



# 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



feabhra | february 2020

## GAC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2020

If you have a working email on file with us, you received notification on January 1 to renew your GAC membership for 2020. If you have no email or have requested paper billing, your invoice was mailed in late December.

### Other important information regarding membership renewal:

- Please make sure your contact information, especially email and home address are current. You can log in to your account to review your information at any time. <https://www.gaelicamericanclub.com/>
- If you usually receive your renewal from the GAC by email and did not receive an email from us on January 1st, 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](mailto: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 February 29, 2020.

### You can contact membership committee via email at [membership@gacemail.org](mailto: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.

## SUPER BOWL LIV PARTY ~ SUNDAY, FEB 2, 6PM



buffalo wings & chicken tenders.

Put on your favorite gear and watch the game on the big screen, along with all the fun commercials! Complimentary appetizers. Kick-off is at 6:30 pm.

Can't join us on game day? Get it to go! Take-out orders available Super Sunday. On the menu is - Corky's chili, pulled pork, ribs,

## IRISH HISTORY LECTURE - SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> AT 2PM IN THE CAROLAN ROOM

### "Brexit and a United Ireland?"

We are pleased to welcome back Louise Blakeney Williams, Ph.D. Dr. Williams is a Professor of History at Central Connecticut State University. Her teaching interests include Imperialism focusing on the British Empire, Irish history, modern British and European history. Dr. Williams had previously taught at Lehman College, The City University of New York and New York University.

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](mailto:marroyo@optonline.net)

Subject: Irish History Lectures - Phone: 203-377-2346

## Join us in the pub at 9pm

Friday	Jan 31	Karaoke
Saturday	Feb 1	Camac
Friday	Feb 7	Mike McGovern
Saturday	Feb 8	Kurt & Helen
Friday	Feb 14	Liz McNicholl Band
Saturday	Feb 15	Allen Gogarty
Friday	Feb 21	Finster
Saturday	Feb 22	The Jolly Beggars
Friday	Feb 28	Karaoke
Saturday	Feb 29	C-Sides



## february events

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - PAGE 2

SUPER BOWL PARTY - FEB 2ND, 6PM

TRAD MUSIC SESSION - WEDNESDAY, FEB 5TH, 7PM

TRIVIA NIGHT - FRIDAY FEB 7TH, 8PM (WEAR RED)

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN GENEALOGY - SAT, FEB 8TH, 10:30AM

IRISH HISTORY LECTURE - SUNDAY FEB 9TH @ 2PM

VALENTINES DAY PARTY - FRIDAY FEB 14TH, 9PM, PG. 4

CNG AUDITIONS - FEB 15TH & 16TH, FROM 1-3:30PM

MUSIC TOGETHER PROGRAM - SUN FEB 16, 1-2:30PM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FRIDAY, FEB 21ST, 8PM

POETRY READING - SATURDAY FEB 22ND, NOON, PG. 2

SENIOR LUNCH - THURS FEB 27TH, 12 NOON

LEAP DAY PARTY - SATURDAY FEB 29TH, 9PM, PG. 4

Dear Members,

Good news! We had a quorum for our first monthly Members' Meeting of 2020. That was kind of nice as we were able to hold the installation ceremony for the incoming members of the Executive Committee. I have attached a picture of the ceremony suitable for framing and preserving for posterity. You will observe the saintly man at the lectern in the upper right hand corner of the photo. That is Frank Byrne in full flow who was appointed universal Minister for the occasion. I would like to think that the members turned out to witness the ceremony but you will also note the lectern



was moved to the right from its normal position on the left to clear a path to the bar which was opened for the meeting and can be seen in the upper left hand corner. Actually, it was a safety issue meant to take the speaker out of harm's way which would have been the case if he or she were located between the audience and the bar.

I must report that we had one significant departure from the traditional ceremony. The rite as set out in the text which we have to scramble to find each year, provides that a gavel be presented to the incoming president to be used in the conduct of the upcoming meetings. We couldn't find a gavel so I brought along a hammer which I gave to the Reverend Byrne and which he subsequently presented to me. I found a hammer is more useful at our

meetings than a gavel anyway. Additionally, kudos to those who can spot the anomaly in the picture. (I will reveal all in the next bulletin if I can remember to do so.)

