



WORKING TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH AN IRISH CULTURAL CENTER IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Irish Center of Southern California Inc., is a 503 c (3) Not for Profit Corporation. Our tax ID is 95-4442397. We are a fundraising group with no "paid" staff. Our primary aim is to acquire a multi-purpose facility including theater, library, social hall, meeting rooms etc. The mailing address is 1931 W. Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale. CA 91201.

If you have "any news" re graduations, births, weddings, deaths, relocating etc please send to: tomirishhour@msn.com.

If you know anyone who would like to receive this newsletter and doesn't have a computer we will send by U S Mail. Let us know. This goes to over 2800 email addresses.

We would like to thank those people who donated to the Irish Center to help pay expenses (including ink and postage for this newsletter) Kathleen Murphy (Racine. WI.), Liam & Carmel Smith, Whittier, Maureen B. Dempsey, Torrance , Catherine C. Montgrain.

Our Directors are discussing what we should do about people who send flyers and information about "their" function and when it is included in this newsletter not a word of thanks. Also it has been suggested that musical groups and book authors should send a sample of their work to us for our Silent Auction in March and for our monthly lunch—if possible. Let us know what you think, please.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!- A special "early bird" drawing (of returned raffle tickets) will take place at our meeting on 13th February. The lucky winner will receive two admission tickets (worth \$150) to our St Patrick's Celebration.

Tuesday. 1st December at 9.30 am, Friends of Ireland monthly breakfast at Katella Restaurant, 4470 Katella Ave, Los Alamitos, CA 90720.

RSVP Pete Walsh, 714 200 7365 or pbeireanua@att.net

Sunday. 6th December. The Irish Center's informal "get together luncheon" at the Angeles National Golf Club, 9401 Foothill Blvd., Sunland. Ca 91040. Phone 818 951 8771.

Lets meet at 12.45pm. Free parking & wheelchair access. The brunch includes salads, shrimp, beef, sausages, omelets etc, coffee or iced tea, dessert—a variety—tax & gratuity. All for \$25. Always fun, good food and good company.

A FREE beautiful CHRISTMAS BASKET will be raffled off by the Irish Center at this lunch. Please call Bridget Hana at 818 249 7911 for reservations.



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Sunday. 13th December. Irish Social from 2 pm to 6 pm at St Cornelius Church hall, 5500 E. Wardlow, Long Beach. 90808. Good food, good music, good conversation, singing and dancing. FREE. Our thanks to the pastor, Fr Michael Gleeson.

The organizer, Sister Alicia from Castleblaney, says "Please come and bring a friend".



The Celtic Arts Center meets every Monday evening at the Mayflower Club, 11110 Victory Blvd, North Hollywood. (Just west of Vineland).

Readings by Joe Praml :

Saturday. December 5, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Joe Praml will read his adaptation/ translation of E.T.A. Hoffmann's *The Nutcracker and The Mouse King* -- No sugar plum fairies here but the original tale told by Hoffmann. Brentwood Branch Library, 11820 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049; (310) 575-8273.

Saturday. December 12, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Joe will read Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales* and other holiday poems by famous poets. Venice-Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291; tel (310) 821-1769.

Saturday. December 19, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Joe Praml will read his adaptation of E.T.A. Hoffmann's *The Nutcracker and The Mouse King*. Porter Ranch Branch Library, 11371 Tampa Avenue, Porter Ranch, CA 91326; (818) 360-5706.



Congratulations to Dominick McNelis on his ninetieth birthday. What a party in West Covina!! Dominick with six children, eighteen grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren must have had fun remembering all the names. Dominick was reared in Glencolmille, Co Donegal. He was number six in a family of twelve children. So he was used to having kids around him. Dominick arrived in New York in 1949. He joined the United States Army during the Korean War. He came to California in 1952. He met Mary Anne Gregg --"Maureen"--in 1953. Dominick and Maureen were married on 2nd October 1954. Dominick learned to play the fiddle at the age of ten. Any time Dominick returned to Glencolmille on vacation he was always in demand to play the fiddle whether it was a house party, the local hotel or the ballrooms. Some people have their photographs on the walls of the post office. Dominick McNelis's photograph hangs in the town's museum. Dominick was recognized in Glencolmille as one of the oldest fiddlers for knowing and playing authentic older Irish music. Dominick played the fiddle with distinction during his party. It was a joyous and wonderful party.



Our condolences to the families who have lost loved ones.

