



# Mayo Society of New York

P.O. Box 780214  
Maspeth, NY 11378-0214

<http://www.mayosocietyofny.com/>  
E-mail: [mayosocietyofny@gmail.com](mailto:mayosocietyofny@gmail.com)

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. 141

Newsletter

Oct 2018

**Regular Meeting** Tuesday, October 09, 2018

**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.

## Upcoming Events

**THE DEAD**, 1904 based on the novella "The Dead" by James Joyce. Adapted by Paul Muldoon & Jean Hanff Korelitz and directed by Ciarán O'Reilly. November 17, 2018 - January 13, 2018. Venue: The American Irish Historical Society, 991 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY

<https://irishrep.org/show/2018-2019-season/the-dead-1904-2018-19-production/>

**2018 EIIC Fall Fundraiser** will be held on Monday, October 29, 2018. The Manhattan Club, 51 West 52nd Street, New York, NY

<http://eiic.org/blog/save-the-date-2018-fall-fundraiser/>

**"Aoibhinn" A Celebration of Irish Language and Culture** October 12, 2018 @ 6:30 pm at the American Irish Historical Society, NY. Liam Ó Maonlaí, raised in an Irish-speaking family in Dublin and is the lead singer of The Hot House Flowers is the event's special guest. <http://aihs.org/event/aobhinn-a-celebration-of-irish-language-and-culture/>

**Irish Screen America and Glucksman Ireland House NYU** invite you to the ISA Opening Night Reception and screening of **The Camino Voyage**. Fri, October 19, 2018, 5:00 PM – 9:30 PM at Cantor Film Center Fri, October 19, 2018, 5:00 PM – 9:30 PM at Cantor Film Center 36 East 8th Street, New York, NY 10003

A crew, including a writer, two musicians, an artist and a stonemason embark on the Camino by sea, in a traditional boat they built themselves, on an inspiring and dangerous 2,500km modern day Celtic odyssey all the way from Ireland to Northern Spain. They rowed from Ireland in the 'Naomhóg' (a traditional West Kerry rowing boat) following the coastal routes of their ancestors.

**2018 Eugene O'Neill Award** Honoring Joanie Madden Mon, Nov 12, 6:00PM The Manhattan Club, Upstairs at Rosie O'Grady's, New York, NY. Please visit [iamwa.org](http://iamwa.org) for more information about IAW&A and the O'Neill Award

## Our President's Note

Dear Members,  
I hope you are enjoying our fall season and getting ready for Halloween. My goodness the time is flying by.

Thank you all for coming out to our last meeting as we remembered the Victims and Families of 9/11.

We are looking forward to our Mayo Basketball team, Under 16/18 coming. They will be in town to play some games the end of October, beginning of November. They will be playing in Westchester, New Jersey, and hopefully Long Island. We will try to meet up with them along the way and we wish them Good Luck!

Our Communion Breakfast is coming up on November 18th, 2018 at Connolly's Corner in Maspeth. This is a time to remember in a special way our members and friends who have passed and forever in our hearts and prayers. The cost is \$36. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

On Monday October 8th, The Irish American Center in Mineola will be hosting Veterans Recognition- Stand Down. It is from 12 noon to 2:30 sharp. Lunch will be served free of charge. Please call 516-746-9392 if you would like to attend.

If you have a friend who would like to be a member, let us know. Remember our sick and deceased members.

Sincerely,

Betty

## September 25th 1983, The Great Escape.

Only two years after the 1981 hunger strike had ended, Irish Republican prisoners were determined to organize a break out in Long Kesh, the most secure Gaol in Europe.

In addition to 15-foot (4.6 m) fences, each H-Block was encompassed by an 18-foot (5.5 m) concrete wall topped with barbed wire, and all gates on the complex were made of solid steel and electronically operated.

Republican prisoners, Bobby Storey and Gerry Kelly had started working as orderlies in H7, which allowed them to identify weaknesses in the security systems, six handguns had been smuggled into the prison to be used in the escape.

On Sunday, September 25th 1983 at roughly 2:30 pm Republican prisoners armed with guns & knives started to take over H7, one prison officer was stabbed and another shot during the takeover of the block, by 2:50 pm H7 was in complete control of Republican prisoners without an alarm being raised.

The prisoner officers were stripped of their uniforms, at 3:25 pm a lorry delivering food to H7 arrived and its occupant's taken hostage, the prisoners some now dressed in prison officer uniforms climbed into the lorry, the lorry driver was told under gunpoint to drive out of Long Kesh as normal.

A rearguard was left in the block to watch over the hostages and make sure they didn't raise the alarm. At 3:50 pm the lorry with 38 prisoners inside left the block and reached the main gate at 4 pm, where the prisoners intended to take over the gatehouse.

Ten of the prisoners, who were dressed as prison officers, got out of the lorry, entered the gatehouse and took the officers hostage. Some of the officers resisted and the alarm button was pressed, when other staff rang to see what the problem was, a prison officer who was being held at gunpoint said it had been pressed in error.

Prison officers now starting their shift began arriving in the gatehouse, more and more hostages were being taken, which made it difficult for prisoners to manage. Scuffles broke out and some prison officers ran out but were pursued by the prisoners. One of the prison officers would later die of a heart attack.

A British soldier in the watchtower reported that the prison officers were fighting amongst each other. By the time the alarm was rung again the prisoners had raised the gate but some prison officers had blocked the path of the lorry with their cars. The prisoners had no option but to make a run for it and others used cars to make their escape.

There was much confusion as the British soldiers in the watchtower at times could not decipher who were the prison officers and who were the prisoners. Of the thirty-eight all but three made it out over the fence or out the

main gate which by 4:18 pm was closed and the Gaol secured.

Fifteen prisoners were captured that day and a further four were captured over the next few days, so that left nineteen prisoners, eighteen of which made it to South Armagh, where safe houses were provided.

Some of the prisoners settled in the United States, Europe & the 26 counties under false identities but some of them were caught and extradited back to the six counties. Others went back on active service for the IRA and some were killed in action. Of the 38 who escaped, two have never been tracked down.

The escape was the biggest prison break in Europe since WW2 and was a huge morale booster for the Republican movement at the time and a huge embarrassment for the prison service and the British Government, led by the hated Margaret Thatcher.

Larry Marley who helped plan the escape was released from Long Kesh in 1985 and settled back in the Ardoyne area of Belfast. In 1987 Loyalists with the help of the British security services murdered him in his home.

Marley's funeral was delayed for three days as the RUC repeatedly attacked the mourners, but thousands showed up in defiance and he was finally laid to rest.

In 1997 the escape is portrayed in the opening scenes of the movie "A Further Gesture" starring Brendan Gleeson & Stephen Rea.

In 2017 a film was made about the escape called "Maze" which by all accounts is a fairly accurate portrayal of the escape and is now available on Netflix.

<https://www.facebook.com/irishrevolutionaries/>

## Interesting Facts About Mayo, Beginning of a Series .....

The name 'Mayo' originates from the Irish 'Mhaigh Eo.' The Irish Mhaigh Eo translates to 'Plain of the Yew Trees,' originating from the village of Mayo, known today as Mayo Abbey. The yew tree is one of the few evergreen trees native to Ireland.

Some e-mail is "bouncing" back as undeliverable. Email intercommunication is fast and efficient. Advise us of your email address changes ASAP. If you have an active email address and **you are not** receiving your digital newsletter means we do not have your email address. Oblige us ASAP:

JCGray77709@gmail.com; [maryblydon@yahoo.com](mailto:maryblydon@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editor: Mary Lydon and Sharon Trotti.