

Admirers Of James Joyce Ulysses To Celebrate Bloomsday With Festivities June 16 At UCSD

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Jan Jennings

The University of California, San Diego will commemorate *Bloomsday*, June 16, the date made famous in James Joyce's *Ulysses*, with an all-day roster of activities including a special luncheon and dinner at the Faculty Club, live readings of *Ulysses*, talks on Joyce, a costume contest, a *Ulysses* trivia contest, and a live report on *Bloomsday* from Dublin, home of the largest *Bloomsday* celebration. The public is invited to participate.

"I want to give a picture of Dublin so complete that if the city one day suddenly disappeared from the earth it could be reconstructed out of my book," wrote Joyce (1882-1941). *Ulysses* takes place on that single day, June 16, 1904 and is the odyssey of Leopold Bloom set in a world of pubs, shops, churches and urban street life in and around Dublin. Joining the Joycean journey were Molly Bloom, Stephen Dedalus, stately plump Buck Milligan, Blazes Boylan, Davy Byrne at his pub and a host of other characters.

Throughout June 16 at UCSD artist Terry Allen's *Talking Trees* near Geisel Library will speak passages from *Ulysses*. Geisel Library will have a special *Bloomsday* exhibit, dedicated to the late Patrick Ledden, mathematician, former provost of John Muir College, and ardent Joyce enthusiast. The UCSD Bookstore will feature *Ulysses* and related books.

"*Ulysses* follows an ordinary man through a day in Dublin and the events of the day are patterned after Homer's *Odyssey*," says Laurence L. Brunton, organizer of UCSD's *Bloomsday* and a professor of pharmacology. "It shows that there can be 800 pages of material in anyone's life. An ordinary man can be a hero."

As a biochemist, Brunton points out that Joycean admirers of *Ulysses* and followers of *Bloomsday* come from all interests and disciplines in life - certainly not just literature - whomever has read the book and been moved by the words. Joyce fans in more than 60 countries stage parties for *Bloomsday*.

The UCSD *Bloomsday* luncheon will be served at noon in the Faculty Club Lounge. The traditional gorgonzola sandwiches and a glass of burgundy, reminiscent of *Ulysses*' Davy Byrne's Pub, will be served. Luncheon is \$16. Guinness and Harp's will be available at a no-host bar. Dr. Henry C. Powell, UCSD professor of pathology, will give a short talk on *James Joyce, Leopold Bloom and the Geography of Dublin*; Patric Petrie and *Skelpin* will provide music, and luncheon attendees will have an opportunity to read favorite passages and sing songs from *Ulysses*.

Live readings from *Ulysses* will be presented all afternoon in the Faculty Club Lounge.

Dinner will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the main dining room of the Faculty Club, preceded at 5:30 p.m. with no-host cocktails in the Faculty Club Courtyard. During the cocktail hour there will be a judging of costumes - best James or Nora Joyce, Best Leopold, Best Molly, Best Stephen Dedalus, and Best Minor Character.

The Irish-influenced dinner menu will feature Chilled Watercress and Potato Leek Soup, Irish Soda Bread, Irish Mixed Grill (salmon, sausage, pork chop, with herbed butter sauce), Colcannon (mashed potatoes and cabbage),

Double Dilled Carrots, Crème de Menthe Chocolate Crunch Torte and Temecula Sangiovese. Dinner is \$36. Guinness and Harp's will be available for purchase.

The dinner program will include:

A live report on *Bloomsday* in Dublin from Bonnie Kime Scott, a member of the International James Joyce Committee who is in Dublin for the festivities. Scott is a professor of Women's Studies at San Diego State University and will report directly to her husband, Tom Scott, dean of Sciences at SDSU, who will share the news with the UCSD *Bloomsday* dinner gathering.

A talk on James Joyce and Patrick Ledden by organizer Brunton and Abbie Cory, a lecturer in the UCSD Department of Literature who gives a course on Joyce which was originated by Ledden.

A talk by UCSD literature professor Alain Cohen on *The Impossibility of Making a Satisfactory Film of Ulysses*. Readings from *Ulysses*.

A *Ulysses* trivia contest.

Music by Patric Petrie and *Skelpin*.

The song (to be sung by all), *Love's Old Sweet Song*, mentioned often in *Ulysses*, directed by Todd Simmons, chorus master, San Diego Opera.

For lunch and dinner reservations, call the Faculty Club at (858) 534-0876. For further information on the event, contact Brunton at (858) 534-4667 or see the Bloomsday San Diego website, <http://www.bloomsdaysandiego.com>.

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Bloomsday San Diego

