Celebration

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024

2700 AVE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116