

*50th*

Irish Business Organization of New York

*Jubilee Gala*





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35  
years

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Congratulates  
Irish Business Organization

Caoga Bliain Ag Fás  
(Fifty Years A Growing)

We are delighted to be recognized for Cultural Leadership among many distinguished friends as an IBO Golden Jubilee Award Honoree.



The Friel Project

**TRANSLATIONS**

DIRECTED BY  
DOUG HUGHES  
OCT 20 — DEC 3, 2023

**ARISTOCRATS**

DIRECTED BY  
CHARLOTTE MOORE  
JAN 11 — MAR 3, 2024

**PHILADELPHIA,  
HERE I COME!**

DIRECTED BY CIARÁN O'REILLY  
MAR 16 — MAY 5, 2024

PHOTO: BOBBY HANVEY



# Jubilee Gala

## A Letter From Our President



This year, the Irish Business Organization of New York (IBO) celebrates its Golden Jubilee, a half-century since its more humble beginnings in 1973. I am honored and proud to serve as its president

during such a momentous and landmark year. And humbled. For I, and my amazing Executive Board, stand on the shoulders of many. The list of those whose hard work and dedication to our mission over the course of fifty years is long and special.

Yet tonight we look outside ourselves to the broader community of the Irish in New York, and acknowledge those organizations that have traveled the road with us. Individuals will come and go but good organizations, and great missions, stand the test of time. As we celebrate Ireland in New York here at Chelsea Piers, we honor five such outstanding organizations.

And one individual, Mark Burke, upon whom we bestow our Arthur F. Clements Founder's Award. She represents the very fabric from which the success of the Irish in New York is woven. We could not have chosen a more worthy recipient.

As president, my thoughts must now turn to the future. Just because we have lasted this long, doesn't mean we'll last a century, and beyond. We must remain relevant and of value to our community. That is why we have focused recently on helping the newest members of our business community, those arriving recently from Ireland on J-1 Graduate Visas. In an era when it is truly difficult to immigrate legally to the United States, our

J-1 Grads can come and work legally for up to 18 months. They are one of the few threads left for us to keep the direct US-Ireland connection strong and healthy.

But there is a catch. Our J-1s must secure employment quickly or they must leave. That's where the IBO has concentrated its efforts this year, preparing them for the chaos of New York and the pressure of a job hunt, while striving to find them qualified employment through our network of members.

In recent years, too, we have become a truly inclusive and welcoming organization because, in our heart of hearts, we are as much an organization that is Irish in spirit, as it is by heritage. We are only as good as our membership, so we invite you to join us, so you can get to know us, and we can get to know you.

I extend my great thanks to all those that have made this occasion so splendid, especially our Advisory Board and Executive Board, who together form our 50th Steering Committee and have volunteered through many late evenings this year.

Let's continue, for many years into the future, to be guided and informed by these three words:

Network. Communicate. Reciprocate.

Faithfully Yours,

**Paul Finnegan**  
President  
IBO 2023



THE  
IRELAND  
FUNDS



Congratulations to  
**The Irish Business Organization of New York**  
on your 50th anniversary.

**We salute you on this milestone occasion and applaud  
your work which strengthens our community.**

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The mission of The Ireland Funds is to harness the power of a global philanthropic network of friends of Ireland to promote and support peace, culture, education and community development across the island of Ireland and among Irish communities around the world. Together, we've supported over 3,200 outstanding Irish organizations and causes.

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Visit: [irelandfunds.org](http://irelandfunds.org) | **Progress Through Philanthropy**



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**Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Nua-Eabhrac**  
**Consulate General of Ireland | New York**

A Chairde Gael,

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all members of the Irish Business Organization of New York as you celebrate your 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee Gala.

Since 1973, the Irish Business Organization of New York has played an invaluable role in providing a support structure to generations of Irish people who have travelled to New York. Over the last five decades, with upwards of 30,000 members representing all 32 counties on the island of Ireland, the IBO has created vibrant networks across the tri-state area supporting, guiding and enlightening waves of Irish and Irish American business leaders. Your continued work in fostering a bond of common heritage and purpose amongst your members and your commitment to supporting the community are the hallmarks of Irish-America.

