



# 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



Aibreán | April 2018

## AN EVENING WITH TWO EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN Mags Riordan and Suzanne Strempek Shea Wednesday, April 11th @ 7:30pm Tickets \$10



Mags Riordan is a guidance counselor turned humanitarian who has built and now runs a medical clinic in the south central African country of Malawi.

Riordan first traveled to Malawi from her native County Kerry nearly 20 years ago, on the anniversary of her son Billy's drowning death

in the impoverished but physically beautiful country. After initially considering starting a school in Malawi's Cape Maclear to honor her son's memory, Mags recognized a more pressing need: basic medical care in a land where there is one doctor for every 800,000 people.

Suzanne Strempek Shea is author of *This Is Paradise*, a gripping story that recounts Riordan's remarkable story of grief, grace and determination.

### This Is Paradise

An Irish mother's grief, an African village's plight, and the medical clinic that brought fresh hope to both

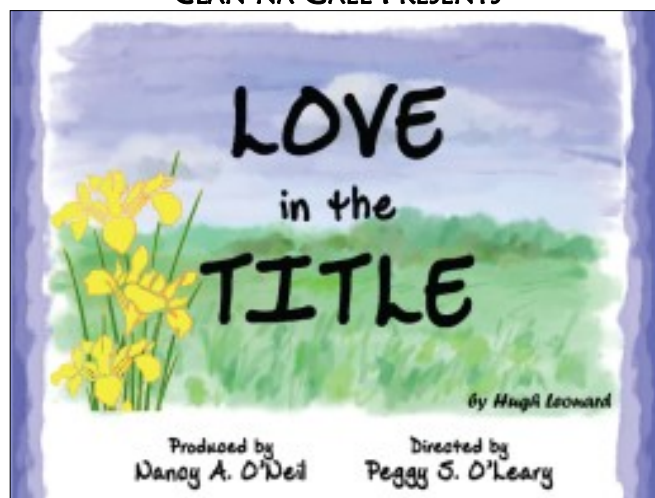


Suzanne Strempek Shea

"We have shared the triumph of human spirit with a lot. But Mags Riordan personifies the idea. In *This Is Paradise*, she takes us for extraordinary journey and shares us the power of a mother's love."

-Ann Hood, author of *Comfort: A Journey Through Grief*

## CLAN NA GAEL PRESENTS



Starring Kelsey Guggenheim, Marie Stehle & Tory Tallberg. Directed by Peg O'Leary.

Set in a field in Limerick where three generations, grandmother, mother and daughter meet on a summers day in 2006, which is daughter Katie's present time. However, mother, Catriona, is from 1964 and grandmother, Cat, from 1932. Come see how these three women relate, share, laugh and learn together through time. Tickets are \$15.

April 5, 6, 7 at 8:00 and April 8 at 2:30

For Reservations Contact Bette Leary  
[betteleary@gmail.com](mailto:betteleary@gmail.com) or call 203-767-0117



## DONNELLY DASH - SUNDAY APRIL 15

Sign up for the 3.5-mile run or 1.6 mile walk to celebrate the lives of Tim and Kim Donnelly. For info and to sign up visit: <http://www.clubct.org/Races/Donnelly/Donnelly.html>.

## Events

GAC CLOSED SUNDAY APRIL 1ST, EASTER SUNDAY

TRAD MUSIC SESSION - WEDNESDAY APRIL 4TH, 7PM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FRIDAY, APRIL 13TH, 8PM

GENEALOGY GROUP FRÉAMH ÉIREANN - SAT APR 14TH, 10:30AM

MARY ELLEN & FRIENDS - THURSDAY, APRIL 12TH, 6PM

SENIOR LUNCH - THURS, APRIL 26TH, 12 NOON

FAMILY FUN NIGHT - FRIDAY, APRIL 27TH, 6-9PM

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## JOIN us in the pub at 9pm

