



SCÉALA

Newsletter for the Gaelic-American Club
74 Beach Road, Fairfield CT 06824
www.gaconline.org



CÉAD MÍLE fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Eanáir | February '17

GAC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2018

Email renewal notifications were sent on Jan 1. If you have no email or have requested paper billing, your invoice should have arrived in the mail shortly after Dec 28th. If renewal was not received contact: membership@gacemail.org.

Other important information regarding membership renewal:

- Please make sure your contact information, especially email and home address are current. You can log into your account to review your information at any time. <https://www.gaelicamericanclub.com/>
- If you usually receive your renewal from the GAC by email and do not receive an email from us on January 1, please check your settings and spam folder.
- If you usually receive your renewal by mail and do not receive anything from us by January 6, please let us know. The best way to contact the membership office is via email at membership@gacemail.org.
- Do not discard your white door/scrip card. There is a \$10 replacement fee. Your 2018 scrip will be loaded onto that card on April 1, 2018.
- All 2017 scrip expires on 2/28/18.
- Contact membership at membership@gacemail.org

Please note: The GAC operates on a calendar year and depends on the prompt payment of membership dues. Membership renewal is payable on January 1 each year. We allow up to a 60-day grace period to pay. All memberships must be renewed by February 28, 2018. Beginning March 1, there will be a \$100 reinstatement fee added to all renewals.

ADDITIONAL KITCHEN HOURS ADDED IN FEBRUARY!

Kitchen is open on Monday Feb. 26 and Tuesday Feb. 27 from 5 to 9pm. Gives you time to spend your script. Remember you've got to use your script by Feb 28 or lose it!

Events

TRIVIA NIGHT - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, 8PM
TRAD MUSIC SESSION - WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7TH, 7PM
MARY ELLEN & FRIENDS - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH, 6PM
MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 8PM
GENEALOGY GROUP FRÉAMH ÉIREANN - SAT FEB 10TH, 10:30AM
SENIOR LUNCH - THURS, FEBRUARY 22ND, 12 NOON
CLAN NA GAEL NEWS - PAGE 4

DYING THE GOOD DEATH: THE IRISH WAKE AND AMERICAN POPULAR CULTURE

Sunday, Feb 18 from 2pm - 4pm

Irish History Lecture Presented By Dr. Bridget English of University of Illinois at Chicago



Beginning with the nineteenth century notion of an "American wake" — a party thrown for loved ones immigrating to America — this talk will explore the significance of the Irish wake as a point of contact between Irish and American cultures. Presented by Dr. Bridget English, who holds a PhD in English from Maynooth University in County Kildare, Ireland. Her research interests lie in modern and contemporary Irish fiction and culture, theories of the novel, death studies, modernism, and the medical humanities. She has taught a variety of writing and literature courses at Maynooth University, Brooklyn College of the City University of New York.

Registration: \$5 per person-Students \$2 with ID
Sorry, we cannot accept GAC scrip or credit cards

Please Register in Advance

On-line at: marroyo@optonline.net, subject: "Irish History" and mail your check, payable to "Feile, Inc." to: Mary Adams-Arroyo 221 McGrath Court, Stratford, CT 06615 Be sure to include your name, address, phone and email. For information, call Mary at (203) 377-2346

Sponsored by: Feile, Inc.

Hosted by: Freamh Éireann Genealogy & GAC Language Groups

Join us in the pub at 9pm

Friday	Feb 2	Peter McKiernan
Saturday	Feb 3	Keltic Kick
Friday	Feb 9	Jolly Beggars
Saturday	Feb 10	Mike McGovern
Friday	Feb 16	Peter McKiernan
Saturday	Feb 17	Fergus Begley
Friday	Feb 23	Coracles
Saturday	Feb 24	C-Sides

club ACTIVITIES

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

Place your professional listing in the GAC Business Directory Trades List at www.gaconline.org. Go to GAC Business Directory Tab and follow prompts to add your listing. And don't forget when you need a business or trade service check the List and support our GAC Members.

FÁILTE COMMITTEE

Anyone interested in sitting at the front desk and greeting those who come to the GAC, PLEASE contact Bette Leary - betteleary@gmail.com. We will arrange schedules to fit your schedule. Sign up for once a week, once a month or even once a year! It's a great way to meet new people.

FAIRFIELD GAELIC PIPE BAND

Meets Mondays 6:30 pm at First Church Congregational. Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band (475)329-0202 or visit fairfieldgaelicpipeband.org.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

There will be no Family Fun Night in February ~ see you in March!

GLEE CLUB & CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Both Clubs are on hiatus and will announce when rehearsals resume.

GOOD & WELFARE

A Mass Card was sent to Tim Wagner on the death of his wife, Lynette.

Sympathy Cards were sent to Elizabeth Power on the death of her granddaughter, Allison; to Catherine Scholl and the Reynolds family on the death of their father, Arthur; to Robert and Maureen McMenamy on the loss of their daughter, Brenna and to Brenna's grandparents, Shirley and William McMenamy.

Get Well wishes sent to Sam Mostowy who was in the Hospital.

Congratulations to Bette and Kevin Leary on the birth of their granddaughter, Ella.

