



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes  Feabhra February 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 the Club begins its new year in 2016, there are two concerns which should be addressed.

There is a saying - we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us - and that is certainly true for the GAC. Many of those Seniors who have gone before us, making the GAC what it is, are not as mobile, not driving anymore and are unable to enjoy the Club as they would like. WE need to know who they are, what their needs are and see how we can help.

The Gaelic American Club, a strong family club, needs to address the issue of providing for the children appropriate space within the building for them to enjoy the club. They are the future of the club.

A committee has been formed to evaluate the problem, determine the spatial and equipment needs and to present recommendations to the Executive Committee for their consideration, discussion and subsequent presentation to the membership.

~P.J. Carolan



Join us in the pub at 9pm

Friday	Feb 5	<i>Jolly Beggars</i>
Saturday	Feb 6	<i>Mike McGovern</i>
Friday	Feb 12	<i>Kurt & Helen Band</i>
Saturday	Feb 13	<i>The Irish Band</i>
Friday	Feb 19	<i>Roll Away</i>
Saturday	Feb 20	<i>The Coracles</i>
Friday	Feb 26	<i>Peter McKiernan</i>
Saturday	Feb 27	<i>The Murphy Beds</i>



**THE PUB IS OPEN FOR LUNCH SATURDAY & SUNDAY
FROM 12 NOON- 2:30 PM**

Events

TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, February 5, 8pm

IRISH LANGUAGE IMMERSION DAY

Saturday, February 6th, 10-4pm - Pg3

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE RISING

Sunday, February 7, 2pm - Pg3

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 7, 6pm

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday February 19, 8pm

SENIOR LUNCH

Thursday, February 25, 12noon

CLAN NA GAEL NEWS - 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

Will host an 8-Ball Tournament. 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 Fracassinni 203-333-6294.



FÁILTE COMMITTEE

St. Patrick's Day



Thursday, March 17th

We need people to work the FRONT DOOR on St. Patrick's Day. Two to three people for each shift. The shifts can be as short as 1 hour and will be no longer than two hours - starting at 10AM. Sign up alone or with a Club member/friend. This is a 'coveted assignment' so priority will be given to those who call in their requested times first! Call Bette Leary (203-767-0117) if you want to work the Front Door that day.

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

GENEALOGY GROUP

Genealogy Group will meet on Saturday, February 13th 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 welcomes anyone who loves to sing! We practice from 6:30PM to 7:30PM on Wednesdays. And we'll be participating in St. Patrick's Day and 1916 Anniversary celebrations! For more info contact maryellen.lyons@outlook.com or just come to rehearsal.

GOOD & WELFARE

A Mass Cards: were sent to Teresa McCormack whose husband Tim (Frank) McCormack lifetime member who passed away; and to Helen Erasmus for the death of her husband Edward. **A sympathy card** was sent to Nancy Day Nadeau for the death of her husband Al Erasmu.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Ilona Paxton 203-372-1280

IRISH INSTRUMENT SESSIONS

Join us Mondays, 8 pm

IRISH LANGUAGE

Foghlaim Saeilse

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

Our next meeting is Monday, February 29 at 7:30. We will be discussing Pete Hamill's A Drinking Life. The memoir is a thoughtful, funny street-smart reflection on Hamill's odyssey to sobriety. All are welcome! For info, call Clare Burnett: 203-255-3848.

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

The library accepts donations of books by Irish authors, books about Ireland and books about the Irish people at home and abroad. Volunteers needed to reshelv books. Con-

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting will be held Friday, February 19 @ 8 pm. Meetings are open to all Members. Minutes from the previous meeting are posted on the Bulletin Board.

SCÉALA

The March issue deadline is February 12th. Please submit news via email to feismum13@gmail.com or to the Newsletter mailbox

SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, February 25th at 12 noon. Call for reservations by Sunday, February 21st. 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.

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

The GAC Children's Chorus has started rehearsals for spring performances. The Chorus meets on Wednesdays from 5PM to 6PM in the Carolan Room. Come at 4:50 to sign-up, all school age children are welcomed.

'SONGS AND A STORY'

Our story and music hour is back on the first Saturday of February 6 at 11AM in the Library.

REMINDER ~

USE IT OR LOSE IT!

February 29th is the last day to use your script. March is a non-script month and cards will be

SUPPER BOWL PARTY

Super Bowl Sunday ~ February 7th. We'll be have complimentary fare served in the pub from Kick-off till half. Come on down cheer for your team and enjoy!

