



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MILE Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes  *NOUAI*

December 2015

New Year Eve's Cocktail Party December 31st - 8 PM to 1 AM

Music by Outside Chance | Open Bar 9 to 12:30 PM
Hot & Cold Hors d'oeuvres, Seafood,
Pasta & Carving Stations
Ticket Price: \$70 per person
Reserve a table of eight and save \$5 a person.
Drop off or mail check payable to
G.A.C. Attn. Social - NYE

Please Reserve by December 23rd. Tickets will be on sale at the club on Friday 12/4 from 6-8pm and Friday 12/11 from 6-8pm.

CHILDREN'S' CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12TH FROM 1 - 3:00PM

Children's party includes a visit from Santa Claus at 1:30 pm and children's lunch of chicken nuggets, fries and mac & cheese is also available for \$5. Contact: Kelly kellyanntakacs@yahoo.com or phone (203) 913-6242.

CELTIC CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5TH FROM 9AM TO 3PM

Our Celtic Christmas Fair has the greatest selection of Irish vendor's and unique crafters so you can do all your holiday shopping in one place. Bring the children & grandchildren to have their photo taken with Santa in front of the GAC's beautiful stone hearth. For more information call Mary Ann Doonan 203-377-4586 or email madoonan@aol.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is the Christmas season at the Club, which has been beautifully decorated, and I want to begin by thanking all those who worked the day after Thanksgiving with all the decorations that enhance the Christmas spirit. If I thank one I will forget another so on behalf of the membership I will thank you all. This December, for the first time in the history of the Gaelic American Club, there will not be the normal Election Day process with the voting machines on the first Sunday of December as there is only one slate of candidates for the Executive Board for 2016. To keep up the tradition of Election Day, the Social Committee has scheduled a band for the late afternoon; come down, enjoy the Club and wish the new Executive Committee a successful 2016. ~P.J. Carolan

Events

CELTIC CHRISTMAS FAIR
Saturday Dec 5, 9-3pm,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WELCOME
Sunday Dec 6, 5:30pm,

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday Dec 12, 1 - 3pm,

BLOOD DRIVE
Wednesday Dec 9, Noon- 5pm

GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE BACK
Sunday Dec 13,

CAROLING WITH COLLEEN & FRIENDS
Wednesday, Dec 16, 7pm, Pg3

SENIOR LUNCH
Thursday, Dec 17, 12noon

BRENDAN GRACE SHOW
Thursday, Dec 17, Doors open @6pm

CHRISTMAS CAROL-ALONG
Friday, Dec 18, 7pm, Pg3

NEW YEARS' EVE COCKTAIL PARTY
Thursday, Dec 31, 8pm-1am

Sorry there is no Trivia or Family Fun Night in December, but they'll be back in January.

JOIN us in the pub at 9pm

Friday	Dec 4	Camac
Saturday	Dec 5	Across the Pond
Sunday	Dec 6	Mike McGovern 5:30-9pm
Friday	Dec 11	Sharon & Pat Burke
Saturday	Dec 12	The Yanks
Friday	Dec 18	Pete McKienan
Saturday	Dec 19	Clare Island
Friday	Dec 25	Closed
Saturday	Dec 26	The Coracles



club ACTIVITIES

25 CARD GAME

Card players meet Thurs at 7:30 pm.

FÁILTE COMMITTEE

Volunteers needed to welcome members and sign in guests. It's a great way to meet other members. Contact Bette Leary at 203-767-0117 or betteleary@gmail.com.

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

GENEALOGY GROUP

Genealogy Group will meet on Saturday, December 12 at 10:30 am. For info Contact Donna Orazio: donnaorazio@gmail.com

GAC BOWLING LEAGUE

Join us Sundays at 6:30pm at Nutmeg Bowl in Fairfield. Come alone or bring friends. Contact Donna Lillis email donna_m_lillis@sbcglobal.net or (203) 373-9129.

FAIRFIELD GAELIC PIPE BAND

Meets Monday's 6:30 pm at First Church Congregational. Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band (475)329-0202 or visit fairfieldgaelicpipeband.org

GOOD & WELFARE

A Mass Card was sent to Robert Cahill for the death of his wife Eileen Cahill.

A Sympathy Card was sent to Greg Burnett for the death of his mother Lorraine Burnett.

