



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MILE Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Aibreán April 2014



LEO & ANTO of the Saw Doctors ACOUSTIC CONCERT

Wednesday, April 9 * 7 pm

With the Saw Doctors on sabbatical and with Anthony's and Leo's troubadour feet becoming itchy, the two friends have put together a show with different takes on well-known Saw Doctors' songs, versions of lesser-known songs, a few from Anthony's solo-album and other songs written with Padriag Stevens. **Tickets \$25.**

RESERVATIONS: E-mail to leoantogac@yahoo.com and drop off/mail check payable to GAC to: GAC Social, Attn: "Leo & Anto". Advance payment required.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to all who marched in the Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade and attended our Flag Raising in honor of our deceased members. I would like to sincerely thank everyone that was involved in making our St. Patrick's event a huge success. Without the volunteerism and dedication of our GAC members this would not be possible. This is the reason why our Club is successful and thriving today. Keep up the great work as it is very much appreciated.

Sláinte,
Jude Fitzgerald



MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 11th

10 am & 1 pm Seatings

Free Mimosa for Moms

\$18 Adults * \$12 Children under 12

Tickets on sale at Club: Saturday, April 5 from 1 - 3 pm & 6:30 - 8 pm and Friday, April 11th from 6:30 - 8 pm.

For all other tickets, please drop off/mail check payable to GAC to: GAC Social, Attn: Mother's Day Brunch and include name, contact info, seating time, and number of adult and children.

Tickets will be mailed to attendees.

Flag raising ceremony at the GAC on March 17th kicked-off St. Patrick's Day festivities



Events

TRIVIA NIGHT ♣ Friday, April 4, 8 pm

"Labor & Dignity: James Connolly In America"

Exhibit: Thursday, Apr 3 - Sunday, April 6, p 3

1916 Memorial Mass & Commemoration Sunday, April 6, 3 pm, p 3

LEO & ANTO ACOUSTIC CONCERT

Wednesday, April 9, 7 pm, p 1

DONNELLY DASH

Sunday, April 13, p 4

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, April 23, 1:30 - 6:30 pm, p 4

CLAN NA GAEL PLAYERS: PEG O' MY HEART

Thursday, April 24 - Sunday, April 27, p 4

TRIVIA NIGHT ♣ Friday, May 2, 8 pm

IRISH HISTORY LECTURE: THE CT IRISH AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CIVIL WAR

Sunday, May 4, 2 pm, p 3

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 11, 10 am & 1 pm, p 1



Join us in the pub at 9 pm

Friday April 4 Pat Kane
Saturday April 5 Once Removed

Friday April 11 Sharon and Pat Burke
Saturday April 12 Camac

Friday April 18 Good Friday - No Music
Saturday April 19 Across the Pond

Friday April 25 The Crickstones
Saturday April 26 Once Removed

Friday May 2 Mostly Green
Saturday May 3 The Irish Band



club Activities

NEW

IRISH CLASSES

BEGINNERS IRISH: Starting on April 17, a new series of 45-minute classes will be held on Thursday nights at 6:30 pm in the Cultural Room. This class will focus on developing simple conversational Irish skills.

IRISH FOR PARENTS AND KIDS: A 90-minute class will be held on Saturday, April 26th at 10:30 am in the Cultural Room. This single class will give you a few simple Irish phrases you can use every day as a family. Parent(s) with kid(s) combinations only.

IRISH CURSES / COMMANDS

A 90-minute adult-only class will be held on Tuesday, April 22th at 7:30 pm in the Cultural Room. Okay, maybe not the best reason to learn Irish, but it's a reason. For the most part, I will be shooting for a light-hearted tongue-in-cheek session ... a bit of 'craic.'

IRISH/CELTIC CRAFTER & ARTISTS

This new group will have its second meeting on Monday, May 19th at 7:30 pm in the Cultural Room. We will be exploring how to create Celtic knot work jewelry. The group plans to meet every two to three months to explore some form of Celtic Craft or Irish Art Technique.

Please consider donating old or broken Celtic/Irish jewelry to the group for workshop parts or re-work. Place items in an envelope labeled "Crafts" and drop it in the donation basket/box in the Cultural Room.

For more information,
contact Des Nolan at
desnolan@optonline.net.

