



# 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



*Nollaig* | December 2018

## GAC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2019

If you have a working email on file with us, you will receive notification on Jan 1 to renew your GAC membership for 2019. If you have no email or have requested paper billing, your invoice will arrive in the mail after December 28th.

Once again, we are offering a special incentive to the first 250 members who renew for 2019. At the monthly membership meeting in February, we will draw 3 names from the first 250 renewals and those members will receive a free membership for 2019. (This does not include scrip).

Other important information regarding membership renewal:

- Please make sure your contact information, especially email and home address are current. You can log into your account to review your information: <https://www.gaelicamericanclub.com/>
- If you usually receive your renewal from the GAC by email and do not receive an email from us on January 1, please check your settings and spam folder.
- If you usually receive your renewal by mail and do not receive anything from us by January 6, please let us know. The best way to contact the membership office is via email at [membership@gacemail.org](mailto:membership@gacemail.org).
- Do not discard your white door/scrip card. There is a \$10 replacement fee. Your 2019 scrip will be loaded onto that card on April 1, 2019.
- All 2018 scrip expires on 2/28/19.

Contact membership at [membership@gacemail.org](mailto:membership@gacemail.org)

Please note: The Gaelic American Club operates on a calendar year and depends on the prompt payment of membership dues. Membership renewal is payable on January 1 each year. We allow up to a 60-day grace period to pay.

All memberships must be renewed by February 28, 2019. Beginning March 1, there will be a \$100 reinstatement fee added to all renewals.

## WIN A 2019 PAID GAC MEMBERSHIP!

Starting on January 1st at 12:01 AM the first 250 members to renew their membership will be entered into a drawing to win one of three 2019 GAC memberships. Winning members will be reimbursed for the dues they already paid but will still be responsible for purchasing scrip. Only renewals received before January 15th, 2018 will be eligible. Note: Members of the Executive and Membership Committees are ineligible to participate.

The winners of the drawing will be selected at the monthly meeting on February 8th. Winners must be present to accept the prize.

Watch for email updates as well as additional information on website and remember no renewals before January 1st & 12:01AM.

**DO NOT PAY 2019 DUES BEFORE  
JANUARY 1 2019. THIS WILL  
INVALIDATE YOUR CHANCE TO WIN.**

## Events

**TRIVIA NIGHT** - FRIDAY, DEC 7TH, @ 8PM  
**BLOOD DRIVE** - WEDNESDAY DEC 5TH, 1:30-6:30PM  
**TRAD MUSIC SESSION** - WEDNESDAY, DEC 5TH, 7PM  
**GENEALOGY GROUP** FRÉAMH ÉIREANN - SAT DEC 8TH, 10:30  
**CAROLING & UGLY SWEATER** - WED DEC 12 @ 7PM  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING** - FRIDAY, DEC 14TH, 8PM  
**KID'S CHRISTMAS PARTY** - SATURDAY DEC 15TH 11-1PM  
**SENIOR LUNCH** - THURSDAY, DEC 27TH @ 12 NOON  
**FAMILY FUN NIGHT** - FRIDAY, DEC 28TH 6-9PM

## Join us in the pub at 8pm

Friday	Nov 30	Mike O'Mally
Saturday	Dec 1	Peter McKiernan
Friday	Dec 7	Susan & Gerard
Saturday	Dec 8	Kurt & Helen
Friday	Dec 14	Mike McGovern
Saturday	Dec 15	Highland Rovers
Friday	Dec 21	Keltic Kick
Saturday	Dec 22	Dylan Connor
Friday	Dec 28	C-Sides
Saturday	Dec 29	Karaoke 8-11pm



# club ACTIVITIES

## FÁILTE COMMITTEE

Once again, we are asking for volunteers to work the front desk. We especially need Wednesday night, Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon shifts covered. We would appreciate some volunteers for an occasional Friday and/or Saturday evening shift. This is a great way to meet members of our club ( and the liquor commission requires all guests to be signed in! )

All members must sign in each of their guests: the members name PRINTED for EACH guest and each guest sign their own name and address. It's really not a big deal, but, it would be a huge deal if the GAC were to be temporarily shut down because some member isn't in compliance. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

If you'd like to join the FAILTE committee, call Bette Leary at 203-767-0117 or email:betteleary@gmail.com

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday, December 28, 2018. Parents are reminded to monitor their own children. Children may NOT leave the room without a parent. Please do remember to clear your own table. No running, food, drinks or toys on the dance floor.

