



# SCÉALA

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



CÉAD míle fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Meán fómhair | September 2019

## IRISH HISTORY LECTURE - OCTOBER 27th @ 2PM "Irish Need Not Apply. Retracing the Footsteps of Our Irish Ancestors" with Dr. Christine Kinealy



Presented by Dr. Kinealy who was educated at Trinity College Dublin. She is an author and authority on Irish History. She is the founding director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University. Dr. Kinealy is considered "one of the most influential Irish Americans" (Irish American Magazine, 2011).

The lecture will examine the push and pull factors that led people to leave Ireland and will explore the multiple challenges that they faced if they did emigrate. These challenges included death on route, or deportation upon arrival, and prejudice summed up in the adage, 'Irish Need Not Apply'.

Brief reference will also be made to the 1,490 people who, in Black '47, were sent from their homes in Roscommon to Canada; 600 did not survive the journey. In May 2019, a 100-mile commemorative walk, recreating their journey from Roscommon to Dublin, was carried out in their honor. Where appropriate, the presentation will be accompanied by a selection of emigration songs.

Tickets - \$5.00 (Students with ID \$2.00)

Send check payable to Feile, Inc. to: Mary Adams-Arroyo 221 McGrath Ct., Stratford, CT 06615 Email: [maroyo@optonline.net](mailto:maroyo@optonline.net) Subject: Irish History Lecture  
Phone: 203-377-2346

## SAVE SEPTEMBER 28TH FOR THE PAST PRESIDENTS PARTY FROM 6 - 11PM Mark your calendars!

This year's Past Presidents' Ball recognizing Jim Carolan for his services to the Club will be held on September 28th from 6 to 11. Hot hors d'oeuvres will be served during the cocktail hour from 6 to 7 followed by a gourmet menu prepared by O'Neill's of Norwalk.



## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 4:00 - 8:30 PM

Bernie's Orchestra & Bavarian Dancers  
Enjoy Thimble Island Brewing Co. Beer Tasting,  
Bountiful Buffet: Sauerbraten, Wienerschnitzel,  
Chicken, Brats, Brezen, Potato Pancakes, Salad,  
Strudel, Fun & Games, Spaten Bier, Cash Bar  
Tickets: E-mail [social@gaconline.org](mailto:social@gaconline.org) & make check payable to GAC and drop off to Social mailbox or mail to GAC, Attn: Oktoberfest.  
Adults \$24, Children U12 \$12. Tickets also on sale the club: Friday, Sept 6th, 6 - 8 pm.  
Everyone who purchases a ticket by Sept 6 will be entered in a raffle prize drawing,

## Join us in the pub at 9pm

Friday	Sept 6	Ken McBride
Saturday	Sept 7	Mike McGovern
Friday	Sept 13	Sharon and her Band
Saturday	Sept 14	TBA
Friday	Sept 20	Karaoke
Saturday	Sept 21	Kurt & Helen
Friday	Sept 27	TR Dallas
Saturday	Sept 28	Four of a Kind



## September Events

TRAD MUSIC SESSION - WEDNESDAY, SEPT 4TH, 7PM  
TRIVIA NIGHT - FRIDAY SEPT 6TH @ 8PM  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FRIDAY, SEPT 13TH, 8PM  
FRÉAMH ÉIREANN GENEALOGY - SAT, SEPT 14 @ 10:30PM  
SENIOR LUNCH - THURS SEPT 26TH @ 12 NOON  
FAMILY FUN NIGHT - FRIDAY, SEPT 27TH, 6-9PM  
CLAN NA GAEL NEWS -FULL LIST OF EVENTS, PG. 4

Dear Fellow Members,

*In case you haven't noticed the windows in the Carolan Room and the pub have all been replaced. New picnic tables and umbrellas have been placed in the side yard. The umbrellas are different than the previous ones in that they are much larger, affording greater protection from the sun. Additionally they have solar panels which power lights underneath when it grows dark. A new fence has been installed and outdoor game sets and goals are on order. We have acquired a number of ice bags which are designed to hold and chill wine so that you can now enjoy a bottle of white or rose' outside with your friends and family. Additionally, we are acquiring beer pitchers so that one doesn't have to make as many trips to the bar for a pint as in the past. The roof over the Carolan Room is scheduled to be replaced in the fall. As the work involves temporarily removing air conditioning units on the roof, we decided not to undertake the work during the summer months when air conditioning would be needed.*