25 CARD GAME

Players meet Thursdays, 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

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN GENEALOGY GROUP

Our next meeting is Saturday, April 12 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. It's easy to place your professional listing in the Directory. Please 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 Peg O'Leary on the birth of her granddaughter Evie Rose on Feb 6, daughter of her son Kerry and wife Sara, sister of Eamon and Dyami.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

P.K. Lenihan 203-261-6656

IRISH INSTRUMENT SESSIONS

Join us Mondays, 8 pm

IRISH LANGUAGE

Foghlaim Saeilge

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


IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

Gloria Piche (203) 260-4037

LIBRARY

Peggy Corcoran (203) 870-6043

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

 Orange labels for Membership door cards will be mailed in early April.



Scrip will be credited to Scrip cards for use beginning April 1. Remember to keep your card as they are loaded each year.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting will be held Friday, Apr 11 at 8 pm. Meetings are open to all Members. Minutes from the previous meeting are posted on the Bulletin Board.

SCÉALA

The May issue deadline is April 11. Please submit news to 'Newsletter' via the website or to the Newsletter mailbox.

SENIORS

Join us for lunch on Thursday, Apr 17 at 12 noon. Call for reservations by Sunday, Apr 20:
Ann Hague 203-374-5198
Shirley McMenamy 203-268-5083
Sally Savage 203-366-4826
Thank you to all who donated to our Bridge collection in March.

SET DANCING

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

CLUB AND MEMBER NEWS

1916 MEMORIAL MASS AND COMMEMORATION Sunday, April 6th ♣ 3 pm



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, 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, please 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.

Labor & Dignity: James Connolly in America Thursday, April 3rd - Sunday, April 6th

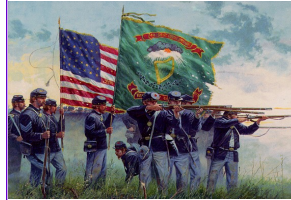


An exhibition of James Connolly, which had its world premiere at the Consulate General of Ireland in November, will be hosted by the 100th Anniversary Easter Rising Committee at the GAC. John Connolly, Irish national icon, was a signatory of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic for which he was executed by a British Army firing squad. He was also an internationally known labor leader. In Dublin he formed his Irish Citizen Army organized to protect workers from anti-labor police and strike breakers. Connolly led the Citizen Army into the Easter Rising in 1916.

The exhibition will be held Thursday, April 3, 6-9 pm; Friday, April 4, 6-10 pm; Saturday, April 5, 6-10 pm; and Sunday, April 6 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm and 4:15 to 7 pm. Free admission. Donations graciously accepted. Contact Pat O'Connell at poc6575@att.net or Tom Keane at tom@aohjfk.com for more info.

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 custodian are being accepted at present; flexible hours.*

Irish History Lecture: 9th in a Series THE CT IRISH AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CIVIL WAR Sunday, May 4th ♣ 2 - 4 pm



Irish participation in the Civil War. Why did they take part so enthusiastically, when they were often persecuted for being poor, Irish, and Catholic?

And why were they so noted for their fighting abilities during the war? Presented by David Koch, Associate Professor of History at Housatonic Community College.

Registration \$5 per person. Help us plan seating and refreshments by registering by April 30th. Please send an e-mail with subject "Irish History" to Mary Arroyo at 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
and GAC Language Groups*



GAELIC AMERICAN CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

The GAC is pleased to offer two \$,2000 scholarships to deserving high school students attending a four-year college in fall 2014. Applications will be available both at the Club's events table in the lobby and by contacting Mary Santilli at John@knowsource.com. Applications for consideration must be received by May 4.



FEILE SCHOLARSHIPS

Feile is pleased to offer four scholarships of \$1,500 each to high school seniors who will be attending college in fall 2014. Applications are available at www.irishfestival.org. Deadline is May 5. Announcement will be made by June 1 and awards will be presented at the Fairfield County Irish Festival.



4th Annual One Act Playwright Contest


Clan na Gael's contest runs through May 19 at 8 pm. Open to all ages. Rules are available on the green table in the lobby. For further information, please contact Nancy O'Neil at naoneil@charter.net or 203-377-1070.


