



# SCÉALA

Newsletter for the Gaelic-American Club  
74 Beach Road, Fairfield CT 06824  
[www.gaconline.org](http://www.gaconline.org)



CÉAD MILE Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes  Aibreán April 2016

## THE BROCK MCGUIRE BAND APRIL 10, 4PM



Steeped in tradition and perform The BROCK MCGUIRE BAND's repertoire runs wide and deep; their tight, tenacious blend of instruments emphasizing mostly Irish music but also sprinkling

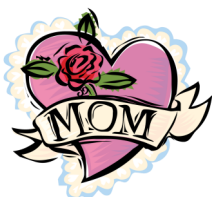
in impressive arrangements of American Old Timey, Bluegrass, French-Canadian, and other Celtic traditions. Carolan room Sunday April 10 @ 4pm - \$20 adults, \$5 kids.

## WEDNESDAY MOVIE NIGHTS IN APRIL

The Wednesday movies nights series returns this month featuring:

- Wind That Shakes The Barley 4/6
- Waking Ned Divine 4/13
- The Guard 4/20
- Leap Year 4/27

Don't miss this great selection of Irish films Free to GAC members.



## SAVE THE DATE FOR MOM! MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 8th Please watch for the announcement updating times and pricing for the Mother's Day Brunch on both GAC website: [GACONLINE.ORG](http://GACONLINE.ORG) and weekly e-Bulletin.



## Join us in the pub at 9pm

Friday	Apr 1	Karaoke
Saturday	Apr 2	Highland Rovers
Friday	Apr 8	Mike McGovern
Saturday	Apr 9	Four of a Kind
Friday	Apr 15	Roll Away
Saturday	Apr 16	Across the Pond
Friday	Apr 22	Susan & Gerard
Saturday	Apr 23	Clare Island
Friday	Apr 29	Sharon & Pat Burke
Saturday	Apr 30	McLean Avenue Band
Friday	May 6	Sharon & Pat Burke
Saturday	May 7	Out of the Woods



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In April we remember the day that changed the history of Ireland as a nation and the Irish people forever. While the Rising of Easter 1916 was brief, lasting only five days, its effect on the subsequent course of history has been significant and far reaching. Contained within this newsletter is information as to how this event will be celebrated by the Gaelic American Club. A few years ago, some of the members formed a committee dealing with the Easter Rising of 1916 and their efforts will be enjoyed by the membership on April 24th. I want to compliment them and thank them for their efforts. I encourage the membership to support their efforts and attend the functions scheduled for that day. ~P.J. Carolan

1916-2016  
EASTER RISING



For complete list of Easter Rising Commemorate Events turn to page 3

## Events

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday April 8, 8pm

### SENIOR LUNCH

Thursday, April 28, 12 noon

### FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday, April 29, 6-9pm,

### GENEALOGY & LANGUAGE GROUPS

EVENT— SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2PM, PG 4

CLAN NA GALE EVENTS— Back of calendar

J-1 VISA PROGRAM - Back of calendar

## club ACTIVITIES

### 25 CARD GAME

Card players meet Thurs at 7:30 pm.

### BAR COMMITTEE

Tuesday night 8-Ball Tournament. from 7-10pm. 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, April 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](http://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.

### GOOD & WELFARE

Mass cards were sent to Robert Carlson for the death of his wife Mary Carlson and to the family of Judith Baker.

Get well wishes were sent to Kevin Flynn who is recovering at home following a hospital stay.

Please notify Noreen Reda of any births, deaths or special events at [npreda4@gmail.com](mailto:npreda4@gmail.com).

### GLEE CLUB MEETING

The GAC Glee Club welcomes anyone who loves to sing! We practice from 6:30 to 7:30PM on Wednesdays. For Info: [maryellen.lyons@outlook.com](mailto:maryellen.lyons@outlook.com).

### HOUSE COMMITTEE

House Committee Ilona Paxton 203-372-1280

### IRISH INSTRUMENT SESSIONS

Join us Mondays, 8 pm

### IRISH LANGUAGE

#### *Foghlaim Saeilge*

Beginner Classes Thursdays 6:30-7:30 PM, for information: Kate at [KThopsey@fairfield.edu](mailto:KThopsey@fairfield.edu). Conversational group after class. To learn just "Cúpla Focal" (a Couple of Words) grab one of the three business 'like' cards off the club hallway table.

