



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MILE Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Eanáir January 2014



2014 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elected officers to the 2014 Executive Committee will be sworn in at the Membership meeting on January 10: Jude Fitzgerald, President (1); Gerry Forde, Vice President (2); Aoife Rinaldi, Recording Secretary (3); Walter Keating, Financial Secretary (4); Judy Sullivan, Treasurer (5); Jay Dunn, Sergeant-At-Arms (6); and James Carolan, Director 3 Years (7). They will serve with Tommy Moran, Director 2 Years (8); and Joe Campbell, Director 1 Year (9). 701 members voted in the elections.

Events

TRIVIA NIGHT ♣ Friday, Jan 3, 8 pm

FAMILY FUN NIGHT ♣ Friday, Jan 31, 6 pm

IRISH HISTORY LECTURE: *LOVE & DEATH IN ANCIENT IRELAND* ♣ Sunday, Feb 9, 2 pm



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members Nollaig Shona Dhuit. As 2013 comes to a close, we reflect on the significant contributions our Club has made to the Irish and Irish American community of Fairfield County throughout the past year. From Family Fun Nights to Senior luncheons, museum trips, our Gaelic games & so much more, the GAC is the beacon of traditional Irish cultural activities. We are always striving for excellence and implemented a number of positive changes in critical areas that were designed to improve your dining and social experience at the GAC. Through the hard work, dedication and passionate commitment to our mission by the Executive Committee, committee members, and countless numbers of volunteers, we have seen the positive results of teamwork. But, there is more to do. I thank you for your trust and confidence in electing me to another term as your President and look forward to working with you and our newly elected Executive Committee as we continue to move forward in 2014!

Jude Fitzgerald



Join us in the pub at 9 pm

Friday Jan 3

Saturday Jan 4

Friday Jan 10

Saturday Jan 11

Friday Jan 17

Saturday Jan 18

Friday Jan 24

Saturday Jan 25

Friday Jan 31

Saturday Feb 1

Four of A Kind

The Ghost Riders

The Navels

The Nameless Trio

Jolly Beggars

Once Removed

The Crickstones

Kurt and Helen Band

Classic and Country Rock

Keltic Kick

The Navels



Club Activities

25 CARD GAME

Card players meet Thursdays at 7:30 pm

FÁILTE COMMITTEE

Welcome and assist people entering the Club. See Sue Allen.

FAIRFIELD GAEIC PIPE BAND

We meet Mondays, 6:45 pm at First Church Congregational. Ted Rappa (203) 874-1183

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN GENEALOGY GROUP

Our next meeting is Saturday, January 11 at 10:30 am.
Susan Callahan: (203) 255-3905
or 7cs7cs@optonline.net


GAC BOWLING LEAGUE

Join us on Sundays at 6:30 pm at Nutmeg Bowl in Fairfield. Come alone or with friends!
Donna Lillis (203) 373-9129
Hilary Koreeda (203) 335-6861


GAC BUSINESS DIRECTORY/ TRADES LIST

Did you know that the GAC Business Directory / Trades List is not only for "trades", but also for professionals? Are you a doctor, attorney, engineer, or other professional? It's easy to place your profession in the Directory. Go to www.gaconline.org/directory1.html, click on GAC Businesses Directory and follow the prompts to add your listing. If you need a category added, e-mail the Committee from the *Contact Us* page.

GOOD & WELFARE

 A Mass card will be sent to the family of Brian Ganley, son of Mary and the late Tom Ganley, who passed on Dec 5. Sympathy cards will be sent to Eileen Lynam on the passing of her mother on Dec 3

and to John Curtain on the passing of his brother in Co. Galway on Dec 5.

 Get well wishes to Bob Lenihan and Ellen Godfrey.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

P.K. Lenihan 203-261-6656

IRISH INSTRUMENT SESSIONS

Join us Mondays, 8 pm

IRISH LANGUAGE

foshlaím *Saeilge*
Learn Irish! Beginners classes meet at 6:30 pm and Intermediate classes meet at 7:15 pm on Thursdays in the Cultural Room on the second floor. For more info, contact Kathy Thopsey at kthopsey@fairfield.edu.

IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

Gloria Piche (203) 260-4037

LIBRARY

Peggy Corcoran (203) 870-6043

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

SCÉALA

The February issue deadline is Jan 10. Please submit news to 'Newsletter' via the website or to the Newsletter mailbox. Thank you to Kevin O'Neil for the photo of Ballinskelligs Bay, Iveragh Peninsula in Co. Kerry.

SENIORS

Join us for lunch on Thursday, Jan 30 at 12 noon. Call for reservations by Sunday, Jan 26:
Ann Hague 203-374-5198
Shirley McMenamy 203-268-5083
Sally Savage 203-366-4826

SET DANCING

We dance on Thursdays at 7:30 pm. All are welcome!
Brian Reynolds (203) 214-2921



*February 28th is the
last day to use Scrip
before expiration*

Hold onto your card



THE GREATER BRIDGEPORT ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Calling ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS! The 2014 Mr. and Miss Shamrock Scholarship Contest and Dance will be held on Saturday, January 25 at the GAC from 8 pm to 11 pm (snow date Jan 26). There will be live music by the Tony Reno Band, coffee and pastries. Tickets are \$20 for reserved seating. A scholarship award of \$3,000 will be given to the winners and runners-up will receive \$1,750 for their college education. Please call or e-mail Patty McDonnell at 203-366-2417 or pattymcd2001@yahoo.com for more information and an application. Deadline for applications is January 16. Actual judging will take place at the GAC on Saturday, January 25.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Monday, March 17th. Full Breakfast at 10 am is \$20. Lunch: Corned beef sandwiches with fixin's at 1:30 pm is \$20. Reserved seating for tickets purchased prior to March 7th only. Tickets purchased after March 7th are \$25 per meal and seating will be on a first come basis. For reservations, call Nancy Lovely at (203) 268-9657.

CLUB AND MEMBER NEWS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS NOW DUE

To renew, please go to www.gaconline.org and click the "Membership" Tab/Folder. You will see:

First time Login!

1. Click "Forgot password" at the top right corner, beside the Login button.
2. Complete the form and you will be e-mailed an entry box to create your password.
3. Now Login with your e-mail address and password.
4. Click on "View Profile" at the top right corner, beside the Logout button.

Please review your details and make any updates. Renew by choosing check processed electronically (free); credit card (processing fee applies); or mailed paper check.

Possible reasons why you are unable to login:

- *If you have never provided your e-mail address you will be unable to login.
- *If your e-mail address was originally entered incorrectly in the old database.
- *If your email address has changed.

To provide an e-mail address, please go to www.gaconline.org/contact.html and choose "Membership Committee" or drop a note in the Membership mailbox.

Demo/Help Sessions will be held Thursday, January 9th at 7 pm and Friday, January 10th at 4 pm; meet in the large conference room on the 2nd floor. If these dates and times do not suit you, please contact us by e-mail, call (203) 256-0380, or drop a note in the Membership mailbox.

Some members have not provided an e-mail address and will need to renew the "old" way. If you have not received your renewal form in the mail, please let us know. *Membership Committee*

St. Patrick's Gaelic Football: Children's Intro

Six-week introduction to Gaelic football for boys and girls, 5 to 8 years of age, will be held on Saturdays, from 3 to 4 pm at The Field House in Fairfield, beginning on Feb 1st. All training is non-contact and emphasizes fun, games, hand-eye coordination and basic skills. To register, please visit www.stpatricksgfc.org. E-mail questions to admin@stpatricksgfc.org.



OPEN CALL FOR CLUB IRISH/CELTIC CRAFTERS & ARTISTS

If you are interested in meeting fellow club crafters and artists to participate in information sharing, demonstrations or show your wares, please e-mail desnolan@optonline.net or call (203) 984-0787 between 7 and 9 pm. This initiative will evolve based on participants' interest, so please provide your name, a brief description of what you do, and how you would like to participate or assist. Additional ideas welcome. This invite is open to all crafters and artists, such as knitting, quilting, crocheting, lace, graphics, painting, photography, carving, glass work, pottery and cooking. What did I miss? As long as it has a Irish/Celtic theme, it's okay.



Des Nolan, Irish Language Coach & Celtic Crafty



MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

2014 Members are encouraged to nominate a fellow member to be considered for 2014 Member of the Year awards. Nomination forms are posted on the website and available in the club foyer. Please submit nominations via e-mail to Patty Brady at cavangirl1@juno.com or drop off or mail to the Social Committee, attention "Members of the Year" by January 10. The awards dinner will be held on Saturday, March 1.

★PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS★

An amendment to the Bylaws was proposed at the Membership Meeting on December 13th and will be presented at the Membership Meeting on March 14th. At that time, it may be discussed, withdrawn, or adopted by two-thirds or more of the members present and voting in favor of the adoption. The bold text is indicative of the proposed amendment to clarify that a monthly Membership meeting will not be held in August.

Article VIII - Meetings and Elections

"8.1 The regular monthly meeting of the GAC shall be held at eight o'clock in the evening on the second Friday of each month except the month of August, when there will be no meeting."