It is my privilege to recognize and congratulate this year's honourees: the Bank of Ireland, Glucksman Ireland House, The Ireland Funds, The Irish Repertory Theatre, the United Irish Counties Association of New York, and Mary Burke of Rosie O'Gradys, who is the recipient of the 2023 Arthur F. Clements Founders Award. Each of these organizations, as well as the individuals involved with them, have gone above and beyond in their service to others, selflessly dedicating their own time and resources to strengthen the Irish-American community here in New York and beyond. Each of these honourees embody the values of Ireland, and those of Irish-America, and their selection as this year's honourees is a wonderful reflection on the Irish Business Organization of New York.

I wish President Paul Finnegan, the Executive Board of Officers, and everyone involved in the Irish Business Organization of New York success over the coming years and I look forward to your continued support and celebration of Irish business, culture and values.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Helena Nolan

Consul General of Ireland in New York



# Celebrating *50 Years*



of The Irish Business Organization in  
New York

As the autumn leaves sprinkle the pavements of New York, there's another golden celebration sweeping through the city streets. The Irish Business Organization of New York (IBO) is hitting the half-century mark, and, by the heavens, what a journey it's been!

## FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO THE HEART OF NYC

In 1973, the IBO kicked off as The Irish Insurance and Reinsurance Society, echoing the sounds of a typical Irish pub conversation, albeit with a corporate twist. But as with any good Irish story, there were twists and turns, name changes, and a broader vision that soon emerged. It wasn't long before this insurance-focused gathering transformed into a lively hub for people looking to make their mark in the Big Apple's business realm.

## THE CRAIC AND CONNECTIONS

If you've ever found yourself amidst the electrifying atmosphere of the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade, you'd have seen the spirited IBO contingent marching with pride. It's a scene straight out of Temple Bar on a lively Saturday night, full of camaraderie and Celtic spirit.

And, when it's not parade season, the IBO ensures there's no shortage of the craic. Between the festive St. Patrick's Day revelries, heartwarming Christmas gatherings, and those indispensable networking breakfasts (sure, isn't it just an extended Irish breakfast without the black pudding?), the IBO has firmly etched its name in the cultural and business annals of New York.



## TIPPING THE HAT TO ACHIEVEMENTS

Across its vibrant 50 years, the IBO has garnered more than just a few nods of approval. Recognitions have poured in, both from this side of the pond and back home in the Emerald Isle. These accolades serve as testament to the IBO's unwavering dedication to bridging business communities.

*Jubilee  
Gala*



**CELEBRATING THE PAST, PRESENT,  
AND FUTURE**

At its core, the IBO has always been about more than business; it's about the spirit of the Irish - a community bound by resilience, wit, and an insatiable desire to make a mark. As they toast to 50 years, we tip our hats to the visionaries of '73 and every member who's carried the torch since.

*Here's to the  
next 50,  
IBO.  
Sláinte!*

**MAHON HOSPITALITY GROUP  
CONGRATULATES THE IBO ON THEIR  
50TH GALA JUBILEE  
ALONG WITH ALL HONOREES**



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**NAKED  
PIG**

**BROADSTONE**



BAR & KITCHEN

## Honoring the Legacy: Current & Past Presidents of the IBO

# Jubilee Gala

As the Irish Business Organization of NY commemorates its 50th anniversary, let's recognize the visionary leaders who have shaped the organization's legacy. Here's a look back at the passionate individuals who have led the IBO, starting with its pioneering president:

**Arthur F. Clements (RIP)** 1974 – 1977. The foundation stone of the IBO's legacy, Clements' tenure set the tone for the decades that followed.

**Michael Kevany (RIP)** 1978. With a steadfast commitment, Kevany carried the baton forward, building upon Clements' foundation.

**Francis D. Bergin (RIP)** 1979 – 1981. Under Bergin's leadership, the organization continued to flourish and make its mark.

**Patrick H. Higgins (RIP)** 1982. Higgins' tenure saw the IBO further entrench its roots in the business community.

**Bernadette McManus** 1983. A pioneering woman in business, McManus furthered the IBO's mission with her distinctive leadership style, making it a home for both men and women.

