



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FAILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes  MÁRTA MARCH 2017

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY Friday, March 17th

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| 9am | GAA Finals | ♣ CAROLAN ROOM ♣ |
| 10 am | Flag Raising Ceremony Light fare follows | 1:00-3:00 Keltic Kick |
| 12 noon | Pub Opens ♣ PUB ♣ | 3:15-5:30 The Highland Rovers |
| 12:-1:45 | The Shamroques | 5:45-6:45 Fairfield County Police Pipes and Drums |
| 2:00-4:30 | Camac | Lenihan School of Irish Dance |
| 5:00-6:15 | The Lashings | 6:45 - 9:00 Damien Connolly, Dan Gurney, Jefferson Hamer & Colman Connolly. |
| 6:30-9:00 | Once Removed | |
| 9:-Close | The Jolly Beggars | |

Special Menu (in place of regular menu) starting at noon on Friday March 17, which includes corned beef sandwiches, fish & chips, chicken fingers, fries and tuna sandwiches. Irish potato chips and Irish chocolates also available.

Volunteers needed for the front door on St. Patrick's Day. We will have 2 hr shifts starting at 10am and running through the day and we'll need 2 people for each shift. If there is an overwhelming surge of volunteers, we may be able to arrange 1 hour shifts. New volunteers are especially welcome. Contact Betty Leary betteleary@gmail.com or at 203-767-0117.

We also need help making sandwiches and serving food on St. Patrick's Day. Please sign up at front desk or contact Mary O'Driscoll at 203-414-9462.

\$5 Guest Fee Friday, March 17 at 10am

Join us in the pub at 9pm

| | | |
|----------|---------|--------------------------|
| Friday | Mar 3 | Allen Gogarty |
| Saturday | Mar 4 | Once Removed |
| Friday | Mar 10 | Keltic Kick |
| Saturday | Mar 11 | Mike McGovern |
| Thursday | Mar 16 | Dreams of Freedom |
| Friday | Mar 17 | (see schedule) |
| Saturday | Mar 18 | Alehounds |
| Friday | Mar 24 | Coracles |
| Saturday | Mar 25 | The Ruffians |
| Friday | Mar 31 | Jolly Beggars |
| Saturday | April 1 | Camac |



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With a very successful February behind us the club is ready for a March full of events honoring St. Patrick. Once again the club will see record numbers of members and guests visiting for the St. Patrick's weekend. During your visit please take some time to walk around the club and take in everything that's going on.

The Fairfield GAC has a huge variety of clubs and interest groups you can participate in and contribute to. The purpose of the club is to maintain and celebrate Irish culture by promoting social, civic and cultural activities. What better way to promote Irish social, civic and cultural activities than to get involved?

As members we are all responsible for hosting and signing in our guests. The Faighté Committee does a fantastic job of assisting members and welcoming guests. Please help the welcoming committee quickly expedite guest sign-ins during this very busy time of year. *Slainte! - Jim Carolan*

Children's St. Patrick's Day Party Saturday, March 11th ~ 11 am to 1 pm

Buffet lunch available \$5
Performance & Mini Lesson by
Lenihan School of Dance.
Contact ♣ Kelly Takacs

Events

TRIVIA NIGHT *FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 8PM*
MCLEAN AVENUE BAND *SUN. MARCH 5, 4-8PM*
CULTURAL NIGHT *WED. MARCH 8, 7:30PM*
MEMBERSHIP MEETING *FRI. MARCH 10, 8PM*
GENEALOGY GROUP MEETING
SATURDAY MARCH 11, 10:30AM
CEILI IN THE CAROLAN RM. *SAT. MAR. 11, 7PM*
MAGILL & McKENNA *SAT. MARCH 24, 7PM*
SENIOR LUNCH *THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 12 NOON*
FAMILY FUN NIGHT *FRIDAY MARCH 31, 6-9PM*
ST. PATRICK'S GAA CLUB NEWS - PG 4
CLAN NA GAEL NEWS - PG 4

club ACTIVITIES

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

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

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

CULTURAL NIGHT

WEDNESDAY MARCH 8 - 6:30

Noel McGovern, Emcee

The Shamroques

Lenihan School of Irish Dance

St. Patrick's Gaelic Football Club

Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band

Clan na Gael

Set Dancers

Irish Language Club



GOOD & WELFARE

Get well wishes were sent to Pat Thomas. A mass card was sent to the family of life member, Joan McCarthy Yuknek. A sympathy card was sent to Theresa and Dick Rolzhause on the death of their daughter, Andrea.

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Once again we are asking our faithful bakers to bring their baked goods to the club on the morning of the St Patrick's day flag raising. New bakers are welcome too. We ask that you bring everything pre-sliced as it saves time. Also please attach your name on the bottom of your dish or basket so we know to whom it gets returned. Everyone always looks forward to your baked goods. There will be someone at the club from 7am to take your items. Thanking you in advance, Ilona Paxton, House Chairperson 203-372-1280

IRISH INSTRUMENT SESSIONS

Join us Mondays, 8 pm

IRISH LANGUAGE

Foghlaim Saeilge

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 in the Cultural Room. 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 more info 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 and/or the Irish people at home and abroad. **Needed:** Shelf Readers, volunteers who are willing to keep books on specific shelves in order. When in the club, visit the Library and straighten out (maintain Dewey order) books on your assigned shelves. maryellen.lyons@outlook.com.

LITERATURE GROUP

On Monday, March 27 at 7:30, the group will meet to discuss Tana French's The Trespasser. It is her latest novel about the Dublin Murder Squad. The New York Times calls it required reading for anyone who appreciates tough, unflinching intelligence and ingenious plotting. If you have any questions, please contact Clare Burnett at 203-255-3848 or Clareburnett@optonline.net.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

SCEALA DEADLINE

April Sceala submissions are due Friday March 10th. Please send info to comuncations@gacemail.org.

SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, March 30th at 12 noon. Call for reservations by Sunday, March 26th. 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

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Family Fun Night is back! Friday, March 31st from 6-9pm. Each family is asked to bring one bag of Easter candy to be given to those less fortunate than we are.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS REQUIRED ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY OR PAY \$5 FEE

ALL MEMBERS will be required to show their membership card or pay the \$5 guest fee. All guests will be charged \$5 on St. Patrick's day. Be sure to have your membership card with you. Many of the door volunteers don't know long standing members by sight or by name so PLEASE have your card with you.

To volunteer for the 'door', please call Bette Leary at 203-767-0117.

"MY NAME IS JOAN" A DOCUMENTARY WEDNESDAY MARCH 8TH @ 6PM

BETHEL CINEMA

The story of Susan Drew, (known to many of us at the GAC) was born Joan Fagan to an unwed mother in the St. Patrick Mother and Baby Home in Dublin, Ireland in 1949. While the documentary chronicles 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 Irish Government still denies adopted children access to their information even though forced adoption affects at least a quarter of the Irish population. The screening is March 8 @ 6pm at The Bethel Cinema, 269 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT. Tickets will be available at www.bethelcinema.com.



KICK-OFF GAC ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS Sunday March 5th 4-8pm featuring The McLean Avenue Band!



MEMBERSHIP FOR CHILDREN WHO'VE TURNED 21 YEARS OLD DURING 2016

Children of members who turned 21 during 2016 who wish to remain members should apply for membership in their own right. Such children may become members immediately and avoid going on the Wait List and not need to pay the Initiation Fee. To apply for membership under this status please visit www.GaelicAmericanClub.com and complete the online application choosing option "Turned 21".

CEILI IN THE CAROLAN ROOM March 11th 6 to 9.30 pm

Music by The Pride of Moyvane, all the way from NYC. \$20 at the door. So put on those dancing shoes. Bring your friends, a bit bring a finger food and get warmed up for St Patrick's Day!



FINN MAGILL AND PAUL MCKENNA Friday March 24 @ 7pm



This award winning duo is sure to get your toes tapping and your heartstrings snapping with their mix of traditional tunes and original songs. Don't miss this special show in the Carolan Rm. Fee \$20.

ORAL VIDEO HISTORY PROJECT

The Feile, Inc. sponsored Oral Video History Project is moving forward. We began by collecting interviews from fifty six subjects. They graciously shared their own unique emigration stories with remembrances, feelings, thoughts and insights. We then copied each interview to a dvd and presented one to each person interviewed. Our plan is to continue interviews, as well as making available the recorded interviews for research, study and promoting our Irish Culture.

We will also be applying for grants to fund the making of documentary film. We are, therefore, looking for people with documentary skills: editors; film makers; videographers; and production people. We welcome your support. The steering committee for the project are: Joan Klienknecht, Eileen Lynam . Noel McGovern, John Minehan and Peg O'Leary. For more info: Peg O'Leary at: opegyo812@gmail.com.

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, \$125.00 pp, (cash bar) for scholarship applications contact Dave Howe at (203) 767-6519 or davehowe173@gmail.com.



WEDNESDAY MARCH 15TH TRAD MUSIC SESSION

Enjoy live trad music led by the Shamroques from 7-9pm. All musicians are welcomed to sit in on the session. So dust off those instruments, warm up your voice and get energized with Traditional Irish Music.

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 Show Dates:** April 20, 21, 22, 8:00pm, with a matinee on Sun. April 23rd. For more info: Peg at: opeggyo812@gmail.com

ONE ACT PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST

The Clan Na Gael would like to thank, the playwrights, judges, directors, cast and everyone else who worked so hard to make the 6th Annual playwright Contest and Reading a success, and we are pleased to announce that the 7th Annual One Act Playwright Contest will commence March 15th, 2017 and run thru August 15th, 2017. To receive the contest instructions and entry form: Naoneil@charter.net or call Nancy O'Neil at (203) 377-1070.

ANNUAL CÚL CAMP



St. Patrick's GAA Club will host its annual Cúl Camp, a summer camp in Gaelic football, hurling & camogie for children 5-15 years of age from June 26 -30 at Notre Dame H.S., Fairfield. Cúl Camps are held in every county in Ireland and throughout North America. Whether you're an experienced player seeking to improve skills or have never played Gaelic games before, this camp is designed to introduce boys and girls to the excitement and challenges of Gaelic games. GAA Certified coaching staffing - with many coming direct from Ireland - to lead the training. Camp hours are 9 am to 3 pm each day. Graduation & medal ceremony on June 30th with family lunch & social following at the GAC. Space is limited and there are early registration and sibling discounts available. To Register for camp visit www.stpatricksgfc.org or admin@stpatricksgfc.org.

CELEBRATE SAINT PATRICK'S DAY IN DOWNTOWN BRIDGEPORT ON FRIDAY, MARCH 17

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

Please visit our website for reservation and payment details: stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com

PUT ON YOUR GREEN AND MARCH WITH THE GAC IN THE 35TH GREATER BRIDGEPORT ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



FRIDAY MARCH 17TH @ 12PM