



• UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER •

# Resilience And Renewal: Five Years Of Progress At The Irish Center

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

Five years ago, the Irish Center made an alarming announcement, revealing its impending closure by December 31st, 2018, due to financial troubles. Reflecting on this turbulent period, it feels like time has sprinted by. Those who stepped forward in the spring of 2019 to rescue and preserve Irish Center operations couldn't have fathomed the remarkable transformation that would transpire during the intervening years. Today, the Center stands on a solid financial foundation made possible by the hard work of a combination of the Center's staff, board members and community volunteers.

Doors Wide Open

The doors to the Center are wide open to a wealth of Irish arts and cultural programming, offering local children opportunities to immerse themselves in music, dance, and STEM learning. Annual events like the dinners hosted by the Cork club, the United Irish societies, and St. Patrick's season activities have all been retained. We have had the emergence of new partnerships, including collaborations with amateur boxing clubs, local and international artists to provide a space to exhibit their art. As our national profile has been raised we now attract theatre companies to perform at the Center. In addition, we continue to

host life event celebrations all the time. We now have a wildly successful Irish summer camp for kids, which attests to the Center's vibrant resurgence. Yet perhaps the most eye opening part of our recent journey is the ambitious plan to rebuild the Center entirely. This project is progressing through the planning stages and we have every confidence in its realization as soon as the necessary funds are secured.

All of these achievements owe their existence to the unwavering support of the community, who have stood by our side and continuously encouraged us to persevere.

Thanksgiving Season

The season of Thanksgiving is a time to reflect upon the bountiful blessings in our lives and to express gratitude for the people and experiences that enrich our existence. It is also a season that emphasizes the importance of giving back and supporting the causes we hold dear. As we enter this time of reflection and thankfulness, we at the Irish Center are excited to launch our Annual Appeal fundraiser. We are incredibly grateful for the unwavering support we have received from our community over the recent past. This fundraiser provides an opportunity for us to not only express our gratitude but to also call upon our community once more, to stand with

us in our mission of preserving and promoting Irish culture and the arts. Your support during this season of giving helps us continue to provide enriching programs, educational initiatives, and cultural events that celebrate the rich tapestry of Irish culture. We look forward to your continued support and are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead as we work together to keep the Irish arts thriving.

Gratitude as a Force of Good

Gratitude is a powerful force that has the ability to uplift, inspire, and foster a sense of unity within our community. We express our heartfelt thanks to all the individuals, organizations, and supporters who have contributed their time, resources, and unwavering commitment to our non-profit organization. As we recount on the incredible journey we've embarked on together, we also look forward to the exciting possibilities that the future holds, knowing that your continued support will be instrumental in our mission's success.

The Power of Past Support

Over the years, the dedication and generosity of our supporters have played a pivotal role in the growth and impact of our non-profit. It is thanks to your selflessness and unwavering belief in our cause that we

have been able to achieve significant milestones and touch the lives of those we serve. Your contributions have translated into real, tangible assets in our community.

Your past support has not only been a financial boon but has also demonstrated the strength of collective goodwill. It has shown us that, together, we can achieve remarkable feats and be a beacon of hope for those who rely on our services and facility. The impact of your support ripples far and wide, touching not only the lives of the individuals we serve but also inspiring others to join our cause and make a difference in our community.

Looking to the Future

As we express our gratitude for the past, we are equally excited about the future. Our journey is far from over, and we look forward to continuing our mission with unwavering determination and a renewed sense of purpose. It is our ardent hope that you will remain an integral part of this journey, standing by our side as we strive for greater achievements and further advancements in our cause. The challenges we face may evolve, but with your support, we are confident that our resilience and determination will remain unwavering.

In closing, we extend our deepest gratitude to all our past supporters. Your dedication

has been the backbone of our organization's success, and it is your belief in our mission that fuels our determination. As we embrace the future, we do so with open hearts, boundless enthusiasm, and a steadfast commitment to making the world a better place.

Future Philanthropy

We look forward to your continued support, as we believe that together, we can achieve extraordinary things. With your support, we are confident that we can make a positive and lasting impact and preserve the Center for generations to come.

Thank you for being the driving force behind our non-profit's success, and for making a difference for the entire community. Your support is invaluable, and we eagerly anticipate the journey ahead with you by our side.

Piper Jones Band

Our highlight event for November is the touring Piper Jones band who perform at the Center on Sunday November 19th. Tickets online at Irish-CenterSF.