*We had a number of very successful events. We screened the All Ireland Hurling Finals live, this past Sunday. It was followed by a traditional Irish breakfast that lasted me all day. It was a fun and exciting time for the large group that attended.*

*The 50th Anniversary of Woodstock Party this past Saturday was a blast with over 200 folks in attendance. Unlike the earlier event however, there were no sleepovers and everyone left with the person they came with.*

*Monday night football is scheduled to start up before long. If you have not gone in the past, Jay Dunn, Pat O'Connell and their crew, barbecue up a great selection of hamburgers, hot dogs and Italian sausages with appropriate condiments and side dishes. The prices are so low, you can't afford to eat at home. I don't know how they do it. They even managed to make a \$1,000.00 donation towards the cost of the new fence. Thank you to all the crew.*

*I have bit of bittersweet news to report. Joe Vaccaella, a long time member and owner of the Barber of Seville on Main Street will close up shop this month after 70 years in the same location to make way for the renovation of the Fairfield theatre. Given a choice, I would go for Joe staying but no one asked me and the powers that be don't care I have to find another barber. Not an easy task. The good news is that Joe, a stalwart at the Monday Night Football will be able to spend more time on the golf course.*

*In closing I want to let you know that the Past President's Ball will be held on September 28th. Although more details will be going out, this is the one chance we get to say thank you to all those folks who gave of their time to make the Club what it is today and to preserve its traditions while doing so. This year we will recognize Jim Carolan and I hope to see you all there. ~ Slainte ~ Gerry Reidy*

## DANCING WITH THE GAC STARS X

~ Announcing The 2019 GAC Stars ~

**John Begley, Nancy Day, Kelly Maffei, John Moran, Kathy Niznansky, Roberta (Bert) Reynolds and Lorraine Stopa.**



Our 10th annual charity fundraiser dance spectacular will be held Saturday, October 12 at 7 pm, stepping-off with a very special performance!

Tickets go on sale Friday, Sept 6th, 6 - 8 pm at the GAC and may also be purchased by dropping off or mailing check payable to GAC, attn Social; \$22 pp. Please include your contact info and address. Tickets sell out quickly!

## DAY OF IRISH LANGUAGE

**OCT 5TH FROM 8:30AM - 5:30PM**

The Gaelic- American Club Language Group cordially invites members and others interested in learning Irish language and culture to attend

### LA' GAEILGE- LANGUAGE DAY.

This event will be held at the club on Saturday, Oct. 5th from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Experienced teachers will offer classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced levels, and there will be a lecture presentation, workshops and group activities.

The cost of the day is \$50:

or pay \$40 if registered by Sept.20th.

Full-time students with ID can register for \$25.

The cost is an all-inclusive bargain, which includes continental breakfast, wonderful club lunch, door prizes and course materials,

There will also be the Daltai na Gaeilge Irish bookshop, and a pop-up store from Ogham Arts.

This day continues the language groups offering of an enjoyable, productive learning and sharing of the language. Leading the advanced class will be Fulbright scholar, Yvonne de Faite, from Elms College.

Guaranteed CRAIC go leor!!

Registration forms and information are available in the club lobby. OR contact Roibin Griskus- rdgriskus@aol.com- Cait Thopsey- kthopsey01@gmail.com- or MaryEllen Vollmans-meov@optonline.





## BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

Place your professional listing in the GAC Business Directory Trades List at [www.gaconline.org](http://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](mailto:betteleary@gmail.com).

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Family Fun Night is Friday Sept 27th 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](http://fairfieldgaelicpipeband.org).

## GOOD & WELFARE

A mass card was sent to the family of Corinne Batchelor.

A sympathy card was sent to Ed Hagerty on the death of his sister, Eileen Hagerty-Keus.

Get well wishes to Kevin Leary and Tom Murphy who is recovering from heart surgery.

Notify Noreen Reda of all member news at [npreda4@gmail.com](mailto:npreda4@gmail.com).

## GENEALOGY GROUP

### FRÉAMB ÉIREANN

Genealogy Group meets Sept 14th at 10:30 am For info Donna Orazio: [donnaorazio@gmail.com](mailto:donnaorazio@gmail.com).