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE 1916 RISING



The Genealogy and Language Groups will host the 14th Lecture in a Series on Irish History on February 7, at 2:00 p.m. in the Carolan Room. The lecture will be presented by Oliver P. Rafferty, S.J.,

Professor of History and Director of Irish Studies Programs, Boston College. Fr. Rafferty will examine the attitude of the Catholic Church during the 1916 Rising, the controversial statement by Count George Plunkett that the Pope had blessed the rising, which would have been unlikely and have infringed on the Holy See's policy of "absolute impartiality". In the days after the Rising the rebellion was condemned by individual priests and bishops. The Vatican pressured the Irish hierarchy to try to instill in the insurgents respect for the governing power. These and other issues will be explored in the course of the lecture.

100TH ANNIVERSARY EASTER RISING CORMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS

SUNDAY MARCH 20TH

The 100th Anniversary Easter Rising Committee will sponsor a presentation given by educator and well known speaker Ted Lovely, on the connection between the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) and the Gaelic League with the 1916 Easter Rising on March 20th at 3pm. Event is free.

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 The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport and assisted by Reverend Victor Martin, Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

SUNDAY APRIL 24TH @ 4PM

The 100th Anniversary Easter Rising Committee will unveil 1916 Easter Rising Monument in a ceremony taking place on at 4 PM 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 more information call 203-644-9073 or poc6575@optimum.net.

For more information on these or on the 100th Anniversary Easter Rising Committee's Monument

100TH ANNIVERSARY EASTER RISING COMMITTEE

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



Joseph Plunkett (Seosamh Pluín-céid) was born into an affluent Dublin family on November 21, 1887. He was devoted to Irish culture, helping establish The Irish Theatre in Hardwick Street and serving as contributor turned editor of The Irish Review. Plunkett had a keen mind for military strategy and was largely responsible for the plan followed by the IRB

Military Council. His negotiations with Germany secured weapons for the insurrection but that shipment of arms was ultimately intercepted by the British on its way to Ireland. Battling tuberculosis for years, Plunkett underwent glandular surgery just days before the Rising. Nonetheless, he was present at the GPO Headquarters with a young Michael Collins serving as his right-hand man. On the night before his death, Plunkett was allowed to marry his fiancée Grace Gifford. The youngest signatory of the Proclamation, he was executed on May 4, 1916 at the age of 28 in Kilmainham Gaol.

IRISH LANGUAGE IMMERSION LEATH LÁ

The GAC Irish Language Group, with support from the Fulbright Commission in Dublin and underwritten by Feile, will host 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)



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE JOURNAL

The Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is now accepting advertisements for the 2016 parade journal. So submit your advertisement, tributes, remembrances of family members or congrats to our 2016 Grand Marshal Alanna Kabel by contacting Dave Howe for rates at davehowe173@gmail.com or 203-767-6519.

GAELIC FOOTBALL TRAINING (PLAYERS AGES 9-16)

St. Patrick's GAA Club will host training for new players and current members ages 9-16 on Saturday March 13 (9am-10am) and March 20 (Noon to 1pm) at Insports, 29 Trefoil Drive, Trumbull CT. If you've never experienced the fun & excitement of Gaelic games, please come down to meet coaches & team-

FIRST ANNUAL PASTA SAUCE COOK-OFF PRESENTED BY THE GREATER BRIDGEPORT SAINT PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Brennan's Sheeben at Smith - Richardson Golf Course's Club House. Sunday, February 28, 2016 @ 2:00pm. \$10 admission. Contestants bring Home-made Pasta-sauce (preferably in crockpots) for tasting & judging. Contestants should arrive @ 1:00pm to set-up (\$15 fee). Three prizes: \$100/\$75/\$50. Only fifteen (15) entries will be accepted. Interested? E-mail your name & cellphone # to: davehowe173@gmail.com ASAP.

SUMMER CAMP IN GAELIC GAMES

Although summer seems far away, it's not too early to plan summer camp! Children ages 6 to 15 are invited to an exciting week of Gaelic football, hurling, fun, and games from June 27-July 1. No experience needed and skills transfer to all sports! GAA certified coaches direct from Ireland. Camp runs daily from 9am to 3pm and cost includes lunch at Sacred Heart University dining. For more information, please see www.stpatricksgfc.org. Enrollment open until we reach capacity.