**Patrick J. Herbert** 1984 – 1985. Herbert's years were marked by a strengthened commitment to community building.

**Dympna M. Kenny** 1986. Kenny's leadership was characterized by her unwavering dedication to the IBO's vision.

**Leo V. O'Dowd (RIP)** 1987. O'Dowd's tenure was pivotal in the organization's journey, marking a period of consolidation and growth.

**Martin Dunne** 1988 – 1989. Dunne's years at the helm brought about an era of renewed energy and strategic growth.

**Patrick J. Duffy (RIP)** 1990 – 1991. Duffy's leadership was instrumental in steering the IBO into the new decade.

**Bill McDaid** 1992. Leading with passion, McDaid saw the organization grow in numbers and influence.

**Maeve O'Malley** 1993 – 1994. O'Malley's tenure saw a revitalized focus on expanding the organization's reach in the community.

**Michael McNicholas** 1995 – 1996. Under McNicholas, the IBO experienced a surge in membership and active participation.

**Siobhan Hennessy** 1997. Hennessy's leadership emphasized the importance of networking and collaboration.

**Brian Nolan** 1998 – 1999. With Nolan at the helm, the IBO solidified its standing as a premier business organization in NY.

**Jennifer Confrey** 2000 – 2001. Confrey's era was marked by a series of successful events and programs that enhanced the organization's visibility.

**James Doran** 2002 – 2004. Doran's commitment to the IBO's mission saw a period of structured growth and increased partnerships.

**Patrick Sheridan** 2005. Sheridan led with a focus on strengthening the IBO's ties with Irish businesses both in NY and abroad.

**Attracta Lyndon** 2006 – 2007. Lyndon's leadership was characterized by her dedication to community service and outreach.

**Garret Corcoran** 2008 – 2009. With Corcoran at the forefront, the IBO saw an influx of new members and an expanded range of services.

**Niall O'Leary** 2010 – 2011. O'Leary's tenure was marked by numerous collaborative events that enhanced the IBO's reputation.

**Sheila Lynott Hourican** 2012 – 2013. Under Hourican, the organization amplified its focus on mentorship and professional development and marked its 40th in existence.

**Sean McNeill (RIP)** 2014 – 2016. McNeill's leadership was a beacon of resilience, determination, inclusivity, and unity.

**Nicholas Malito** 2017 – 2019. Malito's era witnessed a renewed focus on fostering international business ties.

**John Lee** 2020- 2021. Guiding the organization amidst global challenges, Lee's tenure was marked by resilience and adaptability in the face of a global pandemic.

**Paul Finnegan** 2022 – Present. The present torchbearer, Finnegan continues to uphold the IBO's legacy, carrying it forward with renewed enthusiasm and vision.

As we look back, we honor these individuals, and the Boards that supported them, for their contributions, dedication, and leadership, each playing an integral part in crafting the IBO's illustrious 50-year journey.





## Celebrating Women of the IBO: Female Leaders at the Helm

Over the past 50 years, the IBO has greatly benefited from dynamic women who have spearheaded its success. These trailblazing leaders have embodied the spirit of the IBO, harnessing their unique perspectives, insights, and passion to shape its direction and further its mission.

### **BERNADETTE MCMANUS** | 1983

Our first female president, Bernadette was the catalyst for the IBO's origin story, a decade before. In her inimitable and determined style she broke through a ceiling or two, transforming an association that was solely the preserve of male native-Irish insurance professionals into an organization that allowed women and those of all identities and backgrounds to thrive. The organization that has gone on to be so inclusive and progressive, owes its very existence to Bernadette.

### **DYMPNA M. KENNY** | 1986

Dympna took the reins of the IBO in 1986, a time when the Irish had come streaming back to the Big Apple due to a massive recession in Ireland that year. She offered a steady hand to the IBO during those tumultuous times, and in her career as a banker at Emigrant Savings Bank she helped many of these 'New Irish' get on their feet financially in their adopted city.

### **MAEVE O'MALLEY** | 1993 - 1994

The early '90s saw Maeve take the reins of the IBO, marking the dawn of a transformative era. With a keen sense for business and community, Maeve emphasized expanding the IBO's reach, making it more inclusive and interconnected.

### **SIOBHAN HENNESSY** | 1997

Siobhan's leadership shone with her advocacy for collaborative ventures. With her at the helm, the IBO became a hub for networking, promoting an environment where members could not only connect professionally but also foster deep-rooted friendships.

