

The Irish American Society of Nassau, Suffolk and Queens, Inc.
297 Willis Avenue, Mineola, New York 11501



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Dear friends and members,

We had a very successful December. Our children truly shone at the Christmas Play, thank you to Jacinta and the chairpeople. Santa arrived on a firetruck which the kids loved. The Holly and Ivy dance was a lovely night as was the Thanksgiving dance. Our December ceili honored a wonderful musician and true gentleman Pete Kelly. I recommend his new song Journey up the mountain. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make these events so successful. Christmas Pub night was terrific, thanks to the Byrne family for donating the food and Tom Deegan, Sonia Reilly and Harpers Ferry for the impromptu concert.

The new Counsel General, Ciaran Madden, is visiting our center on January 28th at 3pm. All members are welcome, please let the office know if you plan on attending. March and our parade are just around the corner. Congratulations to Jeff, Nancy, Michele, Declan and Ciaran. Please send in your journal ads and join us for the Grand Marshal's Dinner Dance, always a fun and lively night. Eileen Cronin with The Irish Cultural Society of Garden City will present a talk on Penal Times In Ireland in the Garden City Library 2 7:30pm. Our March 2nd Trad and Country will have a special musical guest Marion Waldron who will join Jack Durkin and friends.

Friday March 16th Joanie Madden and Cherish the ladies are launching their new album 'Heart of the Home' here at the center. We are thrilled to host them and look forward to a brilliant night of music and fun. Tickets are \$30, as we expect a sold out show we advise that everyone purchase tickets in advance. There will be no walk-ins available on 3/16. We will have a bus to the city on St Patrick's Day, please call the office for reservations. On March 17th, back by popular demand, the Cunningham Brothers will be here at 8pm, tickets are \$20. We are expecting a great night.

This is my last letter as your president and I would like to say that it has been my honor and privilege to serve as president. I would like to thank my vice chairman Denis O'Sullivan and board chairman John Doyle, the directors, officers and trustees for all of their support. I would like to thank Ciara and Aileen in the office for their hard work. Thank you to all committees for their help throughout the past two years. This society has been here for 87 strong years as a result of the commitment and volunteerism of our members. The best way to ensure our future is to stay committed and work together as friends. Very few members feel inclined to serve as officers as it may seem like a difficult and even thankless job, however I would recommend it whole heartedly. A society of almost 800 members will have differences of opinions but as long as we treat each other with respect and communicate our future as a society is secure.

I wish Jeff Clark the very best and I am very happy to leave the society in his very capable hands. The society is part of my blood and I consider the members my family, I will be here enjoying myself as long as I am able.

Please pray for our sick Pat McHugh, Eileen Daly and Eileen Flannery. May our deceased rest in peace, Rosemary Reddan, Catherine Fleming, Mike McDonald, Joe Johnson, Mike Haugh and Cheryl Gardiner.


Betty McLoughlin

President