And- wait for it- the elevator is up and running. Additionally for the first time ever, Club revenues for the year exceeded two million dollars.

I can report, the Irish New Year's Eve event in the pub was a fabulous success. As you may know the start and finish time, or at least the start time, is based on the ball dropping at midnight in Dublin which is 5 hours ahead of New York time. Over 200 hundred members showed up with prepared dishes and the bar did a land office business. Following 2:AM in Dublin, the bar switched over to New York time and stayed open to 2AM local time. And we had a live band for the New York time portion.

We have restarted Happy Hour. The fun will run from 4 to 6 on Wednesday's to Friday's with one dollar off drinks, glasses of wine and beer; and fifty cents off bottled beer. So come down and be happy.

I can also report that the bar will be open for the February meeting (not that it will influence your decision of whether to attend.). I do hope you will turn out for the meeting which will be conducted by Faith Maciver our Vice President. I can't make as I am presently in Florida. Lest you think it is all peaches and cream down here, I can tell you it is no easy task to keep my Chardonnay cold. I will be up for a quick trip for the High Holy Days in March however and look forward to seeing you at the March meeting.

Gerry Reidy

PS: With regard to the February membership meeting, it's been moved from the traditional 2nd Friday of the month to February 21st, the 3rd Friday, to avoid interfering with members' possible plans for the Presidents' Day weekend.

### POETRY READING WITH EAMON GRENNAN

**SATURDAY, FEB 22, 12 NOON**

Join us as we welcome Dublin-born renowned poet Eamon Grennan on Saturday, February 22 at 12 noon. Eamon Grennan is the author of more than 10 collections of poetry, including *There Now*, *Matter of Fact*, and *The Quick of It*, and a book of essays, *Facing the Music: Irish Poetry in the 20th Century*. He is a retired Professor of English at Vassar College and divides his time on both sides of the pond. Q & A session will follow the reading.

Please help us with planning. RSVP via e-mail to [social@gacemail.org](mailto:social@gacemail.org)

### THE GIVING TREE

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who took tags from the tree and returned the many gifts we were able to distribute. One little girl asked for a bike and a generous member granted her wish. When the parents came to pick up their family's gifts' the mother's knees buckled when she saw her little girl was actually going to get a bike. All the father did was say "Thank You"...about '500' times!

We'd also like to thank Tom Flaherty, Mike and all those who helped carry the gifts to the basement before they could be sorted. Hopefully, we will have an elevator next year !

## 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.

## BUSINESS TRADES NETWORK

Meetings are 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](mailto:fmaciver@easct.com)

## FÁILTE COMMITTEE

We'd like to thank all those who faithfully sit at the front desk welcoming our members and their guests and answering so many of their questions. Sitting at the front desk is a great way to VOLUNTEER for our Club and get to know our members. It's very simple - all members sign in each of their guests: the members name PRINTED for EACH guest and each guest sign their own name and address. No experience is needed, friendly, on the job training provided free of charge!

It would be great if our members would make it their New Year Resolution to become more active in participating in the GAC activities that keep our Club going.

If you are interested in taking a turn or two at the front desk, please call Bette Leary at 203 767 0117 or speak with Mrs. Joan Woods (that great lady who is always so pleasant and usually at the front desk)

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT

There is no Family Fun Night in February. We apologize to all our young members who attend regularly and truly enjoy this Family Night.

## 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).

# Club ACTIVITIES

## GOOD & WELFARE

**Mass Cards** were sent to: Alice Gill on the death of her husband Richard; Michael Murray on the death of his father James; Katherine McMullen on the death of her husband, life member, Thomas; The Miller Family on the death of their mother Edna; Vivian Munley on the death of her husband Joseph; And Chris Thomas on the death of his mother Adele.

Congratulations to Bette and Kevin Leary on the birth of their grandson, Connor Quinn Russell. Proud parents are Kate and Dean Russell.