### **JENNIFER CONFREY** | 2000 - 2001

Transitioning into the new millennium, Jennifer's term was marked by a series of successful events and initiatives. She brought renewed energy to the organization, enhancing its visibility and attracting a more diverse membership.

### **ATTRACTA LYNDON** | 2006 - 2007

Attracta's leadership was a testament to the power of community service and outreach. With a deep-seated commitment to the IBO's core values, she sought to build bridges, not just among the Irish-American business community in New York but also with businesses in Ireland.

### **SHEILA LYNOTT HOURICAN** | 2012 - 2013

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement and global challenges, Sheila adeptly steered the IBO. Her focus on mentorship and professional development ensured members were equipped to navigate the evolving business landscape.

**The impact of these formidable women on the IBO's legacy is undeniable. They have shattered ceilings, paved pathways, and set standards, proving that leadership has no gender. The strong tradition of the IBO empowering and supporting women in business continues to this day with its Women's Networking Committee.**

*Jubilee  
Gala*

comhghairdeas

to the IBO on your golden jubilee anniversary. May your monumental impact on the Irish of New York continue for decades to come.



COLLEEN BERRY CONWAY  
IBO GOLDEN JUBILEE AWARDS  
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**Huge congratulations to our dear friend Mary on this very special honor.**

**You are a shining star, a wonderful employee and always willing to help others.**

**You deserve our warmest congratulations and thank you again for all your hard work and honesty.**



**THE CARTY FAMILY**

# IBO Golden Jubilee *Awards*



The IBO proudly commemorates five decades of partnership with industry leaders, innovators, fervent patrons of the arts and education, and their pivotal role in fortifying the Irish-American community in New York City and the surrounding tri-state area, while also nurturing their enduring connections to Ireland.

An integral part of celebrating the IBO's milestone anniversary gala is paying tribute to the outstanding contributions of the following companies and people:

**BANK OF IRELAND:** Recognized for their excellence in financial services, the Bank of Ireland has been an essential pillar of support for Irish businesses, facilitating economic growth, and enhancing transatlantic bonds.

**GLUCKSMAN IRELAND HOUSE:** Honored for their distinguished commitment to education, Glucksman Ireland House stands as an academic and cultural cornerstone, fostering a profound understanding of Irish heritage and traditions.

**THE IRELAND FUNDS:** Applauded for their remarkable impact on global philanthropy, The Ireland Funds have been instrumental in directing resources towards impactful causes, leaving a profound mark on Ireland and Irish-Americans worldwide.

**IRISH REPERTORY THEATER:** Acknowledged for their innovative cultural leadership, the Irish Repertory Theater has been a creative

force, showcasing the depth of Irish literature, theater, and the performing arts.

**UNITED IRISH COUNTIES ASSOCIATION:**

Celebrated for their devoted community leadership, the United Irish Counties Association has worked tirelessly to unify the Irish-American community in New York, preserving cultural traditions, and lending their support to local charitable initiatives.

**MARY BURKE:** The recipient of The Arthur F. Clements Founder's Award for Dedicated Service to New York's Hospitality Industry, Mary Burke, the longtime Events Manager at Rosie O'Grady's of New York, has been an iconic figure in the Irish-American hospitality sector.

In addition to recognizing the award winners listed above, the IBO also celebrates the enduring spirit of the Irish-American community, a testament to the strength of its bonds and the boundless possibilities that arise when they come together.

Lastly, the 50th anniversary of the IBO is an occasion to pay tribute to the visionaries who founded the IBO-NY, the leaders who have guided it over the years, and the countless individuals who have contributed to its success. Thanks to their tireless work, the future of the IBO is filled with endless possibilities!

Sláinte to the IBO and all its distinguished awardees.

*Jubilee  
Gala*



## Bank of Ireland

### Excellence in Financial Services

At this year's Irish Business Organization's 50th-anniversary gala, it is our privilege to recognize Bank of Ireland Group in the category of Excellence in Financial Services. Founded in 1783, Bank of Ireland has 240 years' experience in serving customers across Ireland, the United Kingdom, the European Union and here in the United States through a network including teams in New York, Stamford, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

To Irish-American business and political leaders, Bank of Ireland isn't just a bank – it is a symbol of Ireland's ambition and its openness to the world of opportunity that global business offers. Bank of Ireland is an important bridge between two great nations on either side of the Atlantic, which share a mutually beneficial interest – to help Irish businesses expand into the US and American enterprise invest in Ireland, building employment, trade, and prosperity for both.

