



# CROSSROADS



## IRISH-AMERICAN FESTIVAL



MARCH 7-15, 2009  
SAN FRANCISCO

[WWW.IRISHAMERICANCROSSROADS.ORG](http://WWW.IRISHAMERICANCROSSROADS.ORG)





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**March 2009**

**Message from Gerry Staunton,  
Consul General of Ireland  
to the Organisers and Participants in the Crossroads Irish-  
American Festival 2009**

It gives me great pleasure to send warmest good wishes to the Organisers and Participants in the Crossroads Irish-American Festival 2009.

The St Patrick's Season provides us with a truly unique opportunity to celebrate our common values and identity; it also provides us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate what it means to be Irish, and to participate with family and friends in Irish cultural activities and heritage events.

Although we are a nation of emigrants, scattered to the four corners of the globe, we are a united people who believe in clan, family and community. And so, when St Patrick's Day comes around we celebrate with pride our Irishness, our ties to Ireland and to each other.

It is also a celebration of the contribution which the Irish and Irish Americans have made to all walks of life in the United States. This year's Crossroads Festival is dedicated to one such individual, the late Danny Cassidy. While I never had the pleasure of meeting Danny, I know from many people the pivotal role Danny played in the organisation of this festival in previous years, and indeed am very much aware of the high regard in which Danny was held amongst the wider Irish Community.

I wish to salute all those who have worked so hard over many months organising this year's Crossroads Festival. We at the Irish Consulate are proud to be associated with the festival and look forward to attending the events.

Beanachtaí na Féile Padraig oraibh go léir.

Gerry Staunton  
Consul General of Ireland  
San Francisco

**Welcome to the Crossroads Irish-American Festival, 2009!**

The keynote event of Crossroads focuses on the importance of 'remembering' through oral history and community memoir for the Irish-American community in San Francisco.

Frances Browner, who has worked on producing a community memoir in Yonkers, New York, will be featured on this panel along with Tony Bucher, a writer for the Irish Herald Newspaper who has engaged in interviewing community members for his research, and Joe McHugh, the director of the Family Stories project, an ongoing oral history collection. Crossroads has been engaged for many years in the work of community story-telling through the Crossroads Festival. We hope that the discussion this year will become a foundation for an oral history collection/archive dedicated to the experience of the Irish and Irish-American communities of San Francisco and the greater Bay Area.

In addition, Crossroads 2009 boasts back-to-back concerts with fiddle master, Martin Hayes. We are thrilled to have Martin on our schedule this year, both in solo concert, as well as in a duo performance with a fellow renowned Clare musician, Andrew MacNamara. Further, we are glad to offer a workshop again this year with an afternoon devoted to the topic of memoir-writing, facilitated by Kathleen McClung. And finally, we are thrilled to offer a children's program, complete with music brought to us by John Caulfield and dance courtesy of Murphy Irish Dance.

This year, we remember Daniel Cassidy, founder of the Crossroads Festival, whom we lost this past year. Crossroads 2009 is dedicated to the memory of Danny, who was a great advocate of the importance of remembering and honoring our stories, histories, and our passions. Join us for a Hooley in memory of Danny: share your stories, songs, and music in honor of our dearly missed friend and colleague. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Sincerely,

Margaret McPeake and Hillary Flynn

A special thanks to our media sponsor

The Irish Herald

# CROSSROADS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## SATURDAY, MARCH 7

11:30 - 12:30 PM

**LOCATION:** FISHER CHILDREN'S CENTER, MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY, 100 LARKIN STREET, SAN FRANCISCO

**CHILDREN'S HOUR** featuring young dancers from the Murphy Irish Dance Company and traditional Irish music by fiddler John Caulfield!

Bring your whole family and join us in celebrating Irish heritage.



Parking: Civic Center Garage, 355 McAllister Street, San Francisco  
MUNI: Underground: Civic Center, F Line and Market Street Buses

## SUNDAY, MARCH 8

EVENT TIME: 1:00 - 4:00 PM

**LOCATION:** KORET AUDITORIUM, MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY, 100 LARKIN STREET, SAN FRANCISCO

### MUSICAL INTERLUDE

1:00 - 1:30 PM

Enjoy Irish tunes performed by the talented Tin Whistle Players from the Sacred Heart Nativity Schools of San Jose.



## SUNDAY, CONTINUED

### THE ART AND HISTORY OF STORYTELLING

1:30 - 4:00 PM

*Special thanks for support from the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library*

This year the Crossroads Irish-American Festival chooses the theme of memory as it also honors its founder, Danny Cassidy, who died of cancer in October 2008. Danny was a teacher, scholar, musician, activist, author, organizer, mentor and friend. He believed deeply in the art, craft and importance of oral history as a way of preserving the stories of our communities and families, and as a means to preserving our Irish-American culture.

On this day, we invite the public to join the Crossroads Irish-American Festival and its featured guests to explore the art and craft of oral histories, as well as the meaning and importance of engaging in community memoir.

