

County Leitrim Society of New York



Sean MacDermott
(1884-1916)

(Founded in 1895)
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December 12th, 2023

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Msgr. Patrick Whitney

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Dear Member,

The Festive Season is upon us once again! Another year gone way too fast, and with it so many changes. We look forward to another ***Christmas season***, hope it will be filled with many blessings for you and your families.

Thank you to everyone who attended our ***Memorial Mass/Scholarship Dance at Dunwoodie***. It was an emotional day for some of our members and their families, but we had a lovely evening, good music, delicious food and great company. A ***special thanks*** to ***Monsignor Whitney*** for the beautiful mass and to ***Bernadette Dunleavy*** and her team for organizing another great event. ***Congratulations*** to all our scholarship winners, wishing you all success in your chosen studies.

Our ***December meeting*** will be held on ***Thursday, December 21st, 2023 at the Heritage Bar and Restaurant, 960 McLean Avenue, Yonkers, N.Y.*** This will be our ***"Christmas get together"*** Please note that this year the refreshments will be served at 7pm and our meeting will follow. Please note time change. We will be doing our customary ***'pass the hat'*** collection for the ***Aisling Center*** at this meeting, so please bring any spare change. We look forward to seeing you.

The Society extends a warm welcome to our 6 new members, ***Rory Slattery, Thomas McKenna, Stephen McKenna, Maureen Curtin, Joan Cronogue and John Ellis (who was sworn in at our November meeting)***. It is great to see this increase in membership. We look forward to having you join us at our future meetings.

Payment of dues for 2024 are being accepted now and can be paid in person at any upcoming meeting or by mailing to the ***Financial Secretary*** at the ***P.O. Box address above***. Dues are ***\$20.00 per person or \$30.00 per couple*** per year.

All roads lead to The ***Gibbons Home in Maspeth*** on ***Friday December 22nd*** for a ***Christmas Social***. Please see attached flyer. A night out for young and old!

We are delighted to announce ***two great honorees*** for our ***St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance 2024***. Full details will be published in the New Year but for now, our ***Guest of Honor*** is a lady named ***Alice O'Brien Bermejo*** who is co-owner, with her husband ***Valentino Bermejo***, of ***The Chipper Truck*** on ***McLean Ave, Yonkers*** and most recently ***The Beer Garden & Grill***. Alice was born and raised in ***Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim*** to wonderful parents ***Kieran O'Brien***, and the late ***Kathleen O'Brien (nee Cullen)*** from ***Corranmore, Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim***. Alice moved to New York in July 1999 chasing a dream, which she has been building ever since. She has lived and worked in the Woodlawn/Yonkers neighborhood since moving here. Alice and Valentino have three children. Alice is very excited and honored for this Award.

The ***Distinguished Service Award*** recipient is a lady who is well known and respected, **Patricia Heslin Clarke**. Patricia was born in **Cattan, Mohill, Co. Leitrim** in the parish of **Gortletteragh**, to the late **Patrick Heslin** and **Maureen Heslin**. She has five sisters, **Margaret, Noeleen (RIP), Jacinta, Regina** and **Clare**. She attended **primary school** in **Gortletteragh** and went on to **secondary school** in **Moyne Community School, Co. Longford**. She went on to **Culinary School** in **Killybegs, Co. Donegal** where she graduated with a **City & Guilds Certificate**. She worked in Hospitality for a number of years, from **Donegal** and **Sligo** to **The Hilton Hotel** in **Stratford, England** before landing in **New York** in **April 1988**. She worked in various Bars and Restaurants in the New York area and is currently employed as a **Caregiver**. She is married to **Thady Clarke** who hails from **Kells, Co. Meath**. Patricia supports everything and is very deserving of this recognition.

Great News ...Rosie O'Grady's, the legendary Irish hostelry in Manhattan, has a new home. **Mike Carty** will open the former **Ruth's Chris Steak House** in the lately refurbished **Michelangelo Hotel**, just a block away from the old Rosie's, at **51st and Seventh**. His plan is to be up and running in March of next year. Congratulations and best of luck to Mike and Caroline as they embark on this new endeavor.

Reminder: Don't forget to get your box for our **NFL Superbowl Pool** for the game in February 2024. Half of the proceeds will go to **Leitrim GAA** and half to winners. Boxes are **\$100.00 each** and can be purchased from **Margaret Taylor Finucane** at **917-655-1493**. **Half-time** score is **\$1,500** and **Final score** is **\$3,000**. A nice idea for a Christmas gift!

The **56th** edition of the '**Leitrim Guardian 2024**' makes a **great Christmas gift!** If you would like to obtain a copy, please contact **Frank Brady @ 914-536-3512** or by email to frank.brady@liu.edu .

Please remember our sick members: **Brigid Buggy** and **Eamon Grant**, both undergoing treatments. We remember them and any other sick members and wish them a speedy recovery.

We pray for our deceased, **Seamus Creegan (Aughavas)**, **Mary Rynne (sister of Kathleen Rooney)** and **Vinny Dolan (Aughnasheelin)** former New York Leitrim footballer. May all our departed Rest in Peace.

Please continue to pray for the health and safety of all our **first responders, medical staff and all essential service employees**. We also pray for **Philip Casey, grandnephew of Cathy Miceli** who is currently a member of the Irish peace keeping force stationed in Lebanon. We pray for their safety during their tour of duty.

We are grateful that there were no deaths or serious injuries in **Leitrim Village** on Sunday after that freak weather incident. We hope that things will be back to normal soon.

A Very Happy and Blessed Christmas to you all. Stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Margaret Taylor Finucane
President

Anna Mulvey Buggy
Corresponding Secretary