Financial services are also evolving fast. Bank of Ireland continually invests in its products and services, including the 24/7 digital banking options it offers today. The Bank has also set out an ambitious strategy to enhance the environmental and social contribution it makes to broader society, including supporting action to tackle climate change.

Bank of Ireland is also committed to supporting initiatives aimed at startups, entrepreneurs, and the larger more established business community. For their ongoing work, the Bank was given an 'Excellence in Community Engagement' award, in recognition of its dedication to nurturing Irish businesses and contributing to local economies.

While having a history and heritage spanning more than two decades, Bank of Ireland is a forward-looking and progressive provider

of financial services. Its ambition is to build ever-stronger relationships with its customers, be a great place to work, and have a positive impact on the economies and societies where it does business.

For the vast network of Irish-Americans, Bank of Ireland's services have often served as the first port of call. Be it setting up businesses, buying a home, or managing wealth, Bank of Ireland strives to be an ally, understanding the unique aspirations and needs of the diaspora. For many Irish-Americans, the Bank represents a slice of home.

To the leadership, staff, and the myriad stakeholders of the Bank of Ireland, this award isn't just a recognition of past achievements but an acknowledgment of the promise and potential the Bank holds for the future.

On behalf of the Irish Business Organization of New York, congratulations to the Bank of Ireland. Your journey epitomizes the true spirit of Irish grit, determination, and excellence, and we are proud to celebrate you on this special occasion.



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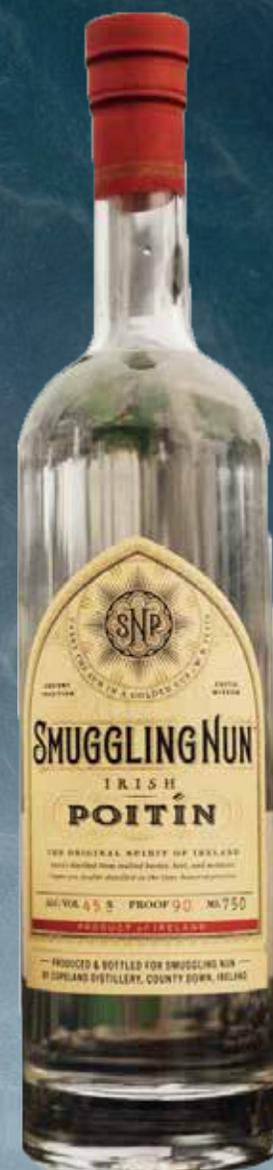


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DISTILLERY

**SMUGGLING NUN**  
IRISH  
**POITÍN**

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Join in celebrating the  
Irish Business Organization  
of New York's 50th Anniversary.



**Congratulations to the  
IBO on your 50th  
Anniversary!**





## Glucksman Ireland House

Distinguished Service to Education

Nestled in the heart of New York University, the Glucksman Ireland House stands as a beacon of Irish culture, heritage, and academic excellence. It is more than just an educational institution.

The Glucksman Ireland House offers a platform for cultural exchange, academic discourse, and the celebration of Irish heritage.

The Glucksman Ireland House has previously received numerous accolades for its contributions and commitment to high-caliber research, interdisciplinary teaching, and fostering dialogue around Irish studies.

It has initiated programs that provide students, scholars, and the broader community access to the rich tapestry of Irish history, arts, and literature. Their annual lecture series, featuring luminaries from the world of Irish studies, is a testament to their commitment to knowledge dissemination.

One of the flagship initiatives of the Glucksman Ireland House is its scholarship programs, aimed at supporting budding scholars passionate about Irish studies. This initiative reinforces the institution's dedication to academic excellence and highlights its focus on fostering the next generation of thought leaders.

Through workshops, seminars, and cultural events, the Glucksman Ireland House has made Irish studies accessible to all, transcending the boundaries of the classroom. It's this spirit of inclusivity and openness that has endeared the institution to many.

