



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD míle fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Meitheamh 1 June 2019

THE WEE IRISH FESTIVAL - JUNE 16TH FROM 12-6PM



Join us on Father's Day, June 16th from noon to 6 at the GAC ! Once again our vendors Ogham Art, UK Gourmet and Life's a Stitch/Shamrock Chic will be on hand. We are thrilled that The Highland Rovers will be with us celebrating their 25th Anniversary as well as pipers, dancers and more. There will be plenty of food and children's activities and of course Guinness. Donation \$10. We hope to see you on Father's Day so mark your calendars!

TRIVIA NIGHT FRIDAY JUNE 7TH @ 8PM

The color to wear is brown and you'll be eligible to win one of our many great prizes. See you there!

Join us in the pub at 8pm

Friday	May 31	Mike O'Malley
Saturday	June 1	Coracles
Friday	June 7	Keltic Kick
Saturday	June 8	Mike McGovern
Friday	June 14	McLean Ave Band @ 9pm
Saturday	June 15	C-Sides
Friday	June 21	Karaoke
Saturday	June 22	TBA
Friday	June 28	Allen Gogarty
Saturday	June 29	TBA



MAY Events

TRAD MUSIC SESSION - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH, 7PM
FRÉAMH ÉIREANN GENEALOGY - SAT, JUNE 8TH, 10:30 AM
BOOK LAUNCH SUNDAY - JUNE 9TH @ 2PM, PG 3
MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH, 8PM
WEE IRISH FESTIVAL - SUNDAY JUNE 16TH, NOON - 6PM
SUMMER SOLSTICE KARAOKE - FRIDAY JUNE 21ST 9PM
SENIOR LUNCH - THURSDAY, JUNE 27TH @ 12 NOON
FAMILY FUN NIGHT - FRIDAY, JUNE 28TH 6-9PM
CLAN NA GAEIL NEWS - FULL LIST OF EVENTS, PG 3
ST PATRICK'S GAA ANNUAL CÚL CAMP - JUNE 24-29, PG. 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to offer a few observations about our club. As you know we had the Andy Cooney Band and Deidre Reilly perform in the Carolan Room after the April Meeting. The band was shifted from the Pub where they were originally scheduled to play, to the Carolan Room to accommodate an anticipated greater number of members as Andy and Deirdre have been Irish Music headliners for many decades and have a large following. The shift was a wise decision as the room was packed and I saw many members, some in wheelchairs who had not come to the club in years. Everyone had a great time.

Another fun evening among many, was Trivia Night run by Faith Maciver. This event also packed, attracted a different segment of our membership. Everyone including yours truly, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I must admit however that I didn't recognize 90% of the artists and songs we were asked to identify and I fear I was not much of an asset to my team.

My point is that we have many different constituencies in the club just like any extended family and we work hard to be inclusive and address them all.

I also want to tell you a bit about our many or not so many Volunteers who keep this club running. I was walking past the small dinning room last Tuesday afternoon when I saw two ladies taking the tablecloths off the tables and putting them in a bag. When asked what they were doing? I was told they took all the tablecloths home on Tuesdays, washed and ironed them and brought them back on Wednesdays. I won't mention their names as I don't want to embarrass them, and they don't do it for recognition; in fact, I am sure that most club members myself included knew nothing of their service. I only mention it because they are just an example of many volunteers who strive to preserve the club; enabling the continued transmission of Irish hospitality and culture down the generations. Their numbers are dwindling. We need younger members to step up to the plate so their children will have a place to go to when they become young adults.

~ Gerry Reidy, GAC President

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

Place your professional listing in the GAC Business Directory Trades List at www.gaconline.org. Go to GAC Business Directory 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 your fellow members.

FÁILTE COMMITTEE

We always need for volunteers to work the front desk. This is a great way to meet members of our club and the liquor commission requires all guests to be signed in!

All members must sign in each of their guests: the members name PRINTED for EACH guest and each guest sign their own name and address. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

If you'd like to join the FAILTE committee, call Bette Leary at 203-767-0117 or betteleary@gmail.com.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Family Fun Night is Friday June 28th with DJ Peter from 6-9pm. Kids Buffet is served from 6:00-7:30. and ice cream from 7:45-8pm. Please clear tables, cleaning up spills and food under and around tables - receptacles are provided for trash and bins are provided for dishes, glasses get returned to the bar. Please DO NOT leave for the evening before clearing your table.

FAIRFIELD GAELIC PIPE BAND

Meets Mondays 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 the family of life member Terry Dunn on her death and James Gallagher on the death of his wife, Joy.