Clan na Gael Players *present*
Peg o' My Heart
 Thursday, April 24 at 8 pm
 Friday, April 25 at 8 pm
 Saturday, April 26 at 8 pm
 Sunday, April 27 at 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm

Come with us to Regal Villa, a manor house in jolly old England in 1912. This is the setting of PEG O' MY HEART, a zany, old time comedy. Peg's unexpected arrival, to be educated by her Aunt Monica, (Marie Stehle) in the ways of a proper young lady, could not have been better timed. The family is facing ruin and Peg (Anna Becker), a young Irish American lass, just might hold the key to their future, IF, she decides to stay. A cast of colorful characters includes cousins Ethel, (Allison Flannigan) and Alaric (Sean Butler), neither of whom have worked a day in their lives. A family butler, Jarvis, (Dave Pirrie), two gentlemen callers, Brett (Griffin Reidy) and Jerry, (Mathew Apgar), and a lawyer, Hawkes (Byrne White) round out the fun filled cast. Peg O'Leary, Director. Producer, Mary Carberry.

RESERVATIONS: Call Joan at 203-333-4736 or e-mail clannagaelpay@gmail.com.

Tickets \$15. Advance payment requested. Please make check payable to Feile and drop-off to Feile mailbox or mail to the GAC: Attn "Peg o' My Heart". * Tickets also on sale at the Club on Friday, April 11th from 6:30 - 8 pm.

 **DONNELLY DASH: Sunday, April 13th**
 Run with the spirit of Tim and Kim in your heart: 3.5 mile run or 1.8 mile walk. Starting at Tomlinson Middle School, Fairfield at 9:30 am. After race celebration at the GAC. For more info, visit www.clubct.org.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
 Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. More than 41,000 blood donations are needed every day. Please consider donating blood at the GAC on **Wednesday, April 24th from 1:30 to 6:30 pm.**



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



APRIL

Aibreán

2014



Schedule Pub hours Dinner Lunch & Branch

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

How To Reach us

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.gaonline.org

CÉAO MILE
fáilte



Sunday DOMHNACH	Monday LUAN	Tuesday MÁIRT	Wednesday CÉADAOIN	Thursday DEARDAOIN	Friday AOINE	Saturday SATHARN
Irish Easter History: The intricacy of determining the Easter calendar date was influenced by the Celtic Church at a synod in 7th century Ireland. The Easter Rising lasted from Easter Monday, April 24 to April 30, 1916.		1 April Fools' Day Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	2 Informal Music 7-9 pm In the Pub	3 Apr 3-6 James Connolly Exhibition 7:15pm Irish Language II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	4 ∞ Lenten Specials 8 pm Trivia Night Pat Kane 9 pm In the Pub	5 Once Removed 9 pm In the Pub
6 3 pm Easter Rising Mass at St Thomas Church Commemoration at GAC 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	7 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	8 7:30 Exec Committee Mtg Open to all Members Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	9 Pub Dining Only 7 pm Leo & Anto Acoustic Concert Informal Music 7-9 pm In the Pub	10 7:15pm Irish Language II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	11 Scéala deadline ∞ Lenten Specials 8 pm Membership Mtg Sharon & Pat Burke 9 pm In the Pub	12 10:30 Genealogy Group Camac 9 pm In the Pub
13 Palm Sunday Morning Donnelly Dash Post-race Gathering 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	14 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	15 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	16 Informal Music 7-9 pm In the Pub	17 12noon Seniors Lunch 6:30pm Irish Language I 7:15pm Irish Language II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	18 Good Friday ∞ Lenten Specials No Music in the Pub	19 Across the Pond 9 pm In the Pub
20 Kitchen Closed Pub opens 6 pm	21 Easter Monday 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	22 Earth Day 7:30pm Irish Curses / Commands Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	23 Pub Dining Only 1:30-6:30 Blood Drive Informal Music 7-9 pm In the Pub	24 Pub Dining Only 6:30pm Irish Language I 7:15pm Irish Language II 7:30pm 25 Card Game 8:00pm Peg 'o My Heart Clan na Gael Play	25 Pub Dining Only 8 pm Peg 'o My Heart Clan na Gael Play The Crickstones 9 pm In the Pub	26 Pub Dining Only 10:30 Irish for Parents & Kids 8 pm Peg 'o My Heart Clan na Gael Play Once Removed 9 pm In the Pub
27 Pub Dining Only 2:30 & 7:30 pm shows Peg o' My Heart Clan na Gael Play 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	28 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	29 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	30 Informal Music 7-9 pm In the Pub	 Fairfield 375 Food Drive Accepting ground coffee donations through April 25	 Peg o' My Heart Clan na Gael Play Tickets On Sale April 11: 6:30 - 8 pm	 Mother's Day Brunch Tickets On Sale April 5: 1 - 3 pm & 6:30 - 8 pm April 11: 6:30 - 8 pm



Governor Dannel Molloy attended the 64th Annual Communion Breakfast of the John F. Kennedy Division 1 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians held at the GAC last month and gave a warm welcome to Edward Lovely (14) and Daniel Boyle (8) of the AOH Junior Division.

