



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Nollaig | December '17



GREAT GATSBY NEW YEAR'S EVE COCKTAIL PARTY

DECEMBER 31ST - 8 PM TO 1 AM

MUSIC BY OUTSIDE CHANCE

Open Bar 9 to 12:30 pm

Hot & Cold Hors d'oeuvres,
Seafood, Pasta & Carving Stations

Ticket Price: \$75 per person.

Drop off or mail check payable to GAC, Attn. Social - NYE.

Please Reserve by ASAP this event sells out fast.

Tickets will be on sale at the club on Friday 12/1 from 6:30-8pm; Friday 12/8 from 6:30-8pm and Wednesday 12/13

6:30-8pm. social@gacemail.org.

It's a Great Gatsby Theme ~ So Dress to the Nines

CAROL ALONG WITH THE GLEE CLUB AND

CHILDREN'S CHORUS -SATURDAY DECEMBER 9TH @ 4PM

Come sing-along and enjoy the show then stay and have dinner with friends and family. There is no admission charge - just patronize the club by dining with us. Special visit by some "Wren Boys" seeking coins to donate to 'Woofgang', a group started by GAC members to support the employment of adults with disabilities. 'Woofgang' produces pet treats. So come out and join in the holiday spirit!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY SATURDAY DECEMBER 16TH 11-1PM

Food available for \$5 and a visit from Santa! For info Kelly phone (203) 913-6242 or kellyanntakacs@yahoo.com

Events

TRIVIA NIGHT - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 7PM (NOTE EARLIER TIME)
CELTIC CHRISTMAS FAIR - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 9AM,
TRAD MUSIC SESSION - WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6TH, 7PM
MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 8PM
GENEALOGY GROUP FRÉAMH ÉIREANN - SAT DEC 9TH, 10:30AM
GAC CHRISTMAS PARTY SUNDAY DECEMBER 10TH @ 3PM
CAROLING & UGLY SWEATER CONTEST WED. DEC. 13TH 7PM
SENIOR LUNCH - THURS, DECEMBER 28TH 12 NOON
FAMILY FUN NIGHT - FRIDAY DECEMBER 29TH, 6-9PM
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CELTIC CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND FROM 9-3PM

Celtic Christmas Fair has a great selection of Irish vendors and unique crafters so you can do all your holiday shopping in one place. Tasty lunch served by the Lenihan Irish Dancers (who will perhaps do a step or two) and the Children's Chorus will perform at noon. Bring the children & grandchildren to have their photos taken with Santa in front of the beautiful stone hearth. For more Info: Kelli Grady at bkgrady@msn.com or Sue Shanahan: sshanaha@optonline.net.



THE GIVING TREE

will be up in the Club starting on Wednesday, Nov. 22. Once again our gifts will go to the families of Sister Theresa Tremblay's Pre-School class. 20 Families

will benefit from our gifts. Please take a tag, buy and wrap the gift and return it to the GAC with the original tag attached by Friday, December 15th. The deadline is steadfast this year - gifts came in so late last year - many didn't get their gifts until after the New Year and that must be disappointing to little kids. Questions? - Call Bette Leary

Join us in the pub at 9pm

Friday	Dec 1	Camac
Saturday	Dec 2	Mostly Green
Friday	Dec 8	Karaoke
Saturday	Dec 9	Dylan Connor
Friday	Dec 15	Ringrose & Freeman
Saturday	Dec 16	Mike McGovern
Friday	Dec 22	The Corales
Saturday	Dec 23	Peter McKiernan
Friday	Dec 29	Keltic Kick
Saturday	Dec 30	The Irish Band

club ACTIVITIES

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

Family Fun Night is Friday, December 29th from 6-9PM. We'll have a 'kid-friendly' delicious buffet for \$5. Any questions call Bette Leary at 203-767-0117. Thanks in advance!

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Rehearsals are Thursdays at 5:30PM and the children will sing at the Christmas fair on 12/2 @ noon and participate in the Christmas Program on 12/9 @ 4pm in the Carolan Room.

GAC GLEE CLUB

GAC Glee Club rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:30pm and will also participate in the Christmas Program on 12/9 @ 4pm in the Carolan Room.

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

Place your professional listing in the GAC Business Directory Trades List at www.gaonline.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.

GOOD & WELFARE

Mass cards were sent to the family of Noreen Morrissey. A mass card was sent to Jessie Csvihinka on the death of her husband, Stephen.

Sympathy cards were sent to Mark Montgomery on the death of his mother, Joan. A sympathy card was sent to Liz Feeney on the death of her brother, Gabriel.

Get well wishes were sent to Jim Fahey.

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

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

Genealogy Group will meet on Saturday, December 9th at 10:30 am. For info contact Donna Orazio: donnaorazio@gmail.com.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Many thanks to all those who came out and helped decorate the GAC for the Holiday. 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

The library now owns children's books by award winning Irish author Marie-Louise Fitzgerald. Looking for a new recipe, the library has an entire shelf of Irish Cook Books. Donation worth a reading: a biography of John Barry and *The Castles of County Cork*.

Whoever is borrowing the *Ireland* periodicals, please return them to the library. Periodicals are kept for everyone's enjoyment in the library and should not be borrowed.

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, shelf shifting etc. Contact us at library@gacemail.org.

LITERATURE GROUP

Do you like to read and discuss books written by or about the Irish, be it a mystery, a thriller or just some romance? Then join the Irish Literature Group, the group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month. For more information contact Clare Burnett at clareburnett@optonline.net or at 203-255-3848. New members are always welcome!

MARY ELLEN & FRIENDS

Thursday Dec 14th 6-8pm sing along or just listen to this informal gathering in the pub with Mary Ellen, The Glee Club & The GAC Children's Chorus singing your Irish favorites.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

The white membership card with your name and a 5 digit number is used for both entering the club and scrip DO NOT DISCARD AFTER USING UP YOUR SCRIP. \$10 replacement fee for lost card. You can mail or drop off payment with your info to the Attn: Membership. To check Scrip balance, log into gac.campuscardcenter.com/ch/login.html. For more information contact membership@gacemail.org

SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, Dec 28th at 12 noon. Call for reservations by Sunday, Dec 24th 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.

SCEALA

Submissions for January Sceala are Due December 8th please send to Maura Kallaway and Jillian Plomin at communications@gacemail.org.

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.

MONDAY NIGHT BBQ

Thanks to all who supported the Monday Night BBQ and to our great chefs Jay and Pat !

KUDOS TO THE FABULOUS CAST OF IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE ... A LIVE RADIO PLAY!



Back Row: Byrne White, Eileen Fickes, Steven Bennett, Shannon Roccio, Patty Brady, Emily Barksdale, Pat Lane, Kelsey Guggenheim Dias, Joseph Dias, David Pirrie, Mat Apgar, Helen Loughrey, Barry Halpin, Janine Wolfe, Jillian Plomin, Valerie Huegel, Brad Baldwin, Nancy O'Neil, Jude Baldwin, Michael Burke
Front Row: Adam Guggenheim, Eamon Speer, Max Plomin, Lila O'Callaghan, Karol Plomin, Patrick Plomin, John Moran, Peter Bellew. **Missing:** Bettie Guggenheim, Dan O'Callaghan.

LEARN TO SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN IRISH

It's always a fun time and No Prior Irish is Needed! English translations, phonetical pronunciations and videos links will be provided.

- ♣ Kids with Parents, Thursday, 30th Nov at 6:30 and Dec 7th @ 6:30pm.
- ♣ Teens / Adults, Thursday, Nov. 30th at 7:30 and Dec. 7th @ 7:30pm.

Seating is limited in the Cultural Room, so to reserve your spot please contact DesNolan@OptOnline.net

TWO FUN HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13TH @ 7PM!