For the Irish-American diaspora, the Glucksman Ireland House resonates with the echoes of shared histories and aspirations. It reminds us of the indomitable Irish spirit, of tales of resilience, creativity, and the pursuit of knowledge. For educators, it stands as a model institution, showcasing how academic rigor can seamlessly blend with cultural preservation and community engagement.

To the dedicated team, faculty, and the broader community of the Glucksman Ireland House, this award is a salute to your relentless pursuit of academic and cultural excellence. Your endeavors have illuminated the path for many and will continue to inspire future generations.

On behalf of the Irish Business Organization of New York, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Glucksman Ireland House. Your legacy is a testament to the power of education, the importance of cultural preservation, and the beauty of shared histories. Here's to many more years of distinguished service and excellence.



Jubilee  
Gala



## The Ireland Funds

### Distinguished Service in Global Philanthropy

The Ireland Funds, since its inception, has stood as a formidable force in the realm of charitable endeavors. With a mission rooted in harnessing the power of a global philanthropic network, The Ireland Funds has promoted and supported peace, culture, education, and community development across the island of Ireland and among Irish communities worldwide.

The Ireland Funds' unparalleled commitment to the island of Ireland has brought about tangible change, ushering in progress in communities that need it the most.

One of its most commendable achievements has been to peace and reconciliation.

By directing resources and attention to projects that actively fostered a culture of peace in post-conflict regions, it has played a pivotal role in reshaping narratives and building bridges.

The organization's dedication to education as a tool for change is evident in the numerous scholarships, mentorship programs, and educational initiatives it has established and supported. Recognizing that knowledge is the cornerstone of societal progress, The Ireland Funds has actively invested in nurturing the next generation, ensuring they have the tools and opportunities needed to thrive.

The promotion of Irish culture, another core pillar of The Ireland Funds' mission, can be seen in the organization's support of various cultural projects, from the preservation of historical sites to providing music education to thousands of children, to promoting Irish arts and literature globally. This commitment ensures Irish culture and heritage remain vibrant and accessible to all, irrespective of geographical boundaries.

The organization has been active for almost 50 years and recognizes the changing global landscape. The Ireland Funds has continually

adapted its strategies, launching initiatives that address contemporary challenges. Its recent endeavors in backing projects related to mental health, community development, and social entrepreneurship underscore its vision of making a lasting societal impact.

For the Irish-American diaspora, The Ireland Funds stands tall as a testament to what's possible when a community comes together with purpose and passion. By working closely with its donors, The Ireland Funds has ensured their investments improve the lives of countless individuals.

Honoring The Ireland Funds tonight is an acknowledgement of the broader vision of global unity, compassion, and progress that the Irish community has always treasured. It is a celebration of the values that bind us, the aspirations that propel us forward, and the shared responsibility we feel towards making the island of Ireland and the world a better place.

Congratulations to The Ireland Funds on your remarkable achievements. May your path forward be paved with success, and may your endeavors continue to touch lives and create lasting impact.



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## Irish Repertory Theatre Cultural Leadership

For decades, Irish Repertory Theatre has been a torchbearer for Irish arts in America. The esteemed institution has consistently delivered on its mission to bring the essence of Irish culture to diverse audiences, all the while weaving together the intricacies of two worlds.

Since its inception, Irish Repertory Theatre has showcased an array of remarkable plays that span the gamut from timeless classics to contemporary masterpieces. Whether it's resurrecting works of literary giants like Samuel Beckett and James Joyce or giving voice to emerging playwrights, the theatre has played a pivotal role in keeping the Irish narrative vibrant and relevant.

Their commitment to cultural excellence has resulted in numerous accolades over the years including the Jujamcyn Theatres Award and the Outer Critics Circle Special Achievement Award. Critics have lauded their productions, spotlighting them as one of the premier venues for Irish theatre outside of Ireland.

Recognizing the transformative power of theatre, they have initiated outreach programs aimed at engaging the community and making theatre more accessible. Through initiatives such as 'The New Play Development Program', and 'Schools Project,' Irish Rep has made theatre accessible to younger audiences, ensuring that the next generation is not only exposed to, but immersed in, the richness of Irish culture.

