



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Feabhra February 2014

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER DANCE

Honoring Our Members of The Year

Saturday, March 1st ♣ 7 - 11 pm

Music by *Tommy Mulvihill*

Join Us In Thanking Our Honorees For
Dedicating Their Time & Talents to Our Club

Tickets \$50 ♣ Includes Dinner, Two Drinks &
a Fun Night Filled with Music and Dancing
RSVP to Patty Brady: cavangirl1@juno.com or
203-372-5612. Checks made payable to GAC
can be mailed or dropped off in Social mailbox,
Attn: St. Patrick's Dance & Awards.

Honorees To Be Announced

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to the Social Committee for planning and hosting festive holiday events. It was wonderful to see so many members enjoy the caroling in the pub with toasts of good cheer and the New Year's Eve Party was entertaining and exuberant.

On a personal note, I extend my heartfelt thanks to members for their support, kind wishes and prayers on the loss of my dear mother Ella in Ireland. It meant so much to me.

Jude Fitzgerald



Children's Valentine's Party

Saturday, February 15th ♥ 11 am - 1 pm

Sarah Neafsey ♥ saneafsey@gmail.com



Irish Folk Legends The Wolfe Tones Sunday, March 9th at 7 pm

Tickets \$25: Send an e-mail to Sheila at wolfe-tones-gac@yahoo.com and mail or drop off a check payable to GAC, Attn: Wolfe Tones. Payment is required to hold reservation. Or buy online* at <http://thewolfe-tones.ticketleap.com/the-wolfe-tones-50th-anniversary-tour--gaelic-american-club/> *Service fee applies

Events

SUPER BOWL XLVIII SPREAD ♣ Sunday, Feb 2
Complimentary light fare kick-off 'til half-time

TRIVIA NIGHT ♣ Friday, Feb 7, 8 pm



**IRISH HISTORY LECTURE: LOVE & DEATH IN
ANCIENT IRELAND ♣ Sunday, Feb 9, 2 pm, p 4**

CHILDREN'S VALENTINE'S PARTY
Saturday, Feb 15, 11 am - 1 pm, p 1



**ST. PATRICK'S DINNER DANCE
HONORING OUR MEMBERS OF THE YEAR**
Saturday, March 1, 7 - 11 pm, p 1



TRIVIA NIGHT ♣ Friday, March 7, 8 pm



WOLFE TONES CONCERT
Sunday, March 9, 7 pm, p 1



CHILDREN'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY
Saturday, March 15, 11 am - 1 pm



THE DRUIDS IN CONCERT
Sunday, March 16, 3 pm, p 4



FAMILY FUN NIGHT ♣ RETURNS MARCH 28TH

JOIN us in The pub at 9 pm

Friday	Jan 31	<i>Keltic Kick</i>
Saturday	Feb 1	<i>The Navels</i>
Friday	Feb 7	<i>Mostly Green</i>
Saturday	Feb 8	<i>Camac</i>
Friday	Feb 14	<i>Roll Away</i>
Saturday	Feb 15	<i>Four of a Kind</i>
Friday	Feb 21	<i>Inside Out</i>
Saturday	Feb 22	<i>The Crickstones</i>
Friday	Feb 28	<i>The Ghost Riders</i>
Saturday	Mar 1	<i>Across The Pond</i>



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 GAELIC PIPE BAND

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

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

 Family Fun Night takes a break in February. Bette Leary and DJ Charlie will return on Friday, March 28.

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN GENEALOGY GROUP

Our next meeting is Saturday, February 8 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 sympathy card will be sent to the family of President Jude Fitzgerald and Kiva Barry on the passing of their mother Ella in Tipperary on Dec 31.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

P.K. Lenihan 203-261-6656

IRISH INSTRUMENT SESSIONS

Join us Mondays, 8 pm

IRISH LANGUAGE

Foshlaím Saéilse
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, Feb 14 at 8 pm. Meetings are open to all Members. Minutes from the previous meeting are posted on the Bulletin Board.



SCÉALA

The March issue deadline is Feb 14. Please submit news to 'Newsletter' via the website or to the Newsletter mailbox.

SENIORS

Join us for lunch on Thursday, Feb 27 at 12 noon. Call for reservations by Sunday, Feb 23:
Ann Hague 203-374-5198
Shirley McMenamy 203-268-5083
Sally Savage 203-366-4826



February 28th is the last day to use Scrip before expiration - use it or lose it.

March is a non-Scrip month. Cards will be refilled for use as of April 1st.

*** Hold Onto Your Card ***

SET DANCING

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



WEBSITE

Thank you to Angus Maciver for having served the past four years as Webmaster.



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*



An Irish Blessing

May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home.
May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.
May peace and plenty bless your world, with joy that long endures.
May all life's passing seasons, bring the best to you and yours.



