



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



feabhra FEBRUARY 2017

CLAN NA GAEL CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

CnG is actively preparing to celebrate its 30th Anniversary of keeping our Irish Culture in the forefront by "Presenting Plays By Or About The Irish" and you are invited to come Play with Us. We are an open and welcoming group. We love getting new people involved. **Spring Production Audition Dates:** Saturday, Feb. 25th and Sunday, Feb. 26th, from 1:00-3:30. Auditions are open to all. No Experience is Necessary. Anyone interested in working behind the scenes please come out as well. **Show Dates:** April 20, 21, 22, 8:00pm, with a matinee on Sun. April 23rd. For more info: Peg at: opegyo812@gmail.com

OUR ONE ACT PLAY WINNERS

The Clan Na Gael invites everyone to come to the club Sunday Feb 12th at 1pm for an entertaining afternoon of the Reading of the Winning Plays from the 2016 One Act Playwright Contest. After the Reading, the audience will have the opportunity to discuss the playwriting process with the playwrights. The winning plays are:

- **A Chance Meeting** - Written by Alison Flannery and directed by Nancy O'Neil
- **Spiritual Counseling** - Written by Jack Rushen and directed by Kelsey Guggenheim
- **Heroes** - Written by Griffin Reidy and directed by Eamon Speer

The Readings are free to all and refreshments will be served.

MR. AND MISS SHAMROCK WINNERS

Congratulations to Mr. & Miss Shamrock Scholarship 2017: Mr. Shamrock is Kevin Gallagher (Fairfield Prep) and Miss Shamrock is Erin Welch (St. Joseph High School). Mr. Shamrock Runner-up is Brennan Black (Fairfield Prep) and Miss Shamrock Runner-up is Marisa Doyle (St. Joseph High School).

GAC Apparel will be on sale in the lobby on Friday February 3rd and Saturday February 18th.

JOIN US IN THE PUB AT 9PM

Friday	Feb 3	<i>Peter McKiernan</i>
Saturday	Feb 4	<i>Four of a Kind</i>
Friday	Feb 10	<i>Cricktones</i>
Saturday	Feb 11	<i>Murphy Beds</i>
Friday	Feb 17	<i>Roll Away</i>
Saturday	Feb 18	<i>Camac</i>
Friday	Feb 24	<i>Peter McKiernan</i>
Saturday	Feb 25	<i>Coracles</i>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with great honor and gratitude to the GAC membership that I begin my term as President. I would like to thank the Election Committee for all of your hard work on the election. I would also like to thank the 2016 Executive Committee and staff for your many contributions to the ongoing success of the club. As my Father, Uncle and Grandfather have done before me I look forward to enriching the experience for every member of the GAC.

The success of the GAC didn't come easy or happen overnight. It came from decades of hard work from many committed volunteers. Sadly, we've lost a few of those great volunteers recently. They were members who gave endless hours of their "free" time dedicated to making the club better tomorrow than today.

Now it's time for the next generation of volunteers to step forward and make their contribution. The GAC is an incredible community of members dedicated to the promotion of Gaelic sports, traditional Irish music, pipe band music, Irish language, history, literature, and so much more. To help connect members with the many opportunities to volunteer at the GAC I'm happy to announce the new "Chip In" program. Chip in an hour per week, per month, per year, or whatever you can do to help support your club. Details about the program are available at gaconline.org/chipin.

Slainte! - Jim Carolan

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH

Watch the Super Bowl in the Carolan Room on our BIG screen, Bring All The Family!

Events

TRIVIA NIGHT FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 8PM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 8PM

GENEALOGY GROUP MEETING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 10:30AM

HISTORY LECTURE

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2-4PM PG. 4

SENIOR LUNCH THURSDAY, FEB 23, 12 NOON

club ACTIVITIES

BAR COMMITTEE 8 BALL

POOL TOURNAMENT

Tuesdays at 7:30. The winning team will each receive a \$50 gift card. Join in on the fun. For more info call John 203-767-2847

25 CARD GAME

Card players meet Thurs at 7:30 pm.

BROKEN/LOST SCRIP CARDS

Individual Members: Send the broken card to us and we will send back a new, working card.

FÁILTE COMMITTEE

No experience necessary!! Please volunteer to sit at the front desk to welcome our members and their guests. One can volunteer on a regular basis or a few hours a month or even a few hours a year! It's a great way to meet people and a great way to volunteer for our Club. To volunteer call Bette Leary at 203-767-0117

FAIRFIELD GAELIC PIPE BAND

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

BUSINESS / TRADES DIRECTORY

Place your professional listing in the GAC Business Directory Trades List at www.gaconline.org. Go to GAC Business Directory option under Membership 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.

GAC GLEE CLUB

Glee Club rehearsals have resumed on Wednesday @ 6:30 PM in preparation of a May Concert ~ So come learn songs of the Irish in America! For more info contact maryellen.lyons@outlook.com

GAC BOWLING

Sunday nights 6:30pm at Nutmeg Bowl. For more information contact Donna Lillis at 203-3736-9129

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

Genealogy Group will meet on Saturday, February 11th at 10:30 am. For info Contact Donna Orazio: donnaorazio@gmail.com.

GOOD & WELFARE

Mass cards were sent to: Joan Ford on the death of her husband, John; and to Eileen and Kathleen Blackall on the death of Joe Blackall.

Sympathy cards were sent to: Kathleen Sochacki on the death of her father, Warren Bosley; and to Michelle Olson on the death of her father, Bill McDermott.

Notify Noreen Reda of happy news, births and weddings, to share with the members. npreda4@gmail.com.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Ilona Paxton House Committee.
203-372-1280

IRISH INSTRUMENT SESSIONS

Join us Mondays, 8 pm

IRISH LANGUAGE

Foghlaim Saeilse

New Beginner and Intermediate Classes Thursdays at 6:30 to 7:30 and 7:30 to 8:30 respectively.

New Beginner Thursdays 6:30-7:30 pm upstairs in the Cultural Room – Contact Cecia.dalzel@quinnipac.edu.

New Intermediate Class – Thursdays 7:30-8:30 pm upstairs in the Cultural Room. Classes meet every Thursday. For more information and to register, contact Desnolan@optonline.net

New Grammar Class-Intermediate Level – every Wednesday, starting Sept 7 from 7:00-8:00 pm upstairs in the Cultural Room. For registration: jminehan@gmail.com

Current Intermediate Class – meets every Thursday from 6:30-7:30 in the library upstairs.

Grupa Comhra – Irish conversation group, any level, meets every Thursday from 7:30-ish- 9:00 pm in the snug at the end of the bar. For further information call: Cait 203-459-9686; no registration necessary.

LIBRARY

Library hours have been extended especially for children 8 years old and older. Friday and Saturday from 6PM to 9PM. Please note: Children 12 & under need a parent to sign out books to take home.

The library maintains over 2,000 books by Irish authors, about Ireland

or/and the Irish people at home and abroad. And new books have been added through a grant from the Irish Consulate.

Donations are welcomed. Library is open Monday through Thursday. maryellen.lyons@outlook.com for information.

LITERATURE GROUP

On Monday, February 27th, we will meet at 7:30 in the library to discuss *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* by Sara Baume. The Atlantic Journal calls it an "unsettling literary surprise" and a "stunning and wonderful achievement by a writer touched by greatness." New members are most welcome! For more info phone Clare Burnett 203-255-3848 or email her at clareburnett@optonline.net.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting will be held Friday, February 10th @ 8 pm. Meetings are open to all Members. Minutes from the previous meeting are posted on the Bulletin Board.

SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, February 23rd at 12 noon. Call for reservations by Sunday, February 19th. 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

Thursdays at 7:30pm. All are welcome! Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921

53RD ANNUAL ST PATRICK'S SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Monday, March 13, 2017 at the Bridgeport Holiday Inn at 7:00pm. The Scholarship Fund is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization which provides an annual contribution to full-time college students for each of four years of study regardless of race, religion, creed or color. In addition to the annual dinner, the committee graciously accepts private donations. Tickets, at \$125.00 pp. (cash bar) and scholarship applications are available by contacting Dave Howe at (203) 767-6519 or davehowe173@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY feabhra



Schedule	pub hours	Dinner	lunch &Oranch
Mon & Tues	7 pm - 12 mid		
Wed & Thurs	5 pm - 12 mid	5 pm - 9 pm	
Friday	4 pm - 2 am	5 pm - 10 pm	
Saturday	12 noon - 2 am	5 pm - 10 pm	12 noon - 2:30pm
Sunday	12 noon - 12 mid	12 pm - 8 pm	12 noon - 8:00pm

How To Reach us	
Office	(203) 254-0673
Fax	(203) 254-3012
Pub emergencies	(203) 254-2723
Membership	(203) 256-0380
Social	(203) 418-7676
Website	www.gaonline.org

CÉAO NAILE
fáilte



Sunday Domhnach	Monday Luan	Tuesday Máirt	Wednesday Céadaoin	Thursday Deardaoin	Friday Aoine	Saturday Satharn
February is the last chance to spend your scrip! Please don't leave it to the last minute, avoid the rush and spend it early.			1 7pm Trad Music Session 6:30pm Glee Club	2 6:30pm Irish Language Class (All Levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	3 8pm Trivia Night Peter McKiernan 9 pm in the Pub	4 Four of a Kind 9 pm in the Pub
5 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	6 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	7 7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:30pm Pool Tournament Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	8 6:30pm Glee Club	9 6:30pm Irish Language Class (All Levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	10 Scéala deadline 8pm Membership Mtg Cricktones 9 pm in the Pub	11 10:30am Genealogy Group Meeting Murphy Beds 9 pm in the Pub
12 1pm One-Act Play Readings 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	13 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	14 7:30pm Pool Tournament Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	15  6:30pm Glee Club	16 6:30pm Irish Language Class (All Levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	17 Roll Away 9 pm in the Pub	18 Camac 9 pm in the Pub
19 2-4pm History Lecture 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	20 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	21 7:30pm Pool Tournament Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	22 6:30pm Glee Club	23 Noon Senior Lunch 6:30pm Irish Language Class (All Levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	24 Peter McKiernan 9 pm in the Pub	25 1:00-3:30pm Clan na Gael Auditions Coracales 9 pm in the Pub
26 1:00-3:30pm Clan na Gael Auditions 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	27 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 7:30 Irish Literature Group 8pm Irish Instrument	28 7:30pm Pool Tournament Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	1 6:30pm Glee Club	2 6:30pm Irish Language Class (All Levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	3 To be announced 9 pm in the Pub	4 To be announced 9 pm in the Pub

17TH LECTURE IN A SERIES ON IRISH HISTORY SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19 FROM 2-4PM



The GAC Genealogy and Language Groups will host "One half of my heart is Ireland's, and the other half is America's": Irish Immigrants, Nativism, and the Meaning of Loyalty in 19th-century America,

Presented by Ian Delahanty, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History at Springfield College, whose research and publications examine how Irish immigrants' backgrounds in and connections to Ireland influenced their views on slavery and nationalism in the United States, especially during the American Civil War era.

His talk will examine how Irish immigrants refuted nativists' charges that they were incapable of being loyal Americans, even as they refused to sever economic, political, and cultural ties to their native land.

This lecture is open to the public. Tickets are \$5.00 (\$2.00 for Students with Student ID). To help plan seating and refreshments register in advance 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. Provide name, address, phone and email. For info: Mary (203) 377-2346. This event is sponsored by Feile, Inc.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE EVENTS

Bridgeport Downtown celebrates St. Patrick's Day on Friday, March 17, 2017.

- 8:00am Mass at St Augustine Cathedral
- 9:15 a.m. Flag raising at City Hall
- 10:00 a.m. *Grand Marshal's Breakfast, Grand Ballroom, Bridgeport Holiday Inn
- 12:00 p.m. Parade Kick-off with 2017 Grand Marshal, Thomas McCarthy
- 1:30 p.m. *Post Parade Luncheon and Awards Ceremony, Grand Ballroom, Bridgeport Holiday Inn

Full Breakfast is \$20; classic corn beef lunch is \$25. Contact Patty McDonnell at 203-366-2417 or Marilyn Mitchell at 203-261-4767 for reservations by March 10. After 3/10 there will be a surcharge of \$5 for each meal. Seating is on first come, first serve basis. To your make reservation and payment visit: www.stpatricksdailybridgeport.com.

Be part of St. Patrick's Day Annual Journal by placing your ad, tribute or memorial in the publication. Journal Ad order form can be found on website: stpatricksdailybridgeport.com or GAC weekly Bulletin. Please note deadline : February 10, 2017. We are now a 501(c)(3). To make a tax deductible donation: Robert O'Keefe: 203-268-5332



**SAVE MARCH 5TH FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY KICK-OFF WITH
MCLEAN AVE BAND 4-8PM IN THE CAROLAN ROOM!**



The Center for Irish Cultural Studies at Sacred Heart University, the Gaelic American Club of Fairfield and the Shamrock Traditional Irish Music Society Present:

LÚNASA WITH KARAN CASEY

Wednesday, March 1

Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m.

Since its founding 20 years ago, Lúnasa has become one of the most popular bands on the international Celtic music scene. Its arrangements and distinctive musical approaches have created a singular sound that has propelled Irish acoustic music into exciting new territory. The group is joined by Karan Casey, one of the most innovative and proactive voices in Irish folk music.

General Public: \$30

Senior Citizens: \$25

Faculty/Staff/Alumni: \$25

Students (with ID): \$15

For additional ticket information, visit edgertoncenter.org or call the box office at 203-371-7908.

Members of the Gaelic American Club can use the code **GAC2017** for a special discount.



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