



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FAILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes  Eanáir January 2016

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renewal begins January 1st 2016. For the vast majority, who renew online, please do not attempt to renew before January 1st as your payment will not be recorded. Dues remain the same as last year.

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. 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we look back at 2015, we can say it was a good year for the Gaelic American Club. Much was accomplished by many people working to make a great club better. I want to thank all who worked on the committees that allow the club to function such as Membership, House, Social, Sceala, and Failte as well as those who work on the committees that service the members such as the Seniors, the Bar, Language, Genealogy and all others. I want to thank Mary Ellen Lyons for the effort she has put in starting the Children's Choral Group, restarting the Glee Club and organizing the library. I have enjoyed working with the Executive Board and the members. Looking forward to 2016, on behalf of the new Executive Board, I want to wish all the members a healthy and prosperous Happy New Year.

~ P.J. Carolan

Events

NEW YEARS' DAY—CLUB CLOSED
Friday, Jan 1

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday January 5, 7:30pm


MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Friday January 8, 8pm

SENIOR LUNCH
Thursday, January 28, 12noon

FAMILY FUN NIGHT
Friday, January 29, 6-9pm

Mr & Miss Shamrock Scholarship & Dance
Saturday, January 30, 7pm, Pg3

Irish Language Immersion Day on
Saturday, February 6th, 10-4pm, Pg3

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

Saturday Jan 2 *Mike McGovern*

Friday Jan 8 *Peter McKiernan*

Saturday Jan 9 *Jefferson Hamer of "the Murphy Beds" with Dylan Foley and Dan Gurney of "The Yanks"*

Friday Jan 15 *Keltic Kick*

Saturday Jan 16 *Jolly Beggars*

Friday Jan 22 *Peter McKiernan*

Saturday Jan 23 *Mostly Green*

Friday Jan 29 *Camac*

Saturday Jan 30 *McLean Ave Band*



REMINDER ~ USE IT OR LOSE IT!

February 29th (*you have an extra day this year*) is the last day to use your script. March is a non-script month and cards will be ready for use in April, *Slainte!*

club ACTIVITIES

25 CARD GAME

Card players meet Thurs at 7:30 pm.

BAR COMMITTEE

Will host an 8-Ball Tournament to start mid January. It will be held on Tuesday nights from 7-10pm. Team to be made up of 2-members or 1-member and 1-guest. For more information and to sign up call Maureen-Fracassini 203-333-6294.

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, January 9th 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

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. And don't forget when you need a business or trade service check the List and support our GAC Members

GLEE CLUB MEETING

The GAC Glee Club is on break but hope you'll join us when we resume on Jan 27th. We welcome the young at heart and practice at 6:30PM on Wednesdays. We'll celebrate with song on both St. Patrick's Day and 1916 Anniversary! For info contact maryellen.lyons@outlook.com or just come to rehearsal on Jan 27.

GOOD & WELFARE

A Mass Card was sent to James Devine for the death of his mother Helen Devine.

Sympathy Cards were sent to: James and Loretta Murphy for the death of Jim's father Ben Murphy; Lisa Haydon Burns for the death of her mother Kathleen Haydon; Cynthia Phelps for the death of her husband Robert Phelps.

Get Well Cards were sent to Mike Devaney. Who had surgery recently and is recovering; Pete Bellew he has had a recent stay in the hospital.

Many thanks to Carol Ruddy for her contributions as Good & Welfare Chairperson, She will be missed as she is stepping down in 2016.

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 Conversation-Group meets afterwards at 7:30 in the Bar's Snug. Contact Kate Thopsey: kthopsey@fairfield.edu.

IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The next meeting is Monday, January 25th at 7:30 in the library. We will be discussing Donal Ryan's The Spinning Heart. It was an Irish Book Award Winner Book Of The Year! The novel speaks for contemporary Ireland and is witty, dark and sweetly poignant as it captures the language and spirit of small-town life. If you want more information, please call Clare Burnett at 255-3848.

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.

LIBRARY

LIBRARY INVENTORY – on Thursday, January 21st we will be reconciling our many fine Irish books against our library database. We will start at 10AM, volunteers are needed. Please return borrowed books by Tues the 20th (look around for any overdue books) The Library will be closed January 20th through January 23rd. The library accepts donations of books by Irish authors, books about Ireland and books about the Irish people at home and abroad. To volunteer please contact Mary Ellen Lyons, maryellen.lyons@outlook.com.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting will be held Friday, January 8 @ 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 January 8th. Please submit news via email to feismum13@gmail.com or to the Newsletter mailbox

SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, January 28th at 12 noon. Call for reservations by Sunday, January 24th. 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.

GLEE CLUB /CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Thank you to our GAC Children's Chorus and their parents, to our Glee Club and all the helping hands that made our Christmas Carol-Along a wonderful event! Reversals will resume January 27th.

'SONGS AND A STORY'

There will be no story hour in January however will resume our story and music hour on the first Saturday of February at 11AM in the Library.