# club ACTIVITIES

## HOUSE COMMITTEE

Ilona Paxton, House Chairperson  
203-372-1280

## IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

### Monday Evenings:

Irish Reading Class 7:00 PM, contact [JMinehan@gmail.com](mailto:JMinehan@gmail.com).

### Thursday Evenings @ 6:45PM

An informal combined class of beginners and more experienced folks. The class is very informal. We use two books, Gaeilge Gan Stró Beginners' level (*the green one*) and Progress in Irish. There are spare copies of both if you want to try a couple of classes before committing.

## 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.

Please SIGN OUT BOOKS. NO food or drink is allowed in library. For more Info: [library@gacemail.org](mailto:library@gacemail.org).

## LITERATURE GROUP

The Group meets again on Monday, September 23rd at 7:30 to discuss Edna O'Brien's *The Lonely Girl*, part of *The Country Girls Trilogy* & Epilogue. For more info Contact [ClareBurnett@optonline.net](mailto:ClareBurnett@optonline.net).

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting is Friday Sept 13th @ 8pm. All members welcome!

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

The white membership card with your name and a 5 digit number is used for both entering the club and scrip DO NOT DISCARD AFTER USING UP YOUR SCRIP. \$10 replacement fee for lost card. You can mail or drop off payment with your info to the Attn: Membership. To check Scrip balance, log into [gac.campuscardcenter.com/ch/login.html](http://gac.campuscardcenter.com/ch/login.html). For more information contact [membership@gacemail.org](mailto:membership@gacemail.org)

## SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, Sept 26th reservations by Sunday, Sept 22th, Lunch is \$7 for members. \$9 for non-members. Ann Hague 203-374-5198; Shirley McMenamy 203-268-5083; Sally Savage 203-366-4826.

## SET DANCING

Lace up your dance shoes because Set Dancing starts up on Sept 12 and every Thursday at 7:30pm. Contact Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We enjoyed seeing everyone at the Moon Landing blast and sharing 1 night of peace and music at the Woodstock party.

## UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

- **The Past Presidents Party** has been rescheduled for Saturday Sept. 28th @ 6pm.
- Come celebrate the harvest at **GAC's Oktoberfest** on September 21 with food & brew, song & dance, fun & games!

For info on upcoming events contact us at [social@gacemail.org](mailto:social@gacemail.org).

## IRISH MELODIES RADIO PROGRAM



Due to repairs on the roof of Canisius Hall at Fairfield University (the location of the WVOF's radio station transmitter), the Irish Melodies Program had been on break and hope to return soon with a new cast of DJ's!

Peggy O'Connor, Noel McGovern and Breda O'Sullivan each has been hosting a Sunday program 12 noon to 2:00 PM for approximately 30 years. In fact, Noel can add another 20 years doing similar stint in Greenwich CT before coming to WVOF 88.5 on your FM dial. Congratulations on this 50-year accomplishment.

And now Peggy, Noel and Breda will hand over the mic and headphones! Mary Ellen Lyons our newest recruit has agreed to carry on the tradition! If there's any one among you who would like to join Mary Ellen approximately one Sunday a month do you send a note to [peggyanded@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peggyanded@sbcglobal.net). You'll receive the necessary training and encouragement as you begin another career while enjoying Irish music.

## MILFORD IRISH FESTIVAL

14th Annual Milford Irish Festival Friday, September 13th (6pm to 11pm) and Saturday, September 14th (11am to 11pm). The festival will have Irish music, dancing, culture, Gaelic football, food, drink, and a variety of quality Irish wares for sale. Located at Fowler Field Pavilion, behind the Milford Public Library, 57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT. Admission fee \$5 Friday & \$10 Saturday, 13 years & older. Please check our website, [www.milfordirish.org](http://www.milfordirish.org) for details. NO Pets Allowed!! All Children's activities are FREE. Free Shuttle bus service will be available to & from the Parsons Center, Additional Free Shuttle from the Milford Train Station.

## HALFWAY TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION SUNDAY SEPT 15 FROM 4-7PM @ THE GAC



Join in all the fun at The Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Celebration and introduction of Mary Ann Doonan as the 2020 Parade Grand Marshal. \$25 per person at the door. Appetizers, Cash Bar and Music by Keltic Kick. For advanced

reservations contact Carol Collins by email at [murrcollins964@aol.com](mailto:murrcollins964@aol.com) Or Peg Crossin at [pcross18@yahoo.com](mailto:pcross18@yahoo.com)



## CLAN NA GAEL NEWS

**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 & 4 females ages ranging from mid 30's - 70's. Performances are Nov. 21-24. Come Join Us—No Experience Necessary!

