



# 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.

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Newsletter

February 2017

**Regular Meeting** Tuesday, February 10, 2017

**Where:** 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 excluding July & August.

## Our President's Notes

Hello members. I am delighted to inform you that the County Mayo Society of New York was selected as an Honorary Unit stepping off early in this year's 256<sup>th</sup> Annual NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Mayo Society will assemble at on **Friday, March 17, 2017 at 11:00am on W. 44<sup>th</sup> Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues.** We encourage all persons of Mayo heritage to celebrate and join us as we march up the avenue. Please wear appropriate business attire, especially those carrying our banner and flags. Kindly alert your non-member relatives and friends regarding the Parades dress code. No funny hats, beads, dyed green, orange, etc. hair. Remember, this Parade is an expression of our pride in heritage. As part of the Honor Unit that will be on T.V. we should look our best and march in an orderly manner.

Our society needs your support as we pay tribute to two outstanding Mayo people at our society's 138th Annual St. Patrick's Ball on Saturday, March 11, 2017. **Deirdre Feerick** will be honored as Mayo Woman of the Year and **Michael McMahan** as Mayo Man of the Year. This event will take place at Autun's, 96-45 Springfield Blvd, Queens Village, NY. Cocktails begin at 7:00pm followed by dinner and great dancing at 8:00pm. **The Tommy Flynn Band** will provide the entertainment for the evening. Tickets are \$85 per person. The Mayo Society welcomes large and small groups, including single guests as well as couples to attend the ball so everyone can celebrate the St. Patrick's festivities. Be assured our dance committee will accommodate comfortable seating for all our guests. Shine your shoes and be ready to enjoy a wonderful evening of great food, dancing and music while meeting friends far and near. For dance reservation, please contact **Rita Lydon Lenz 516-455-3879** or **Mary Lydon Regan 917-974-4871**.

The Mayo Society's journal is the primary source of funding that supports many worthwhile charities and organizations. We hope you will purchase a page in our 2017 memorable

journal, even if you are unable to attend the dance. This is an opportunity to congratulate our honorees, share a poem or story and include a photo or a memorial ad for a loved one. As always, your support is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed. We urge our members to patronize all our business advertisers.

Ads must be received no later than February 28, 2017 for final journal book preparations and we offer half price to our members. For journal information, contact **Betty McLoughlin** at 347-613-1303 or **Mary Coyne Bryne** 917-282-5538. Email: [mayosocietyofny@gmail.com](mailto:mayosocietyofny@gmail.com)

Thank you for the many years of outstanding service to both, **Theresa Cunningham**, Correspondence Secretary and **Brigid McNulty**, Recording Secretary who have recently stepped down from their positions. The Mayo Society sincerely appreciates their commitment, endurance and friendship they have contributed to this association.

Congratulations to Mayo Society 2014 Man of the Year **Jim Feeney** who was honored last month at the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet New York GAA Minor Board. We also congratulate Vice President **Betty McLoughlin** reelected a second year as President of the Irish American Society of Nassau, Suffolk and Queens. Kudos also to Mayo member **John Garvey** who chaired the 1916 Easter Rising Committee and accepted the 2017 Rose Cosgrove Distinguished Service Award at the UICA 113th Annual Banquet on behalf of the UICA 1916 Commemoration Committee.

Condolences are extended to the family on the passing of beloved Mayo member, John Cameron. Deepest sympathies also to the family of Mayo member, Sister Marie Scanlon (cousin of Financial Secretary, John Gray). The Mayo Society extends its condolences to the Mayo member, Mary McDonagh, on the sudden passing of her beloved son, John McDonagh. Lastly, condolences to the O'Neill family on the sad loss of Mayo man Frank O'Neill. Frank was a loyal supporter the our annual Banquets. Please keep all these souls and their families in your prayers.

The Mayo Society welcomes brothers John Prendergast from Woodlawn and Robert Prendergast, a resident of Bronxville whose late father, James and uncles Dan (RIP) and Colm Prendergast all came from the Village of Coolcun, Claremorris. As always, the Mayo Society welcomes new members to join our family of members.

Stay warm and remember to check in on our elderly to ensure they are in good form. Happy St. Valentine's Day to all.

**James Prendergast, President**

## News of our members

We lost a great member last week. John Cameron and his older brother Pat were initially recruited by their uncle Tom Cameron, into the Mayo Men's Association shortly after immigrating together to the US in 1949. A few years later upon arrival in the US, Uncle Tom 'captured' their younger brother Pete. Uncle Tom was, clearly, a dedicated member of the Mayo Men's Association.

