

• IRISH AMERICA •

Celtic Connections Annual Festive Gathering Friday, March 6th In Support Of Irish Outreach San Diego

MAEVE ROCHFORD, OWNER and executive chef, will host the Celtic Connections evening at her Irish inspired Bakery and Restaurant, Sugar & Scribe. Award winning Sugar and Scribe's new venue is in La Jolla at 7660 Faye Ave, corner of Kline and Fay.

Winner of the prestigious 2014 A-List award for San Diego's best bakery, Rochford is excited to bring Celtic Connections to her newly opened La Jolla venue, a truly authentic Irish experience. The space with a classic and contemporary European design is a stand out.

You are sure to be awed by the Cliffs of Moher mural, and the memories of Galway, Sligo and Mayo where Maeve spent her summers.

The menu will feature Irish specialties such as Irish potato soup, Guinness beef stew, roasted brussel sprouts, shepherd's pie, mini quiches and colcannon to mention a few of the offerings.

Music by San Diego's most well loved Irish entertainers, Tony Cummins and Jerry McMorrow, ensures an evening of fun, festivity and laughter.

Be tempted by the wonder-

ful array of auction items and prizes.

Please join us for one of the premier events on the Southern California Celtic calendar. All funds raised on the night will support the outstanding work of Irish Outreach San Diego in the local community.

To receive an invitation, contact Irish Outreach at (619) 291-1630 or help@irishoutreachsd.org

Pictured right: Irish Consul General to the Western US Philip Grant with Irish student volunteers at last year's Celtic Connections event.



2014 A Great Year For Irish Outreach, Much More To Do In 2015

by Stephen Aherne, Executive Director Irish Outreach, San Diego

WHEN LOOKING BACK OVER 2014 at the Irish Outreach Center, the one thing that strikes me most is the sheer breadth of issues that we have assisted our clients with. From the most urgent cases dealing with such issues as homelessness, substance abuse, bereavements, permanent injury, incarceration, and legal and immigration problems to the day to day business of assisting new arrivals with finding jobs and accommodation, assisting those eligible for Irish citizenship with the process, witnessing and assisting with passport application and renewals, and assisting the elderly in our community. Each of the over 1400 clients we served in 2014 had their own particular diverse set of issues and it is because of this that we are so grateful to everyone in our community who volunteered their time and expertise to assist our clients. We have had tremendous assistance from those in the legal field, the medical professions, counselors, along with those who have mentored our new arrivals to assist them find employment in their field. I would also like to thank those who have helped us organize our events, both fundraisers and community outreach events, the local businesses that have supported them, the wonderful Irish musicians of San Diego who have lent their time and talents, and all those in our community who have attended our events and supported our fundraising efforts.

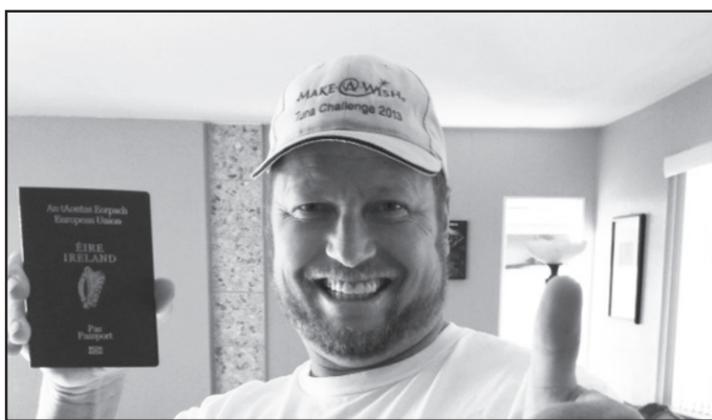
I would particularly like to thank the Irish Consulate in San Francisco and the Honorary Consul General for Los Angeles Mr Finbar Hill for their outstanding support for our work. The Irish Abroad Unit of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs has provided invaluable financial assistance to our programs through their Emigrant Support Program. Irish Outreach San Diego is a member center of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers and the Irish Apostolate USA and their expertise and resources have also been invaluable to our Center. I would also like to thank the Irish Episcopal Council for Immigrants who have supported

our efforts through their Supporting Irish Abroad Program.

