

• IRISH AMERICA •

Comhaltas Corner Explore Ireland And Irish America At The Patrick J Dowling Library

By Josephine Brogan



Music classes will be resume at the Irish Center in mid September.

Tin Whistle Tuesday, September 15th

Beginner 7 pm to 7.45, Intermediate 8 to 8.45

Fiddle - Wednesday, September 16th

Beginner 5.30 to 6.30, Intermediate 6.30 to 7.30

Bodhrán - Saturday, September 19th

10 am to 11am

Classes run for 6 week and the cost is \$60 per session for Comhaltas members and \$75 per session for non-members. All musical instruments are provided.

Call Josephine Brogan on 415-681-4803.



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WHETHER YOU'RE INTERESTED in Irish immigration, looking for an Irish soda bread recipe, needing Irish jig music or a map of Ireland to see where your Irish ancestors lived, the Patrick J Dowling Library is an excellent resource.

Free Gift With Contribution

With your generous donation of \$20.00 to the Irish Cultural Centre of California, you will receive the book *Irish Californians: Historic, Benevolent, Romantic*. Library founder Patrick J Dowling wrote this book "to awaken Irish Americans to their forgotten heritage, both in Ireland and California, and to help inspire a renaissance of Irish history, culture and achievements." Cash or check will be accepted during library hours, and 100 percent of your contribution will go directly to the library.

Newspapers

County Tyrone's *Dungannon Observer* newspaper arrives every two weeks. The library also has copies of *The Irish Herald* newspaper and *The San Francisco Gael/The Gael/New Irish Gael*, excellent resources for those researching San Francisco's Irish American community from the 1960s to the present.

New Books

Irish Banknotes: Irish Government Paper Money From 1928 by Martan Mac Devitt. This fascinating book covers the history of Ireland's banknotes 1928-1998, their design, and their value. The author spent over 10 years researching public and private government and banking archives. Irish banknote collector and library patron Raymond Woods kindly donated this superb book upon learning that the library had no resources on this subject. Our research in www.worldcat.org showed that no other US library has this book in their collection.

All Hail With Joyous Voices: A Century at Burke's by David Fleishhacker. Graciously donated by Martina Murphy, this book chronicles the history of Katherine Delmar Burke School, an Outer

Richmond District private girls' school founded in 1908 by Miss Burke, an Irish American whose family immigrated from Co Meath. Her innovative work of preparing young girls to attend college is an important chapter in San Francisco's history.

Almost There: The Onward Journey of a Dublin Woman by Nuala O'Faolain. This is the conclusion of her successful memoir *Are You Somebody?* The Dublin born O'Faolain, who died in 2008, was a well-known columnist for *The Irish Times*. The library thanks Catherine Gilmore for her thoughtful donation.

Through Irish Eyes: A Visual Companion to Angela McCourt's Ireland, donated in memory of Patricia Dolci. A collection of photographs depicting Limerick in the 1930s and 1940s sure to please fans of the late Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*.

Rare Book

Fairy Legends and Traditions of the South of Ireland by Thomas Crofton Croker, 7th edition, 1906. Donated by Michael J Devers. Born in Cork, Croker (1798-1854), an Irish antiquary, roamed southern Ireland 1812-1816 collecting ancient Irish songs, legends and keens (dirges of the dead). He is considered one of the first chroniclers of Irish folklore. The book, first published 1825-28, was translated into German by the Brothers Grimm. Scottish novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott was a big fan of Croker's work. Located in rare bookcase.

The Library is located on the Ground Floor of the United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue (between Sloat Blvd. and Wawona Street). Open to the Public: Thursday, Friday and Saturday 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Website: www.icccsf.org and www.irishcentersf.org (Click "Library" tab). Phone: (415) 661-2798; Email: library@irishcentersf.org. It is advised to call or email before coming as sometimes the library is staffed by volunteers.

"Four Shillings Short" To Perform At ILHS September Meeting

THE IRISH LITERARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY is pleased to present Aodh Og O'Tuama and Christy Martin of the internationally celebrated Celtic duo Four Shillings Short in a special lecture/performance of Irish Poetry and Music at their meeting on Friday evening, September 25, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Their presentation will explore the inter-connections and influences of Irish history and Irish poetry and music from medieval times to the present, with specific reference to the important work of Irish scholar and poet, Professor Sean O'Tuama (1926-2006).

Their presentation will be followed by a short business meeting, and book raffle, after which we will hold our traditional social with coffee, tea, and Irish breads.

Meetings of the Irish Literary & Historical Society will now be held at the United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco. Interested members of the public are invited to attend. A donation of \$5.00 is requested from non-ILHS members to help defray expenses. For further information, you may visit the ILHS website at www.ILHSsf.org or call (510) 549-3765.

New Book On The GAA In The US

SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES ARE ALWAYS an opportune time to celebrate, take stock of the past and look to the future. In Ireland, the GAA's 125th anniversary has witnessed a whole host of events, publications and projects that have celebrated the Association's illustrious past and look forward to what will hopefully be an even greater future. 2009 sees another significant, but perhaps less well-known, GAA milestone. 50 years ago in 1959, a group of US-based Gaels, led by Henry Cavanagh from Cleveland took the historic step of establishing the North American County Board which, to this day, oversees the development of Gaelic games across the US (with the exception of New York and New Jersey).

To mark this anniversary, Paul Darby, an academic from the University of Ulster in the north of Ireland and a former inter-county footballer for Antrim who has represented



GAA clubs in Belfast, Boston, Birmingham and Liverpool, has written a book that accounts for the history of Gaelic games in the US from the late nineteenth century to the present. The key themes of the book focus on the origins of the GAA in America, its social, economic and

political impact here, its relationship with Irish nationalism and what the future might hold for Gaelic games on US shores.

The author focuses on the GAA in San Francisco, Boston, Chicago and New York and over the last nine years has spent time in each city carrying out detailed historical research and interviews with leading GAA figures. The fruits of this research are complemented by a selection of rare photographs and bring to life a remarkable story of cultural preservation, persistence and passion for Gaelic games on the part of all of those involved with the Association in the US.

Gaelic Games, Nationalism and the Irish Diaspora in the United States is published by University College Dublin Press on September 1 and is available at a discounted price from the following link; <http://www.ucdpress.ie/results.asp?AUB=Paul%20Darby&>



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