Decking the Halls Thank you to everyone who helped deck the halls for Christmas. Volunteers are needed to help take down and put away the Club's decorations on Saturday, January 4th at 9 am. *House Committee*

Irish History Lecture: 8th in a Series

LOVE AND DEATH IN ANCIENT IRELAND
Sunday, February 9 ♣ 2 - 4 pm



Storyteller and Celtic Learning Project Creator CJ May presents hard facts and fabulous fiction of romance and battle in the warrior culture of pre-Christian Ireland. This event will feature re-telling of several ancient Irish tales as well as a look into the reality of love and battle in Celtic Ireland. Leave the kids at home with a babysitter. Stories of bed, battle and betrayal are best for grownups.

Registration \$5 per person. Help us plan seating and refreshments by registering by Feb 1st. Please send an e-mail with subject "Irish History" to marroyo@optonline.net and include your name, address, and phone number. For more information, call Mary at (203) 377-2346.



Sponsored by Feile, Inc.
Hosted by Fréamh Éireann Genealogy



'GAC Star' Faith Maciver (center) presents a \$400 check from the Dancing with the GAC Stars charity fundraiser to Tom Keane, Treasurer (left) & Pat O'Connell (right) of the

1916 100th Anniversary Easter Rising Memorial Committee.

APPLICATIONS: The GAC accepts applications for kitchen, wait staff, bartenders, and custodial positions. Should a vacancy occur, applications on file will be considered. Applications may be found in the GAC Manager's mailbox in lobby stairwell. ♣ Applications for bartenders and bar back are now being accepted. Submit an application or see Mark Darcy. 🍇

✿ *Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Giving Tree to benefit the families served by The Daughters of Charity.*
~Bette Leary












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Gaelic American Club
74 Beach Road
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www.gaconline.org



Address Service Requested

January Eanáir 2014		Schedule Pub hours Dinner Lunch & Brunch			How To Reach us	Céao 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 Sunday 12 noon - 12 mid 5 pm - 9 pm			Office (203) 254-0673 Fax (203) 254-3012 Pub emergencies (203) 254-2723 Membership (203) 256-0380 Scrip (203) 254-8502 Social (203) 418-7676 Website www.gaconline.org	
Sunday Domhnach	Monday Luan	Tuesday Máirt	Wednesday Céadaoin	Thursday Deardaoin	Friday Aoine	Saturday Satharn
Irish Lore New Year's traditions: Having a clean house, filled with provisions ... and banging on the doors and walls with Christmas bread		 Reminder Please Sign-In Guests (maximum of 4) Please Return Your Glasses to the Bar	1 New Year's Day  <i>Pub Opens 12 noon</i> <i>Kitchen Closed</i>	2 6:30pm Irish Language I 7:15pm Irish Language II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	3  8 pm Trivia Night ♪ <i>Four of A Kind</i> 9 pm In the Pub	4 9 am House Help: Decorations ♪ <i>The Ghost Riders</i> 9 pm In the Pub
5 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	6 Epiphany  6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	7 7:30 Exec Committee Mtg Open to all Members Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	8 ♪ Informal Music 7-9 pm In the Pub	9 6:30pm Irish Language I 7:00pm Membership Help 7:15pm Irish Language II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	10 Scéala deadline  4 pm Membership Help 8 pm Membership Mtg ♪ <i>The Navels</i> 9 pm In the Pub	11 10:30 Genealogy Group ♪ <i>The Nameless Trio</i> 9 pm In the Pub
12 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	13 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	14 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	15 ♪ Informal Music 7-9 pm In the Pub	16 6:30pm Irish Language I 7:15pm Irish Language II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	17 ♪ <i>Jolly Beggars</i> 9 pm In the Pub	18 ♪ <i>Once Removed</i> 9 pm In the Pub
19 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	20 MLK Jr Birthday 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	21 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	22 ♪ Informal Music 7-9 pm In the Pub	23 6:30pm Irish Language I 7:15pm Irish Language II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	24 ♪ <i>The Crickstones</i> 9 pm In the Pub	25 Pub Dining Only ♪ <i>Kurt & Helen Band</i> <i>Classic & Country Rock</i> 9 pm In the Pub
26 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	27 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	28 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	29 ♪ Informal Music 7-9 pm In the Pub	30 12noon Seniors Lunch 6:30pm Irish Language I 7:15pm Irish Language II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	31 Pub Dining Only  6-9pm Family Fun Night ♪ <i>Keltic Kick</i> 9 pm In the Pub	