



# 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.150**

**Newsletter**

**Sept 2019**

## **Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 10, 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 had a wonderful summer. The weather was very hot and wet. I went to Texas for two days to visit a sick niece and the weather was so hot and humid nobody was out during the day time. Soon we will be complaining about the cold. We are busy putting together our scholarship form, it will be in with this mailing. Many thanks again to the Jennings family and it's an honor to be able to start a scholarship in their name with the Mayo society. Please reach out to your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews. A big thank you to Mike McMahon for donating the food for our June meeting. Our Lady of Knock trip was wonderful. We had a full bus and were so delighted to have Father Kevin Sweeney and Father Steve Matthews celebrate the mass. Thanks to all who helped. After the mass we went to Gavin's for lunch. It was a lovely afternoon with very good food and music downstairs. Our bus driver Danny was a delight and a wonderful driver. We kept missing the showers, thank god so our trip back home was dry. A special thank you to Noreen Lydon O'Donoghue. St Sebastian's, St Barnabas, the Irish center in Long Island city, the Emerald Isle Immigration center, the Aisling Irish center and the Irish American center of Nassau Suffolk and Queens. We look forward to 2020, Please God.

On September 26, we have a concert coming from Ireland from Castlebar called Fainne Oir. It's going to be at Symphony Space theatre, 96th and Broadway. I have some tickets if anyone is interested in them for \$55 a ticket. They were \$65 but I got a \$10 discount when I bought a group. It's a story about a golden ring, Immigration and the famine. I hope some of you will get to see it. I was in touch with Mike Larkin and he wrote a book called the Right Connection. He sent me a few to sell and part of the proceeds will come back to the Mayo Society. Please reach out to your Mayo friends to join our society.

Betty Mc Loughlin

## **Upcoming Events:**

- The **Harvest Moon Ball, Friday September 27th** at Irish American center in Mineola. The honorees for the evening are Tony and Maureen Jackson, PJ and Kit Smith. Tickets are \$85; music by Tommy Flynn and the phone number is 516-746-9392.  
<http://irishamericansoc.com/index.htm>
- **White Plains Irish Festival 2019- Halfway to St. Patrick's Day, Sat, September 14, 2019** from 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT at The Big Tent, West Lawn Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd Purchase, NY 10577. <https://www.whiteplainsirishfestival.com>
- The **38th Annual Great Irish Fair will be held on Sat, September 21, 2019** from 9:30 AM – 9:00 PM EDT at the Ford Amphitheater at Coney Island Boardwalk; 3052 West 21st Street Brooklyn, NY 11224. The Great Irish Fair celebrates New York City's great Irish-American history and culture. Several thousand attendees typically gather at the family-friendly event every year. The Fair features traditional and contemporary Irish music, goods, foods and beverages available for sale from many participating vendors.  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/38th-annual-great-irish-fair-tickets-61061928873?aff=ebapi>
- **2019 Danbury Irish Festival** will be held from Fri, Sep 20, –Sun, Sep 22, 2019, at 65 Sand Pit Rd, Danbury, CT. The 2019 Danbury Irish Festival will be a 3-day indoor/outdoor event this fall! We'll have live music all weekend long, cultural activities and events, a shopping village, fun children's entertainment and activities, a chance to win big in our raffle and delicious food, drinks and live entertainment all weekend long.  
<https://danburyirishfestival.org/>
- **Irish Writers in the American Press, 1882-1964** Thu, Sept 12, 2019 7-9pm at the Glucksman Ireland House NYU. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/irish-writers-in-the-american-press-1882-1964-tickets-65432282719?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>
- On **October 14** at noon, Irish American Center in Mineola will hold the **Veteran's Luncheon**. Please call the center if you plan to attend. 516-746-9392.  
<http://irishamericansoc.com/index.htm>

## BREXIT: HOW IT THREATENS IRELAND AND HOW AMERICANS CAN HELP

**An article written by our esteemed member Kevin Rooney that was published recently by the Irish Central.**

Brexit is scheduled to happen October 31. The European Union (EU) has given the UK this final closing date to divorce themselves from Europe as they've chosen after being granted several delays. The big concern for Ireland is whether or not allowances are made to keep trade flowing freely through the border in Ireland as opposed to a "hard" or militarized border.