Get well wishes to Jean Hagerty.

Congratulations to: Hilary and Tatsu Koreeda on the birth of their first grandchild, Rowan Aiko. Parents are Kerry and Thomas; to Kaye and Kaz Tatatsu on the birth of their first grandchild, Maya June; And to Annie and Michael Wellington on the birth of their daughter, Elie.

Notify Noreen Reda of all member news at npreda4@gmail.com.

Club ACTIVITIES

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMB ÉIREANN

Genealogy Group meets June 8th at 10:30 am For info Donna Orazio: donnaorazio@gmail.com.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Ilona Paxton, House Chairperson
203-372-1280

IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

Monday Evenings:

Irish Reading Class 7:00-8:00 PM, contact JMinehan@gmail.com.

Thursday Evenings:

Kids/Parents and Beginner/Teens/Adults meet at 6:30 PM.

Intermediate Level at 7:30 PM. contact DesNolan@optonline.net.

LIBRARY

Library is open Monday through Saturday. Monitored children's hours for the Library are Friday and Saturday 6PM to 9PM. Children under 9 must be accompanied by an adult.

There will be no Book Covering and re-shelving books in June. **Please SIGN OUT BOOKS.** NO food or drink is allowed in library. For more Info: library@gacemail.org.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting is Friday June 14th @ 8pm. All members welcome!

JULY SCEALA SUBMISSIONS

Submissions are due June 14th
Communications@gacemail.org

LITERATURE GROUP

The Group is on a summer hiatus but will meet again on Monday, September 23rd at 7:30 in the library to discuss the novel Galway Bay by Mary Pat Kelly. This poignant historical family saga set against the famine that breathes life into the perpetual struggle of the Irish people. Contact ClareBurnett@optonline.net

SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, June 27th reservations by Sunday, June 23rd, Lunch is \$7 for members. \$9 for non-members. Ann Hague 203-374-5198; Shirley McMenamy 203-268-5083; Sally Savage 203-366-4826. This is the last Senior Lunch until September.

SET DANCING

Lace up your dance shoes because we're Set Dancing every Thursday at 7:30pm. Contact Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Thank you to all the families who joined us for a lovely Mother's Day Brunch, with accolades to event chair Barbara Massaro.

UP COMING SOCIAL EVENTS

Solstice Karaoke - Friday June 21st sing your favorite summer time songs in the Pub @ 9pm.

Moon Landing Party - Saturday July 20th (*more details to follow*)

Past President Party - Saturday, August 3rd @ 6 pm to recognize former GAC President Jim Carolan.

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2020 GRAND MARSHAL OF THE GREATER BRIDGEPORT ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION.



Grand Marshal candidates must be of Irish descent, active and strong supporters of community organizations and events and reside in the Greater Bridgeport Area.

Candidates must be available to participate in the Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 and in events leading up to the parade including the Grand Marshal's Ball and Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day Party.

All nominations should be submitted in writing by mail or email and received by June 14, 2019. Nominations should be sent to Peter F. Carroll, the 2019 Grand Marshal at [18 Fairlea Avenue](mailto:18FairleaAvenue), Stratford, CT 06614 or by email to commishbd@aol.com

The first Grand Marshal was Martin Reidy in 1983. Past honorees have included a First Selectman, a Police Chief, a priest, a physician, business, labor and community leaders, and other elected officials. For complete list of past Grand Marshals visit <http://stpattricksdaybridgeport.com/>

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING OUR 2019 NEW MEMBERS



Please extend a warm smile and a helping hand to those who are visiting our Club for the first time as a new member. It takes time to "learn the ropes" as they navigate their first visits as members and learn how things work at the door, the bar, the children's room, etc. We were all new members at one time or another.

CLAN NA GAEL PLAYERS

Story Time at the Wee Irish Festival ~ under the direction of Jillian Plomin, will be entertaining the children at The Wee Festival, on Fathers Day. There will be story time, crafts & games to perk their creativity.

Free Summer Improv Comedy Classes ~ for high school students and adults taught by Barry Halpin,

Barry, wrote, directed and performed with the LA based comedy group Constant Comedy. He has taught and directed Improvisational comedy for over 30 years. He was the director of, Slow Children At Play, 2000-2006, the resident improv group at The Stamford Center for the Arts.

Classes will provide an opportunity to explore your creative side through theatre games and exercises; creating short scenes, characters and monologues. A chance to connect with and build on ideas, share stories, use your imagination, have fun, and laugh a lot!