Michael (Mickey) Doherty of North Hollywood passed away on Friday November 13, 2015. He was born January 16, 1928 in a townland known as Urrismana, in the parish of Clonmany, in County Donegal, Ireland. Mickey was the son of Daniel and Mary Doherty.

He grew up on a farm and would remain there through the World War II years. Soon after, he followed some of his brothers to England looking for work. While he did find employment, he did not find satisfaction. He looked to the west for a place to settle. In December 1949, he sailed to America aboard the Queen Elizabeth. As many young Irish did, he landed in Boston and planned to start a life there. In 1950 he was drafted into and served honorably in the United States Army during the Korean War.

After his discharge, he returned to Boston. While in Boston, he became reacquainted with Kathleen McEleney who was also from Clonmany. They had been previously met because Mickey was the best man at his brother Roger's wedding. The bride was Kathleen's sister Frances. Finding the Boston winters too oppressive, Mickey and Kathleen moved to sunny California. In September 1956 the couple married in Los Angeles. They settled in the San Fernando Valley in 1965 and raised four boys. Mickey was the proprietor of Doherty's Tree Service for over 50 years. He helped many Irish immigrants by providing them their first jobs in the United States.

Mickey was active in the Irish community in Southern California. He was a fixture at Irish Football games played in Los Angeles and could generally be found at most Irish functions in the area. He was an active supporter of the Columban Fathers Missionary Order and tirelessly supported their fund raising activities throughout the years. He also provided maintenance support at the Columban Father Residence on Vermont Street for many years.

He is pre-deceased by 13 of his 14 brothers and sisters. He is also pre-deceased by his son Michael (Pauline). His survivors include his wife, Kathleen, his brother Edward (Mary), and his other sons, Daniel (Majella), John (Patty), and Patrick (Katie). He leaves as his gift to the world, his nine grandchildren, Kieran (Brie), Brian, Sean, Maura, Michael Edward, Michael Anthony, Patrick, Kathleen, and Bridget.

His life was celebrated at a Funeral Mass held on November 20, 2015 followed by burial at the San Fernando Mission Cemetery. Rev. Fr. David Loftus (Mayo) was the celebrant



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Brian Patrick Friel was born in Omagh, Co Tyrone on 9th January 1929 and passed away in his home at Greencastle, Co Donegal on 2nd October 2015. Brian Friel was an Irish dramatist short story writer and co-founder with actor Stephen Rea of the Field Day Theatre Company. He was considered one of the greatest English language dramatists. The English speaking world hailed him as the Irish Chekhov. Brian Friel was a Tony Award winning author of Dancing at Lughnasa. Other famous works of Brian Friel include “Faith Healer” and “Philadelphia, Here I Come”

The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins said Friel was “one of the giants of Irish literature, and a great Irishman”

Brian Friel is survived by his wife Anne , three daughters and a son.

Michael Joseph Courtney was born in Motherwell, Scotland on 1st June 1928 and passed away here on 26th November 2015. His mom and dad were both born in Ireland. When Joe was seven years old the family moved to England. Joseph met his Margaret, who was born in Yorkshire, in 1953. They married on the 17th December in 1955. The young married couple arrived in Los Angeles in 1957. Joe was a mechanical engineer. His hobbies included Irish music and Model A Cars. He loved playing the accordion.

Michael Joseph Courtney is survived by his wife, Margaret in Sylmar. No services.



Aer Lingus is the National Flag Carrier Airline of Ireland. Aer Lingus flies non-stop from San Francisco to Dublin –departing at 5.30 pm and arriving in Dublin at 11.35 am.

GREAT NEWS : Starting next May, Aer Lingus will be flying nonstop from Los Angeles to Ireland five days a week

For all your travel arrangements ---especially Ireland, call Hannah at O’Callaghan Travel at 818 790 1111.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from all of us at the Irish Center. God Bless





The Letters



A drama that explores the life of Mother Teresa through letters she wrote to her longtime friend and spiritual advisor Father Celeste van Exem over a nearly fifty year period. Directed by William Riead. Music by Dublin born Ciaran Hope. In theaters on 4th December .

OUTSIDE MULLINGAR
BY JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY;
DIRECTED BY RANDALL ARNEY;
FEATURING JESSICA COLLINS as Rosemary; JARLATH CONROY as Tony;
DAN DONOHUE as Anthony and ROBIN PEARSON ROSE as Aoife

Now through DECEMBER 20, 2015

Family farms, feuds and fences have separated neighbors Rosemary and Anthony since childhood. These hopeless singletons will need to overcome these obstacles and their own romantic fears to find happiness. Full of dry humor and poetic prose, John Patrick Shanley's tender-hearted portrayal reminds us it's never too late to take a chance on love.