Friday	Apr 6	Peter McKiernan
Saturday	Apr 7	Keltic Kick
Friday	Apr 13	Mostly Green
Saturday	Apr 14	Coracles
Friday	Apr 20	Gillespie & Corbett
Saturday	Apr 21	Fergus Begley
Friday	Apr 27	Crickstones
Saturday	Apr 28	Ruffians
Friday	May 4	The Fearless Band
Saturday	May 5	Camac

Save the Date ~ Sunday, May 13th  
Mothers' Day Brunch



## club ACTIVITIES

### 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.

### 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

Family Fun Night is on April 27th from 6-9pm, featuring a 'kid-friendly' delicious buffet for \$5. Any questions call Bette Leary at 203-767-0117. Thanks in advance!

### GLEE CLUB & CHILDREN'S CHORUS

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

### GOOD & WELFARE

Mass cards were sent to: Mary Mostowy on the death of her husband Sam; to Casey Mulqueen on the death of his brother Christopher; to the family of Judge Dan Caruso; to Karen Fitzgerald on the death of her mother Barbara; to Bridie McCormack on the death of her husband Joe, a life member.

A Sympathy card was sent to Jude Fitzgerald and Kiva Barry on the death of their brother Peter in Ireland. A Sympathy card was sent to Pat Kennedy on the death of his son, Patrick.

Get well wishes were sent to Anne Surber recuperating from surgery.

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

### GENEALOGY GROUP

#### FRÉAMB ÉIREANN

Genealogy Group meets April 14th at 10:30 am. For info contact Donna Orazio: [donnaorazio@gmail.com](mailto:donnaorazio@gmail.com).

### HOUSE COMMITTEE

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who came to clean the Waterford sconces in the Carolan Room led by Nora Zilloc and those who helped put up the decorations in anticipation of the month long St Patrick's Day festivities and those who brought delicious treats to eat after the flag raising ceremony. I'm sure the 1948 founders of the GAC were smiling down from heaven on St. Patrick's Day as well as singing and dancing along with us. Ilona Paxton, House Chairperson 203-372-1280

### 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 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.

Please SIGN OUT BOOKS. 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](mailto:library@gacemail.org).

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting will be held Friday, April 13th @ 8 pm. Meetings are open to all Members.

### LITERATURE GROUP

On Monday, April 16th at 7:30, we will meet to discuss Emma Donoghue's *The Wonder*. The novel concerns an English nurse brought to a small Irish village to observe what appears to be a miracle-a girl said to have survived without food for months. The nurse soon finds herself fighting to save the girl's life. If you have any questions, please call Clare Burnett at 203-255-3848 or email [ClareBurnett@optonline.net](mailto:ClareBurnett@optonline.net). Everyone is welcome! Please email at [ClareBurnett@optonline.net](mailto:ClareBurnett@optonline.net) or call 203-255-3848.

### SCEALA

Submissions for the May Sceala are due April 13th. Please send to Maura Kallaway and Jillian Plomin at [communications@gacemail.org](mailto:communications@gacemail.org). Please include ALL event details, date, time, location, cost, etc. Proper grammar is also greatly appreciated.

### SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, April 26th, reservations by Sunday, April 22, Lunch is \$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.

### SOCIAL SECURITY SEMINAR IN THE CAROLAN ROOM

APRIL 16, 6-8PM WITH DINNER SERVED

Make informed decisions about your Social Security benefit options, and how much money you may need from other sources to supplement your retirement income, learn about variable annuities, a retirement income strategy and more. **Guest Speaker:** Brian Mullen, Regional Vice President, The Southern New England Financial Group. **RSVP April 9<sup>th</sup>**, so we can plan dinner accordingly!

[joe.gulbin@prudential.com](mailto:joe.gulbin@prudential.com)  
or call 203-402-3284

[ryan.orvis@prudential.com](mailto:ryan.orvis@prudential.com)  
or call 203-402-3236

**This Event is Sponsored by GAC Seniors Committee**



### EASTER RISING COMMEMORATION

The annual 1916 Easter Commemoration will be held on Sunday May 6th, at 3pm at the monument at the Gaelic American Club, 74 Beach Rd, Fairfield. A wreath laying to the memory of those who died for Ireland's freedom will take place. Guest speaker will be Dr. Patrick (Pat) Carolan. For information contact Pat, 203-644-9073 or poc6575@optimum.net.