MR AND MISS SHAMROCK SCHOLARSHIP & DANCE



The Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee presents the Mr. and Miss Shamrock Contest and Dance. Saturday, January 30, 2016 6:00pm-9:00pm (Snow date: Jan.31, 2016) in the Carolan Room at the Gaelic American Club, with music by DJ Rick Scirocco, Coffee and Pastries. Tickets \$20, Reserved Seating. Call Patty McDonnell 203-366-2417 or email pattymcd2001@gmail.com Applications for the \$3,000 Scholarship will be available soon online www.stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com

THANK YOU ALL FOR A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS FAIR

A great big thank you to Communications Committee for all the publicity given to the fair this year, it was a big success. Profit to the club was \$1,585. We also made \$600 for Mercy Learning Center. Thank you to all who bought raffle tickets, the success of the fair was also due to the help of Esther Lawless, Phyllis Billing's, Pete Doonan Mat & Maura McCarthy, our Manager Tom Flaherty who went above & beyond from setting up & taking down, thank you everyone. Have a blessed Christmas and Healthy 2016 God Bless ~ Mary Ann Doonan Chair



INTRODUCTION TO GAELIC FOOTBALL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

It's not too late to sign up for the introductory, non-contact, training sessions specially designed for children 5-8 years of age. All training held on Saturdays from 4-5 pm for 6 weeks beginning on January 23rd.

Not only is it fun, but this course helps with hand-eye coordination and sportsmanship! For more information, please see www.stpatricksgfc.org.

ST. PATRICK'S GAA CLUB ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Congratulations to Mike Derby, a proud member of the GAC, AOH & St. Patrick's GAA Club, upon receiving the 2015 Gael of the Year Award at the Club's Annual Dinner Dance and to Thomas Conway, a native of Tulsk, Co. Roscommon, also a member of the GAC, who received the 2015 Player of the Year Award. St. Patrick's would also like to thank everyone who attended the dinner dance or supported the commemorative journal and special thanks to the Manager, Permittee & Bar staff for their tremendous assistance in making this another terrific night.

100TH ANNIVERSARY EASTER RISING COMMITTEE

Up until the unveiling of the 100th Anniversary Easter Rising Committee's 1916 Rising Commemorative Monument on April 24th, Seala will feature the bios of the Seven Signatories of the Proclamation



Éamonn Ceannt (Edward Thomas Kent)

was born in Ballymoe, County Galway on September 21, 1881. The son of an IRB, his family moved to Louth and eventually to Dublin. Ceannt was a devout, gentle and intelligent man and embraced Irish culture, history and arts. He was a champion uilleann piper and founder of the Pipers Club in 1900. A member of the Gaelic League,

Ceannt's nationalism expanded as he joined Sinn Féin in 1907 and was sworn into the IRB in 1912 and Irish Volunteers in 1913. When the IRB Military Council was formed in 1915 to plan the Rising, Ceannt was appointed Director of Communications. As Commandant of the 4th Battalion stationed at South Dublin Union, Ceannt saw intense fighting and surrendered only upon Pádraig Pearse's command. Prior to his execution on May 8, 1916 at Kilmainham Gaol, Ceannt wrote: "And in the years to come Ireland will honour those who risked all for her honour at Easter 1916."

IRISH LANGUAGE IMMERSION LEATH LÁ SATURDAY FEB 6 FROM 10-4PM



The GAC Irish Language Group, with support from the Fulbright Commission in Dublin and underwriting from



Feile, will be hosting an Irish Language Immersion Day on Saturday, February 6th in the Carolan Room. The day will be led by Niamh Nic Raurí, the Fulbright in residence at UConn, Storrs, this academic year. The session will run from 10 am to 4 pm with a break for lunch (on your own but the pub will be open). This Leath Lá is open to students of Irish at the intermediate or higher level. Seating is limited. For further details contact Cáit Thopsey (kthopsey@fairfield.edu 203-459-9686) or Seán Minehan (jminehan@gmail.com 203-293-8090)



A THOUSAND THANK YOUS!

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who came to decorate the Gaelic-American Club on the day after Thanksgiving. It was a joy to behold! The team knew just where they were going in the Club, and what their job was going to be. In the end, each team contributed to making the Gaelic-American Club sparkle for the Christmas season. A big "Thank you" to our wonderful Club Manager Tom and Corky our Chef. It was an honor and a privilege to work with such a great group that day. They say that all good things must come to an end, but not too soon, we'll wait until after "Little Christmas" on January 6th. Then on Saturday Jan 9th around 9AM for those who can make it, we'll take down and put away the decorations until next Christmas.

Last but not least I wish to thank the wonderful House Committee Members for their generosity of and strong backs!

Wishing you all a very merry and Blessed Christmas.
Ilona Payton
House Committee Chair Person

FAMILY FUN NIGHT ~ FRI JAN 29TH 6-9PM

Join us for the return of Family Fun Night with music fun and games for everyone!

PASTA SAUCE COOK-OFF

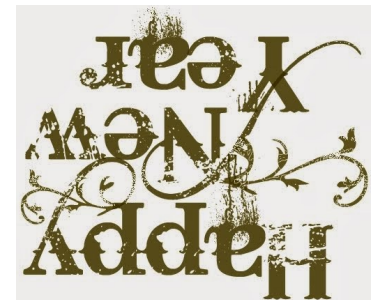
Brennan's Shibeen at the Smith-Richardson golf course clubhouse on Sunday, February 28

IRISH TRIVIA

There is no Irish Trivia this month so here's a few tidbits to keep your skills up to par,

1. Riverdance, the stage show, who composed the music?
2. In which county is Roaringwater Bay located?
3. How many counties does Tipperary border?
4. What was the IRB?
5. What are the Twelve Bens?
6. Who would be the preferred first visitor to a house on New Year's Day and why?

ANSWERS: 1) Bill Whelan 2) County Cork 3) Eight 4) Irish Republican Brotherhood 5) Mountains 6) A tall dark hand-some man would bring good luck.



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