Page 5 Mailing address is 1931 W. Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale, CA 91201 December 2015



Outside Mullingar was a recipient of the 2014 Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award.

The author of more than 23 plays, including 80 productions in North America, John Patrick Shanley won the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for his play, *Doubt*, and an Oscar for his screenplay, *Moonstruck*. Referred to as an, "Irish *Moonstruck*," *Outside Mullingar* was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Play, two Outer Circle Critics Awards and two Drama Desk Awards. Although Shanley is the son of an Irish immigrant, this is his first play set entirely in Ireland.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Tuesday – Friday 8:00pm; Saturday 3:00pm and 8:00pm; Sunday--2:00pm and 7:00pm

TICKET INFORMATION

Ticket prices are currently \$32 - \$82 and are available in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, via phone at 310.208.5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.com. Fees may apply.

LOCATION

Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse, 10886 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024



The Irish Center of Southern California Inc., will hold its annual St Patrick's Celebration on Saturday the 12th March 2016 at the Hilton Hotel, 100 West Glenoaks Blvd, Glendale.

The cover charge of \$75 includes dinner, dance, tax, gratuity plus the spectacular Floor Show by the Cleary School of Irish Dance and music by "the maestro" Ken O'Malley and the Twilight Lords.

For dinner reservations please call Mrs Mary Dempsey at 626 337 0075.

The evening begins with cocktails at 5 pm; dinner served at 6 pm; presentations at 7 pm; followed by dancing for the evening with Ken O'Malley and the Twilight Lords.

The Floor Show of Irish Dance by the Cleary School of Irish Dance under the direction of Maggie Cleary at 9 pm.

Tickets for a special opportunity drawing for two round trip tickets to Ireland. Suggested donation is \$5 per ticket or \$25 for six tickets. This drawing is our major fund raiser. A special



"early bird" drawing (of returned raffle tickets) will take place at our meeting on 13th February. The lucky winner will receive two admission tickets (worth \$150) to our St Patrick's Celebration.

We hope that everyone of the 2800 plus who receives our monthly newsletter by email (and we don't have their home address) will send their check and we will complete the "stubs". By sending your \$25 we will know you are supporting our efforts to keep us all informed of local Irish and Irish American news. (Irish Center, 1931 W.Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale. 91201)

The Silent Auction will have a wide array of items to bid on--gift tickets to concerts, baseball games, Import Shops, restaurants, paintings etc



Let us unite this Christmas Day and thank God we are free
To share the blessings of His love in peace and liberty.

To those we love and see each day, and other loved ones far away
To all good friends whose friendship means so much
And those with whom we're somehow out of touch
MERRY CHRISTMAS.

May your Christmas Day be all aglow with the joy the Season brings,
And be followed by a New Year that's bright with all good things.

Christmas is joy no one denies---a glimmer of hope in a little child's eyes
Christmas is memories of times long past---a feeling of warmth from the
friendships that last

Christmas is sharing and caring for others---that one time of year when
we all seem like brothers

Christmas is thoughts of dear ones long gone---their memories caressing
our hearts like a song

Christmas is love, a love for all ages---a light penetrating our self-made cages
Christmas is faith in more than what seems---a harbor of hope to anchor our dreams.
(Our thanks to Mrs Kathleen Hunt)



J1 Summer Work & Travel 2016 Program Changes

November 17, 2015--The US sponsoring agencies that maintain oversight of the J1 Summer Work & Travel program have announced a programmatic change requiring pre-placed employment for all applicants (Visa Waiver countries included) beginning in the 2016 season. The Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers (CIIC) and its membership are diligently working to prepare for the new program requirements.

Ronnie Millar, CIIC Board Vice President, stated "it is important to note that these new regulations are restricted to the J1 Summer Work & Travel program, and do not affect the 12 month J1 Intern Work & Travel program."

CIIC and the Irish centers throughout the United States are committed to continuing to support the Irish J1 students that come to the US in summer 2016 to the best of our ability, as we have in past years.

CIIC encourages prospective J1 students and their parents to be diligent in reviewing and understanding the new program requirements as outlined by the US sponsoring agencies.

Celine Kennelly, CIIC Board President, stated "this is not the J1 program of the past. The Summer Work & Travel program is now directly tied to finding and securing an approved job prior to receiving the J1 visa.

