



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.166

Newsletter

November 2021

Regular Meeting **Tuesday, November 09, 2021**

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. There are no meetings July & August.

Due to covid restrictions, our December meeting-party will be held at **Donovan's** 57-24 Roosevelt Ave Queens On December 14th 2021. Time 7-7:30pm.

PLEASE NOTE, this meeting-party is not in St Sebastian's. IT IS IN DONOVAN'S.

So looking forward to seeing you there.!

Please keep our sick and dearly departed in your thoughts and prayers.

Wishing you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Stay safe and be kind to one another

Lé Grá Mór.

Noreen

Our President's Note

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you are all keeping well. I'm always delighted to share some good news after a year of no news;

Our officer **Martin A. Lydon** was the recipient of Irish Echo Labor Ambassador Award on Nov 05 at the Edison Ballroom in NYC. A honor bestowed for his 35 years of service to the Labor movement, helping working families over-come challenging times.

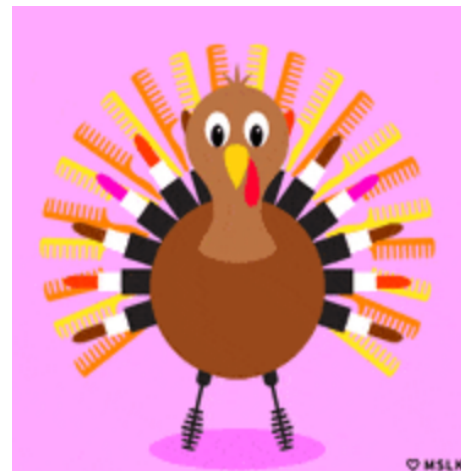
Our own long-time member and Attymass native; **Adrian Flannelly** received the 2021 Irish Government Presidential Distinguished Service Award. This award honors Irish Dispora members worldwide for their contribution. Adrian Flannelly is well known to us all as the grandfather of Irish talk Radio in NYC. His show airs live from the NYU Gluckman Ireland House from 10-12 noon and worldwide on Irish Radio.com

I'm happy to let you know that Betty McLoughlin is well on her way back in action. You can't keep a busy woman down, we are all delighted to have her back, and ready to Rock and roll again.

Our annual communion breakfast will take place on **November 21st at Connolly's Corner 71-15 Grand Ave Maspeth Queens**. Mass is at 10am followed by breakfast. This is a special occasion as we remember those who are no longer with us. Price is \$40 per person. Please contact Rita Lydon Lenz at 516-455-3879, or I (Noreen Lydon O'Donoghue) at 914-643-1014 if you are planning to attend as we need a head count for Connolly's.

Elections this month

In accordance with our Constitution, all of the officer positions are up for election at the November meeting. To run for any office, members must be in good standing, paid up to date and must have attended five meetings within the calendar year.



The Bowery Boys and The Dead Rabbits: The Real Gangs of New York

The first documented criminal street gang in New York was The Forty Thieves, nearly all Irish immigrants.

They congregated in the back room of a grocery store/saloon operated by Rosanna Peers on Centre Street in the 1820's. She was also said to be a fence, a dealer in stolen goods.

A rival gang, the Kerryonians also met there. They were comprised exclusively of men from Kerry who were known to target English victims.

The Great Hunger in Ireland in the 1840s led to a massive wave of Irish immigration to New York. The older Irish gangs faded away into newer gangs like the The Dead Rabbits. Their name was supposed to have come from their posting a dead rabbit on a pole as their standard.

The brutal neighborhood where these gangs thrived was known as The Five Points. It had long been described as a filthy, crime-ridden slum riddled with disease. By the 1850's it was teeming with impoverished refugees from Ireland.

The Irish were not warmly welcomed to their new home. There was a rising tide of Nativism (xenophobia or anti-immigration sentiment) among Protestant Anglo-Americans. They objected to an influx of immigrants who practiced Catholicism, a religion they viewed with suspicion. They felt that a Catholic's true loyalty would never be to the United States, but to the Church headed by The Pope.

Many also held a racist as well as sectarian view of the Irish as ignorant, violent, drunken savages.

Newspaper cartoons up to the 1890's-particularly those of Thomas Nast, depict the Irish as ape-like. Help Wanted signs all over the city also read "No Irish Need Apply".

This gave rise to the "Know Nothings". A society of anti-Irish, anti-Catholic Americans whose name came from their denials to maintain secrecy: "I know nothing". There were anti-Catholic riots in several cities.

A New York street gang called The Bowery Boys shared this Nativist sentiment. Their leader was William Poole, known as Bill the Butcher. The Dead Rabbits and the Bowery Boys would battle on the streets for many years to come.

The Dead Rabbits were led by John Morrissey, born in Templemore, Co. Tipperary in 1831. He was a champion boxer, having defeated Yankee Sullivan on 12 October 1853. His disputed victory led to a feud between Morrissey and Bill The Butcher. Sullivan failed to return to the ring for the next round and was disqualified. Yankee claimed he didn't hear the count over the crowd noise. The Butcher had bet on Sullivan and refused to pay. Morrissey's friends Lew Baker and Jim Turner shot and killed Poole on 25 February 1855. All three men were tried, nobody was convicted.

By 1860, 200,000 or a quarter of the 800,000 population of New York were Irish-born. With the coming of the civil war, many Irish had secured their place in American Society because of their service in the US army. John Morrissey was elected to the US House of Representatives from 1867-1871 (Democrat-New York).

Kevin Rooney

Fascinating facts about County Mayo

Co Mayo on the west coast of Ireland not only boasts spectacular scenery, but it's a wealth of history and legend.

The Pirate Queen Grace O'Malley (c. 1530 – c. 1603) was of the famed [O'Malley clan of Mayo](#). Her father was a chieftain and sea trader and she learned how to handle herself on his ships.

Striking out on her own, she became known as the Pirate Queen capturing English ships and taking their cargo. The English moved against her, but she went to London and met the Virgin Queen, Elizabeth the First, who recalled her armies and released O'Malley's family, who were being held by the English. She lived to a ripe old age.

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Oblige us ASAP: maryblydon@yahoo.com All Articles are welcome