By providing a platform for new voices and fresh perspectives, Irish Repertory Theatre helps enable the Irish narrative to evolve, reflecting the experiences of the diaspora and resonating with contemporary audiences. For many Irish Americans, the theatre is more than just a venue for cultural entertainment. It's a bridge, connecting them to their roots, reminding them of shared histories, and offering a space to explore identity and heritage. Each production, each story, is a piece of the mosaic that makes up the diverse Irish experience in America.

Now in its 35th season, Irish Repertory Theatre is presenting "The Friel Project," celebrating esteemed playwright Brian Friel. Highlighting three plays set in fictional Ballybeg, County Donegal, "Translations," "Aristocrats," and "Philadelphia, Here I Come!," the season also features concert readings and culminates in an exhibition at the Irish Repertory Gallery, intertwining Irish narratives with diasporic experiences.

Irish Repertory Theatre's contributions to the cultural landscape are invaluable. Through your efforts, Irish stories find voice, resonance, and a home away from home. Your journey is a shining example of what's possible when passion meets purpose, and we look forward to celebrating many more of your successes in the years to come.



Jubilee  
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&  
THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY  
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**Congratulates**

**The Irish Business Organization of New York**

**On the Occasion**

**of**

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**and**

**We Congratulate Your Well Deserving Honorees**

**Irish Repertory Theatre  
Glucksman Ireland House  
Bank of Ireland  
The Ireland Funds  
The United Irish Counties,  
and**

**Mary Burke, lately of Rosie O'Grady's.**

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of***

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## The United Irish Counties Association

Embodiment of Community Leadership



Over the decades, the United Irish Counties Association (UICA) has curated events that celebrate and commemorate the Irish diaspora's rich history and traditions. From organizing the lauded Feis, which showcases the vibrancy of Irish culture through dance, music, and arts, to being at the forefront of the annual New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, the UICA helps keep the Irish spirit thriving and resonating.

The association's initiatives recognize the challenges that many communities face, and consistently lend a helping hand. Whether it's supporting families in distress, contributing to community development projects, or assisting newcomers in navigating the complexities of a new environment, the UICA is committed to its communities.

For many, the UICA represents hope, support, and camaraderie. Their leadership courses, aimed at honing the next generation of community leaders, underline the association's vision of a self-sustaining and thriving Irish-American community.

In an era marked by transient connections and digital interactions, the United Irish Counties Association reminds us of the power of genuine community ties, of bonds formed from shared tales of yesteryears, mutual aspirations, and collective endeavors. Their work highlights the fact that when a community comes together with purpose and vision, it can achieve wonders.

The UICA is an emblem of unity, leadership, and shared dreams.



*Jubilee  
Gala*



## Mary Burke

### The Heartbeat of New York's Hospitality at Rosie O'Grady's

Recipient of

### The Arthur F. Clements Founder's Award for Dedicated Service to New York's Hospitality Industry

In the colorful world of New York City's hospitality scene, certain individuals stand out, not just for their professional prowess, but for their distinctive touch that transforms transient encounters into lasting memories.

As the IBO of New York commemorates its 50th-anniversary gala, it gives us immense pleasure to spotlight one such luminary, Mary Burke, the Events Manager at the iconic Rosie O'Grady's of New York. Tonight, she receives The Arthur F. Clements Founder's Award, a fitting tribute to her unparalleled dedication to New York's hospitality industry.

Over the years, Mary's name became synonymous with Rosie O'Grady's, a locale that has seen countless deals brokered, political alliances formed, and personal

milestones celebrated, all under the warm and watchful eye of Mary Burke.

Mary's journey at Rosie O'Grady's is one for the annals. She had an innate ability to listen, to understand what her clients wanted, often before they did. Whether it was a corporate function, a political fundraiser, or a simple family gathering, Mary tailored every event to perfection.

One anecdote that many recall fondly is the surprise 60th birthday of a prominent Irish-American business magnate. The family wanted to recreate the streets of Dublin, reminiscent of his childhood days. Mary, with her trademark efficiency and creativity, transformed Rosie O'Grady's into a Dublin wonderland for the evening. The magnate, known for his stoic demeanor, was moved to tears, a testament to Mary's unique touch.