This was a key part of the Good Friday Agreement of 1998, which ended the 30-year war in the North of Ireland. The United States was a key player in brokering that Agreement, which included the Irish and British governments and got Republican and Loyalist paramilitaries such as the IRA and the UDA to renounce violence. Brexit threatens to violate that agreement because the border between the North of Ireland and the Republic of Ireland will then be a UK/EU border, a game changer. Further evidence of the lack of practical thought behind Brexit in the first place. Anyone who has been paying attention will tell you the re-introduction of a hard or militarized border will not only hinder and complicate simple commerce, but can possibly, even likely restart the war in the North of Ireland.

Nobody wants war, but the Brexiteers such as new Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson seem intent on pushing Brexit ahead without any thought of safeguards or guarantees on the Irish border, called a "backstop". On the contrary, they are dismissive of Ireland's Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Leo Varadkar bringing these concerns to their attention.

Johnson's Conservative Party holds on to the balance of power in the British Parliament only because they made a coalition with the DUP (Democratic Unionist Party) from the North of Ireland. They are a Loyalist party with historic ties to Loyalist terror groups such as the UDA and were founded by notorious sectarian bigot the late Rev. Ian Paisley.

The DUP support Brexit although a majority of the people of the North of Ireland voted against Brexit and see it as a disaster waiting to afflict them. The DUP are also responsible for the ongoing suspension of the Legislative Assembly in the North of Ireland due to their refusal to allow implementation of an Irish Language Act, also part of the Good Friday Agreement.

The Brexiteers are also dismissive of the leaders of the 26 nations of the EU. However, the UK will need a new trade deal with the US under its new status.

US Senator Tom Cotton (Republican, Arkansas) sent a letter to Boris Johnson, signed by 45 senators (out of 100 total senators) pledging to back a trade deal with Britain with or without a deal. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (Democrat, California) however has assured the Irish government and warned the British government that a UK/US trade deal will not pass the House of Representatives if it threatens Ireland. This is recognition that a hard border threatens the delicate peace.

A trade agreement such as this has to pass both houses of Congress. The President has no say in it. This is contrary to a popular perception that President Trump would override or push through a treaty as a favor to Boris Johnson. Nor does Senator Cotton have the authority to give assurances as he has done. Not if it doesn't pass the House.

Remember that the UK in its current uncertainties and inability to sort this out have placed themselves in a weakened position for negotiating. Johnson is the new Prime Minister only because this Brexit fiasco cost his predecessor Theresa May her job. Simply put, they need a deal with the USA more than the Americans need them.

Therefore, I feel that pressure from the US is something that the British fear and to which they will have to respond. I believe the role of each American who loves or cares about Ireland and doesn't want to see war start again is to write, email or otherwise contact your elected representatives at the National level. Local politicians can lobby the bigger ones up the chain also, but the focus needs to be on the Representatives in Washington D.C.

Each American has 1 Representative in the House (based on area of residence) and each state has 2 US Senators. Group efforts or letters such as from organizations are even more effective. I also ask my fellow Americans to do this without regard to American partisan politics. I don't care if you're a Republican or Democrat or if you happen to despise your Representative or Senator/s for your state. It seems like sides are being chosen on Capitol Hill on this issue. Use your voice and your vote to influence your Representatives to stand on the right side. The side that has Ireland's back on Brexit.

The people of the North of Ireland who went through the suffering and loss of those terrible days of the war now worry that this will be in the future for their children. Please let's not let that happen. Not without doing whatever we can to stop it. Bobby Sands said "Everyone, Republican or otherwise has a role to play." Irish America, this is your role; and the time is NOW! Please share widely