



# 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

May 2019

**Regular Meeting** Tuesday, May 14, 2019

**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.

## Our President's Note

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you all enjoyed the Easter season, it's nice to see the flowers in bloom and the grass is getting green, summer is just around the corner.

Our April meeting was held in Kelly bar in the Bronx. We would like to thank **John Prendergast** for his hospitality, also to Noreen, Mike and the committee for hosting the tea and coffee. We had a great turnout with 18 new members joining the society. I encourage you all to attend our meetings as we continue to build and prosper our great society. By attending our meeting and getting to know other members enables us to form committees more easily.

Many Thanks to our members who came out last weekend to support Mayo Day and the Mayo Football team who played in the first round of the Championship in Gaelic Park.

Over the summer, we will be working on our scholarship in memory of John Jennings. May he Rest in Peace.

We are getting ready for our annual trip to the Our Lady of Knock shrine in East Durham on August 21, we hope you can join us. All details will be enclosed in next month's newsletter.

At the June meeting, we will have a little social please bring your spouse, partner and friends to the celebration.

Wishing you all and the moms a Happy Mother's Day

Good Bless

Betty Mc Loughlin

### Upcoming Events:

- The **Irish American Society** will be having a **Mother's Day mass and breakfast** on May 12 at 10 AM. The cost is \$15.00 a person. Great way to start Mother's Day so please call the center at (516) 746-9392. <http://irishamericansoc.com/>
- **4th Annual Rí Rá Children's Festival of Literature on June 02 at 12pm.** A cultural twist on story time" — Time Out New York. Stay all day or pop in to play at our fourth annual literature festival celebrating work from the best contemporary Irish and New York-based children's authors and illustrators. <https://irishartscenter.org/event/ri-ra-childrens-festival-of-literature-2019>
- **The United Irish Counties Feis** will be held on **June 09 at Saunders Trades at Saunders Trades & Technical High School**, 183 Palmr Road, Yonkers, NY 10701 <https://www.uicany.org/feis.html>
- **Solace Sunrise Walk will be held on June 08 at 4:30am.** Starting in the dark & early hours of the morning and crossing the finish line just as dawn is breaking, the Solace Sunrise Walk is an annual 5k walk/run that raises funds and awareness for suicide and self-harm prevention. Locations will be in the Bronx, Rockland and Queens. See the website for more details: <https://www.eventbrite.com>.
- **Celtic Cruise Emerald Isle Cruise** will be held on June 12 at 6pm. See more details on: <https://eiic.org/blog/category/eiic-events/>
- **WRHU (88.7 FM) -Radio Hofstra University "Irish Fundraiser" will be held on Saturday 11 May 2019 from 2pm to 8pm.** Hosts include Eileen Cronin and Kathleen Shortis. Support Long Island's oldest non-commercial educational radio station. [www.hofstra.edu/academics/colleges/soc/wrhu/wrhu\\_donate.cfm](http://www.hofstra.edu/academics/colleges/soc/wrhu/wrhu_donate.cfm). Mention "Irish Fundraiser" in the comments section

John MacBride was born 7 May 1868 in Westport, Co. Mayo. The family operated a pub, grocery and hardware business. John, who was nicknamed "Foxy Jack" for his red hair and long nose, attended the Christian Brothers School in Westport. He studied medicine at St. Malachy's College in Belfast. He also worked in a drapery shop as an apprentice in Castlerea, Co. Roscommon. He went to Dublin to work at Hugh Moore wholesale. He joined the IRB. In 1896, MacBride went to Chicago for the National Alliance Convention on behalf of the IRB. MacBride said: "I resolved to go to the South African Republic as I knew then England had her mind made up to take the country, and I wanted to organize my countrymen there, so as to be in a position to strike a blow at England's power abroad when we could not, unfortunately, do so at home."