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

## GENEALOGY GROUP

### FRÉAMB ÉIREANN

Genealogy Group meets Feb 8th at 10:30 am For info Donna Orazio: [donnaorazio@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:library@gacemail.org).

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's meeting is Friday Feb 21st @ 8pm. All members welcome!

## SCEALA SUBMISSIONS

Submissions are due Feb 14th  
[Communications@gacemail.org](mailto:Communications@gacemail.org)

## LITERATURE GROUP

The Group meets Monday, February 24th at 7:30 in the library to discuss *Nine Folds Make A Paper Swan* by Ruth Gilligan. The novel focuses on three intertwined voices that span the 20th century to tell the unknown story of the Jews in Ireland. It is a charming but sad look at a rare topic in Irish fiction. Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Clare Burnett at 203-255-3848 or [ClareBurnett@optonline.net](mailto:ClareBurnett@optonline.net)

## SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, Feb 27th reservations by Sunday, Feb 23rd, 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 happening every Thursday at 7:30pm. Contact Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

For more information on upcoming events contact [social@gacemail.org](mailto: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. Contact: Division President Mark Ryan at 203 258-9846 or [mark.ryan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mark.ryan@sbcglobal.net).

## IRISH MELODIES RADIO

### PROGRAM

Join new hosts Mary Ellen Lyons, Tom Keane and John Brannelly for the best of Irish and Irish American music. Old favorites and new hits. Plus a great lineup of guests for the latest in GAC and local Irish news. Every Sunday from Noon to 2:00 PM on Fairfield University Radio WVOF 88.5 FM. Available anywhere in the world at [www.wvof.org](http://www.wvof.org) click the tab for **LISTEN TO FM STUDIO**

## THE 56TH ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Monday, March 16, 2020 at the Bridgeport Holiday Inn, 6:pm cocktails (cash bar), 7:pm dinner and 8:pm entertainment. The Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization providing an annual contribution to full-time college students. Tickets @ \$150.00 PP are available by contacting Dave Howe @ (203) 767-6519. **Donations are graciously accepted.**



## MUSIC TOGETHER PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16TH 1-2:30PM



Liz McNicholl brings her Musical Folk Talent to the GAC in the Music Together Program - a joyous audience participation, program for families that is a fun filled instrument playing, happy singing time for everyone. Liz will bring instruments for the kids and song sheets for all. She has designed the GAC program to showcase Irish music. Come! Gather together and enjoy!

Please reserve by sending your request, with Musical Folk in the subject line to [opegyo812@gmail.com](mailto:opegyo812@gmail.com)  
No Charge | Open seating  
Presented by Féile Inc.

## VALENTINE'S PARTY FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14TH @ 9 PM

Join us for a sweet treat! Music by the Liz McNicholl Band in the Pub



## LEAP NIGHT PARTY SATURDAY FEB 29TH @ 9PM



From St. Brigid folklore to Sadie Hawkins Day to the GAC Join us for some craic on this year's extra night #366 Music by C-Sides !

## CLAN NA GAEL AUDITIONS - SATURDAY FEB 15TH AND SUNDAY FEB 16TH FROM 1 TO 3:30PM



Clan na Gael Players have set audition dates for their Spring production of THE POETS REBELLION under the direction of Eamon Speer.

Auditions will be held Feb 15th & 16th from 1:00-3:30 at the Gaelic American Club 74 Beach Road Fairfield, CT.

Needed are: 7 Males 20's - 50's; 3 Females 20's - 50's

### Performance Dates Are

Thursday April 16 at 8:00; Friday April 17 at 8:00;  
Saturday. April 18 at 8:00;  
& Sunday April 19 2:30

The show is set in the present time, at a local pub in Dublin city. Two American tourists find themselves getting a crash course in the 1916 Easter uprising from a bartender, and a local patron, with somewhat opposing views... but do the patriots themselves have a different view altogether?

For further information: [opegyo812@gmail.com](mailto:opegyo812@gmail.com)  
Clan na Gael holds Open Auditions for Actors and staff help. Experience not necessary.

**use it or lose it**  
Your Scrip expires February 29th!