CLUB AND MEMBER NEWS



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE

Renewals must be received on or before February 28th. The Membership Committee greatly appreciates renewal online at www.gaconline.org where payment may be paid by credit card, electronic check or by mailed check.

If preferred, renewal by paper form is also accepted. Renewal forms are available at the front desk in the club lobby or mailed by request: send an e-mail to membership@gacemail.org or call (203) 256-0380.

HAVE YOU SPONSORED ANYONE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE PAST TWO YEARS?

The new method for application went into effect on November 1, 2013. It is designed to ensure that new members are accepted earlier in the year, just as soon as the Membership Committee determines the number of vacancies that become available. This way, new members get better value for their dues in the first year of membership.

As of November 1, there were 384 (592 individuals) membership "Requests" to be placed on the Wait List. Under the "old" system, the Committee would have written to their sponsors between April and July when it became clear how many vacancies were available. The sponsors would then contact the applicants and have them complete the Application Form and obtain a second sponsor. This resulted in long delays in the acceptance of new members – some as late as August.

Please contact anyone you have sponsored now and direct them to our website at www.gaconline.org where they can complete the application process and avoid delays later. Remember it is now a two part process:

1. Complete the online Application Form.
2. Complete, print and have the Sponsors sign the Heritage Affirmation Form.

Membership for qualified applicants is allotted strictly in order of application date. Those previously on the Wait List who now finish the application process will retain their places as of the original date.



CLAN NA GAEL PLAYERS

Spring Production: Peg O' My Heart

Auditions for Clan na Gael's production of Peg O' My Heart, adapted by Larry Randolph, will be held on Saturday, March 8th and Sunday, March 9th from 1 pm to 3 pm each day at the Gaelic American Club. The play is an old-fashioned, light-hearted comedy centered around the equally lighthearted, down to earth Peg, and her attempt to become a proper young lady, as defined by her high society aunt. But, Peg has her own ideas of proper - along with a streak of Irish stubbornness, and soon the tables are turned! The cast includes: 5 males ages 20's and up; 3 females ages 18-60; and one small, well-mannered, dog. We are especially looking for a young lady in the age range of 18-24. Also needed are a Producer and Stage Manager as well as a full staff for props, set, house, costumes, publicity, reservations, and stage hands. Show runs April 24th through April 27th.

We are an open, constantly growing group ... always eager to add new people. Please come join us! We are a lot of fun... and there is No Experience Necessary! Learn while we play! For further info: Peg at opegyo812@gmail.com.

3rd Annual One Act Playwright Contest



Contest runs from February 10 to May 19 at 8 pm. Open to all ages. Complete rules can be found on the green table in the club lobby. For further information, please contact Nancy O'Neil at naoneil@charter.net or 203-377-1070.

★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.**"*

**64th Annual AOH Communion Mass & Breakfast
Sunday, March 9th ✚ 8 am**



AOH John F. Kennedy Div. 1 Bridgeport/Fairfield will hold its annual Communion Mass at St. Ann's Church, 481 Brewster St, Bridgeport on Sunday, March 9th at 8 am. (please change your clocks the night before). A full Irish breakfast will immediately follow at the Gaelic American Club. The guest speaker will be Martin Galvin, Irish speaker and activist. Martin is a member of AOH Div 1, Bronx County and is chairman of Freedom for All Ireland in the Bronx. For information, please contact Pat O'Connell at 203-644-9073 or poc6575@att.net. For breakfast tickets, please contact Chris Boyle at 203-283-3512 or chris@aohjfk.com.



***The Druids in Concert*
Sunday, March 16th ✚ 3 pm**



Ireland's most popular concert group, The Druids, will perform at the Gaelic American Club. All proceeds to benefit the 1916 100th Anniversary Easter Rising Memorial Fund. Tickets \$20. Contact Pat O'Connell at 203-644-9073 or poc6575@att.net.

