



**The Irish Center of Southern California Inc., is a 501 c (3) Not for Profit Corporation Tax ID No. is 95-4442397**

We are a fundraising group **with no “paid” staff.** Our primary aim is to acquire a multi- purpose facility including a theater, library, social hall, meeting rooms, etc. Please send news re graduations, births, weddings, deaths, relocating, etc., to [airebt@yahoo.com](mailto:airebt@yahoo.com) **Our new mailing address is Post Office Box 901, La Canada, CA 91011.**

You will find the newsletter and updated information on our website at [www.irishcenter.org](http://www.irishcenter.org) It is not always possible to distribute information regarding death notices and events timely. However, if you have access to a computer chances are you can find the website. Check it a few times a week for updates and for the newsletter.

If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter and who does not have a computer we will send a copy by U.S. mail. Let us know. This distribution is over 2800 e-mail addresses. We would like to thank those people who donated to the Irish Center to help us with expenses (including ink and postage for this newsletter)

**TO VIEW THE NEWSLETTER AND latest Irish News in So. California don't wait for an e-mail, please visit the website at:**  
[www.irishcenter.org](http://www.irishcenter.org)

**IRISH CENTER OF SO. CALIFORNIA** “get-together” (first Sunday of the month) Sunday, **February 2, 2020** at 1 p.m. lunch at Hill Street Café, 3301 N. Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank. Easy to find, between Hollywood Way and Buena Vista on Glenoaks (right next to St. Leon’s Cathedral). Hill Street Café telephone number is 818-845-0046. Order what you want – a cup of coffee to full breakfast or lunch – and pay separately.

**FRIENDS OF IRELAND** Breakfast meeting (1st Tuesday of the month) Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at Katella Restaurant, 4470 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, CA 90720. RSVP (Pete Walsh, 714-200-7365) [pbeireanua@att.net](mailto:pbeireanua@att.net)

**ST. CORNELIUS CHURCH HALL, IRISH SOCIAL, February 9, 2020, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.** at 5500 E. Wardlow, Long Beach, CA 90808. Good food, good music, good conversation, singing and dancing. Music by Dennis Murray. Thanks to the organizer, Sister Alicia from Castleblaney, who says “Please come and bring a friend and a dish.”  
 .....

**FUNERAL SERVICES FOR ELLEN PRENDERGAST**

**ROSARY AND VIEWING** on February 7<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9 p.m. at Heritage Chapel, 17712 Beach Blvd., Huntington Beach, and her funeral Mass will be on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. at Saint Bonaventure Church, 16400 Springdale St., Huntington Beach (corner of Springdale and Heil). There will be a reception in the Duffy Center following the Mass.



***BINGO*** every Tuesday at 6.30 pm in St. Eleanor Hall, St. Robert Bellarmine Church, 143 N. 5th Street, Burbank. CA 91501. Info: 818 846 3443.

**CELTIC ARTS CENTER**, Mondays Celtic Irish Dance and workshop at the Mayflower Club, 11110 Victory Boulevard, North Hollywood, CA 91606.

**ACCORDIONAIRES** – Enjoy Accordion Music at Victorio's Ristorante, 10901 Victory Blvd., No. Hollywood, CA 91606 (Vineland/Victory) on the **third Tuesday** of the month.

## **KEN O'MALLEY**

**Events (check the schedule)**



**calendar:**<https://kenomalley.com/shows>

**Check with Ken re tour of Ireland.**

Continuing: Twilight Lords 2nd Fridays each month at Ireland's 32 in Van Nuys, solo show Auld Dubliner in Long Beach each Thursday at 5 p.m. and Tam O'Shanter February 1.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to the following who have donated to the Irish Center recently:

Matt Hunt, Huntington Beach; Eileen cGurrell, Santa Ana; Margaret Cupini, Newark, DE; Cyril & Rosaleen Mulvey, Los Angeles;

Kathleen Murphy, Racine. WI; Capt, Kevin MacDonnell, Irvine; Peter & Josie Ruane, Southgate;

The following donated to the Irish Center in memory of Joan McConville--Margaret Sklarsky, La Piazza, Sun Valley; Mary C. Corella, La Piazza, Sun Valley; Cathy McConville, Redondo Beach; Marie Reilly & George Arseneault, Winnetka;

**For updated news from Ireland via e-mail:**

**IrishCentral**

**[newsletter@enl.irishcentral.com](mailto:newsletter@enl.irishcentral.com)**

## **REMINDER**

**If you have an article of interest, a story, a poem, an event of interest to the Irish community please forward it to me for inclusion in the newsletter.**  
([eirebt@yahoo.com](mailto:eirebt@yahoo.com))

