



# 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

Sept 2018

**Regular Meeting** Tuesday, September 12, 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.

## Our President's Notes

Dear Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer now that it's coming to an end. The Mayo Society lost friends and members this summer; Edward M. Curry, Noreen Flannery O'Kelly and John Garvey. May they all Rest in Peace.

John, Garvey, a scholar, teacher, and mentor to all of us in the Mayo Society will be greatly missed. Kitty Thornton will offer a mass at St. Sebastian's Chapel on October 20th at 9am and I on October 27th, at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament in Bayside.

I just returned from Ireland; I went home for my Grammar School Reunion... however, I won't tell you how many years! The weather was cold and wet though Ireland experienced many a heat wave this summer. While I was there, I visited Knock, went to mass and said a prayer for our members. I also met up with Fr. Gibbons who was very busy preparing for the Pope's visit. The Basilica and the grounds continue to look beautiful.

Our annual East Durham trip to Our Lady of Knock church on August 21 was a big success. We had a wonderful day with a big crowd at the church. Thank you to Noreen Lydon O'Donoghue for co-chairing the event and to you all for making the trip and sharing the day with me.

Thank you to Mike McMahon for providing the food and refreshments at our June meeting, it was a lovely way to kick off the summer in style.

God Bless

Betty McLoughlin

## Upcoming Events

- **The Irish American Society of Nassau, Suffolk and Queens** will be having their **Harvest Moon Ball on September 28th**. The Honorees are Philomena Nica, Phyllis Hughes and Noreen Kearney. There is a sit down dinner catered by Elaine. The tickets are \$85. The McLean Avenue Band and Special Guest TR Dallas will provide music for the evening.  
[http://www.irishamericansoc.com/pdf/calendar\\_current.pdf](http://www.irishamericansoc.com/pdf/calendar_current.pdf)
- **Irish Repertory 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Block Party** will be held on Saturday, September 15th, 30 years to the day from our first-ever performance: On September 15, 1988, previews began for the first Irish Rep production - Sean O'Casey's *The Plough and the Stars* - now, 30 years later, we have a permanent 2-venue home in Chelsea where we present up to 11 productions in a year, and have been called "one of the finest theater companies in America" by Terry Teachout of the *Wall Street Journal*. We are most proud of our dedicated audience and loyal membership base that allowed us to thrive. Thank you for being a part of our community.  
<https://irishrep.org/event/2018-2019-season/30th-anniversary-free-block-party/>
- **Hudson Valley Irish Fest will be held on Saturday September 29, 2018 11AM to 7PM**, Peekskill Riverfront Green Park. The finest Hudson Valley Irish music, artists, dancers, pipers, crafts on the beautiful banks of the Hudson- for lovers of all things Irish.  
<http://www.hudsonvalleyirishfest.com>
- **Great Irish Fair** will be held on September 22, 2018 at Ford Amphitheater at Coney Island Boardwalk, 3052 W 21st St, Brooklyn, NY 11224  
<http://www.iabsny.com/great-irish-fair/>
- **2018 Irish 2000 Festival** will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2018 - 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds, Ballston Spa, 12020. This festival will offer a unique lineup of Irish music including everything from Celtic punk and jam music to traditional and everything in between.  
<https://www.saratoga.com/event/irish-2000-festival-48500/>

This summer, we said good-bye to a friend, director, pioneer and editor of this newsletter. We salute him in our newsletter this month and enclose his autobiography:

John J. Garvey, a native of County Mayo, passed away on Friday, June 29, 2018.

John was the son of Charles & Evelyn Garvey. He was a devoted husband to Ann, loving father to William (Carol) and cherished grandfather to Sara. He was the fond brother of Cathal and the late Frank in Ireland. He is sadly missed by his extended family in the US and Ireland including his nieces and nephews.

A true son of Ireland and an equally staunch American patriot, John has held a number of leadership positions in the Irish American community: a past president and founding member of the American Irish Teachers Association whose newsletter he wrote & edited with his wife; past president of the Mayo Society of New York whose newsletter he also wrote & edited for over 25 years. He pioneered the educational outreach program organized to bring new immigrants into higher education. He was a director of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center. He was at the forefront in securing the Irish Immigrant Stamp from the US Postal Service and bringing about the NYS Irish Famine Curriculum. He was an essay judge for the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee essay competition and an avid AOH Division 4 member and member of the Bronx Gaelic League. He was an energetic fundraiser for Western Care and the Ceide Fields development as well as many other projects.

A former chair of the Irish American Heritage & Culture Committee, N.Y.C. Board of Education he organized the production of a documentary video, "The Irish in New York" which for many years was shown on Channel 25 in connection with St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

John also chaired the prestigious United Irish Counties 1916 Commemoration Committee which produced a book exploring New York City's pivotal role in the 1916 Rising: "THE EASTER RISING: NEW YORK AND BEYOND". In addition to his demanding role as committee chair, John wrote the introduction and contributed an essay for this publication.

For his work in the development of "The Easter Rising: New York and Beyond", the United Irish Counties awarded John the Rose Cosgrove Distinguished Service Award. John also received the Salmon of Knowledge sculpture from the Irish government in recognition of his many contributions to the advancement and understanding of Irish contributions in the US and abroad.

As a Vietnam War era vet John was an instructor in the Engineer School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. This experience inspired him to devote his professional life to the field of education. He retired from the New York City public school system after more than three decades of service as a teacher in PS 85X. John received his secondary education from St. Muredach's College, Ballina and Patrician College, Ballyfin, Co. Laois. He held a B.A. from Fordham University in Marketing and Management and an M.A. in Distributive Education from NYU. He was honored as "Educator of the Year" by the Association of Teachers.

## Fun Facts

➤ **Twitter launched Pope Francis Emoji ahead of Irish Visit.** The emoji, which features the Pontiff's face against a backdrop of the Irish flag, will be launched tomorrow and can be triggered by using the hashtags #PopeInIreland #PápaInÉirinn #WMOF2018 #FestivalOfFamilies

➤ **Is the curse lifted?**



There was general delight at a "breach of protocol" as the Pope boarded his plane. Ireland West Airport staff member [Audrey Elliott](#) asked him to sign a Mayo football jersey. He obliged with a large sweep of "Francis" in marking pen.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/papal-visit/hopefully-the-curse-has-been-lifted-pope-francis-signs-mayo-football-jersey-1.3608225>

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:

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