



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 2015



2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elected officers to the 2015 Executive Committee will be sworn in at the Membership meeting on January 9: Pat Carolan, President (1); Griffin Reidy, Vice President (2); Katie Dyer, Recording Secretary (3); Tom Walsh, Financial Secretary (4); Theresa Fumo, Treasurer (5); Terry Rooney, Sergeant-At-Arms (6); and John Curtin, Director 3 Years (7). They will serve with James Carolan, Director 2 Years (8); and Gerry Reidy, Director 1 Year (9). 842 members voted in the elections.



Thank you to everyone who helped on Election Day: the crew of courteous volunteers who worked the polls, Jim Fahey, Maura Kallaway, Manager Tommy Flaherty and the Gaelic American Club Staff.

Election Committee

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As my tenure as President draws to a close, I am very grateful for all the kindness, support, and selfless dedication to our great Club shown by so many loyal Members over the past two years. The great strength of our Club is that there are simply too many volunteers, who generously donate their time and talents in all aspects of Irish culture & club activities throughout the year, to even begin drawing up a list of those individuals who have contributed to our many successes during 2013 and 2014.

The robust listing of activities that is chronicled each month in our Newsletter serves as a great testament to our Club's significant and lasting contributions to the preservation and promotion of Irish culture in Fairfield County from Irish language, Irish history lectures & book discussions, genealogy, young family & children-focused socials, the Seniors lunch, Children's choir, theater & the arts, traditional Irish music & dance, ceilis and set dancing, the Pipe Band, bowling, Gaelic games, the seasonal Monday night football barbecues, Member outings to Ireland's Great Hunger Museum and Gaelic Park ... and so much more!

I believe the Club is truly in a renaissance period as we re-discover the vision of our founding Members and the Club's original mission. The GAC is, and by right ought to be, the beacon of traditional Irish culture in our region and a "home away from home" for Members of Irish descent to gather and enjoy each other's company.

I am also very grateful for all the hard work and dedication shown by our Club Manager Tom Flaherty, Permittee Chris Boccamozza, Chef Corky and all of the Bar and Kitchen Staff. Their efforts over the past two years have greatly contributed to the positive experience that Members feel when they stop down to the Club for a meal, drink, or family gathering.

As I leave office, the GAC is fiscally sound, culturally vibrant, and welcoming to all our Members and their diverse interests. My parting wish is that - for the good of the Club - all Members show your support for the incoming 2015 Executive Committee and the various Committee Chairpersons!

Nollaig Shona agus Athblian faoi Mhaise Daoibh to all
Jude Fitzgerald

Club Activities

25 CARD GAME

Card players meet Thursdays at 7:30 pm

FÁILTE COMMITTEE

Welcome and assist people entering the Club - a great way to meet members in 2015! Please see Sue Allen at the front desk on Thursday nights or call Manager Tommy Flaherty at (203) 254-0673.

FAIRFIELD GAELIC PIPE BAND

We meet Mondays, 6:45 pm at First Church Congregational. Free lessons now available. Ted Rappa (203) 874-1183 or fairfieldgaelicpipeband@gmail.com

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN GENEALOGY GROUP

Our next meeting is Saturday, January 10 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

The GAC Business Directory / Trades List is for trades AND professionals. To place your listing: 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

Congratulations to Bob Hargus who received his Notary Public appointment on Dec 8.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

P.K. Lenihan 203-261-6656

IRISH INSTRUMENT SESSIONS

Join us Mondays, 8 pm

IRISH LANGUAGE

Foghlaim Saeilse
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

We will meet on Monday, Jan 26 at 7:30 in the Library to discuss Sebastian Barry's *THE WHEREABOUTS OF ENEAS MCNULTY*. Barry's lyrical tale of a fugitive everyman is a gripping saga that illuminates Ireland's compelling history. When released, it was hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* "as the finest book to come out of Europe this year." We welcome new readers. If you have any questions, please call Gloria Piche at 203-260-4037.


LIBRARY

Peggy Corcoran (203) 870-6043

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting will be held Friday, Jan 9 at 8 pm. Meetings are open to all Members. Minutes from the previous meeting are posted on the Bulletin Board.

SCÉALA

 Thank you to Rose Leahy for having served as *Scéala* Editor for the past four years, concurrent as Communications Chairperson for three years.

The February issue deadline is Jan 9. Please submit news to 'Newsletter' via the website or to the Newsletter mailbox.