Congratulations to Ellen Godfrey on the birth of her 5th grandchild Nora Jean Dickson born to her daughter Audra and son-in-law Matt Dickson.

Please notify Carol Ruddy of any births, deaths or special happenings at carolruddy42@optonline.net.

GAC BUSINESS DIRECTORY/ TRADES LIST

It's easy to place your professional listing in the GAC Business Directory Trades List at www.gaconline.org. Go to GAC Business Directory option under Membership Tab and follow prompts to add your listing.

2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Pat Carolan
Vice President: Gerry Reidy
Recording Secretary: Laura Burke
Treasurer: Tom Egan

GLEE CLUB MEETING

Glee Club meets every Weds. from 6:30 to 7:30PM. We are having a special event on Dec. 18th!

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Ilona Paxton 203-372-1280

IRISH INSTRUMENT SESSIONS

Join us Mondays, 8 pm

IRISH LANGUAGE

foghlaim Saeilge

Irish Language Class Thursdays 6:30PM. Contact Desmond Nolan DesNolan@OptOnline.Net. For more information. Language Conversational Group meets afterwards at 7:30 in the Bar's Snug. Contact Kate Thopsey: kthopsey@fairfield.edu.

IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Group's next meeting is Monday, January 25th at 7:30 to discuss Donal Ryan's The Spinning Heart. If you have any questions, please call Clare Burnett at 203-255-3848.

LIBRARY

We have over 2,000 books written by Irish authors, about Ireland and the Irish around the world. Books may be borrowed by sign-out and kept for three weeks. Children are welcomed at any time when supervised by their parents. Please no food or drink in the Library. Mary Ellen Lyons, mary-ellen.lyons@outlook.com.

LOST/BROKEN SCRIP CARDS

Individual Members: Send the broken card to us and we will send back a new, working card. Family Members: Send us the broken card PLUS your spouse's working card. Once we know which one to replace, we will send both back to you.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting will be held Friday, December 11 @ 8 pm. Meetings are open to all Members. Minutes from the previous meeting are

SCÉALA

The January issue deadline is December 11th. Please submit news via email to feismum13@gmail.com or to the Newsletter mailbox

SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, December 17th at 12 noon. Call for reservations by Sunday, December 13. 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.

SET DANCING

Thursdays at 7:30pm. All are welcome! Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921

INFORMAL MUSIC

Informal Music in the Pub from 8PM on Wednesdays and welcome singers and players who enjoy performing Irish Music.

ECHOES OF ERIN

The concert was a wonderful evening of the finest in Irish entertainment. Anyone who purchased a CD and received the wrong CD please contact the social committee for a replacement. Thanks

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL BBQ

Thanks to all who participated. We can't wait till 2016 to do it again! From Your hosts Jay, Pat & Pat and hostesses Katie & Corinne.



BLOOD DRIVE
ON DECEMBER 9TH
NOON TO 5PM
GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

FOR THE WEE PEOPLE

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Our young singers rehearse every Weds @5PM. This Dec. singers will perform Dec.5th at the Christmas Fair, Dec.6th @12:30 for Sunday diners, and 7:PM at the Christmas Carol-Along in the Carolan Room.

'SONGS AND A STORY'

Due to the Christmas Fair there will be no story hour on Dec. 5th, See everyone Jan 2nd at 11AM in the Library.

Financial Secretary: Marggie Laurie
Sergeant-at-Arms: Terry Rooney
Director 1 Year: James Carolan
Director 2 Year: John Curtin
Director 3 Year: Griffin Reidy

THE GAC GIVING TREE



Select a slip from the Giving Tree located by the Pub entrance. Purchase the item as described then wrap and return it to the Giving Tree by 12/13 with original slip taped to package.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING IN THE PUB WITH COLLEEN & FRIENDS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 7 PM

Haul out the holly and deck the halls! Join us for some holiday cheer. Gather with friends by the fireplace and sing along with us and participate in The 'Unique' Christmas Sweater Contest!

~Light fare served~



INTRODUCTION TO GAELIC FOOTBALL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN



St. Patrick's GAA Club will host its annual "Introduction to Gaelic Football" for boys and girls, 5-8 years of age, at The Fieldhouse in Fairfield beginning on January 23, 2016. The program runs from 4pm-

5pm on Saturdays for six weeks. Please see www.stpatricksgfc.org for more information.