MacBride settled in Johannesburg. In September 1899 under the pseudonym Mayo, he wrote: "We are doing well with our Irish Brigade. In a couple of weeks, we hope to be assisting our friends, the Boers, to drive the English robbers into the Indian Ocean". MacBride founded the Irish Transvaal Brigade and was commissioned as a Major. Many of the British soldiers they faced were fellow Irishmen. He became a hero in Ireland as nationalists sympathized with the Boers, whose women and children died in large numbers in British-built concentration camps. Maud Gonne, an English-born Irish nationalist started the Irish Transvaal Committee and sent a green flag with a harp for the Brigade. MacBride was nominated for a seat as MP for South Mayo in a by-election for the seat resigned by Michael Davitt in protest of the Boer War. Davitt went to South Africa and met with MacBride in Pretoria. The Brigade was disbanded in September of 1900. He wrote: "Though at present the weapons have fallen from our hands, we hope to pick it up in our own island home, and never let it drop till, by union and strength, we blot out the last vestige of the 'Empire of Hell'".

MacBride moved to Paris, where he met Maud Gonne. She wrote: "After a reception by the Paris Young Ireland Society, and talks with a few friends from Dublin, MacBride went to America. In a few weeks he wrote to me, urging me to accept an invitation to come on another lecture tour." He and Maud were married in Paris February 1903. Their son, Seán was born in January 1904. Custody plans for their son led to a petition for divorce being filed. It was bitterly contested, widely publicized and did damage to MacBride's reputation. He later won a suit for libel against the Independent but was awarded only £1. MacBride returned to Ireland and never saw his son again. He wrote a series of articles about his experiences in the war that were printed in *The Freeman's Journal* from October 1906

On 3 March 1911 he gave a speech in Belfast commemorating Robert Emmet during which he said: "the rhetoric I would like to hear is the crack of the rifle and the rattle of the machine gun, directed against the power of England". In November of 1914 he gave an address about the Manchester Martyrs. He said: "No man can claim authority to barter away the immutable rights of Nationhood; for Irishmen have fought, suffered, and died in defense of those rights. And, thank God, Irishmen will always be found to snatch up the torch from the slumbering fire, to hold it aloft as a guiding light, and to hand it on, blazing afresh, to the succeeding generation."

On Easter Monday, 24 April 1916, MacBride left his saw band of Irish Volunteers commanded by Thomas MacDonagh, who told him that an Irish Republic was proclaimed. MacBride said: "Here I am if I'm any use to you." He knew nothing of the plans for the Rising but was made second in command of the garrison at Jacob's Factory. After some fighting earlier in the week, the British largely avoided the factory; but it was fired on intermittently. Ma Ni Siubhlaigh of Cumann na mBan remembered: "He fulfilled all the expectations as a soldier of courage and resource, a gentleman, quiet, witty, always unruffled. Without exception, the Volunteers in the building admire and respected him." On Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, the order for surrender reached the Factory. MacBride told the Volunteers: "Good luck boys. Many of you may live to fight some other day. Take my advice and never allow yourself be cooped up inside the walls of a building again." When asked about himself, he replied "We'll be shot."

W.T. Cosgrave remembered MacBride telling him "He has said three Hail Marys every day that he should not die until he has fought the British in Ireland." Brigadier-General Blackadder said "All the men behaved well, but the one who stands out as the most soldierly was John MacBride. He, centering stood to attention facing us and, in his eyes, I could read: 'You are soldiers. I am one. You have won. I have lost. Do your worst.'" MacBride told Seán T. O'Kelly: "This is the end. Remember, this is the second time I have sinned against them."

Early 5 May, Father Augustine, came to MacBride's cell. He described MacBride as a "brave man, fearless of death." MacBride offered his money to the poor and his rosary beads for his mother. He made a confession and received communion. He asked that his hands not be bound, this was refused. He asked not to be blindfolded, this was also refused. He said: "You know Father. I've often looked down their guns before."

**Kevin Rooney**