



The Museum of Newport Irish History MNIH

Michael F. Crowley Lectures

Third Program of the 2021-2022 Series ~ Our 20th Annual

*Lecture made possible by a generous gift from Francis "Frank" Furtado,
given in memory of his wife, Barbara Carr Furtado*

Cheers to Eire: The Political Life of J. Howard McGrath

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Debra A. Mulligan

Monday, November 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The Wayfinder Hotel

151 Admiral Kalbfus Road, Newport, R.I. 02840

and Live-Streamed via Zoom

The life of J. Howard McGrath (1903-1966), one of the most pivotal figures in twentieth century Rhode Island history, was predicated on the influx of Irish immigrants to Rhode Island. James Howard McGrath, like many children of immigrants, faced an ever-changing and often confusing America. As a rising young neophyte, following the path laid out for him by his father, Irish immigrant, James J. McGrath, and his political mentor, Theodore Francis Green, he climbed the ladder of success and eventually emerged as the state's governor. After ably guided his constituency through the dark days of the Second World War, he earned national recognition as Democratic National Chairman, wielding his power and influence by balancing competing interests during the contentious 1948 political campaign. Facing mounting challenges from Democrat and Republican alike, McGrath held these forces at bay to secure a win for President Harry Truman that November.

Following Truman's victory, McGrath could have easily written his own ticket to further political success—but his career was cut short in 1952 when he was forced to resign as Attorney General amid a cloud of scandal. McGrath again turned to his Irish Catholic ancestry for solace during this period of great personal turmoil.

DEBRA A. MULLIGAN is a Professor of History at Roger Williams University, where she teaches a variety of courses including American, East Asian, and European history. A native of Rhode Island, Dr. Mulligan received her M.A. and Ph.D. in History from Providence College. The author of numerous books, journal articles and podcasts, her latest book is *Democratic Repairman: The Political Life of James Howard McGrath* (McFarland Press, 2019). She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame and is a frequent community lecturer. We welcome Dr. Mulligan to this, her first presentation for the Museum of Newport Irish History.

A reception with light hors d'oeuvres will be held following the lecture. Cash Bar

Reservations Required for In-Person & Zoom Participation → *in-person attendees must be fully vaccinated* ←

To register: Visit www.NewportIrishHistory.org, click "Lectures," then the link to reserve under the Nov.15 listing. You will receive an e-confirmation. If you do not see this email, check your SPAM. This lecture, including speaker's slides and Q&A, will be videotaped and a link to view will be available on the "Lectures" page. \$5 fee/donation payable at the door via cash or check to "MNIH." There is no fee to participate via Zoom.

Questions or Assistance with Registration: Contact Ann at (401) 841-5493 or tpm1@earthlink.net.

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