**Readers Theatre: The Skull of Connamara** on Saturday October 19 and Sunday October 20 we will be presenting a staged Reading of by Martin McDonagh, directed by Peg O'Leary and read by Mat Apgar, John Moran, Breda O'Sullivan, and Byrne White. Just in time for the Halloween season!



## THE 9TH ONE ACT PLAYWRITING CONTEST

The Clan Na Gael Players are pleased to announce that the 9th, One Act Playwriting Contest will commence On October 15, 2019. This year monetary prizes will be awarded. Full contest details will appear in the October newsletter. Stay tuned. . .

## IRELAND'S GREAT HUNGER MUSEUM NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Ireland's Great Hunger Museum in Hamden is facing a crisis. Quinnipiac University has decided that the museum must become financially independent by 2020 or it will close. You can all help by becoming dues paying members of the museum. There are eight levels of membership starting at \$35.





# September


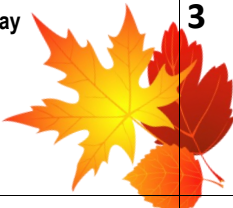

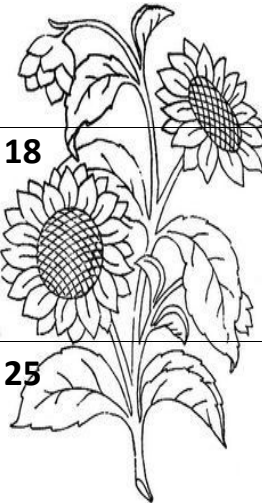

## Meán Fómhair

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 - 2:30pm
Sunday	12 noon - 12 mid	12 pm - 8 pm	12 noon - 8:00pm

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

CÉAO MILE  
FÁILTE



Sunday Domhnach	Monday Luan	Tuesday Máirt	Wednesday Céadaoin	Thursday Deardaoin	Friday Aoine	Saturday Satharn
1 	2 Labor Day 	3	4 Trad Music Session - 7pm	5 Irish Language Class - 6:45 25 Card Game - 7:30pm	6 Trivia Night - 8pm  Ken McBride 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm	7  Mike McGovern 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm
8 	9 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm (at the church)  Irish Reading Class 7pm Irish Instrument Session - 8pm	10 Executive Committee Meeting 7:30pm  DWTS Rehearsal - 8pm  Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult (on summer break)	11 	12 Irish Language Class - 6:45 25 Card Game - 7:30pm Set Dancing - 7:30pm DWTS Rehearsal - 8pm	13 Membership Meeting 8pm Sceala Submissions Due  Sharon & Her Band 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm	14 Fréamh Éireann Genealogy Group -10:30am  TBA 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm
15  Halfway to St. Patrick's Day 4-7pm	16 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm (at the church)  Irish Reading Class 7pm  Irish Instrument Session - 8pm	17 DWTS Rehearsal - 8pm  Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult (on summer break)	18	19 Irish Language Class - 6:45 25 Card Game - 7:30pm Set Dancing - 7:30pm DWTS Rehearsal - 8pm	20  Karaoke 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm	21  Oktoberfest 4-8:30pm  Kurt & Helen 🎵 9In the Pub at 9pm
22	23 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm (at the church)  Irish Reading Class 7pm Irish Literature Group - 7:30pm Irish Instrument Session - 8pm	24 DWTS Rehearsal - 8pm  Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult (on summer break)	25	26 Senior Lunch 12Noon Irish Language Class - 6:45 25 Card Game - 7:30pm Set Dancing - 7:30pm DWTS Rehearsal - 8pm	27 Family Fun Night 6-9pm  TR Dallas 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm	28 CnG Auditions 1-3:30pm Past Presidents Party 6pm  Four of a Kind 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm
29  CnG Auditions 1-3:30pm	30 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm (at the church)  Irish Reading Class 7pm Instrument Session - 8pm	1 DWTS Rehearsal - 8pm  Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult (on summer break)	2 	3 Irish Language Class - 6:45 25 Card Game - 7:30pm Set Dancing - 7:30pm DWTS Rehearsal - 8pm	4  TBA 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm	5  TBA 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm