



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Eanáir | JANUARY '17

GAC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2018

If you have a working email on file with us, you will receive notification on Jan 1 to renew your GAC membership for 2018. If you have no email or have requested paper billing, your invoice will arrive in the mail after December 28th.

For the first time, we are offering a special incentive to the first 250 members who renew for 2018. 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 2018. (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 at any time. <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.
- Do not discard your white door/scrip card. There is a \$10 replacement fee. Your 2018 scrip will be loaded onto that card on April 1, 2018.
- All 2017 scrip expires on 2/28/18.
- Contact membership at 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, 2018. Beginning March 1, there will be a \$100 reinstatement fee added to all renewals.

WIN A 2018 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 2018 GAC memberships. Winning members will be reimbursed for the dues they already paid, but will still be responsible for purchasing script. 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 9th. 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.

MR. & MISS SHAMROCK SCHOLARSHIP DANCE SATURDAY JAN 13—6-9PM

The GBSPDC Parade Committee will crown the new Mr. and Miss Shamrock at the scholarship Dance. Winners will receive \$3,000. Runner-ups will receive \$1750. Tickets are only \$20 for adults, \$10 for teens, children free and includes coffee, tea, desserts. Raffles will also be available. Reservations Patty McDonnell at www.pattymcd2001@gmail.com. Snow Date Sunday January 14th.



Join us in the pub at 9pm

Friday	Jan 5	Camac
Saturday	Jan 6	Susan & Gerard
Friday	Jan 12	Jolly Beggars
Saturday	Jan 13	Four of a Kind
Friday	Jan 19	Peter McKiernan
Saturday	Jan 20	Kurt & Helen
Friday	Jan 26	Crickstones
Saturday	Jan 27	Nine Mile House

Events

TRAD MUSIC SESSION - WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3RD , 7PM
TRIVIA NIGHT - FRIDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 8PM
MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FRIDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 8PM
GENEALOGY GROUP FRÉAMH ÉIREANN - SAT JAN 13TH, 10:30AM
SENIOR LUNCH - THURS, JANUARY 25TH 12 NOON
FAMILY FUN NIGHT - FRIDAY JANUARY 26TH, 6-9PM
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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. 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.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Family Fun Night is Friday, January 26th from 6-9PM. We'll have a 'kid-friendly' delicious buffet for \$5. Any questions call Bette Leary at 203-767-0117. Thanks in advance!

CHILDREN'S CHORUS & GAC GLEE CLUB

The Membership was treated to several amazing performances by the GAC Glee Club and Children's Chorus during the holiday season and we appreciate all the time, talent and effort that went into their program.

Both clubs will be on hiatus in January with rehearsals resuming later in the winter.

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

Place your professional listing in the GAC Business Directory Trades List at 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.

GOOD & WELFARE

A Mass Card was sent to Gerald Patrick on the death of Katherine, his wife.

Sympathy Cards were sent to Robert O'Sullivan on the death of his wife, Regina. Susan Drew on the death of her mother in Ireland and to Ciaran Kane on the death of his father in Ireland.

Get Well Wishes were sent to John Comerford.

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

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

Genealogy Group will meet on Saturday, January 13th at 10:30 am. For info contact Donna Orazio: donnaorazio@gmail.com.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Many thanks to all those who came out and helped decorate the GAC for the Holiday. Ilona Paxton, House Chairperson 203-372-1280

IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

Wednesday Evenings:

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

Thursday Evenings:

Kids/Parents Irish Learning Helper Session: 6:30-7:30 PM, contact DesNolan@optonline.net.

Beginners Irish Class 6:30-7:30PM, Cecilia.Dalzell@quinnipiac.edu

Lower Intermediate Irish Class 7:30-8:30, DesNolan@optonline.net.

Higher Intermediate Class – meets Thursday from 6:30-7:30, contact JMinehan@gmail.com.

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

LIBRARY

The library now owns children's books by award winning Irish author Marie-Louise Fitzgerald. Looking for a new recipe, the library has an entire shelf of Irish Cook Books. Donation worth a reading: a biography of John Barry and *The Castles of County Cork*.

Whoever is borrowing the Ireland periodicals, please return them to the library. Periodicals are kept for everyone's enjoyment in the library and should not be borrowed.

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.

NO food (including candy and gum) or drink is allowed in the library. Volunteers needed for book covering, shelf shifting etc. Contact us at library@gacemail.org.

LITERATURE GROUP

We will meet on Monday, January 22 at 7:30 to discuss *The Ninth Hour* by Alice McDermott. The novel is listed among the New York Times's 100 Notable Books of 2017. Beginning with a suicide and ending with a murder, it is a powerfully affecting story spanning the 20th century of a widow and her daughter and the nuns who serve the Irish-American community in Brooklyn. New members are most welcome and former members too! Contact Clare Burnett at 203-255-3848 or ClareBurnett@optonline.net with any questions.

MARY ELLEN & FRIENDS

Thursday Jan 11th 6-8pm sing along or just listen to this informal gathering in the pub with Mary Ellen, The Glee Club & The GAC Children's Chorus singing your Irish favorites.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting will be held Friday, January 12th @ 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. For more information contact membership@gacemail.org

SENIORS





Senior Lunch is Thursday, Jan 25th, payment by Sunday, Jan 21st 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.

SCEALA

Submissions for January Sceala are Due January 12th please send to Maura Kallaway and Jillian Plomin at communications@gacemail.org.

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.