"The US sponsors are seeking suitable employment opportunities for students in summer 2016, but it is critical that the students plan early this year and contact their sponsors with questions about the new regulations and program process. Historically, participation in the J1 program has been a significant personal development experience for Irish college students and an integral part of their college education, and we want to ensure that it remains as such for future generations."

ABOUT THE COALITION OF IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTERS

The Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers (CIIC) was established in 1996 to promote the welfare of Irish immigrants in the US at a national level. The CIIC is funded by a generous grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Emigrant Support Programme.



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The Coalition serves as a national umbrella organization representing Irish immigration and community centers throughout the United States that are committed to providing support to Irish immigrants. The Coalition strives to be a strong, cohesive and representative voice for the needs of its member centers, and in turn the greater community of Irish immigrants in the US. The Coalition prioritizes the sharing of information and the creation of best practices as a way to support and assist its member centers in their direct service work. CIIC member organizations are located in California, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Philadelphia and Washington

To learn more about CIIC visit, www.ciic-usa.org



A Film by Ken Loach

JIMMY'S HALL

Debuting on Blu-ray™, DVD & Digital HD November 17

CULVER CITY, CALIF. (Oct. 5, 2015) – Based on the inspiring true story of Irish activist Jimmy Gralton, Sony Pictures Home Entertainment debuts *JIMMY'S HALL* on Blu-ray™, DVD & Digital HD November 17. An official selection at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival, 2015 Tribeca Film Festival, and 2015 Los Angeles Film Festival, *JIMMY'S HALL* comes from the directing and screenwriting duo of *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*. Bonus features include deleted scenes, a making-of featurette and a commentary with actors Barry Ward and Simone Kirby.

Synopsis: In 1921, Jimmy Gralton's sin was to build a dance hall on a rural crossroads in an Ireland on the brink of Civil War. Young people could come to the hall to learn, to argue, to dream . . . but above all to dance and have fun. As the hall grew in popularity, its socialist and free-spirited reputation brought it to the attention of the church and politicians, who forced Jimmy to flee and the hall to close. A decade later, as Jimmy reintegrates into the community and sees the poverty and growing cultural oppression, the leader and activist within him is stirred. He makes the decision to reopen the hall in the face of whatever trouble it may bring.

JIMMY'S HALL has a run time of approximately 106 minutes and is rated PG-13 for language and a scene of violence.

Visit Sony Home Entertainment on the Web at www.SonyPictures.com.



December 9, 2015 - January 3, 2016

The Pasadena Playhouse presents Lythgoe Family Productions'
PETER PAN AND TINKER BELL "A PIRATES CHRISTMAS" By Kris Lythgoe

Directed by Bonnie Lythgoe

Musical Direction by Michael Orland

Choreography by Spencer Liff

In **PETER PAN AND TINKER BELL – A PIRATES CHRISTMAS**, Tinker Bell, Wendy and Peter Pan embark on a wild quest to foil the pirates' plot to kidnap Peter for Captain Hook's Christmas present in this flying, singing, swashbuckling adventure, which features comedy, magic, dancers from "So You Think You Can Dance," and contemporary music from Taylor Swift to the Bee Gees. A Panto is known for its interactive style and humor that appeals to everyone

from ages 2 – 102! "Those who have never been to a panto will have a glorious introduction to the form." – *Los Angeles Times*. Panto at The Playhouse productions have featured luminaries from the worlds of music, theatre and television, including Ariana Grande, Ben Vereen, Olivia Holt and Lucy Lawless.


Tickets may be purchased [online](#) or by calling **626-356-7529**. **SAVE 10% ON TICKETS**

Use Code: **PP10**

The Pasadena Playhouse, 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

**Code PP10 is valid for 10% off tickets to PETER PAN AND TINKER BELL - A PIRATES CHRISTMAS. Offer expires January 3, 2016 and is good on all performances excluding December 9, 2015. Discount is available on all seats excluding Premiere ROW C and Hot Seats. All seats are best available. Offer not valid on previous purchases and cannot be combined with any other offer. Not valid on Golden Tickets or Character Breakfasts. All tickets are subject to availability. Service charges and theatre restoration fee apply to all orders.*

Celtic Nights – Spirit of Freedom
 January 29



Song List/Program

Celtic Nights – Spirit of Freedom showcases the story of Irish independence, beginning 100 years ago with the 1916 Easter Rising. In **Related Links**

Celtic Nights

Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 12700 Center Court Drive, Cerritos, CA 90703
 Info Line: 562.916.8501 | Ticket Office 800.300.4345 FREE or 562.916.8500 |
 or e-mail us at: TicketOffice@CerritosCenter.com