Coming Events: Interested in the post beginners class to start in summer or fall (suitable for those who have some Irish are wish to refresh) contact [DesNolan@OptOnline.Net](mailto:DesNolan@OptOnline.Net).

Or if you're a teen and interested in performing in a mixed media (musical instruments, dance, and song) pop number set in the Irish Language. No previous Irish required.

### IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The next meeting is Monday, April 18th at 7:30. We will discuss Anne Enright's *The Green Road*. The New York Times calls it "An impressive novel that bounces it reader through some fairly rocky terrain, as it charts the fortunes and misfortunes (mostly the latter) of the Madigan family over a period of roughly quarter of a century." Come join us! If you have any questions, please contact Clare Burnett at 203-255-3848 or [ClareBurnett@optonline.net](mailto:ClareBurnett@optonline.net)

### LIBRARY

The library accepts donations of books by Irish authors, books about Ireland and books about the Irish people at home and abroad. Volunteers are needed to reshel books and keep the library in order. Contact [maryellen.lyons@outlook.com](mailto:maryellen.lyons@outlook.com).

### LOST/BROKEN SCRIP CARDS

Individual Members: Send the broken card to us and we will send back a new, working card.

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

### SCÉALA

The April issue deadline is April 8th. Please submit news via email to [feismum13@gmail.com](mailto:feismum13@gmail.com) or to the Newsletter mailbox

### SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, April 28th at 12 noon. Call for reservations by Sunday, April 24th. Cost for lunch \$7 for members and \$9 for non-members. Ann Hague 203-374-5198; Shirley McMenemy 203-268-5083; Sally Savage 203-366-4826.

### SET DANCING

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

### CHILDREN'S CHORUS

The Children's Chorus rehearses every Wednesday From 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Join the fun and sing with us!

### 'SONGS AND A STORY'

"Music and a Story"- April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11AM in the Library.

## NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD SYSTEM

Great News! The club will change to a new "Single Membership Card" system on April 1st. Each member will receive only one card that will be used for Door Access AND for Scrip Bar & Food purchases.

New cards are being mailed so. Please look out for them and make sure they are not thrown out by mistake!

Your old WHITE door card and your GREEN scrip card will no longer work after April 1 and should be discarded.



## 100TH ANNIVERSARY EASTER RISING COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS

### "WE WILL REMEMBER"

A singing tribute to The 1916 Rising presented by the GAC Glee Club and the GAC Children's Chorus Sunday, April 17th in the Carolan Room! Doors open at 5PM for those having dinner, program at 6:30PM.

### SUNDAY APRIL 24TH @ 2PM

A Memorial Mass will be held at 2 PM on April 24th at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1719 Post Road, Fairfield. Mass will be celebrated by Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport and assisted by Victor Martin, Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

### THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY EASTER RISING COMMITTEE UNVEIL 1916 EASTER RISING MONUMENT

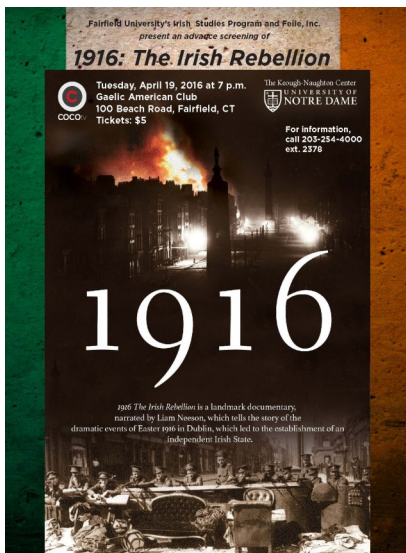


The ceremony takes place immediately following mass, at the Gaelic American Club, with guest speaker and historian, Martin Galvin. Reception immediately following the unveiling at the GAC. Entertainment and light fare will be

available at the GAC. For info contact 203-644-9073 or poc6575@optimum.net

### 1916 THE IRISH REBELLION APRIL 19 @7PM

Fairfield University Irish Studies Program and Feile, Inc. presents an advanced screening of "1916 The Irish Rebellion", a landmark documentary, narrated by Liam Neeson, which tells the story of the dramatic events of Easter 1916 in Dublin, which led to the establishment of an independent state. Tickets \$5.