SENIORS

 I am retiring as Seniors Chair this year and want to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped me these past six years: Phyllis Billings, Esther Lawless, Sally O'Hara, Jean Haggerty, Eileen Blackall, Pat O'Connell, Mary & Sam Mostowy, and Chef Corky and Manager Tommy Flaherty who were so patient with me. God bless and have a successful 2015. Faith Maciver is the new Chair and will do a great job.

Mary Ann Doonan

Join us for a snowflake-theme lunch on Thursday, Jan 29 at 12 noon. Call for reservations by Sunday, Jan 25:

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 Pipes are Calling ... As part of our 20th anniversary celebration and as a dedication to our Irish culture and heritage, The Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band is offering FREE introductory lessons *No previous musical experience required*. We rehearse Monday nights at First Church Congregational, in Fairfield at 7:30 pm. For more info: please contact Band President Ted Rappa via email at fairfieldgaelicpipeband@gmail.com or visit www.FairfieldGaelicPipeBand.org.

CLUB AND MEMBER NEWS

A SEASON FOR GIVING

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our Thanksgiving Food Drive. In addition to the bags of food that were delivered to Merton House, Operation Hope and Sisters of Charity, we raised \$173 from the Seniors Luncheon and \$622 from the Membership. We purchased 50 turkeys for families in need. Thank you to Pat "Musha" Maher for helping to pick up the turkeys, Katie Dyer, Joe Campbell, Pat O'Connell for helping with sorting food, and to Pat O'Connell for donating a turkey bringing the total to 51 turkeys. It was a great success!

Faith Maciver

THANK YOU to everyone who donated board games and card games at the November Family Fun Night, which will be used by high school kids visiting Sister Theresa's new teen center.

THANK YOU to everyone for their generosity with the annual Giving Tree; Christmas presents benefited families of the Daughters of Charity.

Bette Leary

THANK YOU to everyone who donated blood at the American Red Cross blood drive, making a big difference in the lives of others.

GO RAIBH MAITH AGAT AS NA MBRONNTANAS



Celtic Christmas Fair

A great big **THANK YOU** to Rose Leahy and Maura Kallaway for all the publicity they gave to the 20th Anniversary Celtic Christmas Fair, which contributed to the large turnout - a festive and full house - despite the rain, and to my Co-Chairs Phyllis Billings and Esther Billings and all those who helped with set-up and tear-down, especially Manager Tommy Flaherty who went above and beyond to have the room in order for a second function that evening. Have a healthy New Year.

Mary Ann Doonan

ST. PATRICK'S GAA CLUB will host its annual winter training program "Introduction to Gaelic Football" for children 6 - 8 years old on Saturdays from 4 to 5 pm at The Field House in Fairfield for six weeks beginning on Saturday, Jan 31. All training is non-contact and emphasizes fun, games, hand-eye coordination and basic skills. Cost is \$60 and includes t-shirt and graduation ceremony. Visit www.stpatricksgfc.org or e-mail questions to admin@stpatricksgfc.org.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To renew, go to www.gaconline.org, login with your email address and password.

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 (3% fee); 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.

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. **Renewal deadline is February 28.**

Membership Committee



MR. & MISS SHAMROCK SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention - parents of High School Seniors - The Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Celebration Committee is offering two scholarships of \$3,000 each to the boy and girl selected as Mr. and Miss Shamrock on Feb 7th at the GAC. Runner-ups will receive \$1,750. E-mail applications to Patty McDonnell at pattymcd2001@yahoo.com or call 203-366-2417 for more info. Deadline Jan 31. Judging will take place on Saturday, Feb 7 (snow date Feb 8) from 4 - 6 pm and a reception will be held 6 - 9 pm. Cost is \$20 and includes coffee and pastries. Cash bar. Music by DJ Jim Dunn. For reservations, contact Patty McDonnell.

Fundraiser: Eat at Bertucci's in Shelton on Jan 22 and mention the Parade Committee. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Parade Committee.





