



Mayo Society of New York

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Founded 1879; incorporated 1891 as Mayo Men's Benefit, Patriot and Social Association of the City of New York; later as Mayo Men's P & B Association and in 1985, gender neutral as the Mayo Society, Inc. of the City of New York.

Vol. 138

Newsletter

December 2017

Regular Meeting

Where: **Tuesday, December 12, 2017**
St. Sebastian Parish Center
39-60 57th Street
Woodside, NY 11377
Time: **7:30 P.M. Sharp**

Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. There are no meetings July & August.

Our President's Notes

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving holiday. With Christmas and the New Year approaching, the Mayo Society of New York will hold its December meeting in an open forum followed by our annual Christmas party. We welcome all members to bring family and friends to join us in celebrating our accomplishments.

I would like to congratulate president-elect Betty McLoughlin and all of the 2018 officers and directors elected at our November meeting and I wish the team much success.

The Mayo Society annual communion breakfast was a great gathering of approximately 60 guests. Special thanks to Rev. Brian Dowd from Queen of Angels Church, for his lovely mass offered in memory of the deceased Mayo members and their families. Thanks also to Mary Regan and Noreen O'Donoghue for their assistance with this celebration. A great applause to the musician sisters Triona and Marina McEntee (Gibbons), and Leonora Breen with their fabulous entertainment. Special thanks to Mayo Society's Rita Lenz and all the staff at Connelly's Restaurant for making this day a beautiful and memorable occasion.

Congratulations to Mayo members Jane Duffy and Brian Fitzpatrick, recipients of our Society's 2017 Distinguished Service Award for their loyalty, dedication and commitment to the Mayo Society of New York.

On November 4th, I had the pleasure of representing the Mayo Society of New York at the Philadelphia Mayo Association 112th Annual Ball that took place at their historic Irish Centre enjoyed by over 400 in attendance. Thank you to Mayo Philadelphia Association President Eileen Conboy-Barrilli who provided a tour of their large facility and library of archives where we later participated in a film documentary relating to the history of the Mayo Associations.

Thank you to the Mayo members who attended the Emerald Isle Immigration Center Annual Fundraiser with me at Rosie O'Grady's Manhattan Club. Congratulations to Gerard Fitzgerald, President of FDNY Firefighters Association who was honored at this worthy event. Gerard's parents, Gerard Sr. and Mary hail from Crossboyne and Rathlacken, Co. Mayo.

Congratulations also to FDNY Lt. Jack Meara honored by the FDNY Emerald Society as their 2017 Irishman of the Year. Jack's son, Ryan Meara is a professional soccer player with the New York Red Bulls. Their family, Colm and the late Patricia Prendergast (sister of members Vincent and Paddy Nee) are from the Claremorris and Louisburgh areas.

The Mayo Society welcomes members Matthew Glynn from Belle Harbor and Eileen Marley who is currently resides in Oregon but is returning to New York in the near future. We encourage you to continue the family links with our society by sponsoring family members to join this great society. Friends of members with Mayo heritage are also most welcome.

Our officers and members join me in congratulating **Jeff Clark** newly-elected President of the Mineola Irish American Center President and wish him and his officer team well during their tenure.

Congratulations also to UICA President Katie Barrett who will be UICA's Aide to the 2018 Grand Marshal Loretta Brennan Glucksman.

I wish everyone a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

James A. Prendergast, President

More than six decades ago our May 1955 newsletter, "The West's Awake" highlighted Pat Coyne, beloved father of our *Mayo Woman of the Year Mary Coyne*, as a master mechanic, a huge success with his gas & service station at 58-09 Rust St., just behind Calvary Cemetery, Maspeth. Superlative editor, Gene McKenna, Esq., noted that Pat was negotiating for a better spot on Queens Blvd. Many remember Pat as a loyal, self-effacing gentleman who frequently attended meetings. Regretably, this highly professional, glossy-papered newsletter, *The West's Awake*, ran for only two issues.