Notify Noreen Reda of all member news at npreda4@gmail.com.

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

Genealogy Group will meet Feb 10th at 10:30 am. For info contact Donna Orazio: donnaorazio@gmail.com.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Ilona Paxton, House Chairperson
203-372-1280

IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

Wednesday Evenings:

Irish Grammar Class 7:00-8:00 PM, contact JMinehan@gmail.com.

Thursday Evenings:

Kids/Parents Irish Learning Helper Session: 6:30-7:30 PM, contact DesNolan@optonline.net.

Beginners Irish Class 6:30-7:30PM, Cecilia.Dalzell@quinnipiac.edu

Lower Intermediate Irish Class 7:30-8:30, DesNolan@optonline.net.

Higher Intermediate Class – meets Thursday from 6:30-7:30, contact JMinehan@gmail.com.

Grupa Comhra – 7:30- 9:00 PM, contact Cait 203-459-9686.

LIBRARY

Library is open Monday through Saturday and upon request. Monitored children's hours for the Library are Friday and Saturday only from 6PM to 9PM. Children under 9 must be accompanied by an adult.

NO food (including candy and gum) or drink is allowed in the library. Volunteers needed for book covering, shelve shifting etc. Contact us at library@gacemail.org.

LITERATURE GROUP

On Monday, February 26th at 7:30 we will meet to discuss the play Translations by Brian Friel. The three-act play, written in 1980 is set in Baile Beag, a Donegal village in 19th century agricultural Ireland. Friel has said that it is "a play about language and only about language" but it deals with a wide range of issues, stretching from language and communication to Irish history and cultural imperialism. New members are most welcome! Returning members too! Clare Burnett at 203-255-3848 or email ClareBurnett@optonline.net.

SCEALA

Submissions for March Sceala are Due February 9th please send to Maura Kallaway and Jillian Plomin at communications@gacemail.org.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting will be held Friday, February 9th @ 8 pm. Meetings are open to all Members.

SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, Feb 22nd, payment by Sunday, Feb 18th Cost for lunch \$7 for members and \$9 for non-members. Ann Hague 203-374-5198; Shirley McMenamy 203-268-5083; Sally Savage 203-366-4826.

SET DANCING

Lace up your dance shoes because we're Set Dancing every Thursday at 7:30pm. All are welcome! Contact Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921.

LEARN COMMON PRAYERS AND ANTHEM IN IRISH

Every St Patrick's Day morning at the GAC's flag raising the Common Prayers and the Irish National Anthem are said in Irish. This year, so all can participate we are offering a Practice Session on Saturday March 3rd, @ 2PM in the Cultural room. Please register with DesNolan@OptOnline.NET. Handouts available on the information table in the club hallway with the Irish, English translation, phonetics and web audio links.

IRISH EMIGRATION VIDEO HISTORY PROJECT

The video history project is looking for immediate professional help and advice from a club member with film making experience.

Our goal is to produce a documentary about the emigration from Ireland to Fairfield County. Presently fifty-five interviews were recorded of people who emigrated from Ireland.

Running time of interviews: 1 to 2 hours. Interviews covered life in Ireland and emigration to the states. All original video information has been entered into a data base system. Original videos have been converted to DVD format and downloaded to a private secured site as well as preserved in their original forms.

We need professional help in order to continue the project. Please contact Peg at: opeggyo812@gmail.com for further information.



MY NAME IS JOAN - FEBRUARY 25, @ 2:30 PM



A documentary about club member, Susan Drew's search for her birth mother. She was born Joan Fagan to an unwed mother in the St. Patrick Mother and Baby Home in Dublin, Ireland in 1949. The film follows Susan's journey to find her true identity, it also highlights the illegal exporting of children by the Catholic Church to families in other countries for profit while the Irish Government looked the other way. The documentary will be followed by a Q&A with Susan and a meet and mingle reception with refreshments. All are welcome. Seating will be on a first come basis. There will be a free will donation basket. Info: opeggyo812@gmail.com.

CLAN NA GAEL NEWS

Spring Auditions are on Saturday Feb. 24 from 1:00-3:30 and Sunday Feb. 25 from 5:30-7:30. Additional information see flyer on green table in GAC lobby or email opeggyo812@gmail. All auditions are open. No Experience Necessary. Those interested in a staff position come by and sign up.

JOIN THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

Meetings are held at the GAC every 3rd Thursday of the month. This fraternal group mixes social functions and Christian charity on a regular basis. Contact Division President Tom Keane for more info: tkeane@optonline.net or 203 256-8033

MR. & MISS SHAMROCK SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



(LEFT TO RIGHT: MAGGIE BUCKLEY, TIMOTHY FORDE, DREW NEWCOMB AND MADDIE MITCHELL)

Congratulations Maddie Mitchell and Drew Newcomb, who were named Mr. and Miss Shamrock and runners up Maggie Buckley and Timothy Forde. All were awarded college scholarships from Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. Well done and wishing you all great success in college!

In Ireland, 2018 has been declared "Year of Irish" (Bliain na Gaeilge), where all are encouraged to do something with Irish. You can do your part by learning the DAILY Common Prayers in Irish, and then you will be able to say a little Irish everyday for the rest of your life.