Irish History Lecture: 8th in a Series

**LOVE AND DEATH IN ANCIENT IRELAND
Sunday, February 9th ✚ 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


















**Membership Renewals
Due February 28th**

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

FEBRUARY feabhra 2014 		Schedule Pub hours Dinner Lunch & Branch			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 12 noon - 3:00 pm Sunday 12 noon - 12 mid 5 pm - 9 pm 11:30 am - 2:30 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 <i>Dómhach</i>	Monday <i>Luan</i>	Tuesday <i>Máirt</i>	Wednesday <i>Céadaoin</i>	Thursday <i>Deardaoin</i>	Friday <i>Aoine</i>	Saturday <i>Satharn</i>	
Irish Lore The Feast of St. Brigid is honored on February 1. Making a St. Brigid's Cross out of rushes or reeds is a popular custom. St. Valentine's relics are buried at the Carmelite Church in Dublin. George Washington declared St. Patrick's Day a holiday while his troops were encamped during the American Revolution in 1780.			 Reminder Please Sign-In Guests (maximum of 4) Please Return Your Glasses to the Bar			1 St. Brigid's Day Celtic Spring  Pub Dining Only 🎵 The Navels 9 pm In the Pub	
2 Groundhog Day  Super Bowl Spread Kickoff 'til half-time 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	3 St. Blaise's Day 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	4 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	5 🎵 Informal Music 7-9 pm In the Pub	6 6:30pm Irish Language I 7:00pm Membership Help 7:15pm Irish Language II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	7  8 pm Trivia Night 🎵 Mostly Green 9 pm In the Pub	8 10:30 Genealogy Group 🎵 Camac 9 pm In the Pub	
9  2-4 Irish History Lecture: Love & Death In Ancient Ireland 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	10 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	11 7:30 Exec Committee Mtg Open to all Members Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	12  🎵 Informal Music 7-9 pm In the Pub	13 6:30pm Irish Language I 7:15pm Irish Language II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	14 Valentine's Day  Scéala deadline  8 pm Membership Mtg 🎵 Roll Away 9 pm In the Pub	15  11am-1pm Children's Valentine's Party 🎵 Four of a Kind 9 pm In the Pub	
16 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	17 Presidents' Day  6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	18 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	19 🎵 Informal Music 7-9 pm In the Pub	20 6:30pm Irish Language I 7:15pm Irish Language II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	21 🎵 Inside Out 9 pm In the Pub	22 🎵 The Crickstones 9 pm In the Pub	
23 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	24 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	25 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	26 🎵 Informal Music 7-9 pm In the Pub	27 12noon Seniors Lunch 6:30pm Irish Language I 7:15pm Irish Language II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	28  Membership Renewals Due Last Day to Use Scrip 🎵 The Ghost Riders 9 pm In the Pub	 Save the Date March 1st ST. PATRICK'S DINNER DANCE Honoring Our Members of the Year 	



The Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Celebration Committee

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: 203-268-9657.

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. Visit www.stpatricksgfc.org to register. E-mail questions: admin@stpatricksgfc.org.

50th Annual



ST. PATRICK'S SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Monday, March 10th

6 pm Cocktails ♠ 7 pm Dinner



Irish entertainment following brief speakers program. 501(c)3 charitable organization with mission to provide \$24,000/4-year scholarship to a high school senior attending college in the fall regardless of race, color, or religion. Contributions graciously accepted. Event held at Bridgeport Holiday Inn.

Tickets \$125 per person ~ Formal Attire
For Tickets, call Dave Howe 203-767-6519

St. Patrick's Day Lá Fhéile Pádraig Children's Art Competition

The Consulate General of Ireland, New York is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day Lá Fhéile Pádraig art competition for children 6 to 16 years of age. The purpose is to encourage children to further their knowledge and understanding of the story of St. Patrick *Naomh Pádraig* and his significance to Ireland as well as reflect on the meaning of Irish culture and traditions. Prizes include marching in the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade, an Art Masterclass, and having winning artwork included in the Children's Museum of Arts Festival in New York. Application forms are available in Club lobby. For more info, please visit www.consulateofirelandnewyork.org. Submission deadline is Feb. 21st.



Imbolc Celtic Celebration

Come celebrate the ancient Celtic feast of Imbolc, hosted by Molloy College's Irish Studies Institute on Saturday, February 1, the first day of the Celtic Spring, also known as St. Brigid's Day, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Enjoy hands-on morning workshops for adults and children to learn about traditional Gaelic culture, Irish Language arts, dancing, Celtic and Gaelic history, tin whistle, Brehon Law, ancient Irish genealogy, bodhrán, uilleann, piping, and more. Location: Molloy College Wilbur Arts Building, 1000 Hempstead Ave, Rockville Centre, NY. Refreshments. Free Admission. For more info, contact Cathy Tully Muscente at 516-323-4710 or cmuscente@molloy.edu. If you or your organization would like to offer a performance in any of the Gaelic traditional arts, contact Jerry Kelly at jerrykelly@att.net (day) or call 516-804-2968 (eve).



Clannad In Concert

Clannad, a world-renowned musical family and successful band in the Celtic music genre with a career spanning four decades, will perform at The Ridgefield Playhouse on Thursday, February 6th at 8 pm. Tickets \$50. Visit www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org or call 203-438-5795.

1916 Memorial Mass and Commemoration



The ninth annual memorial Mass and Commemoration to remember the heroes of 1916 and the ten hunger strikers of 1981 will be held on Sunday, April 6th. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Lawrence Ryan, SJ at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1719 Post Rd, Fairfield at 3 pm. The commemoration will follow immediately at the Gaelic American Club with guest speaker, Jim Gallagher, Irish activist and past president of AOH John P. Holland Division, New London, CT. For information, contact Pat O'Connell at 203-644-9073 or poc6575@att.net. Sponsored by the Gaelic American Club, AOH John F. Kennedy Division #1 and The Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade 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.