



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Nollaig | December 2019

~ GAC'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT ~ TRIO THE NEW IRISH TENORS



Friday December 13th at 8pm with special guest
The Darrah Carr Irish Dance Company

These acclaimed Irish singers, have graced stages internationally and together with Darrah Carr Dance Company they create an enchanting evening of entertainment for the Holiday Season.

Recent performances include NBC's "The Today Show,"



With appearances at Carnegie Hall and Disneyworld.

Tickets are \$25 Adults | \$5 Children

For Reservations email lizbyrnefeeey@hotmail.com

Make checks payable to The GAC

Seating Limited

CELTIC CHRISTMAS FAIR SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH FROM 9-3PM



Celtic Christmas Fair has a great selection of Irish vendors and unique crafters so you can do all your holiday shopping in one place. Bring the children & grandchildren to have their photo taken with Santa in front of the GAC's beautiful stone hearth. And don't forget the Lenihan School of Irish Dance will be serving lunch in the Pub. For info contact: Kelli Grady at email bkgrady@msn.com or Sue Shanahan at suz9ck@optimum.net.

KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday December 21st from 11-1PM Food available for \$5 and a visit from Santa!

For info contact Kelly phone (203) 913-6242 or kellyanntakacs@yahoo.com



Once again, the Giving Tree will be put up at the GAC on the night before Thanksgiving. We will be collecting presents for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission and Sister Theresa Tremblay's Nursery School children and their families. Please take a tag (or 2), buy the designated present, wrap it (with the original tree tag attached) and return the gifts to the GAC NO LATER December 14. Please don't take a tag unless you fully intend to buy a gift. Thank you to all who participate.

Join us in the pub

Sunday	Dec 1	Allen Gogarty 12-4pm
Friday	Dec 6	Outside Chance
Saturday	Dec 7	Mike O'Malley
Friday	Dec 13	The Irish Tenors & Darrah Carr Dance Company 8pm in the Carolan
Saturday	Dec 14	Mike McGovern
Friday	Dec 20	Karaoke
Saturday	Dec 21	Jolly Beggars
Friday	Dec 27	C-Sides
Saturday	Dec 28	Once Removed



December Events

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS - SUN, DEC 1ST 12-6PM
TRAD MUSIC SESSION - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 7PM
TRIVIA NIGHT - FRIDAY DECEMBER 6TH, 8PM
CAROLING & TREE LIGHTING - WED, DEC 11TH, 7PM (PG3)
EARLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FRIDAY, DEC 13TH, 7PM
FRÉAMH ÉIREANN GENEALOGY - SAT, DEC 14TH, 10:30PM
SENIOR LUNCH - THURS DEC 19TH, 12 NOON
FAMILY FUN NIGHT - FRIDAY, DEC 27TH, 6-9PM

GAC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2020

If you have a working email on file with us, you will receive notification on Jan 1 to renew your GAC membership for 2020. If you have no email or have requested paper billing, your invoice will arrive in the mail after December 28th.

Other important information regarding membership renewal:

- Please make sure your contact information, especially email and home address are current. You can log into your account to review your information: www.gaelicamericanclub.com.
- If you usually receive your renewal from the GAC by email and do not receive an email from us on January 1, please check your settings and spam folder.
- If you usually receive your renewal by mail and do not receive anything from us by January 6, please let us know. The best way to contact the membership office is via email at membership@gacemail.org.
- Do not discard your white door/scrip card. There is a \$10 replacement fee. Your 2020 scrip will be loaded onto that card on April 1, 2020.
- All 2019 scrip expires on 2/29/20.

Contact membership at membership@gacemail.org

Please note: The Gaelic American Club operates on a calendar year and depends on the prompt payment of membership dues. Membership renewal is payable on January 1 each year. We allow up to a 60-day grace period to pay.

All memberships must be renewed by February 29, 2020. Beginning March 1, there will be a \$100 reinstatement fee added to all renewals.

CHERISH THE LADIES ~ CELTIC CHRISTMAS Sunday, December 1st at 4pm | Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets: General admission: \$30* | Faculty and staff: \$25 | Students: \$10

*GAC members will receive \$5 off the general admission ticket price.

Visit the box office on campus to show proof of membership.

Visit www.sacredheart.edu/ctl2018 to purchase tickets online or call the Edgerton Center box office at 203-371-7908.

