

County Leitrim Society of New York



Sean MacDermott
(1884-1916)

(Founded in 1895)
P.O. Box 72, Woodlawn Station
Bronx, NY 10470



Web Site: www.leitrimsofny.com

January 16th, 2023

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Dear Member and Friends:

The **126th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance** of the **County Leitrim Society of New York** will be held on **Friday, March 10th, 2023** at **Antun's**, 96-43 Springfield Blvd., Queens Village, NY 11429. The deluxe cocktail hour will begin at **7:00 pm**, followed by dinner and dancing to the '**Rumor Has it Band**'. Tickets are **\$125.00 each**. Please make your reservations early; payment prior to the dance is greatly encouraged and appreciated.

This year's **Guest of Honor is Esther Flynn**. She was born in beautiful Unshinagh Ballinamore, County Leitrim. She is the third child of Patrick O'Hara and Agnes Lohan. She has three sisters Eileen, Maura, Francis, and a brother, Jack. Esther attended Primary School and Secondary school in Ballinamore.

In 1964, Esther followed her sisters to New York and made her home in Sunnyside, Queens. She lived with her aunt, Mary O'Keefe who eventually lived to a full age of 100 years. Shortly after coming to New York Esther met the love of her life, Patrick Flynn of Tonnagh, Carrick-on-Shannon. Pat was involved in many sports and played Gaelic football in Gaelic Park with his friends every Sunday while Esther watched from the sidelines and cheered on her home County Leitrim. Esther and Pat were married in 1968 in St. Mary's Church and had their reception at the Astoria Manor.

Esther and Pat had three boys, Brian born in 1969, Mark born in 1971, and Keith born in 1973. Esther was busy raising her three boys, Pat worked long hours at United Parcel Service (UPS) and became known as the *Overtime King*. Pat retired from UPS after 20 years. He was dedicated to his wife and family, and he spent his free time coaching his three sons in a variety of sports including soccer, basketball, and baseball. Sadly, Pat passed away on August 14, 2004, at the young age of 60. Esther and Pat have four grandchildren, Brian, Katie, Cody, and Patrick.

Nine years ago, Esther met a lovely gentleman, Jimmy Murphy, who hails from County Fermanagh. They lived in Breezy Point, Queens between the ocean and the bay and currently reside in Flushing, Queens. They also enjoy spending their winters in Fort Myers, Florida. Esther is an avid Irish set dancer and is involved in the Irish American Center in Mineola and the Kerry Hall in Yonkers.

This year's ***Distinguished Service Award*** recipient is **Sharon Margaret Brady**. Sharon is a former Chairwoman of the Scholarship Committee and held the office of Vice President and President of the Society (2016-2017). Sharon was born in the Bronx, New York and has grown up with an immense love for all things Leitrim as her parents, Frank Brady (Manorhamilton) and Helen (nee Clancy) Brady (Glenade) are natives of the Lovely county. Sharon has one brother, Douglas, who resides in Yonkers with his wife Kelly, twin boys Owen and William and daughter Emma.

Sharon attended The Loyola School on Park Avenue in Manhattan, where their philosophy of being "Men and Women For Others" helped shape her life of service. Sharon was active in planning all Liturgical celebrations for 4 years. She was President of the Irish Society and was the captain of her Cross Country and Track teams in which she led her teams to NYC schools titles. She also played basketball and soccer. Sharon received a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Long Island University, C.W. Post in 2009. In May of 2012, Sharon earned her Master of Science in Education with a dual certificate in Childhood Education and Students with Disabilities. Sharon worked as a Special Education Teacher in the South Bronx for children with Behavior Disorders, Autism, and Intellectually Disabled for 7 years. Sharon left her position as a classroom teacher in September 2019 to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a Speech-Language Pathologist. She earned a second degree, Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology from CUNY-Lehman College. She was elected Vice President of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Lehman College Chapter and was selected as the class cohort liaison between the class and the faculty. Sharon graduated Summa Cum Laude in August of 2021. Sharon currently resides and works in Connecticut. She is Speech-Language Pathologist for an outpatient clinic in Shelton, Connecticut and is contracted out to Stratford Schools. Sharon's passion is in the field of stuttering. Her own battle with stuttering has given her a unique insight and expertise in the management and treatment of stuttering. Sharon hopes of opening her own private practice in the future. Sharon is an avid marathon runner and has completed 13 marathons in 7 years. Sharon has been involved with the Leitrim Society for many years. She is very proud of her Leitrim heritage and is very appreciative of this recognition. ***Congratulations to our two wonderful Guests!***

We are publishing a ***Souvenir Journal*** in conjunction with this dance and a contract is enclosed. Please strongly consider placing an advertisement in our journal as it offers the benefit of wide exposure to the Irish Community in the tri-state area. A return addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience. If you have any questions, please contact our journal Chairperson, **Helen McAlinden @ (475) 225-5292** or by email at hmcalinden99@gmail.com. Thank you for your continuing support over the years.

For **reservations**, please contact **Noeleen Bohan McGovern** at **(914)643-7368**. Please make all checks payable to **'County Leitrim Society of NY'** and return to **Noeleen Bohan McGovern, 45 Southfield Avenue, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522** before **March 3rd, 2023**.

Again, thank you as always for your steadfast support. We look forward to seeing you on **Friday, March 10th, 2023** for what we hope will be a tremendous celebration.

Yours sincerely,

Donal O'Connell
Dance Chairperson
(914)356-1989

Margaret Taylor-Finucane
President
(917)655-1493

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