



WORKING TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH AN IRISH CULTURAL CENTER IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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 **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 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

IRISH CENTER OF SO. CALIFORNIA “get-together” (first Sunday of the month) Sunday, **December 1, 2019**, 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, **December 3, 2019**, at 9:00 a.m. at Katella Restaurant, 4470 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, CA 90720. RSVP (Pete Walsh, 714-200-7365) pbeireanua@att.net

ST. CORNELIUS CHURCH HALL, IRISH SOCIAL, December 15, 2019, 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.”

NOTE: December Only: December 15th, 2019

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

Phone: 310-424-5538 or e-mail
losangelescg@dfa.ie (preferred)

Mailing address is Post Office Box 901, La Canada, CA 91012 --Vol.113, December, 2019



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>

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 Finn McCool's in Santa Monica with John Breen 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Sunday Dec 22. 2019 7.00 .p.m. With Celtic Knight Dancers & The Trinity Band of Dublin.

Cerritos Center, for the performing Arts.
18000 Park Plaza Dr, Cerritos Ca 90703

**Arena Configuration,
\$60/\$50/\$40**

Celtic Angels Christmas spreads the magic of Christmas in an uplifting family-friendly holiday music from across the centuries.

Songs will be performed by Victoria Kenny, Emily Carrol, Tammy Browne, Amy Penston, & Laura Mullane.

Enjoy Stunning dance routines by the Celtic Knight Dancers, featuring former lead dancers of Riverdance,
Patrick Mahoney & Blaine Donovan.

View Irish news in North America:

The Celtic Connection
http://celtic-connection.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/celtic_sept_18_1.pdf

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.

November 8, 2019

Dear Friends,

Thank you!

We are grateful for the many kind and sympathetic greetings you have shared with our family since the death of our beloved Joan. So many friends from across the years and over the miles expressed heartfelt sympathy. Your friendship and support during these difficult days has been a ray of sunshine, as we find our way through a fog of sadness and mourning.

We appreciate the cards, flowers, and contributions in honor of our beloved Joan. We are thankful for all of the prayers for the repose of her soul. We are honored and humbled at the great number of masses and remembrances. The heavy burden of sorrow is made lighter by the support of so many friends.

We are sad that Joan is no longer with us here but, as believers, we are happy that she is now in the hands of God. A word of special thanks to the priests who helped us celebrate Joan's life with beautiful prayer services. We thank Fr. Peter Liuzzi, Fr. Tom Batsis, Fr. Brian Doran, and Fr. Gerard O'Shaughnessy. We appreciate also the prayerful support of Sr. Alicia McNally, Sr. Joan Hogan and all our friends of the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters who serve at Villa Scalabrini.

We recall with warm hearts and joy-filled laughter the memories we have of Joan. We are grateful to God for giving us the special gift of this wonderful, humble, beautiful woman in our lives for so many years. In the days and months ahead may these memories be, for all of us, a source of comfort.

With great gratitude,

The McConville Family

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There are few words to describe the excitement felt in our home, when we were young children, as the long nights and cold dark days led up to the most important day of the year. Christmas began to loom before us, not long after we returned to school after the Summer holidays. There were seven kids in our family growing up and it was a warm and loving household, not that we didn't have our sibling "dust ups" occasionally. It was a time when thoughts of Santa Claus coming with all sorts of goodies and presents, and Uncle Jack's gift boxes from London, were awaited with bated breath. Yes, he sent two: one containing beautiful books for everyone and the other filled with the finest fruit cakes, and everything sweet you could imagine that was rarely seen in our house or, for that matter, around Ireland. Candied fruits, dates, cookies and candies....and, always a special gift for my mother, usually an expensive perfume she would never have dreamed of spending the money on herself.

My father, a long time member of the prestigious golf course, the Royal Dublin Golf Club, would annually win one of the many "turkey competitions" which were weekly events starting in October, and as he was such a great player would usually win more than once and therefore claim a ham as well, to provide an awesome Christmas dinner for all.

It was a spiritual time, even for our young growing minds, and going to midnight mass was a rite of passage as we grew older and a big part of the celebration. You knew you were a big kid when you were allowed to go.

Like every home that was blessed to be able to share in this wondrous time, we woke up to the pandemonium of my four brothers, two sisters and I ripping gift wrapping apart and exploding with excitement. Many times our father took some of us out to the golf club after breakfast and we walked the course while he played a round, usually just ourselves as the course was practically deserted. My father never lost a chance to play a round of golf in his life, even Christmas morning. We would arrive home early afternoon to the wafting smells of food cooking and relatives arriving for the rest of the day.