### 100TH ANNIVERSARY EASTER RISING COMMITTEE

The final in a series of seven bios of the Seven Signatories of the Proclamation. All previous bios can be found by visiting [www.gaconline.org/easter-rising/](http://www.gaconline.org/easter-rising/)

**Patrick Henry Pearse (Pádraig Anraí Mac Piarais)** was born in Dublin on November 10, 1879. He developed a passion for the Irish language and tradition at a very young age and earned a degree in Arts and Law. He joined the Gaelic League in 1895 and founded St. Enda's School, a bilingual secondary school for boys, in 1908. Pearse was a published poet, playwright and political



essayist. His fervent commitment to the preservation of Ireland's culture and identity eventually turned political and he joined the Irish Volunteers and Irish Republican Brotherhood. Pearse's speech given at the 1915 funeral of republican Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa inspired many to join the independence movement. His powerful way with words influenced the writing of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic which declared Ireland's independence from the United Kingdom. Serving as President of the Provisional Government, Pearse read the Proclamation outside Dublin's GPO at 12:30 on Easter Monday, April 24, 1916. The first shots were fired less than an hour later. After 6 days of destruction and bloodshed, he signed the unconditional surrender document which was delivered to all outposts. Pearse was the first to be executed for his role in the Easter Rising. In his final letter to his mother, he wrote, "We have preserved Ireland's honour and our own. Our deeds of last week are the most splendid in Ireland's history." He was shot at Kilmainham Gaol on May 3, 1916 at the age of 36.

### EASTER RISING COMMEMORATION EXHIBIT

April 10-17, 2016 at Edgerton Center Gallery  
Sacred Heart University

The Easter Rising in Dublin in 1916 was an armed rebellion by Irish republicans to end British rule in Ireland and establish an independent Irish state. For the Irish people, it stands as one of the most important events in twentieth-century Irish history. Commemorating the centennial anniversary of the Easter Rising, the exhibit recounts the events of the Rising as they occurred day by day.

The exhibit consists of sixteen (6'x 3') panels that tell the story of the Easter Rising, including its historical context, the day-by-day events of Easter week and profiles of the sixteen executed rebellion leaders.

**IRELAND'S MAGDALENE LAUNDRIES - ACADEMIC ADVOCACY AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE", MAY 1,**

The Genealogy and Language Groups will host "Ireland's Magdalene Laundries - Academic Advocacy and Restorative Justice", on May 1, at 2-4 pm in the Carolan Room and is open to the General Public. The Magdalene Laundries were institutions for single mothers, 'wayward' women, and others forced to work for the nuns in wretched conditions.

The lecture, presented by James M. Smith, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of English and Irish Studies, Boston College. Dr. will focus on the redress efforts to Irish Human Rights Commission and the United Nations Committee Against Torture and ongoing issues of transitional justice for survivors.

Please register in advance. Tickets are \$5.00 (\$2.00 for Students with Student ID). Register on-line at: [marroyo@optonline.net](mailto:marroyo@optonline.net) , subject: "Irish History" and mail your check payable to "Feile, Inc." to: Mary Adams-Arroyo, 221 McGrath Court, Stratford, CT 06615. Please provide name, address, phone and email. For info call Mary at [\(203\) 377-2346](tel:2033772346).



**ST. PATRICK'S GAA CLUB  
NEWS & EVENTS**



**THE ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP IN GAELIC GAMES**

It's not too late to sign up for summer camp in Gaelic games (for children 6-15 years of age)! Camp runs from June 27 to July 1st with GAA certified coaches direct from Ireland. No experience needed and guaranteed to have fun learning, or improving skills. For more information, please see [www.stpatricksgfc.org](http://www.stpatricksgfc.org)

**ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:  
GAELIC FOOTBALL NEEDS YOU**

High school students interested in playing Gaelic Football during the Spring Championship are encouraged to contact St. Patrick's. Please join teammates from Ludlowe, Warde, Fairfield Prep, and Notre Dame in this "all Fairfield" Gaelic football team as they take on rivals from New York. Bring friends and your competitive spirit! For more information please see [www.stpatricksgfc.org](http://www.stpatricksgfc.org).