We delivered the snack items to the teacher at Blackham School and he was so appreciative. The FFN response to our request to bring in donations was great. We'd like to repeat these donations and are again asking each family to donate healthy snack items such as fruit bars, rice krispie treats, granola bars, individual goldfish bags, etc. Maybe we can double our donation this time?!?

Lastly, for the first time in more than a decade - we will change our 'Ice Cream Time' - moving it backwards to 7:45

## FAIRFIELD GAELIC PIPE BAND

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

## GLEE CLUB

Singers welcomed to join us on Thursdays @ 6:30 PM in the Carolan Room. Now in rehearsal for Christmas Program.

## GENEALOGY GROUP FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

Genealogy Group meets Dec. 8th at 10:30 am For info Donna Orazio: donnaorazio@gmail.com.

## GOOD & WELFARE

A Mass Card was sent to Mary McCartney on the death of her mother Peggy Corcoran, a life member.

A Sympathy Card was sent to Shaun Kelly on the death of his sister Mary Granfield.

Get Well Wishes were sent to Tom Bauder who is at St. Vincent's Medical Center.

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

## HOUSE COMMITTEE

Ilona Paxton, House Chairperson 203-372-1280

## IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

### Monday Evenings:

Irish Reading Class 7:00-8:00 PM, contact JMinehan@gmail.com.

### Thursday Evenings:

Kids/Parents and Beginner/Teens/ Adults meet at 6:30 PM.

Intermediate Level at 7:30 PM. contact DesNolan@optonline.net.

## LIBRARY

Wednesday, Jan 9th 5:30 Book covering and shelving. Volunteers needed. Contact: library@gacemail.org.

Over 2000 books, History, Travel, Fiction, Biography, Arts & Crafts, Short Stories, Plays. Fairy Tales & Folklore, Children's and Young Adult Books and more. Members may borrow books for a 3-week period by signing them out. Children under 12 need to have parents sign out their books. New books are now being frequently added.

Library is open Monday through Saturday and has added many new books. Monitored children's hours for the Library are Friday and Saturday 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. Contact us at library@gacemail.org.

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting will be held Friday December 14th @ 8 pm. Meetings are open to all members.

## LITERATURE GROUP

We will meet at 7:30 on Monday, January 21st in the library to discuss The Library At The Edge Of The World by Felicity Hayes-McCoy. Good Reads calls it a warm, feel-good novel about the importance of finding a place where you belong. The novel follows Hanna Casey as she drives her mobile library van between the villages of Ireland's west coast. All welcome! If you have any questions, contact Clare Burnett at email ClareBurnett@optonline.net or phone 203-255-3848.

## RUNNERS & WALKERS CLUB

Runners meet Saturday mornings at 8:30am to run 3.1 mile route from GAC. Walkers meet @ 9am, walk to the Fairfield Beach Club and back. Maps for both routes are on GAC website under Clubs & Activities Tab.

## SCEALA

Submissions for the Jan Sceala are due Dec 14th. Please send to Maura Kallaway and Jillian Plomin at [communications@gacemail.org](mailto:communications@gacemail.org).

## SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, Dec 27th, reservations by Sunday, Dec 23rd, 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. Starting 9/13 ! Contact Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921.

## INTO TO GAELIC FOOTBALL

St. Patrick's G.A.A. Club will host its annual 6-week winter training program "Introduction to Gaelic Football for Children 6-8 Years Old" on Saturdays from 4-5pm at The Field House in Fairfield beginning in January. 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, [www.stpatricksgfc.org](http://www.stpatricksgfc.org). Or send email To: [admin@stpatricksgfc.org](mailto:admin@stpatricksgfc.org).





Once again, the Giving Tree will be put up at the GAC on the night before Thanksgiving. We will be collecting presents for Sister Theresa Tremblay's Nursery School children and their families.

Please take a tag ( or 2 ! ), buy the designated present, wrap it ( with the original tree tag attached) and return the gifts to the GAC NO LATER December 15, 2018. Please don't take a tag unless you fully intend to buy a gift. Thank you to all who participate.

### LAST CHANCE FOR SHAMROCK SCHOLARSHIP !

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 2018 is the deadline for entering the Mr. and Miss Shamrock Scholarship sponsored by the Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Celebration. (Remember - Winners receive \$3,000)! Applications are in many high school Guidance offices as well as on line at [www.stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com](http://www.stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com). Only high school seniors who have some Irish heritage may apply.

