



# The Museum of Newport Irish History MNIH

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## Michael F. Crowley Lectures

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

### *Irish Women in the American Labor Movement*

#### **Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Stack, PhD**

Executive Director, The Irish American Heritage Museum

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 ~ 6:00 p.m.

#### **A Virtual Presentation via Zoom**

Dr. Elizabeth Stack will discuss the work of Mother Jones, Leonora Barry, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and other Irish women in this lecture. These women were instrumental national leaders for labor rights for all Americans. Mother Jones, the “most dangerous woman in America,” marched with striking garment workers in Chicago, bottle washers in Milwaukee breweries, Pittsburgh steelworkers, El Paso streetcar operators, and Calumet copper miners. Leonora Barry was the first woman to hold a national position in the Knights of Labor. She investigated abuse by employers, advocated equal pay, and lobbied to abolish child labor. She played a key role in securing Pennsylvania’s first Factory Inspection Act. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn began working for the Industrial Workers of the World when she was 16 years old. After WWI, she co-founded the American Civil Liberties Union, and campaigned for female suffrage and birth control. She was arrested under the Smith Act for her involvement with the Communist Party and, a decade later, became the first woman to head the party, in 1961.

The talk will examine the role their background, experiences, and faith played in inspiring these women to advocate so strenuously for better conditions for workers across the country.

**ELIZABETH STACK** is the executive director of the Irish American Heritage Museum, located in Albany, N.Y. The museum hosts historical exhibits as well as lectures, musical evenings and film presentations, consistent with its mission: “To preserve and tell the story of the contributions of the Irish people and their culture in America, inspiring individuals to examine the importance of their own heritage as part of the American cultural mosaic.”

Elizabeth joined the museum from Fordham University, where she taught Irish and Irish-American History and was an Associate Director of the Institute of Irish Studies. She completed her PhD at Fordham, writing about Irish and German immigrants in New York at the turn of the twentieth century. She is a native of Listowel, in Co. Kerry. We warmly welcome Dr. Stack for this, her first lecture for the Museum of Newport Irish History.

#### **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

To register, visit [www.NewportIrishHistory.org](http://www.NewportIrishHistory.org). Click “Lectures,” then the link to reserve under the Feb. 22 listing. You will receive an immediate e-confirmation with the Zoom login info. If you do *not* see this email, check your SPAM. There is no fee to register for this Zoom lecture, but donations in support of our lecture series are always welcome via the “Donate” page of our website or via check payable to “MNIH” mailed to the below PO Box address.

**Non-computer/-mobile device Users:** This lecture, including speaker’s slides and Q&A, will be videotaped and a link to view will be available on the ‘Lectures’ page of our website after the event. Please consider enjoying the lecture with a family member or friend who can provide computer access. We plan to present our March lecture via Zoom, as well as in-person, if covid conditions allow.

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

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[www.NewportIrishHistory.org](http://www.NewportIrishHistory.org)