



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD míle fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Deireadh fómhair | October 2019

DAY OF IRISH LANGUAGE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 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.

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 & information are available in the club lobby, or email Roibin at rdgriskus@aol.com; Cait at kthopsey01@gmail.com; or MaryEllen Vollmans at meov@optonline.

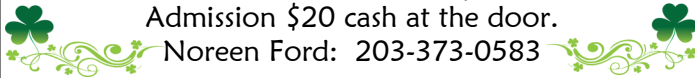
CEILI - SUNDAY OCT 6TH 5:30 - 8:30

MUSIC BY CEOL AGUS CRAIC

Spread the word and invite family and friends. Our last Ceili was a huge success, and we expect this one to just as much fun. Please bring a little something yummy to have with a cup of tea.

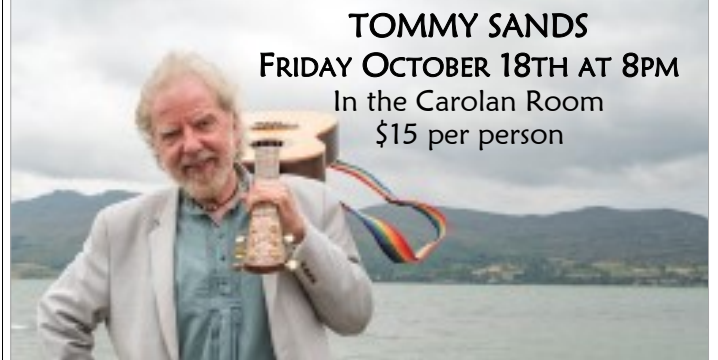
Admission \$20 cash at the door.

Noreen Ford: 203-373-0583



Join us in the pub at 9pm

Friday	Oct 4	TR Dallas
Saturday	Oct 5	Keltic Kick
Friday	Oct 11	Allen Gogarty
Saturday	Oct 12	Mostly Green
Friday	Oct 18	Tommy Sands
Saturday	Oct 19	Six2Go
Friday	Oct 25	Finn Magill & Dave Curley
Saturday	Oct 26	TBA



TOMMY SANDS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18TH AT 8PM

In the Carolan Room

\$15 per person

Tommy Sands has achieved something akin to legendary status in his own lifetime. From his pioneering days with the highly influential Sands Family - bringing Irish music from New York's Carnegie Hall to Moscow's Olympic Stadium - he has developed into one of the most powerful songwriters and enchanting solo performers in Ireland today.

His songs, like "There Were Roses," "The Music of Healing," and "Daughters and Sons," have been recorded by Joan Baez, Kathy Mattea, Moloney, O'Connell & Keane, Dolores Keane, Tommy Makem, The Dubliners, and many others.

Friday October 18th @ 8PM - \$15 per person

KIDS HALLOWEEN PARTY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26TH FROM 11-1PM

Wear your Halloween costumes and enjoy games, crafts and fun! We could use some volunteers to help with this event so please contact: Kelly at kellyanntakacs@yahoo.com



October Events

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - BACK OF CALENDAR

CLUB ACTIVITIES PAGE - PAGE 3

TRAD MUSIC SESSION - WEDNESDAY, OCT 2ND, 7PM

TRIVIA NIGHT - FRIDAY OCT 4TH @ 8PM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FRIDAY, OCT 11TH, 8PM

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN GENEALOGY - SAT, OCT 12TH @ 10:30PM

FAMILY FUN NIGHT - FRIDAY, OCT 25TH, 6-9PM

SENIOR LUNCH - THURS OCT 31ST @ 12 NOON

CLAN NA GAEL NEWS - FULL LIST OF EVENTS, PG. 4



SATURDAY OCTOBER 12TH AT 7PM

Join us for this spectacular charity event featuring a special performance as well as the GAC Stars!

Get your Tickets Now as they are selling fast!

Tickets are \$22

Doors open at 6PM



Kathy Niznansky
Smilow Cancer Care Center



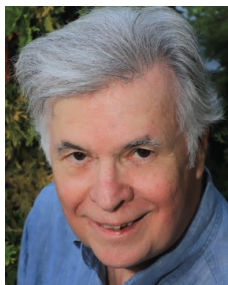
John Moran
The Great Irish Hunger Museum



Nancy Day
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society



Lorraine Stopa
Swim Across the Sound



John Begley
The CT Food Bank



Roberta Reynolds
PAWS of Norwalk



Kelly Maffei
Woofgang & Co.

IRISH HISTORY LECTURE

"Irish Need Not Apply. Retracing the Footsteps of Our Irish Ancestors" with Dr. Christine Kinealy
Sunday, October 27, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.



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'.

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: marroyo@optonline.net.
Subject: Irish History Lecture
Phone: 203-377-2346

A THOUSAND THANKS!

What a ride!!! The "40 Shades of Green Tour" production at the 2019 Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland was a huge success, thanks to all who helped get us there! We started our first week to a sold out show and full houses every day.

To quote one of our audience members George Hill of London "What a hilarious ensemble! This talented, playful group from Connecticut encapsulate the spirit of the fringe, putting on a very clever comedy set in the green pastures of rural Ireland." Our audience truly enjoyed our production and let us know every chance they could.

We were also lucky enough to be there for the Fringe's 50th year of this amazing festival. What a mesmerizing experience! Not only were we honored enough to perform, we were able to see some amazing theater, street performers, musicians, comedians and dance. We also met so many interesting & talented people that we now call family and have been asked "when are we coming back?"

We really can't thank everyone enough for their generosity and support in helping us achieve this dream of a life time. Please be on the lookout for a special event given in your honor to thank all who supported us. Date and time TBA. Again, a huge thank you to the GAC & Feile for their continued support!

Slàinte ~ Tracy James and Company

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 Oct 25th 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 Richard Gagnon on the death of his mother, Mary Jane Gagnon.

Sympathy cards were sent to Jeff Walsh on the death of his father; to Daniel Barrett on the death of his father Vincent and Richard Barrett on the death of his brother.

Get well wishes were sent to Noreen Forde recovering from surgery.

Congratulations to Matthew and Jilian Plomin on the birth of their seventh child, Theodore Lawrence.

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

A special thank you to the GAC for the use of the Carolan Room for Half Way to St Patrick's Day celebration, a big thank you to the Club Manager Tom Flaherty, The GAC Custodian Mike and of course Ilona Paxton for making sure the room looked perfect.

~ Mary Ann Doonan.

Club ACTIVITIES

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMB ÉIREANN

Genealogy Group meets Oct 12th at 10:30 am For info Donna Orazio: donnaorazio@gmail.com.

IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

Monday Evenings:

Irish Reading Class 7:00 PM, contact 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 and Progress in Irish.

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.

LITERATURE GROUP

The Group meets Monday, Oct 21st at 7:30 to discuss *When All Is Said* by Anne Griffin. The impressively, confident debut novel revolves around five monologues from an elderly man at a bar in Rainsford, County Meath who is looking back on his life. Info clareburnett@optonline.net

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Ilona Paxton, House Chairperson
203-372-1280

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting is Friday Oct 11th @ 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. For more information contact membership@gacemail.org

SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, Oct 31st reservations by Sunday, Oct 27th, 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 is back every Thursday at 7:30pm. Contact Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We enjoyed seeing everyone at The Oktoberfest and the Past Presidents Party. For information on upcoming events contact social@gacemail.org.

HANGING OF THE JERSEYS - SUNDAY NOV 10TH AT 4:30PM IN THE PUB

Let's here it for Tipperary Hurling and Dublin's All Ireland (5 in-a-row) Football Champs - history for the GAA!! And we'll Hang those Jerseys at about 7:45pm. This is always a fun event with music by Camac, Food, Fans and Great Craic! Contact: Noreen 203-373-0583.

ONE ACT PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST

The Clan Na Gael Players are please to Announce the 9th One Act Playwright Contest that will run from October 15, 2019 thru April 15, 2020. The purpose of the contest is to support and encourage emerging playwrights of all ages. Clan Na Gael's Playwright Contest is seeking original writings of not less than 15 mins and no longer than 30 mins, scripts are restricted to plays that have not been produced, published or won other contests. Membership in the GAC is not required to enter and the submitted script does not have to have an Irish theme.

For the first time, monetary prizes of \$200.00 for 1st place, \$100.00 for second place and \$50.00 for 3rd will be rewarded in addition to the winners receiving a Reading of their play at the GAC in 2020.

Scripts are to be submitted by email in word format and follow all 2019 Rules and Instructions. For Rules, Instructions and Submission forms, please send email to cngoneactplay@gmail.com. For questions contact Nancy O'Neil at (203) 377-1070.



DECEASED MEMBERS MASS SUNDAY NOVEMBERS 10TH AT 10AM

Mass will be celebrated in the Carolan Room with refreshments to follow. It is a beautiful way to remember our loved ones. Please join us.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

The GAC needs some wonderful, talented people that would like to give back to the club. So many of you love coming to the club and enjoy the fabulous events and activities why not consider becoming a member of the Executive Committee. It is an opportunity to get involved and understand what goes into making this such a special club.

Please contact anyone on the nominating committee if you have an interest in running for office. The positions are President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms and the 3 year Director's Position.

The Nomination Committee members are:

- Connie Beagan ~ 203-733-2002
- Ralph Burke ~ 203-583-9213
- Peggy O'Conner ~ tba
- Frank Byrne ~ Chair 203-258-2778
- Jude Fitzgerald ~ 203-521-6186

IT'S A GREAT WAY TO GIVE BACK TO OUR CLUB

IRELAND'S GREAT HUNGER MUSEUM

Support the Museum by becoming a member or donating - visit <https://www.ighm.org/support.html>.

CLAN NA GAEL NEWS

Clan na Gael's fall production of "Nobody's Talking To Me" by Tommy Marren and directed by Kelsey Guggenheim Dias, is a comedy about a couple on the brink of their 50th Anniversary who are not speaking and no one is to know. The performances take place from November 21st-24th. Ticket Sales Dates to be announced.

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



MR & MISS SHAMROCK SCHOLARSHIP

Application will be available soon for Mr. / Miss Shamrock Scholarship given by the Greater Bridgeport St Patrick's Day Celebration Committee. The winners receive \$3,000 and the runners-up receive \$1750! Student must be a high school senior, attending college and have some Irish heritage. The event is Saturday, Dec 14, 2019.

FREE CONCERT ~ ANDY COONEY IN THE CAROLAN ROOM ~ FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1ST ~ 8:30PM

Dubbed *An American Gift to Ireland's Heritage* by Jim Mahoney of *The New York Daily News*, Cooney has made his mark not only on the Irish/Irish-American front, but also within the world of country music. His outstanding voice and dynamic stage presence has always been a favorite among young and old everywhere.