The personal interview with the judges and the reception afterward will take place the following Saturday, December 15th (Snow date is Sunday, Dec. 16) from 4:00-9:00pm at the GAC. APPLICANTS MUST ATTEND THIS EVENT. Questions? Call Patty McDonnell 203-218-6567 (cell) or email at [pattymcd2001@gmail.com](mailto:pattymcd2001@gmail.com). SAVE THE DATE! Everyone is invited on Dec. 15. Guests may come from 6:00-9:00pm. There will be music, raffles, coffee and desserts. Adults are \$20. Students are \$10. Children under 13 are free.

All applications must be submitted to  
**Patty McDonnell**  
 ([pattymcd2001@gmail.com](mailto:pattymcd2001@gmail.com))  
 by Saturday, December 8, 2018.

### DANCING WITH THE GAC STARS SPECTACULAR

The stars were shining bright at the 9th annual Dancing with the GAC Stars fundraiser held on October 13th. Alice Morgan's energetic Hustle to "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough" won first place and \$2,000 for Dress for Success, Mid-Fairfield County Chapter. Teri Deal's delightful West Coast Swing to "Dancing In the Moonlight" won second place and \$1,000 for the Fisher House Foundation. Alison Flannery opened the show as Cinderella with an enchanting Viennese Waltz and Tim Creagh wowed everyone with an elegant "Fascination" Waltz (quite a marvel, as he concealed a torn bicep tendon). Jillian Shaw Plomin stole our hearts with Irish steps and a Samba to "Galway Girl" and Dylan Strachan's spicy Salsa to "Despacito" brought the audience to their feet! Their charities will each receive \$300, respectively: Connecticut Humane Society, St. Catherine of Siena School, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Congratulations to all our GAC Stars!

Thank you to the Event Committee: Mary Alvarez, Patty Brady, Louise Cahill, Mike Dougherty, Kathie Gomola, Rose Leahy, Eileen Lynam, Suzanne Moore, Kevin O'Neil, master photographer Sue Drew, master and mistress of ceremonies Carl and Barbara Massaro, and creator of the dance spectacular, Franny Tartamella. Thank you to the GAC Galaxy: Executive Committee, Staff, Chris Boccamozza, Tommy Flaherty, Cheri Dunn, Anne Morrow, Danielle Perez, Peter Tartamella, Sheila Tesei, young helpers Joseph Miller, Shannon Miller, Karol Plomin, Max Plomin, Patrick Plomin; judges Erin Collins, Chris Peterson, Brian Thomas; and to the talented dance professionals Henry Skopp and Monika Barska of Fred Astaire Dance Studio Southport.

To our sponsors who donated fabulous raffle prizes and our outstanding audience who supported the dancers every step of the way - thank you for making the night so magical - and for making a difference in our community.



*Constellation of Stars: Teri Deal, Alice Morgan, Dylan Strachan, Tim Creagh, Monika Barska and Henry Skopp of Fred Astaire Dance Studio Southport, Alison Flannery, and Jillian Shaw Plomin.*

### CHANGES TO 2019 ANNUAL MEMBER DUES, SCRIP AND INITIATION FEES

The motion presented to the membership at the October 2018 monthly meeting to increase Annual Dues, Scrip, and New Member Initiation fee was voted on and accepted at the November Membership Meeting.

The changes to the 2019 membership fees are as follows:

- Senior (1): Dues: \$30 Scrip: \$75 Assessment: \$0 Total: \$105
- Senior (2): Dues: \$60 Scrip: \$150 Assessment: \$0 Total: \$210
- Individual: Dues: \$60 Scrip: \$75 Assessment: \$40 Total: \$175
- Senior + Individual Dues: \$90 Scrip: \$150 Assessment: \$40 Total: \$280
- Family (1 Adult and children under 21): Dues: \$60 Scrip: \$75 Assessment: \$40 Total: \$175
- Family (2 Adults with or without children under 21): Dues: \$120 Scrip: \$150 Assessment: \$80 Total: \$350
- New Member Initiation: \$150

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**Saturday December 15th from 11-1PM**  
 Good fun for the kids and perhaps a visit by Santa himself!

