



**The Irish Center of Southern California Inc., is a 503 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 [eirebt@yahoo.com](mailto:eirebt@yahoo.com) Our address is 1931 W. Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale, CA 91201.**

**If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter and doesn't 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:**

*Special Thanks to: Peter Albiez for preparing the newsletter for many years.*

*Prayers and good wishes to our friends who are “a bit under the weather”*

**Brian Joseph McConville, Florence, Oregon, formerly of Granada Hills.**

**Rev. Francis Oman and his sister, Sister Nancy Oman (requested by Mary Ann Adams, Moreno Valley)**

**Rev. Fr. Frank Kelly living in Long Beach, from Killenaule, Co. Tipperary.**

**IRISH CENTER OF SO. CALIFORNIA  
ST. PATRICK'S DINNER DANCE AT  
THE HILTON, GLENDALE.**

**IRELAND WEEK – CONNECTING  
MODERN IRELAND**

**October 16 – October 21, 2017**

**Deirdre O’Neill Machin at**

[deirdre@the-oneillgroup.com](mailto:deirdre@the-oneillgroup.com)

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**MONTHLY EVENTS:**

Sunday, September 3, at 1 p.m. Irish Center “get-together” 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. A separate dining room for 40-50 people. Parking right beside the building. Order what you want – a cup of coffee to full breakfast or lunch – and pay separately.

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Friends of Ireland Breakfast meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month) September 5, 2017, at 9:30 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)

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**REMINDER FROM SISTER ALICIA:  
EACH YEAR WE HAVE TAKEN A  
"VACATION" FROM OUR MONTHLY  
SOCIALS IN JULY & AUGUST &  
RETURN AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER**

Irish Social from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at St. Cornelius Church Hall, 5500 E. Wardlow, Long Beach, CA 90808. Good food, good music, good conversation, singing and dancing. Music by Dennis Murray. Thanks to the Pastor, Fr. Michael Gleeson. The organizer, Sister Alicia from Castleblaney, says "Please come and bring a friend and a dish."

MONTHLY ADULT CEILI CLASS from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. the last Friday of every month at the Mag Studio, 173 W. Magnolia Blvd., Unit 103, Burbank, CA 91502. No partners or experience necessary. All are welcome. \$15 drop in class fee. [www.clearyirishdance.com](http://www.clearyirishdance.com)

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**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 at 7 p.m.

**IRISH VETERANS**

For information on the Irish Veterans organization visit [www.Irishveterans.org](http://www.Irishveterans.org) June Bulletin (James Sikora & Declan Hughes from Kinsale)

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**KEN O'MALLEY**

Tam O'Shanter, September 23, 2017 and October 28, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

NE'ER DUWELS FACEBOOK PAGE, WEBSITE AND MAILING LIST: The Ne'er Duwels also have their own mailing list and website where you can also sign up to receive notices of upcoming Ne'er Duwels shows. The website is [neerduwels.com](http://neerduwels.com) and you can "like" the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/theneerduwels](http://www.facebook.com/theneerduwels).

KEN O'MALLEY ARTIST PAGE ON FACEBOOK: And, if you have not visited his page already, Ken O'Malley also has a Facebook "Artist Page"; "like" for the most current info and the ability to interact with the page: [https://www.facebook.com/kenomalle\\_yirishmusic](https://www.facebook.com/kenomalle_yirishmusic). Note: Last minute schedule changes are posted on the Artist Page.

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO Jack and Marcella Smith** for the donation of Irish books.



Jack and Marcella came to Los Angeles from Belfast in 1966. They have been married for more than 60 years and are pictured at the Long Beach Social in May 2017 with their grandsons. Jack entertains the audience with beautiful songs from Ireland – you should not miss the opportunity to hear him!

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Father Austin C. Doran**, Pastor of St. Anthony's in San Gabriel on his recent appointment as Monsignor

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**Our condolences to the families who have lost loved ones**



**William McCormack**

January 01, 1935 - August 07, 2017

William "Bill" McCormack passed away at his home in Yorba Linda after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. Bill was born in Dublin, and came to California in 1960 after six years in Australia.

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**Fred M. Leathem**

October 25, 1922 – July 9, 2017

Fred M. Leathem passed away on Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. He was born in Downpatrick, Co. Down on October 25, 1922. He came to America in January 1948. In December of the same year he met Rosamond Redmond and they were married on February 11, 1950. They had two children, Tom and Rita, two

grandchildren Brendan and Meghan, two great grandchildren Raymar and Tomas with a third great grand-daughter due in October.