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Gaelic American Club  
74 Beach Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
[www.gaaconline.org](http://www.gaaconline.org)



# APRIL 2016 Aibreán

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 - 2:30 pm
Sunday	12 noon - 12 mid	5 pm - 9 pm	12 noon - 2:30 pm

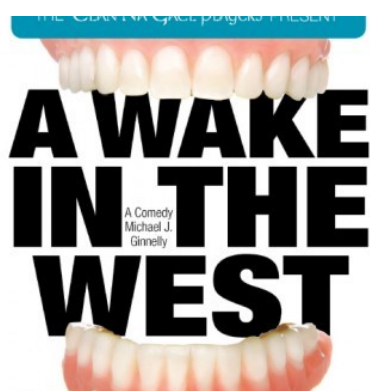
How To Reach us	
Office	(203) 254-0673
Fax	(203) 254-3012
Pub emergencies	(203) 254-2723
Membership	(203) 256-0380
Scrip	(203) 254-8502
Social	(203) 418-7676
Website	www.gaconline.org



Sunday DOMHNACH	Monday LUAN	Tuesday MÁIRT	Wednesday CÉADAÓIN	Thursday DEARAÓIN	Friday AOINE	Saturday SATHARN
				6:30pm Irish Language Class (All Levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	<b>1</b> Pub Dining Only 8pm Clan na Gael: "A Wake in the West" 🎵 Karaoke 9 pm in the Pub	<b>2</b> Pub Dining Only 8pm Clan na Gael: "A Wake in the West" 🎵 Highland Rovers 9 pm in the Pub
<b>3</b> Pub Dining Only 8pm Clan na Gael: "A Wake in the West"  6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	<b>4</b> 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	<b>5</b> 7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting  Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	<b>6</b> 5pm Children's Chorus 6:30pm Glee Club Movie: "The Wind That Shakes The Barley"	<b>7</b> 6:30pm Irish Language Class (All Levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	<b>8</b> Scéala deadline 8pm Membership Mtg  🎵 Mike McGovern 9 pm in the Pub	<b>9</b> 10:30 Genealogy Group Meeting 11-1pm Children's Party  🎵 Four of a Kind 9 pm in the Pub
<b>10</b> Pub Dining Only 4pm Brock McGuire Concert  6:30 GAC Bowling	<b>11</b> 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	<b>12</b> Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	<b>13</b> 5pm Children's Chorus 6:30pm Glee Club Movie: "Waking Ned Divine"	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 🎵 Roll Away 9 pm in the Pub	<b>16</b> 🎵 Across the Pond 9 pm in the Pub
<b>17</b> Pub Dining Only 6:30pm "We Will Remember" Presented by GAC Glee Club & Children's Chorus 6:30 GAC Bowling	<b>18</b> 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band 8pm Irish Instrument Session	<b>19</b> 7pm A landmark documentary "1916 The Irish Rebellion"  Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	<b>20</b> 5pm Children's Chorus 6:30pm Glee Club Movie: "The Guard"	<b>21</b> 6:30pm Irish Language Class (All Levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	<b>22</b> 🎵 Susan & Gerard 9 pm in the Pub	<b>23</b> 🎵 Clare Island 9 pm in the Pub
<b>24</b> Pub Dining Only Easter Rising Commemorate Event	<b>25</b> 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 7:30 Irish Literature Group 8pm Irish Instrument Session	<b>26</b> Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	<b>27</b> 5pm Children's Chorus 6:30pm Glee Club Movie: "Leap Year"	<b>28</b> 12pm Senior Lunch 6:30pm Irish Language Class (All Levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing 8pm Clan na Gael:	<b>29</b> 6-9pm Family Fun Night  🎵 Sharon & Pat Burke 9 pm in the Pub	<b>30</b> 🎵 McLean Avenue Band 9 pm in the Pub



## CLAN NA GAEL'S PRESENTS



Pay your respects to Tom Healy in this boisterous comedy set in a small fishing village in the West of Ireland during the 1970's. Our brilliant cast includes Steve Bennett, Eileen Fickes, Joyce Fox, Pat Garmella, Georgette Geotsi, Peter Haynes, Valerie Huegel, Trish LoGalbo, Veronica Mullally Munoz, Dan O'Callaghan, David Pirrie, Kathleen Spellman and Byrne White under the direction of Tracy James. Production dates are March 31<sup>st</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30. Tickets are \$15. For reservations [Cngplays@gmail.com](mailto:Cngplays@gmail.com) or call (203) 333-0422.

**TAKING THE SHOW ON THE ROAD**

The Clan na Gael Players have been invited to perform with The Shannonside Players in Clonlara, County Clare. With Feile's agreement and support we have accepted their invitation. They will be hosting us in their actors homes. Performances are Oct. 7, 8 & 9. We are also looking to perform other venues.

The Clan na Gael Players are planning several fundraisers and hope you will support our efforts. So mark your calendars and plan to attend:

**April 22, 7-11pm** Game of Tables ~ see weekly bulletin for updates

**Saturday May 14** A Medieval Banquet will fill the room with a royal family, wenchies, food, music, song, dance and merriment.

**Saturday Sept 17 ~** A suspenseful evening of mystery that will both intrigue and challenge our audience to figure out who-done-it.

**6TH ANNUAL ONE ACT PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST**

The Clan Na Gael Players are pleased to announce that the 6th Annual One Act Playwright Contest will commence March 15th and run thru August 15th 2016. This year, we ask that all entries be submitted by email. Please email [Naoneil@charter.net](mailto:Naoneil@charter.net) for the 2016 Contest Instructions and Official Submission Form. For info: Nancy O'Neil at (203) 377-1070.

**THE DONNELLY DASH ~ SUNDAY APRIL 10**  
**TOMLINSON MIDDLE SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD**

Join in the 3.5 Mile run / 1.8 Mile walk to remember the spirit, love and support that Tim & Kim Donnell gave to so many in Fairfield. Proceeds to benefit local organizations. A post race gathering at The GAC welcomes all participants (21 & over will receive 2 free beers soft drinks for under .) ALL participants will be eligible for a prize giveaway. For information : [www.clubct.org](http://www.clubct.org)

**J-I VISA PROGRAM**

For a number of years the J-I Visa Program has allowed full time foreign students, who, for lack of financial resources, could not otherwise afford to come to the United States, to come under a cultural exchange program. This program allows the students to come to the US, find a job in an approved industry and support themselves. Over the last 50 years, more than 150,000 Irish students, including 8,000 in 2014 have benefitted from this program. This cultural exchange benefits both the Irish community in Ireland as well as the Irish American community in the US by maintaining our cultural ties and common values.

The J-I Visa Program has changed for 2016 and for the first time the applicants for this exchange program must have a job offer before they can apply for participation in this cultural exchange program. This has created a significant problem since you cannot change 50 year old program without causing a great deal of administrative and logistical problems. This new requirement is expected to reduce the Irish student participation to 4,000, half of the number in 2014.

There is significant effort being put forth by the Irish government as well as the Irish Consulate to address this problem and hopefully modify the requirements. In the meantime, these efforts will not help for 2016 and a committee of GAC members is organizing an effort to identify potential employers and lodging for a number of these students. We are asking the members if (1) you could find a summer job for an Irish student and (2) you would be willing to put up a student for the summer. There are specific restrictions on the types of employment which are not appropriate, i.e. au pairs, life guards, construction.

If you believe you may have an employment opportunity and are interested in helping Irish students participate in this newly modified program, please contact me at [GaclrishVisaCommittee@gacemail.org](mailto:GaclrishVisaCommittee@gacemail.org).

Thank you,

Gerry Reidy ~ *J-I Visa Committee Chairman*