



# Mayo Society of New York

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

<http://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.151

Newsletter

Oct 2019

**Regular Meeting** Tuesday, October 08, 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 are well and enjoying this beautiful weather. Well since our last meeting, a lot of good things happened;

**Fainne Oir** premiered in New York. This was an Irish contemporary music and dance experience that told a story of tragic loss, enduring love and the triumph of humanity. It was composed by a County Mayo woman; Kathy Fahey and featured the Mayo Concert Orchestra. It was a fantastic production that brought back a lot of memories including some sad ones. The acting was wonderful and the Orchestra just phenomenal. It made me smile to think a small town in Mayo could produce such a production. At the premiere, I had the honor of getting a picture with Prince Albert's daughter who looks like her grandmother.

This past Sunday, we had the pleasure of having **President Michael Higgins** visit the Irish Center in Mineola. He was a very humble man with a wonderful speaking voice. He delivered a great speech.

Congratulations to **Vice President: Noreen Lydon O'Donoghue** on receiving the Pat O'Dwyer award at the Great Irish Fair. Noreen also had her two knees operated on, so we wish her a speedy recovery. We hope Maureen Filip's husband is feeling better too.

I want to say thank you to all those who came to the Harvest Moon Ball.

A big Congratulations to **Rita Lydon Lenz** on being chosen Mayo Woman of the Year for 2020, and our Mayo Man of the Year, a great man and a great supporter of our Ball and his mom is a Mayo lady, **William Flynn**, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 30.

We look forward to a great dance in 2020 and your continued support.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our meeting.  
Please bring a Mayo friend to join.

Love Betty

## Upcoming Events:

- **Telling our Black and Brown Irish Stories Open House** Sat, Oct 5, 2 – 5 PM  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/telling-our-black-and-brown-irish-stories-open-house-tickets-65433550511>
- **Muldoon's Picnic:** Oct 14 at 7.30pm at the Irish Arts Center. The beloved monthly variety show returns with another season of music and madness, prose and poetry, high commentary and low comedy  
<https://irishartscenter.org/event/muldoons-picnic-october-2019>
- **Eugene O'Neill Lifetime Achievement Award.** Peter Quinn will receive the 2019 annual Eugene O'Neill Lifetime Achievement Award from the Irish American Writers & Artists during a festive evening on Monday, October 21, 2019 at Manhattan Manor, upstairs at Rosie O'Grady's.  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/rosie-ogradys/eugene-oneill-lifetime-achievement-award/516530589175740/>
- **Irish Screen America: Float Like A Butterfly Q+A and Opening Reception.** Fri, Oct 25, 5 – 10 PM  
Irish Screen America, in partnership with Glucksman Ireland House NYU and the Irish Arts Center, invites you to the Opening Night of Irish Screen America 2019. There will be a welcoming reception from 5:00pm followed by the NY premiere of Float Like A Butterfly at 7:00pm at the Cantor Film Center.  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/irish-screen-america-float-like-a-butterfly-qa-and-opening-reception-tickets-67183956021?aff=ebdigiogoogleseo>
- **Long Beach Irish Day.** Sat, Oct 5, 9 AM – 4 PM

**ARCHBISHOP "DAGGER" JOHN HUGHES**

John Joseph Hughes was born in Annaloughan, Co. Tyrone on 24 June 1797. At an early age, he knew he wanted to be a priest. He said he dreamed of "a country in which no stigma of inferiority would be impressed on my brow, simply because I professed one creed or another." In 1816, his family emigrated to the United States, he joined them a year later. He was enrolled as a seminarian on the recommendation of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton.

On 15 October 1826 Hughes was ordained as a priest at old St. Joseph's Church in Philadelphia. In 1835 Hughes was challenged to a theological debate Presbyterian clergyman Rev. John Breckinridge. The point debated was whether Catholicism was consistent with American republicanism, democracy, and liberty. Hughes stated: "I am an American by choice, not by chance. I was born under the scourge of Protestant persecution, of which my fathers in common with our Catholic countrymen have been the victim for ages. I know the value of that civil and religious liberty, which our happy government secures for all." The debates brought Hughes national fame, and heroic standing among the Irish in America as a defender of the faith. Hughes was consecrated as a bishop in 1838 at St. Patrick's Old Cathedral. The catholic population was about 200,000 served by 40 priests in about 20 churches. In 1839, Hughes visited France, Italy and Austria to solicit financial aid and recruit much needed clergy for his growing flock in New York. Hughes sought to secure state authorization and funding for separate Catholic schools. He felt that it was discriminatory for Catholics to have to pay to educate their children while they already paid taxes to support the public schools, which disrespected their faith. Hughes did succeed in getting the King James Bible study removed from the New York public schools. He then founded an independent parish-based catholic school system in New York; under church authority and funded by its parishioners, which remains today.