The Christmas dinner was a spiritual experience in itself, as the turkey was removed from the oven, the ham was glazed and the myriad of vegetables and trimmings were laid out on the formal dining room table. At least a dozen people, annually, gazed on this gastronomical sight and the wine was opened and the lemonade was served to the wee ones. Following the sherry trifle, Christmas cake and plum pudding with brandied cream, all that was left to follow was the afternoon's TV entertainment and uncles and aunts snoring quietly in armchairs, hands laid on fortified tummies.

As we grew older, there were parties to attend and the music and song would fill the night. Many of the songs we sang are on my Christmas CD, "Songs By A Winter's Hearth", available through my website www.kenomalley.com.

We followed a lot of the old Irish Christmas traditions in our house. Fresh picked holly with red berries, representing the crown of thorns and the blood of Christ, was hung around the house. Decorations were displayed everywhere, and the Christmas Tree was decorated and lit in great splendor. The Pascal red candle was lit in one of the windows, showing strangers they were welcome and a reminder how the Holy Family searched for a place to spend the night in Bethlehem.

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Dublin was deserted on Christmas Day back in those long gone days in the late '50's and into the 60's. Everyone stayed indoors and there weren't that many cars on the roads back then anyway. There was a very light scheduled bus service on that day and I remember once, aged about fourteen, going for a walk in the dark early evening with a friend and we never saw a car on the road and saw one bus pass us.

It's a changed Ireland these days but it is wonderful to believe that the Spirit of Christmas is still alive and well in Ireland. We are renowned world wide for our generosity to charities, our good nature and hospitable reputation at home in Ireland. These characteristics have also traveled with us as we have spread our diaspora internationally and enjoy the recognition of our sense of humor and solid citizenship, and particular strength of family bonds, no matter what country we find ourselves.

Nollaig Shona Dhuíbh, go léir....

Ken O'Malley

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Hello,

You are invited to the following event:

[#IRELANDINSF SPEAKER SERIES & NETWORKING BREAKFAST](#)



Event to be held at the following time, date, and location:

Friday, December 6, 2019
from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM
(PST)

**Consulate General of
Ireland**

100 Pine Street
Suite 3350
San Francisco, CA 94111

[View Map](#)

[Attend Event](#)

A chairde,

Please join us on **Friday, December 6th** at the Consulate General of Ireland, San Francisco for a festive **#IrelandinSF Speaker Series & Networking Breakfast!**

This month we are thrilled to welcome [Professor Noel O' Connor](#) and Mr. Damien Breen. Professor O'Connor is visiting us from Ireland and is the Interim CEO of [Insight](#) the SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics. He is also a full Professor at the, [School of Electronic Engineering at DCU](#). Mr. Breen who resides in the Bay Area, serves as a Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. In their fireside chat, Professor O'Connor and Mr. Breen will discuss what the Bay Area and Ireland are currently facing in regards to environmental challenges, the future of energy, transportation and smart cities.

We are delighted by how this networking initiative has brought together so many people from our community, both the well-established and- just as importantly- those newly arrived in the Bay Area.

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The relationships made at the events have enabled many of the community to make new friends and in many cases become each other's peers and mentors, which is something we are delighted to be able to facilitate.

We look forward to seeing you again at your Consulate where you are always very welcome!

Ticket sales will close December 5th at 2pm.

Please bring a valid photo ID to present at reception on arrival.

Space is limited. If you register and are unable to attend, please send a courtesy note to EventsSF@dfa.ie so that we may accommodate others.

Please contact **Noeleen Pattison**, Communications and Public Affairs Officer, if you would like to promote an event that is relevant to the breakfast audience.

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER AND FUTURE EVENTS [HERE!](#)

Twitter & Instagram: @IrelandinSF #IrelandinSF or go to our [WEBSITE](#)

-----BIOGRAPHIES



Prof Noel O'Connor

Noel O'Connor is Interim CEO of Insight the SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics. He is a full Professor, School of Electronic Engineering at DCU, with expertise in multimedia content analysis, computer vision, machine learning, information fusion and multi-modal analysis. His applications domains include content-based information retrieval from large archives, human movement understanding for health and human performance, autonomous vehicles, security and safety, IoT and Smart Cities.



Damian Breen

Damian Breen serves as a Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer at the [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) where he oversees the 150 employees working in the technology program. His portfolio includes the Air District's Engineering Division, Strategic Incentives Division, Software Development Office and the Technology Implementation Office.