### 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 loaded to a private secured site as well as preserved in their original forms.

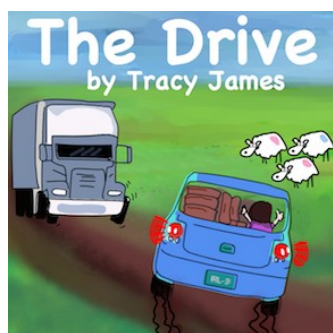
**Professional help needed to continue this important project. For more information or to lend a hand contact Peg at: opeggyo812@gmail.com.**

### 8TH ANNUAL ONE ACT PLAYWRITING CONTEST



The Clan Na Gael Players are pleased to announce that the 8th Annual One Act Playwriting Contest will commence March 15th and run thru August 15th

2018. Please email Naoneil@charter.net for the 2018 Contest Instructions and Official Submission Form. Please contact Nancy O'Neil at (203) 377-1070 with any contest questions ~ and good luck to all!



### KUDOS TO TRACY JAMES: THE 2014 PLAYWRITER CONTEST WINNER

"The Drive" by Tracy James was the 2014 GAC Playwriting Contest winner and will be at the Manhattan Repertory Theater for their 2018 Spring One Act Competition April 12-14.

For tickets: [www.manhattanrep.com](http://www.manhattanrep.com)  
Special thanks to Joyce Fox, Kelsey Guggenheim & Bettie Guggenheim, my beautiful cast, and to the GAC, Clan na Gael Players & Feile for their support.

### 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 information [tkeane@optonline.net](mailto:tkeane@optonline.net) or Phone 203 256-8033.

### IRISH HISTORY LECTURE

**"The Gaelic Idea: Reinventing Irish Dance"**  
Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 2:00 PM

Presented by Sarah Churchill, adjunct professor of Art History at Housatonic Community College, the lecture focuses on Irish dance, a social dance form with humble origins, which today enjoys unprecedented worldwide popularity. With active dance communities in nearly 20 countries, seemingly boundless merchandising, and countless sophisticated stage production spin-offs, Irish dance is a global industry whose gross profit is almost incalculable. This lecture traces the development of Irish dancing, from the earliest days to the post-Riverdance boom, considering the ways in which the aesthetics of dancing and its purpose in Irish social life have changed over the course of its history, reflecting wider changes in Ireland itself.



Tickets: \$5 (\$2 students with ID)

Send checks made payable to Feile, Inc  
Mary Adams-Arroyo, 221 McGrath Ct.,  
Stratford, CT 06615

Email: [marroyo@optonline.net](mailto:marroyo@optonline.net) Subject: Irish History  
Phone: 203-377-2346

### ST. PATRICK'S GAA NEWS

#### ST. PATRICK'S GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING CLUB 2018 BENEFIT AND SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, April 21 from 7 - 11pm \$60/person  
Stamford Gaelic Celtic Club—Hibernian Hall  
186 Greyrock Place, Stamford, CT

Includes appetizers, open bar, live entertainment, live and silent auctions. *All proceeds to benefit St. Patrick's Gaelic Football & Hurling Club*

#### ST. PATRICK'S GAA CÚL CAMP ~ JUNE 25TH - 29TH

Boys or girls interested in learning how to play Gaelic football, hurling, or camogie - register for Gaelic games summer youth camp at St. Patrick's GAA Club, June 25 - 29. Visit [stpatricksgfc.org](http://stpatricksgfc.org) for more information and to register. No experience needed, all children are welcome to join in the fun!