If you wander over to the wall of fame at Rosie O'Grady's, you will see several awards with Mary's name on them including 'Best Events Manager of the Year' to the 'Hospitality Service Excellence Award.'

Under her stewardship, Rosie O'Grady's has hosted a diverse range of events, from intimate engagements to grand soirées. Every event, irrespective of its scale, bears the indelible mark of Mary's meticulous planning and execution. She's known to often say, "Every event is a story, and it's my job to make it a bestseller."

Congratulations Mary, your service to New York's hospitality industry is legendary, and your legacy at Rosie O'Grady's is cemented in time.



Jubilee  
Gala

# IBO Would Like to Thank

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IBO:  
The Next

50 years

Charting the Future of Irish Business  
in New York

As the Irish Business Organization of New York (IBO) celebrates its 50-year legacy, the question naturally arises: what does the future hold for this dynamic organization? If its rich history is anything to go by, the IBO is poised to not just continue but amplify its tradition of innovation, inclusivity, and influence. Let's gaze into the crystal ball and envision the IBO's trajectory over the next half-century.

#### EMBRACING TECHNOLOGICAL EVOLUTION

While the last few decades have seen significant technological advancements, the next fifty promise even more radical shifts, with the integration of AI, augmented reality, and quantum computing into everyday business. The IBO, ever adaptive, is set to:

**Leverage Advanced Platforms:** Virtual and augmented reality could transform networking events, allowing members to engage in more immersive experiences, bridging distances like never before.

**Harnessing Data:** With the explosion of big data and analytics, the IBO can make more informed decisions, tailoring its programs to the evolving needs of its members.

**REINVENTING NETWORKING IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD** COVID-19 has forever altered the landscape of business networking. As the world gradually adjusts to a new normal:

**Hybrid Networking:** A blend of physical and virtual events will become the mainstay, ensuring members have multiple touchpoints to connect.

**Global Outreach:** With digital platforms breaking down geographical barriers, the IBO can extend its network globally, incorporating Irish businesses from around the world.

#### FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

**PRACTICES** Sustainability isn't just a buzzword; it's the future. As businesses globally reckon with their environmental impact:

**Green Initiatives:** Expect the IBO to champion eco-friendly business practices, from waste reduction to supporting green tech startups.

**Sustainable Networking:** This could mean everything from paperless events to carbon-neutral venues, underscoring the IBO's commitment to the planet.

#### STRENGTHENING CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL TIES

The IBO's roots are deeply entrenched in promoting Irish culture and education. Over the next fifty years:

**Collaborative Learning Platforms:** Partnering with global institutions to offer members world-class training and development opportunities.

**Digital Archiving:** Documenting the rich history of Irish businesses in New York, making it accessible to the younger generation and ensuring the legacy lives on.

**EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION** The youth are not just the future; they are the present. The IBO is set to:

**Nurture Young Entrepreneurs:** By offering mentorship programs, incubation hubs, and startup grants.

**Engage in School and College Collaborations:** Instilling the spirit of entrepreneurship early on.

**Focus on the Newest Members of our Business Community:** Whether they be from Ireland, of Irish descent, or simply Irish at heart, those entering the world of work will always find a welcoming, embracing community in the IBO.

As the page turns on the 50th anniversary, the IBO stands at a fascinating juncture, teeming with potential and promise. Here's to the next 50 years, filled with progress, prosperity, and the indomitable spirit of the Irish in New York, always turning to these three words for direction: *Network. Communicate. Reciprocate.*

Begin

# Welcome to your NYC Hub

As a Bank of Ireland business customer, we'd love to welcome you to our flexible workspace in the heart of Manhattan. The Bank of Ireland NYC Hub, located at 2 Grand Central Tower, is also available to host conferences and events.

Whether you're looking to expand into the United States or already have established US operations, contact us before your next trip to NYC.

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## Invest Northern Ireland congratulates the Irish Business Organization of New York on its 50th anniversary and is proud to sponsor its Jubilee Gala.

Northern Ireland is a fantastic place to live, work and do business.

It's a great place to grow a business internationally thanks to its highly skilled talent, excellent infrastructure, competitive costs, and supportive, business-friendly environment. It is also home to world-class suppliers with global exporting experience that can fill gaps in your supply chain.

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