### GAELIC-AMERICAN CLUB'S CHRISTMAS HOUSE PARTY DECEMBER 9TH AT 6 PM

A relaxed evening to celebrate Christmas with Song, Music, and Dance. Carolan Room open at 5PM for dinner. Program begins at 6PM Our own little wrens will be collecting for Woofgang.

### CAROLING IN THE PUB/UGLY SWEATER CONTEST WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH @ 7:00 P.M.

Haul out the holly, deck the halls and join us for some holiday cheer and participate in The 'Unique' (nice way of saying ugly) Christmas Sweater Contest!



What better way to show off your 'unique attire' and spread cheer than to sing along with Lorry Scott who'll gather 'round the hearth to play your holiday favorites! So don't forget the fun starts at 7pm!

### GAC BLOOD DRIVE WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5TH FROM 1:30-6:30

Donating blood is the ultimate gift that can save a life ~ so come out to the GAC Blood Drive on 12/5 roll up your sleeves and give a pint!



# DECEMBER



# Nollaig

**Schedule**

**pub hours**

**Dinner**

**Lunch & Branch**

**How To Reach us**

**Céad míle fáilte**

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)



**Sunday**  
**Dombnach**

**Monday**  
**Luan**

**Tuesday**  
**Máirt**

**Wednesday**  
**Céadaoin**

**Thursday**  
**Deardaoin**

**Friday**  
**Aoine**

**Saturday**  
**Satharn**



*"With ivy, shamrock and bright holly berry,  
 be Christmas to you both blessed and merry!"*



**1**  
 9-3pm Celtic Christmas Fair  
 7:30pm St. Patrick's GAA  
 Diner Dance  
 🎵 Peter McKiernan  
 8 pm in the Pub

**2**

**3**  
 6:30 Gaelic Pipe Band  
 at the church  
 7pm Irish Reading Class  
 8pm Irish Instrument  
 Session

**4**  
 7:30pm Executive  
 Committee Meeting  
 Lenihan Dance Lessons  
 4pm Children 8pm Adult

**5**  
 1:30-6:30 Blood Drive  
 7pm Trad Music Session

**6**  
 6:30pm Irish Language  
 6:30 Glee Club  
 7:30pm 25 Card Game  
 7:30pm Set Dancing

**7**  
 8pm Trivia Night  
 🎵 Susan & Gerard  
 8 pm in the Pub

**8**  
 Mr. & Miss Shamrock  
 Scholarship Deadline  
 10:30am Genealogy Group  
 Fréamh Éireann Meeting  
 🎵 Kurt & Helen  
 8 pm in the Pub

**9**  
 6pm GAC Holiday House  
 Party

**10**  
 6:30 Gaelic Pipe Band  
 at the church  
 7pm Irish Reading Class  
 8pm Irish Instrument  
 Session

**11**  
 Lenihan Dance Lessons  
 4pm Children 8pm Adult

**12**  
 7:00 Caroling in the Pub &  
 Ugly Sweater Contest

**13**  
 6:30pm Irish Language  
 6:30 Glee Club  
 7:30pm 25 Card Game  
 7:30pm Set Dancing

**14**  
 8pm Membership  
 Meeting  
 Sceala Submissions Due  
 🎵 Mike McGovern  
 8 pm in the Pub

**15** Giving Tree Deadline  
 11am Kid's Christmas Party  
 6pm Mr. & Miss Shamrock  
 Scholarship Reception  
 🎵 Highland Rovers  
 8 pm in the Pub

**16**

**17**  
 6:30 Gaelic Pipe Band  
 7pm Irish Reading Class  
 8pm Irish Instrument  
 Session

**18**  
 Lenihan Dance Lessons  
 4pm Children 8pm Adult



**20**  
 6:30pm Irish Language  
 6:30 Glee Club  
 7:30pm 25 Card Game  
 7:30pm Set Dancing

**21**  
 🎵 Keltic Kick  
 8 pm in the Pub

**22**  
 🎵 Dylan Connor  
 8 pm in the Pub

**23**

**30**

**24**

**31**

**25** Happy Christmas  
*Nollaig  
 Shona  
 Dhuit*

**26**

**27**  
 12pm Senior Lunch  
 6:30pm Irish Language  
 6:30 Glee Club  
 7:30pm 25 Card Game  
 7:30pm Set Dancing

**28**  
 6-9 pm Family Fun Night  
 🎵 C-Sides  
 8 pm in the Pub

**29**  
 🎵 Karaoke  
 8 - 11pm in the Pub