<div><div><div>JANUARY</div><div>Eanáir</div></div></div>		<div>Schedule</div> <div>pub hours Dinner Lunch & Branch</div>				<div>How To Reach us</div> <div>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</div>		<div>CÉAO MILE</div> <div>Fáilte</div> <div></div>
Sunday Domhnach	Monday Luan	Tuesday Máirt	Wednesday Céadaoin	Thursday Deardaoin	Friday Aoine	Saturday Satharn		
<div>January</div> <div>is a great time to get involved at the GAC</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Membership Contest Begins @ 12:01 am</div> <div>6:30 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church</div> <div>8pm Irish Instrument</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Lenihan Dance Lessons</div> <div>4pm Children 8pm Adult</div>	<div>3</div> <div>7pm Trad Music Session</div> <div>7pm Irish Grammar Class</div>	<div>4</div> <div>6:30pm Irish Language Class (all levels)</div> <div>7:30pm 25 Card Game</div> <div>7:30pm Set Dancing</div>	<div>5</div> <div>8pm Trivia Night</div> <div>🎵 Camac</div> <div>9 pm in the Pub</div>	<div>6</div> <div>🎵 Susan & Gerard</div> <div>9 pm in the Pub</div>		
<div>7</div> <div></div>	<div>8</div> <div>6:30 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church</div> <div>8pm Irish Instrument Session</div>	<div>9</div> <div>7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting</div> <div>Lenihan Dance Lessons</div> <div>4pm Children 8pm Adult</div>	<div>10</div> <div>7pm Irish Grammar Class</div>	<div>11</div> <div>6:30pm Irish Language Class (all levels)</div> <div>7:30pm 25 Card Game</div> <div>7:30pm Set Dancing</div>	<div>12</div> <div>8pm Membership Meeting</div> <div>🎵 Jolly Beggars</div> <div>9 pm in the Pub</div>	<div>13</div> <div>10:30am Genealogy Group Fréamh Éireann Meeting</div> <div>6pm Shamrock Scholarship Dance</div> <div>🎵 Four of a Kind</div>		
<div>14</div> <div>Reminder</div> <div>Please Sign-In Guests (maximum of 4)</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Membership Contest Ends @ midnight</div> <div>6:30 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church</div> <div>8pm Irish Instrument Session</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Lenihan Dance Lessons</div> <div>4pm Children 8pm Adult</div>	<div>17</div> <div>7pm Irish Grammar Class</div>	<div>18</div> <div>6pm Mary Ellen & Friends</div> <div>6:30pm Irish Language Class (all levels)</div> <div>7:30pm 25 Card Game</div> <div>7:30pm Set Dancing</div>	<div>19</div> <div>🎵 Peter McKiernan</div> <div>9 pm in the Pub</div>	<div>20</div> <div>🎵 Kurt & Helen</div> <div>9 pm in the Pub</div>		
<div>21</div> <div></div>	<div>22</div> <div>7:30pm Irish Literature Group</div> <div>6:30 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church</div> <div>8pm Irish Instrument</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Lenihan Dance Lessons</div> <div>4pm Children 8pm Adult</div>	<div>24</div> <div>7pm Irish Grammar Class</div>	<div>25</div> <div>12 Noon Senior Lunch</div> <div>6:30pm Irish Language Class (all levels)</div> <div>7:30pm 25 Card Game</div> <div>7:30pm Set Dancing</div>	<div>26</div> <div>6pm Family Fun Night</div> <div>🎵 The Crickstones</div> <div>9 pm in the Pub</div>	<div>27</div> <div>🎵 Nine Mile House</div> <div>9 pm in the Pub</div>		
<div>28</div> <div>Reminder</div> <div>Please Return Your Glasses to the Bar</div>	<div>29</div> <div>6:30 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church</div> <div>8pm Irish Instrument Session</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Lenihan Dance Lessons</div> <div>4pm Children 8pm Adult</div>	<div>31</div> <div>7pm Irish Grammar Class</div>	<div>1</div> <div>6:30pm Irish Language Class (all levels)</div> <div>7:30pm 25 Card Game</div> <div>7:30pm Set Dancing</div>	<div>2</div> <div>🎵 TBA</div> <div>9 pm in the Pub</div>	<div>3</div> <div>🎵 TBA</div> <div>9 pm in the Pub</div>		

**DYING THE GOOD DEATH: THE IRISH WAKE AND
AMERICAN POPULAR CULTURE**
Sunday, Feb 18 from 2pm - 4pm
Irish History Lecture Presented By Dr. Bridget English
of University of Illinois at Chicago

Beginning with the nineteenth century notion of an "American wake"--a party thrown for loved ones immigrating to America--this talk will explore the significance of the Irish wake as a point of contact between Irish and American cultures. The Irish wake was traditionally a site of liminality at which point the living and the dead could intermingle and inhabit the same space. Literary and cultural depictions enforce this magical quality to the wake, focusing on its wild, primitive and uncontrollable aspects.

Registration: \$5 per person-Students \$2 with ID
Sorry, we cannot accept GAC scrip or credit cards

Please registering in advance Register on-line 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 Be sure to include your name, address, phone and email. For more information, call Mary at (203) 377-2346.

Sponsored by: Feile, Inc.

Hosted by: Freamh Eireann Genealogy & GAC Language Groups

ABOUT DR. BRIDGET ENGLISH



Dr. Bridget English, who is presenting the Irish History Lecture on Feb 18th at the GAC, holds a PhD in English from Maynooth University in County Kildare, Ireland. Her research interests lie in modern and contemporary Irish fiction and culture, theories of the novel, death studies, modernism, and the medical humanities. She has taught a variety of writing and literature courses at Maynooth University, Brooklyn College of the City University of New York.

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. Email questions to: admin@stpatricksgfc.org.



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