**If you need to contact the Irish Consulate in Los Angeles please:**

**Phone: 310-424-5538 or e-mail**

**[losangelescg@dfa.ie](mailto:losangelescg@dfa.ie) (preferred)**

**Mailing address is Post Office Box 901, La Canada, CA 91012 --Vol.115, FEBRUARY, 2020**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYBODY.** Another decade begins and I hope we all stay healthy and grateful for everything we enjoy in life. Our Irish community here in So. California is spread out over six of the most populated counties in the United States. Although it appears the price of living here in this beautiful space is always increasing, it is hard for us to imagine living anywhere else.

I have been here since October of 1974 and been blessed and honored to have had and continue to have the pleasure of sharing my Irish music with many of you. I pray I will be able to continue for many years to come. I am blessed these days to not only have three wonderful grown kids, but also two beautiful grandchildren, so I can't imagine ever moving anywhere else.

Over the last several years I have spoken to many Irish people of all ages about how they feel about the idea of moving back to Ireland, either to continue in the working world and raising families or retirement. The answers have been very mixed. Some people long for the old days at home, a lot of people still have close relatives living in Ireland. In many ways, Ireland still has an abundance of character that will never change, it's generosity, good nature, humor and close family ties are but a few of it's qualities. No doubt about it, apart from the weather, there's hardly anywhere else on earth that many of us would rather be.

There are many others I've talked to who made the move back and after giving it a go for a while, came back to the US for different reasons. Some went back to raise children in Irish schools, many because of family ties, some decided this is not where they wanted to be, others had job opportunities.

I've had a great interest over the years in the emigration story of the Irish, particularly to England after World War 2. I had two aunts on my father's side became nurses in England and two uncles on my mother's side who moved there. Many of you reading this came here to the US as far back as the '50's, certainly California was definitely a great place to come to. I don't think those who came here ever felt the discrimination that our brethren felt in the UK.

I would love to hear from any of you about your thoughts on what it was like when you left Ireland, how you felt and what it was like when you landed here. Also, if you returned to Ireland and then came back here again, what that experience was like. You may email me at [ken@kenomalley.com](mailto:ken@kenomalley.com) and I will put a synopsis of your responses together for the next newsletter. Your stories will remain anonymous. I think it's an interesting subject, I know we all have Ireland in our hearts and we share a mutual care and respect for each other when we meet. Suffice to say "You can take the Irish out of the bog, but we all miss the smell of the turf fire".

If you know anybody who would like to go on my Ireland tour of the South West and West of Ireland, finishing in Dublin from April 18th through the 27th, please have them go to my website [www.kenomalley.com](http://www.kenomalley.com) for information and applications.

See you all at the Glendale Hilton on March 14th for the Irish Center's annual hooley...

Go néirí an bóthair libh, go léir...

**Mailing address is Post Office Box 901, La Canada, CA 91012 --Vol.115, FEBRUARY, 2020**

**NOTE: If you have not received the following letter and enclosures please read the paragraphs in bold.**

January 31, 2020

Dear Friends:

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Christmas and wish you all a New Year filled with family, good health and good fortune.

The Irish Center of Southern California, Inc., will hold its **TWENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION ON SATURDAY**, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, (5 p.m. to 11 p.m.) at the Hilton Hotel, 100 West Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale, CA 91202. A special rate of \$50 per ticket for the twenty-sixth anniversary celebration includes: dinner, dance, tax, and gratuity, the spectacular Floor Show by the Cleary School of Irish Dance and music by Ken O'Malley and the Twilight Lords. (For this event there is a special rate of \$25 for children under 12). For dinner reservations please call **Mary Dempsey at 626-337-0075 before March 7, 2020.**

The evening begins with cocktails at 5 p.m., dinner served at 6 p.m., presentations at 7 p.m., followed by dancing to the music of Ken O'Malley and the Twilight Lords. At 9 p.m., under the direction of Maggie Cleary, you will enjoy the Floor Show of Irish Dance by the Cleary School of Irish Dance. Although we will not have a Silent Auction, we will have an array of items such as jewelry, pillows, etc. to purchase. Door prizes will be selected from the dinner ticket stubs during the evening.

If you intend to stay at the Hilton Hotel please call 818-956-5466 "Reservations", and ask for the Irish Center's discount.

