42nd Annual American Irish Teachers Association Conference
Saturday, April 14, 2018
"Irish Profiles in the History of New York City"

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. -- Registration and Breakfast

10:00 a.m. – Welcoming Remarks, Doris Marie Meyer, AITA President

10:15 a.m. -- Hilary Sweeney: "Pastures to Pavement: Parallels and Intersections in The Lives of Working Class Irish and Urban Work Horses in 19th Century NYC".

Hilary Sweeney teaches Irish language at New York University and is an external examiner at Vassar College. Dr. Sweeney will trace the role of horses in Irish culture and how the lives of the living four-legged machines of New York City and those of poor Irish immigrants whose labor was central to the development of the city revolved around one another.

11:30 a.m. Dave Hannigan: "Eamon De Valera in New York"

Dave Hannigan is a professor of history at Suffolk Community College and a weekly columnist with The Irish Times (Dublin), The Evening Echo (Cork), and The Irish Echo (New York). He is the author of a memoir that was recently published by Gill & Macmillan in Dublin and has written a number of non-fiction books, including "De Valera in America: The Rebel President and the Making of Irish Independence."

12:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. -- Lunch at the NY Irish Center (or on your own)

2:15 p.m. – Andrew McGowan: "John Butler Yeats, A New Yorker"

Andrew McGowan, founder and president of the W.B. Yeats Society of NY, will give a presentation about the artist John Butler Yeats, father of the poet William Butler Yeats. Mr. McGowan will offer fascinating insights into JBY's time in New York City in the early twentieth century as a successful portrait artist and a highly popular speaker at dinners held in his boarding house on West 29th Street.

3:00 p.m. – Macdara Vallely: "The Rise of Mike Quill: NYC Hero of Labor"

Macdara Vallely, a native of Northern Ireland, is an award-winning writer, director, and producer of documentary films and theater productions. He will present a segment of QUILL, a timely and compelling film that charts the rise of Mike Quill, from a poor vulnerable Irish immigrant to a cunning and courageous leader in the labor wars of the twentieth century.

3:45 – Wine & Cheese Reception and Raffle for Great Prizes

(Browse and shop with our vendors throughout the day.)