The AOH meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the O'Keefe Room. The Junior Hibernians, which is open to boys, ages 8-16, who are practicing Catholics of Irish descent, meet one hour before the men's meeting each month. For more info, please contact Chris Boyle at chris@aohjfk.com or visit www.aohjfk.com.



FAIRFIELD 375 FOOD DRIVE



This year marks the 375th anniversary of the founding of Fairfield. The GAC is participating in The Great Anniversary Food Challenge, with the mission of providing nutritious food to those in need, chaired by Judge Dan Caruso. We are asking members to donate GROUND COFFEE, which can be dropped off in the lobby through April 25th. For more information, please contact Jude Fitzgerald at jfitzgerald740@aol.com or (203) 521-6186 or visit www.ffldfooddrive375.org.



Fairfield County Irish Festival

Spring is here and so are the plans for the 26th Fairfield County Irish Festival, which will once again be held on the campus of Fairfield University on June 13, 14, and 15. T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and buttons are available for sale weekends at the Club.

It's never too early to volunteer at the Festival. Forms can be found at the Club or you can sign-up online through VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/XQpxxD>. For more info, please visit www.irishfestival.org.

Your favorite Pub bands are back and will be joined by The Fighting Jamesons, Eric Og, Barleyjuice and more.

Mark your calendars now!



ST. PATRICK'S GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING CLUB



Sixty children participated in the 6-week winter training program for the Under 8 (U8) team. In addition to basic skills of Gaelic football, players were coached on the importance of proper warm-ups and warm-downs, general fitness and teamwork. Mike O'Connor was introduced as Head Coach of the 2014 U8 team. Griffin Reidy was appointed as Assistant U8 Coach and Galway native, Terry Brady was appointed as U6 Coach and Director of the Development Team. For more information, visit www.stpatricksgfc.org.

Training medals were presented to: Peter Devere, Colin Ryan, Beaudan Dickinson, Rory O'Halloran, Donovan Gallagher, Fionn Hogan, Emily Kane, Jacob Kane, Danny Cullinan, Kieran Carbin, Alen Adrovic, Joe Fitzpatrick, Todd Emerick, Evan O'Neill, Aidan Brunt, Jack Hartley, Emma Crino, Aidan Crino, Colm Watke, Maggie Rooney, Pierce McDonald, Chloe McDonald, Jack Neafsey, Dylan McCarthy, William Close, Anthony Calabrese, Connor Cronin, Brady Cronin, Evan McMahan, Patrick Guzzi, Matthew Gulbin, Maksim Collarich, George Bentley, William Bentley, Liam Sikora, Ryan McClone, Jack McClone, Ethan Jeanetti, Aidan Sullivan, Felix Crawford, Harry Crawford, Ronan Donohue, James Dellavolpe, Kieran Day, Philip Brady, William Donohue, Jack Sikes, Charlotte Sikes, James McBennett, Finn Murray, Kevin Orban, Lilly Ramsteck, Fiona Ramsteck, Patrick Feeney, Annie Feeney, Aidan Takacs, Brady Takacs, Ethan Takacs and Brianna Carbin.



GRAND MARSHAL 2015

The Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Committee is accepting nominations for Grand Marshal 2015. Candidates must be of Irish descent and a contributor to the Irish community through culture and volunteerism. Please submit single candidate nominations only. Deadline is May 31st. Please send letters to Katrina Shea, Chairperson, 207 Crown St, Stratford, CT 06615 or send an e-mail to sheakatrina@gmail.com.

Irish Lore

- ♣ April 22, 1896: James O' Rourke gets the first hit in the baseball major leagues
- ♣ April 24, 1916: Irish Declaration of Independence