**Enclosed are tickets for a special drawing for \$2,000 for two round trip tickets to Ireland. Suggested donation is \$25 a ticket (\$50 for 3 tickets). This drawing is our major fundraiser.**

**Since we do not have home addresses for all of the more than 2,800 newsletter recipients, we hope that you will send your donation for the raffle and we will be happy to complete the "stubs".**

**By sending your \$25 for one, or \$50 for three tickets, we will know that you are supporting our efforts to keep us all informed of local Irish and Irish American news. (Irish Center, Post Office Box 901, La Canada, CA 91012-0901)**

Please visit our website: [www.irishcenter.org](http://www.irishcenter.org) for news, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, obituaries, etc. and to sign up for the newsletter by entering your e-mail address and name. If you received the newsletter in the past and you are not currently receiving it perhaps it's because you have a new e-mail address and did not update it on the website.

Also, if you have any news, events, articles etc., that you wish to share with the Irish community, please let us hear from you [eirebt@yahoo.com](mailto:eirebt@yahoo.com).

With all good wishes,

*Tom*

Tom McConville

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## Letters to the Editor



November 14, 2019

Newport Beach Film Festival  
2000 Quail Street  
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Irish Center of Southern California  
Attn: Bridget Hana  
P.O. Box 901, La Canada,  
CA 91012 (818) 307-9276

RE: Newport Beach Film Festival Sponsorship – Irish

From April 23rd – 30th, 2020, the 21st annual Newport Beach Film Festival will showcase over 350 films from across the globe and host a wide array of multicultural activities. Celebrated as Orange County's premiere film event, the Newport Beach Film Festival attracts over 58,000 attendees from around the world who come together to experience the ultimate cinematic experience along the pristine coastline of Southern California.

Each year the Festival hosts nightly International Spotlight events. The Irish Spotlight will pay homage to the film industry and celebrate the extensive Irish history and culture whose influence has inspired many aspects of art across all mediums. The evening will feature a film screening, followed by a gala celebration of Irish film, food and culture. We will toast the evening away with a diverse crowd of filmmakers, actors, and film aficionados.

We invite you to partake in this amazing evening as an official partner of the Newport Beach Film Festival Irish Spotlight. The evening will provide opportunities for brand recognition and media coverage targeting a unique niche demographic.

If you are interested in participating as a partner of the 2020 Newport Beach Film Festival's Irish Spotlight celebration, please do not hesitate to contact me at (909) 214-7791 or via email at [irish.spotlight@newportbeachfilmfest.com](mailto:irish.spotlight@newportbeachfilmfest.com).

Sincerely,

Kayla Perez and Alex  
Demesa IrishSpotlight

[Irish.spotlight@newptbeachfilmfest.com](mailto:Irish.spotlight@newptbeachfilmfest.com)

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**friends of ireland**  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

*14th Annual  
St. Patrick's Day  
Celebration*

**SUNDAY MARCH 8, 2020  
2:00 - 6:00 P.M.**

**MOOSE LODGE  
8651 KNOTT AVENUE, BUENA PARK, CA  
(EXTRA PARKING IN PARKING LOT AT KNOTT AND CRESCENT)**

**CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER  
\$35 PER PERSON (\$40 AT THE DOOR) UNDER 10 FREE  
DEADLINE MARCH 3, 2020**

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**MUSIC BY: INNISFREE**

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**IRISH DANCING PROVIDED BY  
ANIAR ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE**

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**PETE WALSH (714) 200-7365  
pbeireanua@att.net**

**CHRIS KEOGH (714) 326-4229  
chrisnlilian@gmail.com**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NUALA WISDOM  
10071 GREEN FERN CIRCLE  
WESTMINSTER, CA 92683**

printing compliments of celtic arts  
pbeireanua@att.net

# SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 14, 2020 (5 p.m.- 11 p.m.)

26<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day



CELEBRATION

Hosted by

THE IRISH CENTER OF  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INC.

**Order your  
ticket \$50 before  
March 7, 2020  
Children \$25**

Entertainment by: KEN O'MALLEY & THE TWILIGHT LORDS  
and  
CLEARY SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

**GRAND PRIZE DRAWING – \$2,000 OR  
TRIP FOR TWO TO IRELAND**

Cocktails 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
DINNER AND DANCING  
DOOR PRIZES

Contact Mary Dempsey at: 626-337-0075

**LOCATION:** THE HILTON HOTEL, 100 W. Glenoaks, Glendale, CA 91202  
Off the 134 (Ventura Freeway) at Brand or Central on the North side)  
[www.irishcenter.org](http://www.irishcenter.org) e-mail:Tomirishhour@msn.com

The center is a 501c (3) Corporation. Donations to the center are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

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## FINANCIAL FOCUS

### New Rules for Retirement Plan Contributions, Withdrawals

#### Jan. 20, 2020

If you've had an IRA or 401(k) for a long time, you're probably pretty familiar with the rules governing withdrawals and contributions – because, for the most part, they haven't changed in years. And you may also know what's going to happen to your IRA if you leave it to someone as part of your estate plans. But we are about to see some changes – and you should be aware of how they may affect your individual situation.