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Fairfield, CT 06824

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



FEBRUARY 2016 feabhra



Schedule	pub hours	Dinner	Lunch & Brunch
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 MÍLE FÁILTE



Sunday DOMHNACH	Monday LUAN	Tuesday MÁIRT	Wednesday CÉADAÓIN	Thursday DEARDAÓIN	Friday AOINE	Saturday SATHARN
31 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	1 St Brigid's Day 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band 8pm Irish Instrument Session	2 Groundhog's Day Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	3 5pm Children's Chorus 6:30pm Glee Club ♫ Informal Music 8 pm In the Pub	4 6:30pm Irish Language Class (All Levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	5 ♫ Jolly Beggars 9 pm in the Pub	6 ♫ Mike McGovern 9 pm in the Pub
7 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	8 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	9 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	10 5pm Children's Chorus 6:30pm Glee Club ♫ Informal Music 8 pm In the Pub	11 6:30pm Irish Language Class (All Levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	12 Scéala deadline ♫ Kurt & Helen Band 9 pm in the Pub	13 10:30 Genealogy Group Meeting ♫ The Irish Band 9 pm in the Pub
14  6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	15 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 8pm Irish Instrument Session	16 7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	17 5pm Children's Chorus 6:30pm Glee Club ♫ Informal Music 8 pm In the Pub	18 6:30pm Irish Language Class (All Levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	19 8 pm Membership Mtg (moved a week later) ♫ Roll Away 9 pm in the Pub	20 ♫ The Coracles 9 pm in the Pub
21 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	22 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band 8pm Irish Instrument Session	23 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	24 5pm Children's Chorus 6:30pm Glee Club ♫ Informal Music 8 pm In the Pub	25 12pm Senior Lunch 6:30pm Irish Language Class (All Levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	26 ♫ Peter McKiernan 9 pm in the Pub	27 ♫ The Murphy Beds 9 pm in the Pub
28 6:30 GAC Bowling League at Nutmeg Bowl	29 6:45 Gaelic Pipe Band at the church 7:30 Irish Literature Group 8pm Irish Instrument Session	1 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children 8pm Adult	2 5pm Children's Chorus 6:30pm Glee Club ♫ Informal Music 8 pm In the Pub	3 6:30pm Irish Language Class (All Levels) 7:30pm 25 Card Game 7:30pm Set Dancing	4 ♫ Music 9 pm in the Pub	5 ♫ Music 9 pm in the Pub

CLAN NA GAEL PLAYERS NEWS

AUDITIONS FEB 6 & 7

Auditions for the Spring Play, a comedy, under the direction of Tracy James, will take place Feb. 6 & 7 from 1:00-3:00 at the GAC. Production dates: March 31-April 3. The Spring play is A Wake In The West. For information trayjay@charter.net

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 into other venues where we can perform while we are there.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

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

"A Festival of Irish County Tables." March 6th
We are actively looking for hosts to show pride in their county by decorating a table. Watch for more information on this special event at the club!

Saturday, May 14 ~ A suspenseful evening of mystery that will both intrigue and challenge our audience to figure out who-done-it.

Saturday Sept.17 A Medieval Banquet will fill the room with a royal family, wenches, food, music, song, dance and merriment.

SIXTH ANNUAL PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST

Our Sixth Annual Playwright Contest will run from March 1 to July 31 followed by a reading of the three winning plays in the fall.

BERTUCCI'S FUNDRAISER

Dine in or take-out all day on Feb. 18, 2016 at the Bertucci's in Shelton to benefit the Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade! A portion of all proceeds will go directly to the parade fund! Contact Marilyn Mitchell 203-261-4767 for further information. 768 Bridgeport Ave. Shelton, CT 06484 Phone: 1-203-926-6058 www.Bertuccis.com

THE GREENWICH HIBERNIAN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Saturday 5th March 2016 @ 7pm in The Red Men Hall, 17 East Elm Street, Greenwich. Tickets \$35 call Haydn O' Shea 203-661-2963. Our 42nd. Annual St. Patrick's Parade will be held on 20th March 2016 at 2 pm from the Greenwich Town Hall and we are looking for Pipe bands or groups interested in marching. For info www.greenwichhibernians.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.

Thank you,

Gerry Reidy

J-1 Visa Committee Chairman

FREE FEAST OF GAELIC CULTURE

AT MOLLOY COLLEGE –SATURDAY FEB 6, 2016

Come join Molloy College's Irish Studies Institute in celebrating the ancient Festival of St. Brigid on Saturday, February 6 from 10AM to 3PM in the Reception Room on the main floor of Kellenberg Hall in the middle of Molloy's Rockville Centre campus. Irish Gaelic classes will start the following Saturday. For info: www.molloy-irish-language.com or contact Cathy Muscente at cmuscente@molloy.edu or phone 516-323-4710. Everyone is invited