DANCING WITH THE GAC STARS

The stars were shining bright at the 10th annual Dancing with the GAC Stars fundraiser held on October 12th. Thank you to the Social Committee, Executive Committee, staff, sponsors, audience, and the creator of the dance spectacular, Franny Tartamella. Congratulations to all the dancers!



The GAC Stars danced brilliantly: John Moran, Kathy Niznansky, Nancy Day, Kelly Maffei, Bert Reynolds, Monika Barska and Henry Skopp of Fred Astaire Dance Studio Southport; and Lorraine Stopa.



A constellation of alumni Stars performed a sensational opening dance: Dennis O'Connor, Jude Baldwin, Kathleen Blackall, Alice Morgan, Teri Deal, Brad Baldwin, Jane Deyoe, Carl Massaro, Barbara Massaro, Pat "Musha" Maher, Brian Thomas, Cheri Dunn, Katie Dyer, Dana Verdon, Suzanne Moore, Faith Maciver and Jack Tartamella. Missing: Marie Stehle.

~ Photos by Susan Drew ~

INTRODUCTION TO GAELIC SPORTS FOR CHILDREN

St. Patrick's GAA Club will host its annual winter program "Introduction to Gaelic Sports for Children 5-8 Years Old" on Saturdays from 4-5pm at The Field House in Fairfield for 12 weeks beginning on Sat Jan 18, 2020. All training is non-contact and emphasizes fun, games, hand-eye coordination, and basic skills. To register, please visit: www.stpatricksgfc.org. Email questions to: training@stpatricksgaa.us

MR & MISS SHAMROCK SCHOLARSHIP

The Greater St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee will hold their annual Mr. and Miss Shamrock Scholarship Event on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019 (snow date Dec. 15) at The GAC from 4-9 pm.

Local high school seniors of Irish descent are welcome to apply. There is a \$4,000 scholarship for the winners, and \$2,000 for the runners up. Please visit www.stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com for the application.

Applications must be completed and sent to Colleen Murphy at: csm163@optonline.net by Dec. 9, 2019

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.

BUSINESS TRADES NETWORK

A monthly meeting is in the works for the newly formed GAC Business Trade Network. Any interested businesses listed in the GAC Directory should contact Faith Maciver at fmaciver@easct.com

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 in advance!

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 December 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.

Club ACTIVITIES

GOOD & WELFARE

Mass Cards were sent to the family of Arthur Corcoran; to the family of Mary Stablein; to the family of Rita Bradtmuller; and to Ann Murray on the death of her husband Michael.

Sympathy Cards were sent to Robert and Barbara Thomas on the death of their daughter Michele; to Esther Lawless on the death of her brother; and to Brad Baldwin on the death of his brother Scott.

Get well wishes to Pat Conley; and to Jim Mulligan.

We are deeply saddened to hear that our dear friend Donal Gleeson has passed away and send our sincerest condolences to his family.

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

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMB ÉIREANN

Genealogy Group meets Dec 14th 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 PM, contact JMinehan@gmail.com.

Thursday Evenings @ 6:45PM

An informal combined class of beginners and more experienced folks. 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.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting is Friday Dec 13th @ 7pm. All members welcome!

LITERATURE GROUP

The Group meets Monday, January 20 at 7:30 to discuss *Say Nothing* by Patrick Radden Keefe. A true story of murder and memory in Northern Ireland. The book deals with the troubles in Northern Ireland and is a detective story about an unsolved murder. It is also an examination of the cost of achieving peace. Critically acclaimed and highly recommended by all our members who have read it. Please bring a wrapped gently used book for our post-holiday book exchange. For more information contact clareburnett@optonline.net

SCEALA SUBMISSIONS

Submissions are due Dec 13th
Communications@gacemail.org

SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, Dec 19th reservations by Sunday, Dec 15th, 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

For information on upcoming events contact social@gacemail.org.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

Be a part of the oldest Irish Catholic men's organization in America.

Meetings are held at the GAC every 3rd Thursday of the month. The AOH is a fraternal group that mixes social functions and Christian charity on a regular basis. Join your fellow Irish Catholic brothers for good times and on-going charitable works, it's fun and rewarding.

For more info contact Division President Mark Ryan at 203 258-9846 or mark.ryan@sbcglobal.net.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING & TREE LIGHTING

Wednesday, December 11th at 7 pm

Haul out the holly, don your festive apparel & raise a cup o' cheer! Join us in the Pub as Lorry Scott and Mike Conley lead us with spirited song!

BLOOD DRIVE WEDNESDAY DEC 11TH 1:30-6:45PM

Give the gift of life by donating blood ~ the best pint ever served.