## 2018 IS YEAR OF IRISH LANGUAGE

The Irish Government has declared 2018 the Year of Irish Language. People are encouraged to speak or learn some (or more) Irish. In light of that, the following Irish events are offered:

- ♣ A new display exists at the front desk, in which every couple of months there will be a different set of handouts with Irish, English Translation and Phonetics on some interesting topics.
- ♣ Assistance to all activity groups and staff within the club to work with them to introduce a little Irish to their activity or work.
- ♣ Irish Language Immersion Day will be on October 6th. Handouts are on club's information table.
- ♣ Irish Language classes take place every Thursday evening. All are welcome!
- ♣ See page 2 for class schedule.



### **Swinging Paddies Direct From Ireland**

Thursday April 12 @ 8:30-11:30 ~\$20

Includes Tea/Coffee, Soda Bread & Finger Foods

Contact Noreen Forde 203-273-0483

## SAVE THE DATE ~ FAIRFIELD COUNTY "WEE" IRISH FESTIVAL

Father's Day, June 19, noon to 6pm at the GAC. With music, dancers, pipers, food, raffles and more. More info to come so watch for updates.







# APRIL Aibreán

## Schedule

## Pub hours

## Dinner

## Lunch & Branch

## How To Reach us

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

Office (203) 254-0673  
 Fax (203) 254-3012  
 Pub emergencies (203) 254-2723  
 Membership (203) 256-0380  
 Social (203) 418-7676  
 Website [www.gaconline.org](http://www.gaconline.org)

CÉAO MILE  
FÁILTE



Sunday DOMHNACH	Monday LUAN	Tuesday MÁIRT	Wednesday CÉADAOIN	Thursday DEARDAOIN	Friday AOINE	Saturday SATHARN
<b>1 Easter Sunday</b>  <b>GAC Closed</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	<b>3</b> Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	<b>2</b> 7pm Trad Music Session	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Irish Language 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing 8pm CNG Presents "Love in the Title"	<b>6</b> 8pm CNG Presents "Love in the Title" 🎵 Peter McKiernan 9 pm in the Pub	<b>7</b> 8pm CNG Presents "Love in the Title" 🎵 Keltic Kick 9 pm in the Pub
<b>8</b> 230pm CNG Presents "Love in the Title"	<b>9</b> 6:30 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	<b>10</b> 7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	<b>11</b> 7pm Irish Grammar Class 7:30pm Special Guests Mags Riordan & Suzanne Strempek Shea	<b>12</b> 6pm Mary Ellen & Friends 6:30pm Irish Language 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing 8:30pm Irish Country Music Dance	<b>13</b> 8pm Membership Meeting Sceala Submissions Due 🎵 Mostly Green 9 pm in the Pub	<b>14</b> 10:30am Genealogy Group Fréamh Éireann Meeting 🎵 Coracles 9 pm in the Pub
<b>15</b>  <b>Donnelly Dash</b> Fairfield, CT <small>Run with the spirit of Tár &amp; Aislinn in your heart!</small>	<b>16</b> 6pm Social Security Session 6:30 Gaelic Pipe Band 7:30pm Irish Literature Group 8pm Irish Instrument	<b>17</b> Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	<b>18</b>  7pm Irish Grammar Class	<b>19</b> 6:30pm Irish Language Class (all levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	<b>20</b> Pub Dining Only 🎵 Gillespie & Corbett 9 pm in the Pub	<b>21</b> Pub Dining Only 🎵 Fergus Begley 9 pm in the Pub
<b>22</b> Reminder Please Return Your Glasses to the Bar	<b>23</b> 6:30 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	<b>24</b> Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	<b>25</b> 7pm Irish Grammar Class	<b>26</b> 12 Noon Senior Lunch 6:30pm Irish Language Class (all levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	<b>27</b> 6pm Family Fun Night 🎵 Crickstones 9 pm in the Pub	<b>28</b> 🎵 Ruffians 9 pm in the Pub
<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b> 6:30 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	<b>1</b> Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	<b>2</b> 7pm Irish Grammar Class	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Irish Language Class (all levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	<b>4</b> 🎵 The Fearless Band 9 pm in the Pub	<b>5</b>  🎵 Camac 9 pm in the Pub