



• UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER •

Irish Arts Take Center Stage This Fall

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

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 “Muirsheen 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, September 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 Festival

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

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 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: lreidy@irishcentersf.org

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, a record.

Labor Day Weekend

Enjoy the last break of summer which signals the end of summer holidays.

UICC Amateur Fight Night #2 Is Another Knockout!

ONCE AGAIN THEY CAME from all over the state for the second fight night of 2022. Some people even drove down from Oregon for the event while others came by plane and car from the LA area. A total of thirteen amateur bouts took place on the night. Many of the boxers were appearing for the first time in front of the large boisterous UICC crowd (over 800 attended), which no doubt gives them the motivation and experience to keep with the sport. Hats off to Fire in the Ring boxing club, Jimmy Ford and Robert Fernandez who worked hard behind the scenes to make the night such a great success.

Several professional boxers, attended included Charlie Sheehy (Epiphany Parish), Callum Walsh (Cobh, County Cork) and Oakland native David Lopez.

By the end of the evening the United Irish Cultural Center made International sports headlines as the top billing on the fight card saw local San Francisco native Chris Smith (Third Street Gym Boxing) upset undefeated Emmanuel Pacquiao Jr. (Wild Card Boxing, Los Angeles). It is hoped to have UICC Fight Night #3 on Saturday, September 17th, 2022.

Photos by Jimi Crowley and Liam Reidy.



Local boxer Chris Smith (Third Street Boxing) punches the air in delight after his victory over Emmanuel Pacquiao Jr. (Wild Card Boxing) with David Hartman.



Emmanuel Pacquiao Jr. gets ready to box in the Members Room.



Mike Stiles, 360 Promotions, Jimmy Ford, Fire in the Ring Boxing club with Callum Walsh (Pro-Boxer).



Miguel and Charlie Sheehy, with Jimmy Ford, Fire in the Ring.



Gabriel Manzanares (Fire in the Ring) lost to Leo Ochoa (Truth Boxing Club) with referee Patrick McTiernan.



Team Pacquiao, front, left to right, Coach Stanley Godinez, Coach Marvin Somodio, Emmanuel Pacquiao Jr., Geoff “Kali” Sopenasky. Back, left to right, Mel Hernandez, Sean Gibbons (MP Promotions), Jay Tan.

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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.



Gaelen Gooch, Ryan Fitzpatrick and Cillian Cudden.



Dunya Tuohy, with Mila and Scarlett Kennedy.



Aoibhinn and Shane Reidy, JT Hardiman and Patrick Williams.



Show narrator Fintan Reidy.



Felim and Deirdre Crossan.



Kennedy Green and Ryan Fitzpatrick.



Katy Porter, James Ward-Mallison, and Eamonn Flynn



Cecily, Ciaran & Josie Wallis.



Fionnula McEvoy-Pecko, Shane and Aiden Pecko.



Nora Robinson, Isla and Jack Ford.



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

Irish Center SF presents **ROCK THE GATES** Three Stages multiple bands WAWONA GATES

20 • Summer Fleadh • 22

SAT, AUGUST 27 | 1-8 pm

The Shams • L.A.vation • A License to Chill
 • The Hooks • Mangobus • Fret & Fiddle
 • Karl McHugh • The Gas Men •
 Lucky ol' Bones • Irish Pipers
 • Irish Dancers • more...

TICKETS/DETAILS: www.IrishCenterSF.org

2700 45th Avenue
 San Francisco, CA 94116

UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER of SAN FRANCISCO

Céad míle fáilte

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

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

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.