UGLY SWEATER CONTEST

Wednesday, December 13 at 7 pm
 Haul out the holly, deck the halls and join us for some holiday cheer. Gather with friends by the fire place and sing along with us and participate in The 'Unique' (nice way of saying ugly) Christmas Sweater Contest!

CAROLING IN THE PUB WITH

COLLEEN FILUSH, JEFF MCHUGH & JIMMY CYR
 What better way to show off your off 'unique attire' and spread cheer than to sing along with Colleen, Jeff and Jim who'll gather 'round the hearth to play your holiday favorites! So don't forget the fun starts at 7pm! Light fare served.



GAC BLOODDRIVE WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6 FROM 1:30-6:45

Donating blood is the ultimate gift that can save a life ~ So come out to the GAC Blood Drive on 12/6 roll up your sleeves and give a pint!

GAC CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH THE MCLEAN AVENUE BAND SUNDAY DECEMBER 10TH FROM 3-7PM IN THE CAROLAN ROOM

Take a break from the holiday hustle and enjoy the free, family friendly GAC Christmas Party with a performance by the Lenihan School of Irish Dance! Come play and treat yourself to dinner!



ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

St Patrick's GAA Club will host it's annual dinner dance beginning at 6:30 pm on Saturday Dec. 2nd at the GAC. We are pleased to announce that the recipients of the 2017 "Gaels of the Year" Award are Gerry & Noreen Forde for all their hard work, dedication and countless hours of volunteering for the GAA, the GAC, & promoting traditional Irish cultural activities in Fairfield County. In addition, the recipient of the 2017 Senior Gaelic Football Player of the Year Award is Ray Holian (Co. Mayo). Tickets are \$75 and include live band, cocktail hour, dinner, dessert, and open bar. Tickets, table reservations and commemorative journal ads may be sent to: stpatsjournal2017@gmail.com.

Contact Information: Jimmy Feeney

INTO TO GAELIC FOOTBALL FOR CHILDREN

Mark Your Calendars! St. Patrick's G.A.A. Club will host its annual winter training program "Introduction to Gaelic Football for Children 6-8 Years Old" on Saturdays from 4-5pm at The Field House in Fairfield for six weeks beginning on Sat Jan 20, 2017. All training is non-contact and emphasizes fun, games, hand-eye coordination and basic skills. Cost is \$50 and includes T-shirt and graduation ceremony. Limited capacity. To register, please visit: www.stpatricksgfc.org. Email questions to: admin@stpatricksgfc.org.

GREATER BRIDGEPORT ST. PATRICK'S DAY

PARADE CELEBRATION EVENTS

**Grand Marshals Ball and Christmas Gala,
Friday, December 15, 2017, 6-11pm**

Gaelic American Club, to honor the 2018 Grand Marshals: Ann Marie and David Curtin
Open bar, Dinner, Dessert, coffee, Raffle, Bagpipes, Dancing to the Highland Rovers. \$100 pp
RESERVATIONS: Peggy O'Connor; 203-259-7545; or Pat White: 203-955-1394 or visit our website: www.stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com

MR. AND MISS SHAMROCK CONTEST AND DANCE

Saturday, Jan 13th The Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Celebration Committee will award two \$3,000 scholarships to the new Mr. and Miss Shamrock. \$1500 awarded to the runner-ups. Applications available at local high schools and at www.stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com. Deadline: Jan 6th and submitted to pattymcd2001@gmail.com.

KNIGHTS OF ST. PATRICK ANNUAL CAR RAFFLE

December 14, 2017 at their hall (1533 State Street, New Haven). Tickets: \$100.00 each/ maximum 550 tickets for sale. 1st Prize: 2018 Ford Mustang. BIG Banquet Buffet & Open Bar. Bring friends on YOUR ticket purchase. Doors open @ 5pm. Drawing @ 8pm. Contact: Dave Howe (203) 767-6519.

**Elections for Executive Director Committee's
Director 3-years are Sunday December 3rd**