Annual GAA Dinner

Congratulations to Rose O'Connor and Redmond Lyons being inducted into the SFGAA Hall of Fame on November 18th.

Happy Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving to all our members and supporters!

## Gaeilge Gastronomy: A Journey Through Ireland's Native Tongue With Bread And Butter

IRISH BORN WRITER AND documentary maker Manachán Magan's presented two sold out shows for his theatrical performance, "Arán & Im," (Bread and Butter) at the Irish Center in early October.

The show was a very unique and engaging experience that celebrated the Irish language, the natural landscape, and Irish food.

During the performance,

Manachán baked sourdough bread for 70 minutes, which provided a sensory and interactive element to the event. As he baked the bread, he shared insights into the Irish language, highlighting potent words related to the landscape and phrases

that evoke the beauty of the natural world. Much of what Manachán delivered was first hand knowledge of "old Irish words" gleaned from the "old timers" that are often overlooked in academic books. This added an educational and cultural dimension to the event.

The incorporation of

freshly-baked bread and butter churned from Irish cream was a lovely touch, connecting the audience with local Irish food traditions. It not only provided a taste of Ireland but also a hands-on experience by allowing the audience to slice the bread and churn their own butter, making the event more im-

mersive.

Overall, "Arán & Im" was a wonderful blend of culture, language, and culinary traditions, making it a rich and memorable experience for those in attendance. Manachán Magan's combination of language and food is a creative and innovative way to celebrate Irish heritage.



Rossa Sheridan & Fergal Moran with Manachán Magan.



Maya McNeil, Manachán Magan, Diana Maxwell and Lindsay Wasserman.



Manachán Magan, Eleanor Scholz and Paddy O'Leary.



Ross and Maggie McCarthy with Manachán Magan.



Katie & Chris Kallmyer, Manachán Magan, Zachory Scholz.



Brian Gaffney, Anne Cassidy Carew, and Tiu Maguire.



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Irish Movie Night Double Bill

THANKS TO ALL WHO JOINED us for a double feature showing of “An Irish Good-bye” and “The Quiet Girl”—two award-winning films offered in partnership with the San Francisco Irish Film Festival and through the support of the Irish Film Festival International Program, Culture Ireland, and The Arts Council in Ireland. We were delighted to bring these amazing Irish films to the big screen at the UICC and look forward to future Film Nights.



Vera Burke and PJ McGee.



Anne and Cathy McGarvey, and Liam Reidy.



Caití O'Shea, Lisa Holmoe, and Jo Coffey.



Mary and Kathleen McKeon.

The Great Pumpkin Patch



LONGTIME FRIEND AND SUPPORTER of the UICC, Cyril Hackett had a busy month at the Great Pumpkin Patch at 19th and Sloat Boulevard in San Francisco. Cyril has operated the Great Pumpkin Patch and the Emerald Forest Christmas tree lot for the past three decades!

McBride Easy Bay Feis



THREE GENERATIONS— Susan Kellogg (whose great aunt was Elizabeth Piggot—who remembers Ms. Piggot's basement?) with her granddaughter Cassidy Howard (who dances with the Rohan-Murphy School), and her daughter Erin Howard.

SFGAA Hall Of Fame For UICC Board Member



UICC BOARD MEMBER Redmond Lyons will be inducted into the San Francisco GAA Hall of Fame on Saturday November 18th, 2023. A native of Louisburgh, Co. Mayo, Redmond was one of the founding members of the Young Irishmen GAA Club when he first came to San Francisco in the early 1980s. He played with them for many years and won both the Junior and Intermediate North American Championship with the club. He also served on the Western Divisional Board at that time. He continues to support the Young Irishmen and GAA in the Bay area, while remaining a staunch Mayo supporter throughout all their quests for Sam.



All In The Irish Dance Family



MOTHER-DAUGHTER IRISH DANCE FRIENDS from the Murphy School—Ann Marie Guiney-Porter with daughter Elizabeth; Erin Frakes and daughter Kennedy Frakes and Theresa Flynn Houghton with daughter Anneka Houghton.





UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER of SAN FRANCISCO

# Piper Jones Band

SUN. NOV. 19, 2023

TICKETS/DETAILS:  
[www.irishcentersf.org](http://www.irishcentersf.org)



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Harnessing our HERITAGE through the power of YOU

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[www.irishcentersf.org /donations](http://www.irishcentersf.org/donations)