Classes are 6/19, 6/26, 7/2 & 7/10
High School Students 6-7:00PM
Adults 7:30-8:30PM

An Improv performance, by all students, will be given on July 9th. Email barryhalpin@aol.com for more information.

CnG's Fall Production: Auditions for CnG's fall production of "Nobody's Talking To Me" a comedy by Tommy Marren and directed by Kelsey Guggenheim Dias, will be held on September 28th and 29th from 1:00 - 3:30. The cast will consist of 4 males and 4 females ages ranging from mid 30's to 70's The performances will take place on November 21-24.

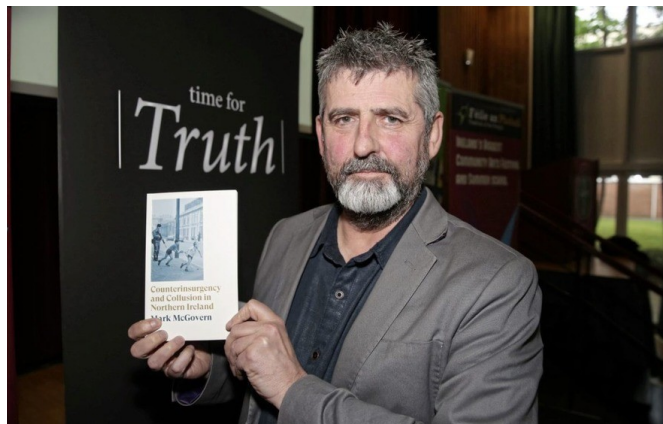
Readers Theatre: On Saturday October 19 and Sunday October 20 we will be presenting a staged Reading of THE SKULL OF CONNAMARA by Martin McDonagh, directed by Peg O'Leary A perfect play for the Halloween season.

Come Join Us ~ No Experience Necessary!



Seeking members to dance in our 10th annual charity fundraiser on Saturday, October 12th. **No experience necessary.** Members of **all ages welcome**, including children. Must commit to weekly dance lessons beginning in July at Fred Astaire Dance Studio, Southport. If interested contact Fran Tartamella at fitzmella@yahoo.com or 203-260-4180.

COUNTERINSURGENCY AND COLLUSION IN NORTHERN IRELAND BY MARK MCGOVERN



Féile, Inc. and the Bridgeport Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) co-host the book launch of *Counterinsurgency and Collusion in Northern Ireland* by Mark McGovern, PhD on Sunday June 9 at 2PM in the Carolan Room.

Dr. McGovern's book focuses on the end game policy of collusion in the Mid-Ulster area, when Republicans and their families were targeted by Loyalist paramilitaries and criminals acting in concert with British State forces. It is the result of years of working with Relatives for Justice (RFJ) interviewing the bereaved and injured, and intensive research into collusion as a state policy.

Also attending the book launch will be Mark Thompson, human rights attorney and founder of Relatives for Justice (RFJ). The RFJ was founded in 1991 and is a Northern Ireland based human rights NGO providing holistic support services to the bereaved and injured of the Troubles.

The event is free and open to the public

**A NIGHT OF MUSIC
FEATURING TIM WARREN & ERIC DONNELLY
OF THE ALTERNATE ROUTES
6/1 @ 7:30 @ GAC**



The Forty Shades of Green Tour's Musical Fundraiser features **Tim Warren & Eric Donnelly** of the Alternate Routes with opening act: **The Irish Band!** Saturday June 1st @ 7:30 pm.

This event is open to the public so make reservations ASAP by calling Elizabeth Power, 203 873-6556 or email 40Shades2019@gmail.com
Cabaret Seats \$25, Theatre style \$20,
Raffles, 50/50, Cash bar

Many thanks to GAC and Feile for all their support!

ST. PATRICK'S GAA CLUB ANNUAL CÚL CAMP

A summer camp in Gaelic football, hurling & camogie for children 5-15 years of age from June 24-28 at Notre Dame H.S., Fairfield.

Camp hours are 9am-3pm each day. Graduation & medal ceremony on June 28th with family lunch & social at the GAC. Space is limited. Sibling discounts available. visit www.stpatricksgfc.org or email training@stpatricksgaa.us.

Save the Date

**MOON
LANDING
PARTY**



Saturday, July 20th

IRELAND'S GREAT HUNGER MUSEUM NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

You can all help by becoming dues paying members of the museum. There are eight levels of membership starting at \$35. To donate or become a member visit <https://www.ighm.org/support.html>.