John was drafted into the US army in 1952 during the then raging Korean War and was given a monetary gift by the Association, probably to express appreciation for his service to his new country and solidarity with him at the possibility of his being posted to Korea. Thankfully, he was posted elsewhere.

He was born in Cushlough, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo in 1930, the fourth oldest of 13 children. He would have been 87 Thursday, Feb. 2. He and Tess, also a member, loyally made the long trip from Staten Island to our meeting place in Woodside until ill health slowed them down. A splendid team, John and Tess raised seven children, all college educated. We remember John as a solid member whose input to the meeting proceedings was always appropriate and influenced with the wisdom of his years and long life's experiences.

We convey the deepest condolences to John's beloved wife, Tess, nee Durkan from Ballinagran, Balla, Co. Mayo and Family.

This writer was honored to represent our society at the funeral

Condolences to member Mike Gibbons on the sudden and unexpected death of his beloved brother, John on Christmas Eve. The funeral Mass was offered in St. John's Parish, Kingsbridge. One might reflect on the paradox of Birth and death at Christmas - of Joy and sadness.

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Condolences to member John Gray on the death of his first cousin Sr. Marie Scanlon, in her 64<sup>th</sup> year in the Sisters of the Sister of St. Joseph. Her last years were spent in the CSJ nursing home in Brentwood, L.I. Sr. Marie was a teacher, a lover of history who taught in various parishes in Brooklyn. She was described as a "diamond in the sky radiating God's all-inclusive love." She was a loyal and proud member of our society who diligently kept her membership up to date. Many years before joining the Mayo Society of New York, this writer knew Sr. Marie as an equally loyal member of the American Irish Teachers Association. Both organizations were privileged to have had her as a member.

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New member Kevin Rooney is an administrator/writer on two Facebook pages as is a cousin in Newport, Co. Mayo.

Kevin's concentration is mostly on the 1916 period through the Irish War of Independence and Civil War. He sometimes includes American history with an Irish relevance, such as the Battles of Fredericksburg and New Orleans. Did you ever wonder what happened to French General Jean Joseph Amable Humbert (1767 -1823) after the 1798 Rebellion and the landing in Kilcummin Head of a 1070 man French expeditionary force under his command. Kilcummin Head is on the western side of Killala Bay. Members Tilda McHale and others are from there. Humbert actually fought with distinction under General Jackson against the British in the war of 1812-1815. Kevin shared with me some of his fine articles. Members may follow him on <https://m.facebook.com/1916risingiris hcivilwar/>.

Westport, Co. Mayo hopes to make this St. Patrick's Day an extravaganza to celebrate its 250th Anniversary of its establishment. On St Patrick's Day in 1767, an advertisement was placed in Faulkner's Dublin Journal by patron, Peter Browne Kelly and architect William Leeson, calling for tradespeople to build the new town of Westport. There will be street performers, live music and dancing around the town, and a spectacular fireworks show. However, central to all this will be the St. Patrick's Day Parade. A visit to Westport for those visiting Mayo this March is a must. Westport is one of the few "planned" towns in Ireland. As I recall, Charlestown is another in Mayo. It was built in the mid-19th century on the initiative of Lord Dillon's agent Charles Strickland. Charlestown was named after Strickland. There is more to the story . . .

## Events Reminders

Our current Treasurer, **Rita Lydon Lenz** is the UICA Aide to the Grand Marshal of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Brooklyn St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held in Park Slope on March 19, 2017. Members are urged to recognize Rita's great honor by marching with our Mayo contingent.

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Mayo Society V.P. **Betty McLoughlin** who will be the Honoree Grand Marshal of the Rockaway St. Patrick's Parade on March 4, 2015. Installation Ball At Antun's, Queens Village Sat. Feb. 18, 2017 7pm to 12om Contact 718 318 4749 OR [KROPPYBOY@AOL.COM](mailto:KROPPYBOY@AOL.COM) Join our Mayo Contingent in the Parade

## New Members & Renewals

We welcomed new members Kevin Rooney and Helena McKenna in December and in January, John and Robert Prendergast, brothers of our president, James. We had 13 renewals in January, some for multiple years. Kindly continue to update using the enclosed renewal form and mail it to John Gray with your \$10 check.