In 1842, Hughes became the fourth Bishop of New York. In Philadelphia, anti-Catholic riots in 1844 saw two Catholic churches burned. He told Mayor James Harper: "If a single Catholic Church were burned in New York, the city would become a second Moscow". No Catholic churches were burnt in New York. In 1845, The Great Hunger caused a huge wave of Irish immigration. The refugees lived in miserable poverty, squalor and desperation. The slums they inhabited were dens of crime, vice and disease. Adding to their misery were the familiar prejudices.

In 1846, Hughes was offered a position as a US envoy to Mexico during the war with that country, which he refused. In 1847 he read a religious lecture in both Houses of Congress at the invitation of 20 senators and 33 congressmen. In 1850, New York was made as an archdiocese and he became its first archbishop. In 1853, Hughes had announced his intention "to erect a Cathedral in the City of New York that may be worthy of our increasing numbers, intelligence and wealth as a religious community, and at all events, worthy, as a public architectural monument, of the present and prospective crowns of this metropolis of the American continent." On 15 August 1858, he laid the cornerstone of the new St. Patrick's Cathedral in Midtown Manhattan. The idea was called "Hughes' Folly."

He insisted the area would one day be "heart of the city". 1860 saw election of Abraham Lincoln as President, which alarmed the slaveholding states in the south. Archbishop Hughes' views on slavery actually mirrored Lincoln's. Hughes stated that he "never had been and never could be an advocate of slavery", but also later wrote: "I am an advocate for the sovereignty of every state in the Union within the limits recognized and approved by its own representative authority when the constitution was agreed on." Eleven states seceded or divorced themselves from the Union following the election and formed themselves into The Confederate States of America. The US claim of sovereignty against the southern claim of independence led to war in April of 1861. Many people in New York did not support the war. A large percentage of the goods exported out of New York were related to cotton, a labor-intensive crop made competitive by slave labor. The south feared that interference with or abolition of slavery would undermine their economy and destroy their way of life. Fernando Wood, the Democratic advocated that the city should secede as the southern states had done to protect this commerce. Hughes showed his support for the Union and for the war to preserve it. The Irish immigrant community in New York enrolled in the US Army in great numbers, joining regiments such as the 69th, 63rd and 88th New York that comprised the Irish Brigade. Hughes then went to France, Spain, and Italy to promote the Union cause sent by Lincoln. In France, he met with Emperor Napoleon III and impressed upon him the futility of the southern cause.

In March of 1863, the US Congress passed the Enrollment Act, also known as the Civil War Military Draft Act. The act allowed for buying one's way out or hiring a replacement for \$300, approximately a year's salary for an unskilled worker. President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation which promised freedom to slaves in states in rebellion. New York's Irish were outraged by this new draft, which they felt was set up so that the working class and immigrants bore the brunt of the struggle. The law favored the rich and did not pertain to blacks because they were not citizens. This brought fears that newly freed slaves would steal their jobs, as the Tammany Hall had always been telling them; so, they felt they were going to be used as cannon fodder to free the slaves to their own detriment.

On 13 July, a mob of 500 attacked the office where a draft drawing was held. The Police, who were predominantly Irish like the mob itself; were quickly overwhelmed. The mob then turned its anger on the black population. They looted and burned the Colored Orphan's Asylum and, 11 black men were lynched. The mob also targeted the homes of prominent abolitionists. Governor Horatio Seymour of New York asked the archbishop to use his influence to stop the rioters. Hughes addressed a crowd of about 5,000 on Friday 17 July. The riot was put down by army and militia. The official death toll was 120 but believed to be higher. Archbishop Hughes died on 3 January 1864.