DAY OF IRISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Once again, for the eighth time, the Day of Irish Language and Culture was a wonderful success. We had 40 people from five different states attending this particular Lá Gaeilge: primarily to learn and enhance their Irish language skills as we continue to have top-notch instructors, including the UCONN Fulbright Scholar, Niamh Nic Ruairi from Armagh. We offer all levels from no-Irish to advanced speakers. We present a well-rounded and fun program which included a scavenger hunt in Irish, door prizes and the renowned Siopa Daltai Bookstore. Corky and his crew put out a delicious lunch for all to enjoy. The cultural aspect of the program was a phenomenal presentation and lecture by Niamh Nic Ruairi about Padraig Pearse and 1916 Rising. This event is outstanding among others of its kind and distinguishes the Gaelic American Club as having a reputation for providing a high standard of Irish language, culture and comradery not found elsewhere. Hopefully, more of the GAC membership will plan on attending our next La Gaeilge on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016. Mark your calendars now.....BIGI LINN.

100TH ANNIVERSARY EASTER RISING COMMITTEE

Between now and unveiling of the GAC commemorative statue on April 24th, Sceala will feature the Seven Signatories of the Proclamation.



THOMAS MACDONAGH (TOMÁS MAC DONNCHADHA)

was born on February 1, 1878 in Cloughjordan, County Tipperary to two educators who celebrated the arts and Irish culture. A member of the Gaelic League, MacDonagh was a published poet and playwright and served as assistant headmaster at St. Enda's, a bilingual secondary school founded by Pádraig

Pearse. MacDonagh was discouraged by the circumstances of Ireland and believed "zealous martyrs" would be responsible for her freedom. Forming the Irish Volunteers in 1913 and joining the IRB in 1916, MacDonagh was a late addition to the Rising, possibly chosen due to his close relationships with other members of the Provisional Government. He was commandant of the 2nd Battalion at Jacob's Biscuit Factory and held down the fort until he received Pearse's unconditional surrender document. At the age of 38, MacDonagh was one of three signatories killed by firing squad on May 3, 1916 - the first day of executions at Kilmainham Gaol.



CHRISTMAS CAROL-ALONG FRIDAY DECEMBER 18TH @ 7PM

The Carolan Room opens for Dinner and cocktails at 6PM. Order your favorite meal from the menu, enjoy a drink while waiting for the program to start at 7PM. The GAC Children's Chorus will start the evening. The Glee Club will lead us in our favorite Christmas Songs and add some special numbers to brighten the season. Come join the merry making!

MR. AND MISS SHAMROCK SCHOLARSHIP

Attention! The Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Celebration Committee is looking for high school seniors of Irish descent. Our annual Mr. and Miss Shamrock contest will take place at the GAC on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016 (snow date is Sunday, Jan 31). Scholarships will be awarded to four students. Applications will be available next month. Any questions? Call Patty McDonnell at 203-366-2417 or email her at pattymcd2001@gmail.com



THE CLAN NA GAEL PLAYERS

Thank you for your support throughout 2015 especially with our most recent production, *The Plough and the Stars* and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

TRAD FOR TRÓCAIRE

The 2nd Annual "Trad for Trócaire" concert, held at the GAC on Sunday Nov. 8th, was a terrific success! Many thanks to all the GAC members who came and generously donated to Trócaire and special thanks to the wonderful dancers & musicians who donated their time & talents: Tim Quinn, Gregg Burnett, Loretta Murphy, the Shamroques, Damien Connolly, Coleman Connolly, Willie Kelly, Regan Wick, the Lenihan School of Irish Dance, and St. Joseph's Ceili Band. The event raised over \$1,800 for Trócaire's relief efforts in the developing world.

A special thanks to the organizers – the Loralton Hall Irish Club, led by Maggie Keary, and the Fairfield Prep Irish Club, led by Adrian Coyle – whose energy and organization made the day possible.



ST. PATRICK'S GAA CLUB ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

St. Patrick's will host its annual dinner dance at 6:30pm on Saturday December 5th, 2015 at the GAC. Music by Padraig Allen and the McLean Avenue Band. The 2015 Player of the Year and Fairfield County GAA Gael of the Year will also be awarded. For more information: www.stpatricksgfc.org or admin@stpatricksgfc.org.



FEILE, INCORPORATED

To receive notification about upcoming Feile events including plays, lectures and the Festival, join our email list at Feile@irishfestival.org. Don't be left out!



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