 **Join us in the pub at 9 pm**


Friday	Jan 2	<i>Peter McKiernan</i>
Saturday	Jan 3	<i>Celtic Justice</i>
Friday	Jan 9	<i>Keltic Kick</i>
Saturday	Jan 10	<i>The Irish Band</i>
Friday	Jan 16	<i>Peter McKiernan</i>
Saturday	Jan 17	<i>Once Removed</i>
Friday	Jan 23	<i>Camac</i>
Saturday	Jan 24	<i>Mostly Green</i>
Friday	Jan 30	<i>Peter McKiernan</i>
Saturday	Jan 31	<i>Four of a Kind</i>
Friday	Feb 6	<i>Susan Gillespie & Gerard</i>
Saturday	Feb 7	<i>Keltic Kick</i>




events

TRIVIA NIGHT
Friday, Jan 2, 8 pm 

FAMILY FUN NIGHT
Friday, Jan 30, 6 - 9 pm 

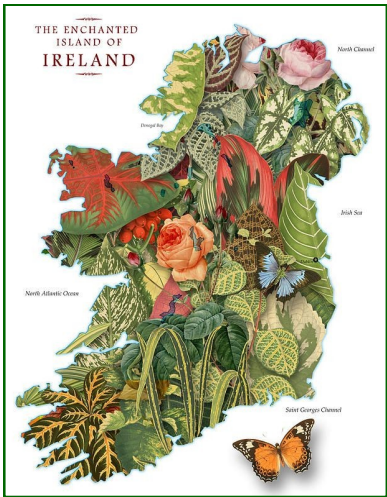


 Thank you to the children who participated in the delightful Christmas Chorus and to our wonderful audiences!

Informal Music returns on Wednesdays in the Pub, from 7 to 10 pm. ~Mary Ellen Lyons

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 Manager's mailbox in the lobby stairwell.



Presorted First Class Mail
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Fairfield, CT 06824
 Permit # 288

Gaelic American Club
 74 Beach Road
 Fairfield, CT 06824
 www.gaconline.org
 Address Service Requested



January Eanáir 2015		Schedule Pub hours Dinner Lunch & Branch			How To Reach us		CÉAO MÍLE fáilte
		Mon & Tues	7 pm - 12 mid		Office	(203) 254-0673	
		Wed & Thurs	5 pm - 12 mid	5 pm - 9 pm	Fax	(203) 254-3012	
		Friday	4 pm - 2 am	5 pm - 10 pm	Pub emergencies	(203) 254-2723	
		Saturday	12 noon - 2 am	5 pm - 10 pm	Membership	(203) 256-0380	
		Sunday	12 noon - 12 mid	5 pm - 9 pm	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 Pub Opens 12 noon Kitchen Closed <i>New Year Resolutions</i> 	2  8pm Trivia Night 🎵 Peter McKiernan 9 pm In the Pub	3 🎵 Celtic Justice 9 pm In the Pub	
4 6:30 GAC Bowling at Nutmeg Bowl	5 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	6 Epiphany  7:30 Exec Comm Mtg Open to all Members Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	7 🎵 Informal Music 7 -10 pm In the Pub	8 6-9 pm 🎵 Lizzie 6:30pm Irish Lang I 7:15pm Irish Lang II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	9 Scéala deadline  8pm Membership Mtg 🎵 Keltic Kick 9 pm In the Pub	10 10:30 Genealogy Group 🎵 The Irish Band 9 pm In the Pub	
11 6:30 GAC Bowling at Nutmeg Bowl	12 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	13 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	14 🎵 Informal Music 7 -10 pm In the Pub	15 6-9 pm 🎵 Lizzie 6:30pm Irish Lang I 7:15pm Irish Lang II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	16 🎵 Peter McKiernan 9 pm In the Pub	17 🎵 Once Removed 9 pm In the Pub	
18 6:30 GAC Bowling at Nutmeg Bowl	19 MLK Jr Birthday 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	20 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	21 🎵 Informal Music 7 -10 pm In the Pub	22 6-9 pm 🎵 Lizzie 6:30pm Irish Lang I 7:15pm Irish Lang II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	23 🎵 Camac 9 pm In the Pub	24 🎵 Mostly Green 9 pm In the Pub	
25 6:30 GAC Bowling at Nutmeg Bowl	26 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 7:30 Irish Literature 8pm Irish Instrument Session	27 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	28 🎵 Informal Music 7 -10 pm In the Pub	29 6-9 pm 🎵 Lizzie 12noon Seniors Lunch 6:30pm Irish Lang I 7:15pm Irish Lang II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	30 Pub Dining Only  6-9pm Family Fun Night 🎵 Peter McKiernan 9 pm In the Pub	31 🎵 Four of a Kind 9 pm In the Pub	