

• United Irish Cultural Center •

Irish Arts Take Center Stage This Fall

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

UILDING 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

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 midweek concert on September 28 before heading to Los Angeles the following weekend to pick up the Young Artist Academy Award for Music Ensemble

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 Transi-

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: 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 communitywide 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-ageneration 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

UICC Amateur Fight Night #2 Is Another Knockout!

NCE 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.

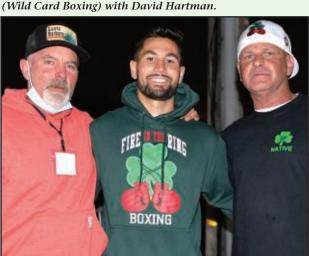
Several professional boxers, attended included Charlie Sheehy (Epiphany Parish), Callum Walsh (Cobh, County Cork) and Oakland native David Lopez.

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.



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



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



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



Mike Stiles, 360 Promotions, Jimmy Ford, Fire in the Ring



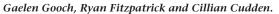
Team Pacquiao, front, left to right, Coach Stanley Godinez, Coach Marvin Somodio, Emmanuel Pacquiao Jr., Geoff "Kali" Sopenasky. Back, left to right, Mel Hernandez, Sean Gibbons (MP Promotions), Jay Tan.

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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.







Dunya Tuohy, with Mila and Scarlett Kennedy.



Aoibhínn 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



Cecily, Ciaran & Josie Wallis.



Fionnula McEvoy-Pecko, Shane and Aiden Pecko.



Maureen O'Keefe

Barbara O'Leary

Thomas O'Brien

Jennifer O'Keeffe

Karen Pierotti

Gregory Quinn

Brendan Robinson

Cynthia Sheehan

Georgia Stigall

Kevin Sweeney

Carol Thornton

Kristina Whalen

Michele Williams

William Woodfill

Elizabeth Bissa Zamboldi

Sarah Woods

Peter Williams

Heidi Anne Ward Walker Whalen

San Francisco Glens Soccer Club

Kirsten Cavanaugh Strobel

Dr. Regan Boyd Stuart-Killion

Tomas Michael O'Hara

Maureen Burke Perry

Nora Robinson, Isla and Jack Ford.



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



2700 45th Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94116

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UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER of SAN FRANCISCO

Céad míle fáilte

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 Deason 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 Kaprosch 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 CaitlinMullins 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

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.lrishCenterSF.org

MEMBER

Names listed became members between July 2021 and July 2022.