



# SCÉALA

Newsletter for the Gaelic-American Club  
74 Beach Road, Fairfield CT 06824  
[www.gaconline.org](http://www.gaconline.org)



CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Samhain | November '17

## IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

November 16-18 @ 8pm & 19 @ 2:30pm

Step back in time with us, to Radio Station WBFR on Christmas Eve during the war years of the 1940's. Where cast, crew and audience are prepped for the live broadcast. IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, the well loved Christmas show, features more than twenty roles filled by men women and children of all ages. Tickets at \$15 per person.

**Reservations:** [betteleary@gmail.com](mailto:betteleary@gmail.com) | 203-767-0117

Our audiences are invited to share a champagne toast and cake with us in celebration of our 30th Anniversary!

What a way to celebrate than with our Cast of Thirty!!

**Director:** Peggy S. O'Leary,

**Music Coordinator:** Valerie Huegel,

**Cast:** Mat Apgar, Brad Baldwin, Emily Barksdale, Pete Bellew, Steve Bennett, Patricia Brady, Mike Burke, Joey Diaz, Eileen Fickes, Ally Flaherty, Adam Guggenheim, Betty Guggenheim, Kelsey Guggenheim, Barry Halpin, Valerie Huegel, Pat Lane, Helen Loughrey, John Moran, Dan O'Callaghan, Lila O'Callaghan, Susan O'Hara, David Pirrie, Jillian Plomin, Karol Plomin, Max Plomin, Patrick Plomin, Shannon Roccio, Eamon Speer, Byrne White & Janine Wolfe.



**CELTIC CHRISTMAS FAIR**  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND FROM  
9AM - 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. Bring the children & grandchildren to have their photo taken with Santa in front of the GAC's beautiful stone hearth. Kelli Grady at [bkgrady@msn.com](mailto:bkgrady@msn.com) or email Sue Shanahan at [sshanaha@optonline.net](mailto: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



### DECEASED MEMBERS MASS

Will be celebrated in the Carolan Room  
Sunday November 5th at 10AM.  
Lite refreshments to follow.

### Events

**TRAD MUSIC SESSION** - WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1ST, 7PM  
**TRIVIA NIGHT** - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 8PM  
**DECEASED MEMBERS MASS** - SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5TH @ 10AM  
**MARY ELLEN & FRIENDS** - THURS, NOVEMBER 9TH, 6PM, PG 4  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING** - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 8PM  
**GENEALOGY GROUP** - SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11TH, 10:30AM  
**TRAD FOR TROCAIRE** SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12 2PM  
**HANGING OF THE JERSEYS w/CAMAC** SUNDAY NOV 12TH 4PM  
**LITERATURE GROUP**- MONDAY NOVEMBER 20TH, 7:30PM  
**SENIOR LUNCH** - THURS, NOVEMBER 30TH, 12 NOON  
**FAMILY FUN NIGHT** - FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24TH, 6-9PM  
**CLAN NA GAEL NEWS** - NEWS & PERFORMANCE DATES, PG 4

### Join us in the pub at 9pm

Friday	Nov 3	Roll Away
Saturday	Nov 4	Nine Mile House
Friday	Nov 10	Once Removed
Saturday	Nov 11	The Irish Band
Sunday	Nov 12	Carmac (4-7pm)
Friday	Nov 17	Approaching Normal
Saturday	Nov 18	Four of a Kind
Wed.	Nov 22	Highland Rovers
Friday	Nov 24	Ghost Riders
Saturday	Nov 25	Peter McKiernan
Friday	Dec 1	Camac
Saturday	Dec 2	Mostly Green

## 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](mailto: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](http://fairfieldgaelicpipeband.org).

### FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday, November 24th the night after Thanksgiving from 6-9PM. We'll have a 'kid-friendly' delicious buffet -\$5. We ask that each family bring in an item useful for someone in the Armed Services. Charlie, our DJ, has been faithfully doing FFN for almost 15 years. His youngest son has just finished Basic Training and his platoon can now receive 'care packages'. It would be great to show our appreciation of Charlie by collecting items he could send to his son's platoon for Christmas. Suggested items: toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, hand sanitizer, chap stick, etc. Please be as generous as you can. Any questions call Bette Leary at 203-767-0117. Thanks in advance!

### CHILDREN'S CHORUS

**New Schedule** - Rehearsals begin Nov. 2 and continue every Thursday at 5:30PM for five weeks up to Christmas performance on Dec. 9th.

### GAC GLEE CLUB

GAC Glee Club rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Carolan Room. Come join us!

### BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

Place your professional listing in the GAC Business Directory Trades List at [www.gaconline.org](http://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.

### HOUSE COMMITTEE

Ilona Paxton, House Chairperson  
203-372-1280

### GENEALOGY GROUP

#### FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

Genealogy Group will meet on Saturday, November 11th at 10:30 am. For info contact Donna Orazio: [donnaorazio@gmail.com](mailto:donnaorazio@gmail.com).

### GOOD & WELFARE

**Mass cards** were sent to: Martha Darcy on the death of her husband, Mark; to the family of life member, Alma Condon; to Ann Scheilen on the death of her husband, Norbert; to Jane Greenwood on the death of her husband, Richard; to Bette Gregg on the death of her husband, Leo.

**Sympathy cards** were sent to: Kim Murphy on the death of her mother, Vivian Kral; to Margie Mannion on the death of her son, Martin Bastick.

**Get well wishes** to Ann Marie Carney recuperating at the Carolton following surgery.

**The McCoy Family** would like to thank the management, kitchen staff, waitresses and bar staff for all their thoughtfulness, who through their kindness and donations, served the food at our son Daniel's funeral. Thanks to all the GAC members who kindly sent us sympathy cards and for their generosity towards our grandson Logan's college fund. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. ~ Sincerely, Bernard, Eileen, and all of the McCoy Family

*Notify Noreen Reda of all member news at [npreda4@gmail.com](mailto:npreda4@gmail.com).*

### IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

#### Wednesday Evenings:

Irish Grammar Class 7:00-8:00 PM, contact [JMinehan@gmail.com](mailto:JMinehan@gmail.com).

#### Thursday Evenings:

**Kids/Parents Irish Learning Helper Session:** 6:30-7:30 PM, contact [DesNolan@optonline.net](mailto:DesNolan@optonline.net).

**Beginners Irish Class** 6:30-7:30PM, [Cecilia.Dalzell@quinnipiac.edu](mailto:Cecilia.Dalzell@quinnipiac.edu)

**Lower Intermediate Irish Class** 7:30-8:30, [DesNolan@optonline.net](mailto:DesNolan@optonline.net).

**Higher Intermediate Class** – meets Thursday from 6:30-7:30, contact [JMinehan@gmail.com](mailto:JMinehan@gmail.com).

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

### LIBRARY

Library hours Mon - Thurs open all day. Fri & Sat monitored hours 6 to 8pm. Nov 16th Library work-day 10 - 12 pm. Volunteers needed for book covering, shelve shifting etc. Contact us at [library@gacemail.org](mailto:library@gacemail.org).

### LITERATURE GROUP

The group will meet on Monday, November 20th at 7:30pm. We'll be reading a novella by Claire Keegan called Foster which describes a small girl being sent to live with foster parents on a farm in rural Ireland, without knowing when she will return home. The novella can be read online for free here: [www.newyorker.com/magazine/2010/02/15/foster](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2010/02/15/foster). If you have any questions, please email me at [clareburnett@optonline.net](mailto:clareburnett@optonline.net) or call me at 203-255-3848. New members are welcome!

### MARY ELLEN & FRIENDS IN THE PUB

Thursday Nov 9th 6-8pm sing along or just listen to this informal gathering with Mary Ellen, Glee Club & Children's Chorus singing Irish favorites.

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting will be held Friday, November 10th @ 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](http://gac.campuscardcenter.com/ch/login.html). For more information contact [membership@gacemail.org](mailto:membership@gacemail.org)

### SENIORS

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

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

## TRAD FOR TROCAIRE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12 2-4PM

The Irish Clubs of Fairfield Prep, Luralton Hall, and St. Joseph's High School, will host the 3rd Annual Trad or Trocaire on Sunday November 12 from 2-4 pm. Trocaire, the official social justice and relief organization of the Catholic Church in Ireland assists poor and impoverished communities in the developing world by providing food, medical care, and basic necessities. Events are held in every county in Ireland and 3 years ago, children of GAC members at local Catholic high schools held the first Trad for Trocaire event outside of Ireland and has since raised over \$4,000! So come listen to our traditional Irish musicians playing their hearts out for a good cause and show your support for our high schoolers trying to make a difference in the world. Kindly accepting "free will" offering at the door - no amount is too small.

## ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

We are helping local area shelters for those less fortunate and need cash donations to purchase turkeys, canned & boxed dry goods. Gift cards from Stop And Shop, ShopRite, etc. are also a great way to give. Remember if you are stopping by for a drink or to attend an event/play bring a donation for the Food Drive! Faith Maciver 203-520-8048.

## DANCING WITH THE GAC STARS SPECTACULAR



The stars were shining bright at the 8th annual Dancing with the GAC Stars charity fundraiser held on Oct 14. Congratulations to Brian Thomas for his exciting and fun swing, winning 1st prize; Jack Tartamella for his stylish Hustle, taking 2nd place; and Debbie DeLorenzo, Joan Hoar, Mary Ellen Lyons, Suzanne Moore, and Susan O'Hara who danced their hearts out.

Thank you to the event committee: Mary Alvarez, Cliona Becker, Patty Brady, Louise Cahill, Cheri Dunn, Colleen Burke, Rose Leahy, Eileen Lynam, Barbara Massaro, Kevin O'Neil, Nancy O'Neil, Sheila Tesei, Kathie Gomola, Michael Dougherty, Lynn Farrell, master photographer Sue Drew, Mistress and Master of ceremony, Barbara and Carl Massaro, and creator of the dance spectacular, Franny Tartamella.

Thank you to volunteers Jay Dunn, Joe Martinelli, Mary Ellen McLean, Sharon Peterson, our ticket girls Colleen and Bridget; GAC Executive Committee; GAC Staff, especially Tommy Flaherty and Chris Boccamazzo; judges panel; and talented dance professionals Henry, Monika and David of Fred Astaire Southport - and especially our generous sponsors and supporters.

## CEILI ~ SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26TH 2:30 - 5:30PM



Let's Dance off that Thanksgiving Dinner to the Music of The Connolly Ceili Band in the Carolan Room. \$15 Cover charge at door Contact: Noreen Forde @ 203-273-0483 ☘

## LÁ GAEILGE – DAY OF IRISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The recent day of Irish Language and Culture was again a wonderful success. We had 40 people from seven different states attending. There are many reasons why they put their time and effort into attending our Lá Gaeilge: primarily to learn and enhance their Irish language skills as we continue to have top-notch instructors, including the Fulbright Scholar from Elms College in Springfield, MA, Pól Ó Sniadhaigh from Sligo.

A heartfelt *go raibh maith agaibh* to all who helped make the Lá Gaeilge the best one yet. We in the language group would like to thank Féile for their continued interest and support of our expanding language classes and events here at the GAC. We very much appreciate the presence of Ogham Art and the Daltaí Book Shop for making their goods available for purchase between classes. Also, a big round of applause to all from the Language classes who pitched in to do the advertising, organizing and executing of the workshops and lecture, registering and checking in the attendees, the baking, securing door prizes, etc. It is truly a team effort. Hats-off to Corky and his crew for a most delicious lunch; it's always a treat! This event is outstanding among others of its kind and distinguishes the Gaelic American Club as having a reputation for providing a high standard of Irish language, culture and comradery not always found elsewhere. Mark your calendars now: our next La Gaeilge on Saturday, Oct.6, 2018

***BIGI LINN - Be with us***

## MR & MISS SHAMROCK SCHOLRHIP

The Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Celebration Committee will again be offering two scholarships of \$3,000 each to the boy and girl selected as Mr. and Miss Shamrock on January 13, 2018 at the GAC. Runner-ups will receive \$1,750. Applications will be on our website [www.stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com](http://www.stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com) and at all the high school guidance offices in the area beginning November 1. For information, Patty McDonnell at 203-366-2417 or [pattymcd2001@gmail.com](mailto:pattymcd2001@gmail.com).



### 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](mailto: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](http://www.stpatricksgfc.org). Email questions to: [admin@stpatricksgfc.org](mailto:admin@stpatricksgfc.org).

### GREATER BRIDGEPORT ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE CELEBRATION EVENTS

#### Irish-Italian Night

**Thursday, November 9, 2017, 6:30-10 pm.**

to honor the founder of our parade, Mayor Leonard Paoletta, and the first Chairman, Catherine Brannelly Austin.

Italian-American Club,

2500 Park Avenue, Bridgeport.

Three Course Dinner, Dessert, Coffee, Wine and Beer included, Dancing, Great Company...Sinatra and bagpipes—what a night! \$50 per person, RESERVATIONS: Carol Collins: 203-394-3874

Peg Crossin: 203-395-1056; Patty Brady:

203-372-5612 or visit our

website: [www.stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com](http://www.stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com)

#### 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](http://www.stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com)



### HANGING OF THE JERSERYS WITH CAMAC Sunday November 12 from 4-7PM

Join in the revelry and fun of this fine tradition celebrating Dublin the All-Ireland Hurling Champs and Galway All-Ireland Football Champs



By Joe Landry

Directed by Peggy S. O'Leary

NOVEMBER 16, 17, 18 at 8:00 pm

NOVEMBER 19 at 2:30 pm

TICKETS ★ RESERVATIONS

[betteleary@gmail.com](mailto:betteleary@gmail.com) | 203-767-0117

GAELIC AMERICAN CLUB ★ 74 BEACH ROAD, FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT

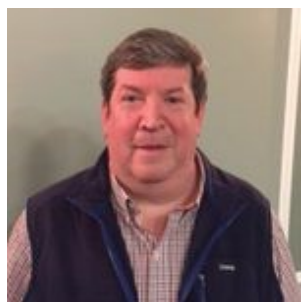
## CANDIDATES FOR 2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following positions on the 2018 GAC Executive Committee have been nominated and filled without contention at the October Membership Meeting:

**President - Jim Carolan**  
**Vice President - Mary Ellen Lyons**  
**Recording Secretary - Sheila Tesei**  
**Treasurer - Tom Harding**  
**Financial Secretary - Sean Kelly**  
**Sergeant at Arms - John Comerford**

The position of Director 3-years is in contention which will be voted on at the election Sunday Dec. 3, 2017. The biographies for these candidates are below.

### TOM EGAN



My name is Tom Egan and I was born and raised in Stamford, CT. All my grandparents immigrated to Stamford from Ireland. I am a graduate of Sacred Heart University with a BS in accounting. I'm currently employed with Hoffman Engineering, LLC as an accountant for the last

four years. I have been a member of the Stamford Ancient Order of Hibernians since the mid 80's and a member of the Gaelic American Club for the past two years. In addition, I also serve on the Board for St. Patrick's Gaelic Football & Hurling Club as Treasurer since 2011. I served on Executive Committee as Treasurer for past 2 years.

### HILARY DEE KOREEDA



I have been a member of the Gaelic American Club for twenty-one years. I'm a Connecticut native, with roots in counties Waterford, Tipperary, Cork, and Galway, and I live in Fairfield with my husband Tatsu and daughter Kerry. I graduated from Georgetown and Wes-

leyan Universities and work for the Town of Fairfield. I currently serve as the Sergeant-at-Arms. Over the years, I have participated in various capacities: as Recording Secretary; on Social Committee, Good and Welfare, backstage for Clan na Gael, with the Bowling League, and on the Irish Festival Committee. I worked on the Oral History Video Project, and when my daughter was younger, helped with children's events.

Being involved is a good way to meet other members and to make the most of our wonderful club. It's important to move toward the future, mindful of the people who founded the club, with an eye toward stewarding it for future generations. It's also important to maintain the warmth of our organization, and to support and create programs that perpetuate Irish culture and celebrate the shared heritage of Irish-born and Irish-Americans. I respectfully ask for your support as I seek the office of Director.

**Don't Forget to Vote on December 3rd**

## THE CELTIC ORIGINS OF HALLOWEEN



As millions of children and adults participate in the fun of Halloween on the night of October 31st, few will be aware of its ancient Celtic roots in the Samhain (Samain) festival. In Celtic Ireland about 2,000 years ago, Samhain was the division of the year between the lighter half (summer) and the darker half (winter). At Samhain the division between this world and the otherworld was at its thinnest, allowing spirits to pass through.

The family's ancestors were honoured and invited home whilst harmful spirits were ward off. People wore costumes and masks to disguise themselves as harmful spirits and thus avoid harm. Bonfires and food played a large part in the festivities. The bones of slaughtered livestock were cast into a communal fire, household fires were extinguished and started again from the bonfire. Food was prepared for the living and the dead, food for

the ancestors who were in no position it eat it, was ritually shared with the less well off.

Christianity incorporated the honoring of the dead into the Christian calendar with All Saints (All Hallows) on November 1st, followed by All Souls on November 2nd. The wearing of costumes and masks to ward off harmful spirits survived as Halloween customs. The Irish emigrated to America in great numbers during the 19th century especially around the time of famine in Ireland during the 1840's. The Irish carried their Halloween traditions to America, where today it is one of the major holidays of the year. Through time other traditions have blended into Halloween, for example the American harvest time tradition of carving pumpkins.