Our esteemed 2018 Mayo Woman of the year Mary Coyne-Byrne

Although Mary P. Coyne Byrne is a Woodside native and resident, her deep Irish roots and her love and respect for her Irish heritage and culture frame the very essence of Mary. Her connections to Mayo are evident in her family tree. Her father, Paddy, was born in Shanvally Cahill Tourmakeady and her mother, Kit, was born in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, to Mary (nee Prendergast) and Patrick Lydon, fine Mayo people from Gortmore, and Derry Park Tourmakeady, respectively. Mary was born the sixth of seven children to Patrick and Catherine Coyne. The Coyne clan were all raised to cherish their Irish roots, family and values.

Mary attended BVM Help of Christians School in Woodside, Queens Vocational HS and Queens College before pursuing a career in travel. She is currently a corporate travel agent for Japan Travel Bureau, NYC. Her career in travel has helped make it possible for Mary to make regular visits to Ireland and forge strong connections with family and friends who share and cultivate Irish traditions and culture. To this end, Mary has constantly sought ways to support Irish causes. These include collaborations which range from recognizing the contributions of the Irish to supporting people by raising money for various charities and for neighbors and friends who have fallen on hard times. She continues to be a great advocate for keeping Irish traditions alive here in NYC and her various roles such as Past President of the Mayo Society, Board member of the Mineola Irish American Society, Delegate to United Irish counties, PR person for the NY Mayo Football club have been vehicles for her efforts in promoting Irish traditions and values. It is no wonder that through her involvement in these associations that she met and married her beloved Noel Byrne, a fine Roscommon man. The Byrne and Coyne families continue to serve as examples of how Irish families continue to promote their culture and civic values here in their communities. As we honor Mary Coyne Byrne, as Mayo Woman of the year, we honor all her Mayo family and Irish roots and deepen the call to "keep the traditions alive."

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Membership Renewal

Check your mailing label for your membership status. Your current status is indicated on your mailing label after your surname. R17 or earlier needs up-dating. Kindly use the enclosed renewal slip to update. **Advise us immediately of addresses and email changes.**

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Prayers for our sick

Kindly remember our beloved sick, deceased and distressed in your prayers.

John J. Garvey, Editor, with input from James Prendergast, President; John Gray, Financial Secretary; Items of interest may be sent to JGarvey386@aol.com

News of our members

Congratulations to members Michael S. Regan and Patrick Gavin on their elevation to "Life Members" of our society. Mike and Pat have thirty-five years of uninterrupted, loyal membership and have significantly contributed to our society as members and officers. We wish them good health always.

Events

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY Sunday, December 31, 2017. Ring in the New Year with Friends, Old and New at The Irish American Society of Nassau, Suffolk & Queens, Inc. 297 Willis Avenue, Mineola, New York. Music By "Gerard Corbett & Susan Gillespie." Open Bar, Dinner, Dessert Table 8:00 PM to 1:00 AM \$65.00 per person. Catered By: Elaine and Chaired by Betty McLoughlin & Denis O'Sullivan. Reservations will only be accepted with full payment by Dec. 22, 2017. For additional Information call (516)746 - 9392 or (516)742 - 8080 Monday To Friday 9:30 am to 1:00 pm

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CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY SUNDAY DECEMBER 10TH BEGINS 2PM

The **New York Irish Center** will host its annual children's Christmas party. There is a fantastic day in store with fun and games for all. Don't miss this joyous event. Every year this party is filled with the sounds of excitement and laughter from some of the youngest New York Irish Center visitors. If we are lucky Santa Claus just might stop by the party also to say hello and drop off a few early Christmas gifts. All welcome! TICKETS: \$10 donation per family. To book please email Rebecca at rebecca@newyorkirishcenter.org

Pipes of Christmas to honour Knock visionary John Curry

Pipers from the Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band are returning to the East Coast this December to join the company of the 19th annual "Pipes of Christmas" concerts. The renowned Pipes of Christmas concert, a staple of New York Christmas events, will this year honour Knock visionary John Curry, who died in the US city in 1943.

The Pipes of Christmas concert has become an annual holiday favorite in New York and this year's performance opens on Saturday, 16 December at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) at 2pm. The 2016 production was the recipient of the prestigious Telly Award for broadcast excellence. Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through SmartTix at www.smarttix.com or by phone at (212) 868-4444.

www.pipesofchristmas.com Other background details from: <https://www.catholicireland.net/pipes-christmas-honour-knock-visionary-john-curry/>