### FEATURED GUESTS:

Frances Browner,  
Editor, *While Mem'ry  
Brings Us Back Again* and  
*Coming Home*



Tony Bucher,  
Writer for *The Irish Herald  
Newspaper*

Joe McHugh, Audiographer  
and Oral Historian, Author  
of *Ruff Tales*, *Better than Money*  
and *Kilowatt*



Moderated by Margaret McPeake

Parking: Civic Center Garage, 355 McAllister Street  
MUNI: Underground: Civic Center, F Line and Market Street Buses

## TUESDAY, MARCH 10

7:00 PM

**LOCATION:** THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS PUB, 116 CLEMENT STREET @ 2ND AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO

### A HOOLEY FOR DANNY CASSIDY

An Irish Hooley is a traditional evening of music, dance and story. All are invited to join in a special event to share memories and celebrate the life and spirit of our friend and colleague, Daniel Patrick Cassidy.

MUNI: Bus Lines 2, 44, 38,33

## THURSDAY, MARCH 12

9:00 PM

COST: \$20/DOOR

**LOCATION:** THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS PUB, 116 CLEMENT STREET @ 2ND AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO

Advance tickets available at the Plough & Stars, or for more information, email [info@irishamericancrossroads.org](mailto:info@irishamericancrossroads.org)

### MARTIN HAYES IN SOLO CONCERT

Martin Hayes is regarded as one of the most extraordinary talents to emerge in the world of Irish traditional music. Come listen to this renowned fiddle player in a rare solo appearance.



photo by Derek Speirs

MUNI: Bus Lines 2, 44, 38, 33

## FRIDAY, MARCH 13

9:00 PM

COST: \$20/DOOR

**LOCATION:** THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS PUB, 116 CLEMENT STREET @ 2ND AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO

Advance tickets available at the Plough & Stars, or for more information, email [info@irishamericancrossroads.org](mailto:info@irishamericancrossroads.org)

### MARTIN HAYES IN CONCERT WITH ANDREW MACNAMARA

Two County Clare musicians in concert: Martin Hayes on fiddle and Andrew MacNamara on accordion. An evening not to miss!

MUNI: Bus Lines 2, 44, 38,33

## SUNDAY, MARCH 15

1:00 - 3:00 PM

**LOCATION:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER, 2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO

### FINDING OUR TRUEST STORIES: A MEMOIR WORKSHOP WITH KATHLEEN MCCLUNG

This three-hour workshop will expose participants to the art of memoir writing through discussion, readings, and writing exercises.

This workshop will be facilitated by Kathleen McClung, who teaches writing at Skyline College and the Writing Salon. Her memoir, fiction, and poetry have appeared

in *The Rambler*, *Spirituality & Health*, *Tiny Lights*, *Hawaii Pacific Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Albany Review*, *Hot Flashes* and elsewhere, and her writing has won several awards including from the Soul-Making Literary Competition, *Memoirs, Ink.*, *Writers Digest*, *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, the National Society of Arts & Letters, and the Academy of American Poets. A native of California, Kathleen is proud of her Scotch-Irish heritage.



MUNI: Underground: L Taraval, Bus Lines 23 and 18



# IBEW Local 6

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**CROSSROADS**

**IRISH-AMERICAN FESTIVAL**

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The Crossroads Irish-American Festival, 2009 is supported in part by the following funders, advertising sponsors, donors, businesses, community groups, and friends. We are very grateful for their generosity.

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The Crossroads Irish-American Festival is a member of the Intersection Incubator, a program of Intersection for the Arts providing fiscal sponsorship, networking and consulting for the artists. Visit [www.theintersection.org](http://www.theintersection.org).



**158th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, Saturday, March 14, 2009, Start: 11:30 am, from 2nd @ Market Street to Civic Center Plaza SF Irish Film Festival, March 5-7, 2009, www.sfirishfilm.com**

<p><b>FINDING OUR TRUEST STORIES: A MEMOIR WORKSHOP</b>          SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH</p> <p>Join Kathleen McClung for an afternoon exploring the world of memoir.</p>	<p><b>A HOOLEY FOR DANNY CASSIDY</b>          TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH</p> <p>Remember Danny Cassidy by telling a story, singing a song, or playing a tune at this traditional gathering to honor our friend and colleague.</p>
<p><b>MARTIN HAYES &amp; ANDREW MACNAMARA IN CONCERT</b>          FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH</p> <p>A unique chance to hear two renowned Irish traditional musicians from County Clare in concert together.</p>	<p><b>STORYTELLING AT THE CROSSROADS</b>          SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH</p> <p>A conversation about the importance of Oral History and Community Memoir in the Irish-American Community, featuring Frances Browner, Tony Bucher and Joe McHugh.</p>
<p><b>MARTIN HAYES IN CONCERT</b>          THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH</p> <p>A rare opportunity to hear Martin Hayes in solo concert at the Plough and the Stars.</p>	<p><b>CHILDREN'S HOUR</b>          SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH</p> <p>Featuring young dancers from the Murphy Irish Dance Company and traditional Irish music by John Caulfield on fiddle.</p>

**2009 CROSSROADS IRISH-AMERICAN FESTIVAL LINEUP**



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