I would like to especially thank my predecessor Bernadette Cashman, founder of Irish Outreach, whose tireless efforts over the past 15 years on behalf of the Irish community in San Diego leave a great legacy. Ms Cashman retired as Executive Director in February of 2014 while continuing to serve as Board President until December of 2014. I would like to thank the 2014 Board for all their efforts while looking forward to serving under the 2015 Board. Our incoming Board President is Pat O' Toole, with Maeve Rochford as Secretary, Sheila Sanzone as Treasurer, along with Dan Cullen, Tim Riley, Mick Ward and Michael Prine Jr. Finally, I would like to thank our chaplain, Fr Nick Clavin, for his wisdom and guidance in our endeavors.

Some of the memorable events of 2014 included our Celtic Connections event at the Firehouse Museum in Little Italy in June, our Irish Night at the Padres with over 500 people in our community in attendance in June, our Fáilte at the Sod event for new arrivals in October, and our Irish You a Merry Christmas San Diego event in December. This charitable initiative to bring festive cheer to disadvantaged children in San Diego in cooperation with the GAA clubs of San Diego and the entire Irish community was a wonderful example of what our community in San Diego can achieve when it works together. We look forward to growing it further for Christmas of 2015. Finally, it was also an honor to meet with the Irish Prime Minister, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD, and the Irish Ambassador, Anne Anderson on the Taoiseach's visit to San Francisco in June. It was a wonderful opportunity to inform them of the wonderful work that is going on across the Irish organizations in Southern California.

As we now look forward into the first half of 2015, Irish Outreach is busier than ever. Our ever growing client base is a reflection of an increasing number of new arrivals to the region and a testament to the increased outreach of the organization.



From the top: Irish summer students enjoy our Irish Night at the Padres in June; Filling in An Taoiseach Enda Kenny on all the good work going on in the San Diego Irish community; 2015 Irish Outreach Board President Pat O' Toole receives the gavel from outgoing President Bernadette Cashman (also pictured are Board members Sheila Sanzone and Tim Riley); Irish Outreach was proud to assist Martin Walsh of San Clemente with the process of becoming an Irish citizen in 2014.

As the only Irish Immigration Center south of San Francisco we have always assisted clients from throughout Southern California and as this trend continues we are looking to increase our network of supporters throughout this region. As we enter the Celtic season, we have a whole host of events to look forward to. Irish Outreach are delighted to participate in the Tower After Hours Ireland event and The St Patrick's Day Parade, two wonderful events brought about by the hard work of the Museum of Man and the Irish Congress of Southern California respectively. We were honored to hold a St Brigid's Celtic Mass at St Brigid's Parish, Pacific Beach on January 31 as a part of the Parish's 75th anniversary which allowed us to recognize the key role that Irish religious women have played in the Diocese of San Diego.

Friday, March 6 brings our annual Celtic Connections fundraiser. This year we are so excited to be holding the event at the newly opening Irish restaurant of Executive Chef and current Irish Outreach Board member Maeve Rochford, Sugar & Scribe in La Jolla. A wonderful evening is assured and we would love to see you there to help Irish Outreach raise the valuable funding necessary to continue to allow us offer front-line services to the community. Further events on the calendar include our annual St Patrick's Celtic Mass in March, an active retirement luncheon in April, and a Footgolf tournament in the same month which will be a wonderfully fun community event. May and June brings the influx of Irish summer students when foot traffic will be at its busiest at the Center. Our Irish Night at the Padres takes place on Saturday, June 27 while July sees the World Special Olympics return to Los Angeles for the first time since 1972. The Irish team are sending a large contingent and Irish Outreach will be reaching out to our local community to undertake a project to recognize their efforts. To learn more about these events and those upcoming in the second half of 2015, please sign up for our mailing list by contacting us at help@irishoutreachsd.org .