Here's the story: Congress recently approved legislation called the SECURE Act, which, among its many provisions, includes several that should be of particular interest to IRA and 401(k) investors.

The first of these changes deals with the money you take out of your IRA and 401(k). As you may know, under the old rules, you were required to start taking withdrawals – known as required minimum distributions (RMDs) – from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) when you turned 70 ½. Of course, you did not have to wait until that age, but if you didn't take your full RMDs on time, the shortfall would typically be subject to a 50% tax penalty. Under the Secure Act, the RMD age has been pushed back to 72.

This higher age could benefit you by giving your IRA and/or 401(k) more time to potentially grow on a tax-deferred basis. On the other hand, by waiting until you're 72, you could be forced to take larger RMDs, which are calculated by dividing your account balance by your life expectancy, as determined by IRS tables. And these RMDs are generally taxed at your personal tax rate.

The second big IRA-related change concerns the age limit for making traditional IRA contributions. Previously, you could only contribute to your traditional IRA until you were 70 ½. Under the Secure Act, however, you can fund your traditional IRA for as long as you have earned income. So, if you plan to work past what might be considered the typical retirement age, you have the opportunity to add a few more dollars to your IRA.

Another SECURE Act provision deals with early withdrawals from your IRA and 401(k). Usually, you must pay a 10% tax penalty when you withdraw funds from either of these accounts before you reach 59 ½. But now, with the new rules, you can withdraw up to \$5,000 penalty-free from your IRA or 401(k) if you take the money within one year of a child being born or an adoption becoming final.

The new rules also might affect your loved ones who stand to inherit your IRA. Under the old rules, a non-spouse beneficiary could stretch taxable RMDs from a retirement account over his or her lifetime. Now, most non-spouse beneficiaries will have to deplete the entire account balance by the end of the tenth year after the account owner passes away. So, this change could have tax implications for family members who inherit your IRA. You may want to consult with your estate planning or tax professional regarding this issue.

Keep the new rules in mind when creating your retirement strategies. The more you know, the better prepared you can be to make the appropriate moves for you.



**Neal Eckerlin**  
Financial Advisor

1112 W Burbank Blvd Suite 202  
Burbank, CA 91506-1414  
818-840-2704

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING  
edwardjones.com

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# Accordionists & Teachers Guild International (ATG)

member Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)  
International Music Council (IMC), an NGO official partner of UNESCO



1(303) 779-6161

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USA

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Viennese Accordion  
Chamber Ensemble, Austria

Polyphonia Orchestra  
Reunion





**HAPPY BIRTHDAY CAROL!**



**TOM MCCONVILLE  
and  
BRENDAN MC COY  
(at Brendan's 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
celebration in 2019)**

## ALL STAR CAST!!



Featuring principal dancer **Connor Reider** (The Chieftains, Celtic Fyre, Celtic Wings, An Irish Christmas) and four multi-instrumentalists from the **Kerry Traditional Band: Ryan McKasson, Colin Cotter, Christa Burch and Preston Howard-Wilde**. Fiddles, uilleann pipes, bodhrán, guitar, vocals and flutes will ring through the theatre as the Band shares its passion for the traditional music of Ireland! You will be transported to the Emerald Isle for a rollicking night celebrating St. Patrick's Day!

*There's no better way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day than with a 'great celebration of Ireland and its rich culture!'*

### **KERRY IRISH PRODUCTIONS**

(Irish Arts and Entertainment)

March 7, 2020 at 8 p.m.

**Yucaipa PAC, Yucaipa, CA**

March 11, 2020 at 8 p.m.

**Lobero Theater, Santa Barbara, CA**

March 12, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

**Scherr Forum Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza**

2100 E. Thousand Oaks Boulevard

Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

**805-449-2787**

**Our mailing address is:**

**Box 5886, Sherman Oaks, CA 92811**

**Mailing address is Post Office Box 901, La Canada, CA 91012 --Vol.115, FEBRUARY, 2020**