ST. PATRICK'S ANNUAL DINNER DANCE



Saturday December 7th at the GAC. St. Patrick's will honor Mike & Alison O'Connor as the Club's "Gaels of the Year" for their many years of hard work and dedication to promoting and sustaining youth Gaelic football & hurling in Fairfield County. In addition, St. Patrick's will recognize Sean Conway as the Club's 2019 Senior Gaelic Football Player of the Year.

The night begins at 6:30pm with traditional Irish Music by Damien & Sally Connolly followed by the ever-popular Pdraig Allen and his McLean Avenue band. O'Neills Pub of South Norwalk will be serving a hearty Irish meal and there will be an Open Bar. Tickets are only \$100. (Discounted ticket price for senior citizens available.) Tickets may be purchased at the Club's website (www.stpatricksgfc.org).

Tables may be reserved and a commemorative journal will be published to celebrate the accomplishments of our Gaels & Player of the Year. All reservations and ads should be sent to: fundraising@stpatricksgaa.us.

CLAN NA GAEL NEWS

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 with monetary prizes. 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 then 15 mins and no longer then 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.

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.

Many Thanks for support of Readers Theatre

Thanks to all of the people who came to the launch of our new Readers Theatre. We appreciate your comments, and the lively Q&A following each performance. We have begun the process of choosing our next script. Thanks for suggestions!

2020 GAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS DECEMBER 1ST FROM 12-6PM

The following members are running for the positions of President: Gerry Reidy and Brian Filush; For Sergeant of Arms: Keira Filush, Anthony Hogan and Brian Smith. All bios of nominees are posted on GAC website www.gaconline.org



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Fairfield, CT 06824

Gaelic American Club
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Dear Fellow Members,

This is to bring you up to date on the various happenings at your Club.

We had a bit of excitement earlier this month when a drainage pipe split causing a major back-up. We had the roto-rooter guys in and they were able to clear the blockage. That still left the damaged pipe however. We explored a number of repair options including a new "balloon" technology. The technology similar to a stent, involved the use of a felt sleeve impregnated with a resin which when inserted into a pipe and inflated hardened forming a patch at the site of the break. Unfortunately, because of a bend in the pipe before the break which was 120 feet in, the technology could not be used. We then turned to Pat Maher for his expertise. He and his associate Pat O'Driscoll sliced out a very precise area of the tile floor, cut through the cement cap and dug down seven feet to reach the break. The repaired pipe is now better than new, the cement cap replaced and a new drain for easier future access has been installed.

Fortunately, we had no surprises with the financial condition of the Club and we experienced a milestone. As many of you will recall, we took out a \$1,400,000.00 mortgage to fund the 2009 expansion of the Club. By the end of October we had paid off \$1,000,000.00 of the mortgage and the balance now stands at \$393,341.56. We continue to pay down the loan at an accelerated rate. We have improved our cash position from this time last year by over \$100,000.00. In addition to budgeting for all anticipated maintenance, repairs and improvements for next year, we have funded a capital account to cover any emergencies such as the one we just experienced. You will be pleased to know that there are no increases in prices or dues in the budget for next year.

Turning to the cultural situation at the Club, I can report that we continue to have full houses at our events. The appearance of the Andy Cooney Band is a case in point. We introduced cabaret seating and served dinner in the Carolan room prior to the performance. Folks came in, had dinner and stayed for the evening.

On Sunday November 10th is another example of the diverse events we offer. We started off the day with a Mass at 10AM for our deceased members. It was quite moving as different members shared aloud the names of those members who had passed and we all remembered them. One could feel the living history of the Club.

That afternoon, the Irish Clubs of Fairfield Prep and Laureton Hall co-hosted their annual musical-charity fundraiser for Ireland's largest international aid organization, "Trocaire" which means "compassion" in Gaelic. The young men and women raised more than \$1,800.00 for this year's "Trad for Trocaire". Music was provided by the traditional Irish band Ceol Agus Craic. We were also treated to a traditional Irish music performance by the four children of Liz and John Feeney. What I found was particularly inspiring was that they were all taught to play their instruments by members of the Shamroques. That is called generational pay back. Members of the Lenihan School of Irish Dance also gave a fabulous performance.

Following the Trad, we had the annual Hanging of Jerseys presided over by Noreen Forde with music provided by Camac. The jerseys of the winners of last year's All Ireland Finals in Hurling and Irish Football were taken down and replaced. This year's winners were Tipperary for hurling and Dublin for Irish football.