Mr. Breen acts as an advisor to the Air District's Board of elected officials on air and climate issues, the future of energy and transportation, and the intersection of big data, machine learning and the environment. He also serves as an advisor to [University of California Berkeley's Transportation Sustainability Research Center](#), and has traveled with both the Governor of California and California Secretary of State to Europe and Asia to provide policy advice on air quality, emissions monitoring and reduction, alternative fuels, energy and transportation.

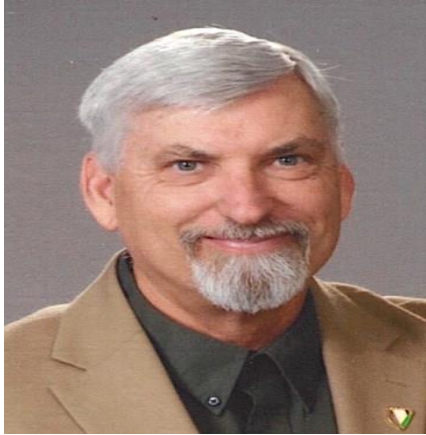
Mr. Breen previously served as the Director of the Air District's Strategic Incentives Division, where he oversaw the investment of over \$100 million in grant funding which reduced diesel particulate matter emissions from Port of Oakland by 80%. He also worked for 10 years in the Air District's Compliance and Enforcement Division and previously for Home Savings of America Bank and various environmental consultancy firms in the United States and Europe. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in science from the National University of Ireland and a postgraduate diploma from the Irish Institute for Technology.

We hope you can make it!

Cheers,

Consulate General of Ireland - San Francisco





Irish Dignitary in So. California

Yahoo/Inbox

• **John McNally** <mcnally.realtor@gmail.com>

Bcc:eirebt@yahoo.com

Nov 28 at 5:52 PM

Happy Thanksgiving Cairde!

Belfast businessman and politician Maírtín O'Muilleior will be in So California next week primarily to promote Belfast Homecoming <https://belfasthomecoming.com/>

If you want to attend any of his receptions let me know.

John McNally

John McNally CalDRE#:01881734
RE/MAX Gold Coast REALTORS
5720 Ralston #100
Ventura, CA 93003
805-804-7558
mcnally.realtor@gmail.com
<http://mcnallyrealtor.com>

Ventura - Santa Barbara

Whatever you vividly imagine, ardently desire, sincerely believe and enthusiastically act upon must inevitably come to pass.



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Letters to the Editor



Dear Friends,

Science Foundation Ireland is hosting a panel discussion and networking reception on **Tuesday, Dec 3rd from 6pm-8.30pm at [SOSV Revolution Space in San Francisco](#)**. The panel discussion will focus on *'AI as an enabler of breakthrough technologies'*, and during discussions you will hear about topics such as ethical AI and trustworthy AI, data governance and best practises for the development of AI strategies.

This event is part of a research mission to the Bay Area from Ireland, coordinated by SFI in collaboration with the Consulate General of Ireland, and led by Dr Orlaigh Quinn, Secretary General of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI). During the mission, Ireland's research capabilities in the fields of such as artificial intelligence, data science, machine learning and related areas will be showcased with the aim of strengthening and advancing scientific cooperation between Ireland and the Bay Area.

You can register for this event at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/ai-as-an-enabler-of-breakthrough-technologies-perspectives-from-ireland-tickets-81640142865>

We hope you can make it.

Best regards,

Aoife Ryan, PhD | International Development, Lead
800 W El Camino Real #450, Mountain View, CA 94040

Cell: +1 (415) 254 2306 | Tel: +1 (650) 967 9903 | E-mail: aoife.ryan@sfi.ie

Science Foundation Ireland

For what's next

Web: www.sfi.ie

Follow SFI on Twitter: twitter.com/scienceirel

#BelieveInScience – a campaign to promote the potential that science and discovery offer Ireland, today and in tomorrow's world



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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.

Sincerely,

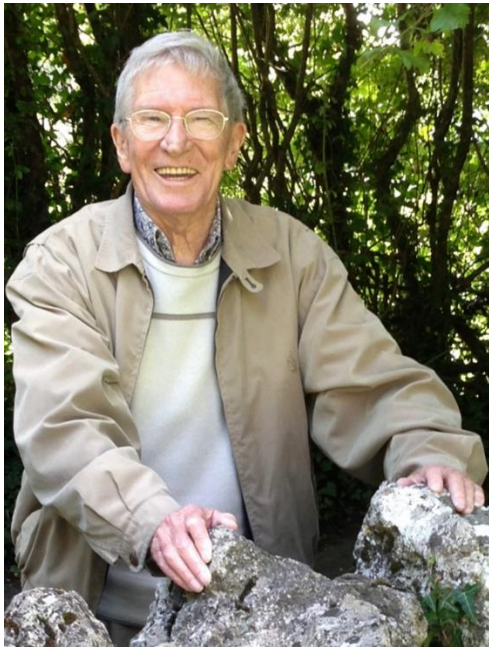
Kayla Perez and Alex
Demesa Irish
Spotlight
Irish.spotlight@newportbeachfilmfest.com

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REST IN PEACE

Thomas “Tom” Barrett

Dec. 8, 1932 to Oct. 24, 2019



Tom was born in Listowel, Co. Kerry to Ellen and Michael Barrett and was the fourth of six children. At the age of 17 he emigrated to London, England and then eventually onto Brisbane, Australia. Within that year he would follow his brother Bill and his family to a place called Mount Isa and there he worked in the silver, copper and zinc mines for the next 7 years. While in Mount Isa he worked with many newly emigrated young Irish guys who got together and formed the Mount Isa Irish Association. They agreed to pay dues, ask the mines for scrap lumber and metal and every Sunday on their day off worked together to build an “A” frame one room structure. On March 17, 1955 they held their first St. Patrick’s Day dance. This same organization would bring him back to Mount Isa for the 40th and 50th reunion celebration of that first St. Patrick’s Day dance.

In 1958 he emigrated to California to stay with his sister Kate and her husband Mike to “try it out” as he would say. Eventually he got a job with the local Hughes Markets that would give him a 38-year career with that organization. He was going to the Irish dances in Los Angeles with his friend Joe O’Malley and eventually he met our

mother Frances and they were married on September 16, 1961.

He and mom bought a house and soon they were raising three children, Mary, Bernadette and Kieran. They were meeting many Irish friends in the neighborhood as they would say “like themselves” or supporting the Columban Father’s functions or Ireland’s Own Social Club and later the Irish Center of Southern California. He would work all the overtime he could get “to keep a roof over our heads and food on the table.” Both he and Frances would make many life-long friends throughout the years and would enjoy their company immensely. As we grew up, dad would take us camping every summer to Lake Casitas, Carlsbad State Beach or Carpinteria State Beach and we saw a great deal of California with our summer camping trips. Dad had a love of soccer throughout his life that he would pass on to his three children and eventually his four grandchildren. After mom died in 1992 and his subsequent retirement, he began to travel with us, Aunt Kate or friends to places such as Ireland, England, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Hawaii, Laughlin or Las Vegas.

Tom was a good friend to many and would help anybody out, he never said a harsh word against anyone and in his later years when he was not driving as much he was reaching out to friends and family by telephone. The conversations would usually start out with “How’s she cuttin or wait till I tell you this one” He loved to tell a good story and a good joke. He was a great singer and often sang the Irish Songs but mostly will be remembered for his whistling the Irish tunes. He was an avid LA Times reader and would call to tell us what article he read in the paper that day and further give his opinion.

He taught his three children many life lessons and we are the people we are today because of Dad and Mom. He lived a great life surrounded by his family who loved him dearly: Mary, Bernadette and Hector, Kieran and Courtney, his four grandchildren Connor, Killian, Matthew and Keegan further his sister Catherine (Kate) Montgrain and many nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed.

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Kerry Irish Productions Productions

<info@kerryrecords.com>

Starring Riverdance principal dancer
Caterina Coyne!

With an award-winning cast of Irish dancers led by **Caterina Coyne** (*Riverdance*), World Champion Dancer **Tyler Schwartz** (*Magic of the Dance, Celtic Fyre, Celtic Wings*) and **Connor Reider** (*The Chieftains, Celtic Wings, Celtic Fyre, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland*), join us for a journey through Christmas in Ireland, featuring superb dancing, singing and Irish traditional music in a celebration of the international spirit of the holiday season!

We are thrilled to announce that **Mark Alfred** (Percussion), Musical Director Riverdance/ Heartbeat of Home will join An Irish Christmas Tour 2019!

Sunday, December 8 @ 2:30PM Lobero, Santa Barbara

Friday, December 13 @ 8PM Balboa Theatre, San Diego

TWO SHOWS IN THOUSAND OAKS Friday, December 20 @ 7:30PM

Saturday, December 21 @ 2:00PM Scherr Forum Thousand Oaks



EMMET CAHILL'S
CHRISTMAS
IN IRELAND

SPECIAL GUESTS
Credo Catholic Choir

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 5, 2019

7:30 PM

ST. THERESE CHURCH

\$35 General Admission
\$50 Meet & Greet + Concert
Starts 6:00 pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
EMMETCAHILL.COM

20% Discount to all Seniors

(I have attended one of his concerts in Pasadena and I highly recommend this event)
Bridget Hana

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.Broadway World Winner

DENNIS MCNEIL

THE COMEDY & MAGIC CLUB

1014 Hermosa Avenue
Hermosa Beach, CA
310-372-1193

Upcoming Show: **December 8, 2019**

Dear Friends,

Have you shopped for the mashed potatoes and gravy? The Turkey? How bout the yams and sweet potatoes and stuffing? Well before you go too far with your thanksgiving preparations, do you have your “tickets”?

Please join us for our 9th annual Christmas show at the Comedy and Magic Club’s fabulous Live at the Lounge in Hermosa Beach, CA on Sunday evening, December 8. It’s only two weeks away!

But for now we move on towards Thursday, grateful for all that is good, celebrating a hearty Thanksgiving, and then gathering for the sounds of Christmas on December 8, I sure hope you will plan to join us, and hopefully get your tickets early! (Like today!)In the meantime, have a beautiful Thanksgiving.

Warm regards,

Dennis



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SAVE THE DATE

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

26th 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

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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DANŪ- AN EMERALD ISLE CHRISTMAS

Thu December 12, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.

Irvine Barclay Theatre | www.thebarclay.org | 949.854.4646

Celebrate the holidays with the acclaimed Irish ensemble, [Danú](#).

For over two decades, Danú's high-energy performances have thrilled Celtic music lovers around the globe with major concert engagements in the United Kingdom, India, Israel and across Europe.

With a glorious mix of brilliant musicians and gorgeous voices, Danú takes you on a musical journey to its native Ireland, offering a spirit-raising concert experience for the entire family.

"Danú stirs the blood and lifts the heart." - Irish Music Magazine

Tickets: \$36-\$49

Gold Seats (\$100) including VIP center orchestra seating, admission to the private Gold Bar starting one hour before the performance, and complimentary wine and beverages.

As the Irish say... Nollaig Shona (Happy Christmas)

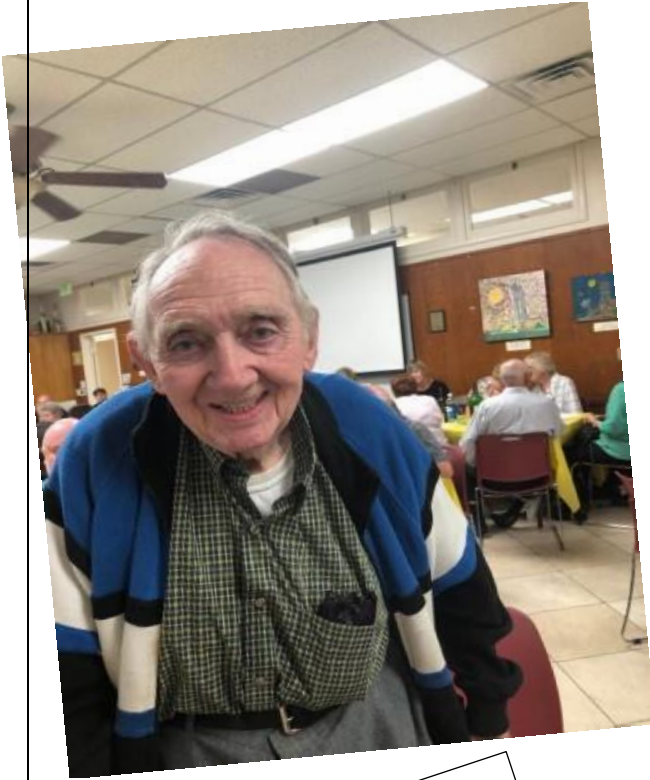
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Lucy Moran
Rest in Peace



Your friends wish you a speedy recovery
Maureen O'Connor





Tom Kennedy (above)
At the Long Beach get-together



Jack Smith Celebrating his
Birthday at the
Long Beach Second
SundayGet-together

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM
THE IRIST CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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