Fred worked at the White King Soap Company before going to work at the Los Angeles Times. He left the Times to work with Pacific Press and became the Vice President of the CWA union. He retired in 1992 and for the next 20 years he returned to Ireland in the summers.

Mass was held on Saturday, August 19, 2017, at St. James the Less Catholic Church, La Crescenta, CA 91214.

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Kerry, daughter of Don Breyer, died in early August due to a slip and fall accident in her own bathroom. Kerry traveled to Ireland with Michael Breen and a group of Irish dancers in 2001.

Kerry was a civil engineer and worked for the City of Santa Clarita. She died just days before her 49<sup>th</sup> birthday (August 22, 2017). Kerry went scuba diving all over the world and her ashes went to the place where she loved to be.

**Rest in Peace Kerry.**

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**Maureen Faherty**, who was in her late 90s, passed away recently. Maureen hailed from Co. Mayo and for many years worked as a nurse for Mrs. Doheney.

**Margaret O'Shea** passed away in Limerick recently. Margaret worked as an RN and lived in Los Angeles for many years with her husband Tim who predeceased her. Margaret and Tim moved to Palm Desert and following Tim's death Margaret relocated back to her native Limerick.

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## James B O'Dea

March 20, 1934 - July 31, 2017

James B. O'Dea was born on March 20, 1934 to Patrick and Jane O'Dea in County Mayo, Ireland. He was the youngest of 6 children. Jimmy, as he was most commonly known, passed away at his home peacefully the morning of July 31, 2017.

Jimmy O'Dea met his beloved wife Gretta in Dublin, Ireland while attending University there. There was a romance at "first wink". That was all it took to bring these two together as they crossed paths one day while walking along O'Connell Street in Dublin. They married a few years later and moved to London. It was there they had their first son Kevin in 1962.

In 1964 they set out to follow their dreams of living in America. Jimmy's first job was in the meat packing department of Farmer John before he secured his first teaching position at Pomona Girls Catholic School. From there he moved to teach at Bishop Amat High School for a short time and then finally on to West Covina High School where he remained for 37 years teaching Math, and for a time, coaching soccer.

It was during that time period that Jimmy and Gretta welcomed two more sons, Mark in 1967, and Barry in 1973. It was also during this time that Jimmy earned his Masters Degree in Physical Science from Azusa Pacific University. After moving several times, they finally settled in to their final home in Rowland Heights, California in 1977 where they remained for the rest of their lives.

Gretta O'Dea passed away in 1989 and Jimmy never remarried. Jimmy retired from teaching in 1999 and spent his retirement years enjoying time with his grandchildren whom he adored.

Jimmy also enjoyed spending time with the friends that he loved so much. He really enjoyed golfing, dancing, and especially having a nice meal out with his friends and a nice glass of wine. His charm, his smile, and his sense of humor will always be remembered. His love for his family will always endure.

Jimmy O'Dea is survived by his two sisters, Phyllis and Pauline, his three sons: Kevin, Mark, and Barry, and his six grandchildren: Breanna, Austin, Margaret, Maya, Katherine, and Greta.

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## John McDermott

July 7, 1927 – June 29, 2007



An Irish immigrant who lived the American dream, John McDermott peacefully passed away on June 29, 2017. He was welcomed to heaven by his parents, Francis and Maria McDermott, his 8 siblings, and his daughter Nora. Born in Manorhamilton, County Leitrim, as the 9<sup>th</sup> of 10 children, he booked his passage on the Queen Mary in 1948, arrived in America and traveled by bus to Pomona, California to be with his sister Mary. In 1950, he was drafted in the United States Army and fought during the Korean War.

Upon returning to the states, he worked for Southern Pacific Railroad and met the love of his life, Bridget (Bridie) Connolly who hailed from County Mayo, Ireland. They married in 1954 and had 5 children. For several years, he worked for his brother-in-law in the material handling industry, and at the age of 40, he began his own material handling company, McDermott Equipment and Supply, in El Monte, CA, where he worked until he was 80 years old. He employed many people and he was known as the man in the “caster” business, supplying casters to department stores, grocery stores, airlines, and many other industries. In addition to running a business, he attended night classes at Est Los Angeles College; education was important to him, so he worked diligently to ensure that all his children received a college education. Later in life, he passed the California Real Estate exam and received his license to practice. John’s success in business was derived from his ability to be charming and witty with his Irish accent and shenanigans. He carried these traits with him until the very end, telling jokes and making people smile. He was a gentleman who made people at ease with his comforting and happy demeanor. He loved to entertain family, friends and vagabonds, but when it was his bedtime, he quietly disappeared and made his way upstairs. He valued his wife and family more than anything and considered his brother Paddy, his very best friend.

An active parishioner of St. Therese Church in Alhambra for over 50 years, John was a devout Catholic and man of great faith who often could be found silently reciting the rosary wherever he was. He always wore a scapular.

A devoted husband and father, he enjoyed Dodger games and weekends at his beach home with family and friends. He was a man who lived without a cell phone and computer his entire life, yet he remained intimate with those who mattered to him. John is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Bridie, his 4 adult children, Frank (Nancy) McDermott, Maureen (Sam) Battle, Sean (Anne) McDermott, Eileen (Richard) Smith, and son-in-law William Mace; brother, Cormac; 10 grandchildren: Sam, Caroline and Katie (Battle), Willie, Austin, and Julia (Mace), Brendan and Claire McDermott, and Hayden and Kerrigan (Smith), and 7 great-grandchildren who will forever be grateful for the love he shared with them.

## Let's hear from the Irish Community



Dear Bridget:

*I am a former Cleary Irish Dance student, saddened to hear of the passing of Tommy Kiernan. I remember him well from Irish dance events. He was a fun, sweet man.*

*I am a volunteer on a website that honors our deceased friends and relatives. It is Findagrave.com. I have created an online memorial for Tommy on that website. I am asking your permission to use Tommy's photo and obituary on his online memorial. If granted, I will give credit to the Irish Center of Southern California as the source of the obit and photo. Please let me know if you would extend this kindness.*

*It is the policy of that website to leave out the names of surviving family members, to protect their privacy. Here is a link to the memorial: <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=182077283>*

Best regards,  
Bonnie Waters

### **THANKS FROM THE KIERNAN FAMILY**

*June 27, 2017 Thomas Kiernan lost his fight with lung cancer and went home to the Lord.*

*July 22, 2017 was a very special day for the Kiernan family. We honored our Dad, "Tommy", with his funeral/celebration of life at St. Cyril's of Jerusalem in Encino. Burial was held at San Fernando Mission Hills Catholic Cemetery and a reception at the Mayflower Club in North Hollywood.*

*It was a fantastic day! Father Donie Keohane presided over a beautiful mass and our singer, Helena Buscema was angelic! Her guitarist, Phil Buscema, was wonderful and learned, "Our Lady of Knock". just for the occasion, bringing tears to many eyes.*

*At the burial, Brian Walsh played an ancient Irish horn, echoing two memorable soothing tunes.*

*Afterwards, at the Mayflower Club, we ate a good meal and kicked up our heels to the fantastic band. "Wakin Kate"!*

*Upon the request of Tim Martin, some of the Celie set dancers happily agreed to perform and honor Dad/Tommy by dancing many great sets for all to enjoy! Then, Maggie Cleary surprised us, bringing six of her dancers that performed several dances as a tribute to our Dad/Tommy! The evening ended with individuals, voluntarily singing Irish songs and ballads.*

*We, the Kiernan family, want to thank all who attended to give Dad a great send off! There was so much love in the room and we know Dad is smiling down from above!*

*Carol Kiernan-Griswold*

Check out Episode 4 of The News from Irish Outreach with further links to the pieces covered available below.

Irish Night at the Padres:  
Join the Facebook Event Page [HERE](#)  
Get your Tickets [HERE](#)

Online Irish Passport Renewal link: <https://www.dfa.ie/passportonline/>

If you're an Irish J1 in San Diego, join our final J1 Summer Orientation next Wednesday, June 7th, 1pm, at St. Brigid Parish Hall, Pacific Beach. Sign up here: <https://goo.gl/forms/4kYWVyO01U4Si1102>  
West Coast Sevens Gaelic Games - San Diego  
[www.sd7s.com](http://www.sd7s.com)

Jerome Quinn's special video report from the 2017 West Coast Sevens:

**Irish Outreach San Diego | [help@irishoutreachsd.org](mailto:help@irishoutreachsd.org) | (619) 291-1630  
| [www.irishoutreachsd.org](http://www.irishoutreachsd.org)**

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**Thomas G. MacNamara, Proprietor**

Drop by and meet Tom who was born in Ireland. You will find many Irish favorite items including Irish soda bread, breakfast items, including Irish tea, bacon, etc. If you are looking for a birthday or other gift item consider a call to Tom. Tell him Bridget sent you!

742 North Vine Street, Hollywood, CA 90038

Shop: 323-467-6714

Cell: 818-692-2358



**irelandweek**

CONNECTING MODERN IRELAND

Los Angeles, October 16-21 2017

## **Ireland week aims to bring Ireland to the world, and the world back to Ireland**



**Major Irish government trade and cultural extravaganza announced for Los Angeles, Oct 16th-21st. 2017**

Taking place in Los Angeles from October 16th to 21, 2017 its core aim is to bring a live showcase of Irish creativity and innovation to the world.

Launched today by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, An Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald and performer PantiBliss (who will perform 2 shows in LA ), Ireland Week is supported by a broad range of government agencies including The Department of Foreign Affairs

and Trade, The Irish Film Board, Culture Ireland, Creative Ireland, IDA Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Music From Ireland, Board Bia, Aer Lingus and the non-profit American Chamber of Commerce Ireland and the California Irish Legislative Caucus.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said: ***"The Irish Government is very happy to lend support to Ireland Week and the Connect 353 conference in Los Angeles this October. There is significant potential for growing trade & economic links between Ireland and the Los Angeles region. This initiative should help our agencies to promote Ireland as an attractive location for trade and investment. The strong focus throughout the programme on culture and tourism is particularly welcome given that Ireland and LA are now benefitting from increased direct connectivity."***

Ireland Week will be a unique blend of conference and culture. The week will see varied and interesting events with a full and comprehensive cultural program rolling out around the city, encompassing the myriad of cultural layers that make up Ireland, past, present and future.

The conference CONNECT353 to be held on Oct 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at LA Live Regal Theatre, will have a series of panel discussions and keynote speeches that will form the back bone of the week's events. During the conference, several key topics for panel discussions will be covered including film, animation, gaming, technology, the Silicon Docks story, music industry, start-ups, culture, tourism, and Brexit.



With direct connectivity between Los Angeles and Dublin, we aim to capitalise by making this event a two-way international superhighway. Ireland displays its talents abroad while encouraging inward investment, tourism, jobs and cultural awareness.

To complement the conference which will take place at LA Live in Downtown Los Angeles, there will be a series of events, mixers and MANY arts, music and cultural events happening at various venues around the city.



Music from Ireland will showcase a number of prominent Irish musical acts. Pantibliss will perform several shows downtown. Golden Globe-nominated and IFTA award-winning composer *Brian Byrne* will present Goldenhair Live featuring VERY special guests. There are MANY celebrity events planned for the week also, more details on those to follow.

To sign up for updates please go to [www.irelandweek.com](http://www.irelandweek.com) For information on sponsorship please contact [sponsors@irelandweek.com](mailto:sponsors@irelandweek.com)

*\*Ireland Week is spearheaded by The O'Neill Group Inc. which has been operating since 1999. ONG is a full service Conference, Event and Meeting management company specialising in producing high quality world class events for corporations and non-profits both in the US and internationally with a particular emphasis on Ireland.*

Follow us, like us, here: **Ireland Week: Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/irelandweek/> **Twitter :** @irelandweek  
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<https://twitter.com/connect353>

More info from Buzz O'Neill. +353877569916

[buzz@irelandweek.com](mailto:buzz@irelandweek.com)  
<http://www.the-oneillgroup.com/>

**ATTENTION: IRISH PUBS or RESTAURANT OWNERS WHO HAVE IRISH MUSIC PERFORMANCES AT THEIR VENUE, AND/OR WHO WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE BY HAVING SOME SPECIAL RECIPES ON THE MENU CREATED BY OUR CELEBRITY CHEF FOR THAT WEEK please e-mail:**  
[louise@irelandweek.com](mailto:louise@irelandweek.com) with the details and we will list them.



WORKING TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH AN IRISH CULTURAL CENTER IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Los Angeles to Ireland

[aerlingus.com](http://aerlingus.com)

Smart flies  
**Aer Lingus** 

Direct Flights from Los Angeles to Dublin and beyond!  
Mailing address is 1931 W. Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale, CA 91201 Vol.87 September 2017