Hurling is believed to have come to Ireland with the Celts and predates the arrival of Christianity. Watching the game you can well believe it. The rules were finally written down by the GAA in 1884 at the Hayes Hotel in Thurles, Tipperary. The first All-Ireland Hurling final was played in 1891 with Kerry beating Wexford. The first All-Ireland Final in Irish Football was played in 1887 with Limerick showing off Louth.

We are planning a tree lighting and caroling event on December 11th at 7 PM. Weather permitting, we will start in the side yard. In addition to hot chocolates and hot apple cider for the kids, hot buttered rum will be featured by the bar. Speaking of the side yard, we plan to add a fire pit and a horseshoe pitch next spring.

As you know in keeping with the "G" in the GAC, we strive to preserve and pass on our Irish traditions. Having Irish born members adds a certain dimension to our efforts that can't be duplicated. Irish emigration is in decline however as is the percentage of our Irish born members. I keep in touch with the folks at the Irish Consulate and I have recently reached out to them on this issue.

Slainte

Gerry Reidy



Christmas Carols & Tree Lighting



Wednesday, December 11
7 pm in the Pub

* * * * *

Don your festive
apparel & raise
a cup o' cheer
as Lorry & Mike
lead us in song





20

New Year's Party

**December 31st
9 pm in the Pub**

Music by Mostly Green

**RSVP: Send e-mail to
social@gaconline.org**

20

December



Nollaig

Schedule

pub hours

Dinner

Lunch & Branch

Mon & Tues
Wed & Thurs
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

7 pm - 12 mid
5 pm - 12 mid
4 pm - 2 am
12 noon - 2 am
12 noon - 12 mid

5 pm - 9 pm
5 pm - 10 pm
5 pm - 10 pm
12 pm - 8 pm

12 noon - 2:30pm
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.gaonline.org

CÉAO MÍLE
FÁILTE



Sunday <i>Dombnach</i>	Monday <i>Luan</i>	Tuesday <i>Máirt</i>	Wednesday <i>Céadaoin</i>	Thursday <i>Deardaoin</i>	Friday <i>Aoine</i>	Saturday <i>Satharn</i>
1 Executive Committee Elections 12-6pm Allen Gogarty 🎵 12-4pm	2 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm (at the church) Irish Reading Class - 7pm Irish Instrument Session - 8pm	3 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	4 Trad Music Session - 7pm	5 Irish Language Class - 6:45 25 Card Game - 7:30pm Set Dancing - 7:30pm	6 Trivia Night 8pm Outside Chance 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm	7 Celtic Christmas Fair 9-3pm St. Patrick's Dinner 6:30pm Mike O'Malley 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm
8 Reminder Please Return Your Glasses to the Bar	9 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm (at the church) Irish Reading Class - 7pm Irish Instrument Session - 8pm	10 Executive Committee Meeting - 7:30pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	11 Blood Drive 1:30 - 6:45pm Christmas Caroling & Tree Lighting 7pm	12 Irish Language Class - 6:45 25 Card Game - 7:30pm Set Dancing - 7:30pm	13 Early Membership Meeting - 7pm Sceala Submissions Due THE NEW IRISH TENORS WITH DARRAH CARR DANCE COMPANY - 8PM	14 Fréamh Éireann Genealogy Group -10:30am Mr. & Miss Shamrock Scholarship Event 4-9pm Mike McGovern 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm
15 	16 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm (at the church) Irish Reading Class - 7pm Irish Instrument Session - 8pm	17 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	18 	19 Senior Lunch 12Noon Irish Language Class - 6:45 25 Card Game - 7:30pm Set Dancing - 7:30pm	20 Karaoke 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm	21 Kids Christmas Party 11-1pm Jolly Beggars 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm
22 Reminder Please Sign-In Guests	23 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm (at the church) Irish Reading Class 7pm Irish Instrument Session - 8pm	24 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	25 <i>Nollaig</i> <i>Shona</i> <i>Dhuit</i>	26 Irish Language Class - 6:45 25 Card Game - 7:30pm Set Dancing - 7:30pm	27 Family Fun Night 6-9pm C-Sides 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm	28 Once Removed 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm
29 	30 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm (at the church) Irish Reading Class - 7pm Irish Instrument Session - 8pm	31 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	1 	2 Irish Language Class - 6:45 25 Card Game - 7:30pm Set Dancing - 7:30pm	3 TBA 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm	4 TBA 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm