



# SCÉALA

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



CÉAD míle fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Eanáir | January 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.

## 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

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MR. AND MISS SHAMROCK SCHLORSHIP AWARDEES

This year's Mr. and Miss Shamrock Scholarships were awarded to the following Students: Mr. Shamrock **Seamus Carolan** of Fairfield Prep; Mr. Shamrock Runner Up (RU) **Jack Clyne** of Regis High School in NYC; Miss Shamrock **Mary Feeney** of Lauralton Hall; Miss Shamrock Runner Up **Bridget Keary** of Lauralton Hall.



*Pictured Above (left to right): Scholarship Chair Colleen S. Murphy, Mr. Shamrock Runner Up Jack Clyne of Regis High School in NYC, Grand Marshal Mary Ann Doonan, Miss Shamrock Mary Feeney of Lauralton Hall and Miss Shamrock Runner Up Bridget Keary of Lauralton Hall*

## JOIN US IN THE PUB AT 9PM

|          |        |                         |
|----------|--------|-------------------------|
| Friday   | Jan 3  | Keltic Kick             |
| Saturday | Jan 4  | Bedlam Bros String Band |
| Friday   | Jan 10 | Madz & Ladz             |
| Saturday | Jan 11 | Highland Rovers         |
| Friday   | Jan 17 | Susan & Gerard          |
| Saturday | Jan 18 | Jolly Beggars           |
| Friday   | Jan 24 | Coracles                |
| Saturday | Jan 25 | Four of a Kind          |
| Friday   | Jan 31 | Karaoke                 |
| Saturday | Feb 1  | Camac                   |





Dear Members,

First of all I want to thank you for coming out to vote for the candidates in the December elections. I was reelected by the vote of 5% of the membership. I take this as a mandate.

Consistent with the percentage of voter turn-out, we didn't have a quorum at the December meeting, As you may know, a minimum of 40 members or a bit less than one percent of the membership is required to be in attendance in order to hold the meeting. As we typically have more than 4 times as many members in the pub and restaurant as in the meeting, we have opened the bar in the meeting room. I absolutely draw the line however at showing the Friday night games in there as well

Since no reports could be given, I want to bring you up to date on where we are. We are closing the book on another good year.

After taking into account that we have not yet spent all of the money set out in the 2019 budget because many of the projects have come in under budget, our cash position at the end of November was \$214,000.00 versus \$134,000.00 this time last year and our net profit is also up from last year.

We have negotiated and signed the Elevator Repair and Maintenance Contracts with Kone; the manufacturer.

We have determined the redesign solution for the basement floor to address the periodic hydrostatic flooding we experience because of the high water table in this area of Fairfield.

We are in the process of repainting the white lines in the parking lot and creating 6 new handicapped parking spaces. We have installed a new high powered glass washer. There are some down sides to the change. This means that you will no longer be able to guess who had the glass before you from the trace shade of lipstick on the glass. This also means if anyone returns home with lipstick that shouldn't have been there, they can no longer blame the glasses at the Club. That being said, the glasses have always been thoroughly cleaned but the previous washer just couldn't remove all traces of lipstick.

We have arranged for defibrillator training by the Fire Department for all members of the staff. As you may know a defibrillator is kept at the front desk. A notice of the date will be sent out in case any members wish to attend. We have repaired the roof, replaced all the windows and window curtains. For all those who felt seasick using the top tables in the pub, we have stabilized the ones we could and the replacement for the one we couldn't, is awaiting delivery. All carpets were professionally cleaned this week.



As far as social events were concerned, I can report that the Tree Lighting and Caroling along with hot buttered rum and the spiked and unspiked hot apple cider and eggnog was an outstanding success.

You can't beat the annual St. Pat's Dinner Dance for a fabulous evening and this year was no exception.

As you can see from a recent photo of a meeting of the Fairfield Garden Club in the pub, our facilities continue to be well patronized. One clue that may break the code, most of these boys who are all long time members of the Club have never touched a rake or hoe in their

lives and wouldn't know a kumquat from a cucumber.

You will find a listing of all the upcoming events elsewhere in this newsletter and reminder bulletins will be sent out.

I must report one disturbing incident. As you know our Vice President Faith Maciver, in addition to the duties of office runs a number of programs at the Club including the very popular Trivia Night. (I still maintain I was right when I guessed the country with largest percentage of redheads was Ireland not Scotland.) As part of the fun, special prizes consisting of a free drink chit are given out during the course of the evening for the first person to guess the correct answer of an extremely difficult question. Well one S.O.B. made a copy of his or her chit and used it to obtain an extra free drink. I don't know why I didn't think of that myself. Really? How bad is that? Now we have to change the kind of chit we use.

All in all, if that's the worst problem we have, we are doing pretty well.

God bless, Merry Christmas and all the best for 2020.

Gerry Reidy

PS: Will somebody buy that member a drink!

## 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

The January 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](mailto: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](mailto:betteleary@gmail.com).

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Family Fun Night is Friday January 31st 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).

## Club ACTIVITIES

### GOOD & WELFARE

Mass Cards were sent to Bridget Gleeson on the death of her husband Donal; to Kathleen Dooley and family on the death of their mother Jean Haggerty; to the family of Steven Conneely; and sent to the family of Lorraine Lynch.

Get well wishes to Adele Thomas and Mike Devaney.

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

### GENEALOGY GROUP

#### FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

Genealogy Group meets Jan 11th 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 Jan 10th @ 8pm. All members welcome!

### SCALA SUBMISSIONS

Submissions are due Jan 10th  
[Communications@gacemail.org](mailto:Communications@gacemail.org)

### 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](mailto:clareburnett@optonline.net)

### SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, Jan 30th reservations by Sunday, Jan 26th, 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

Thank you to Lorry Scott and Mike Conley for bringing holiday cheer with singing Christmas Carols, Tommy Flaherty for lighting the outdoor tree and Eileen Lynam for hosting the festive evening. 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).

## JANUARY Events

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - PAGE 2

TRAD MUSIC SESSION - TBA

TRIVIA NIGHT - FRIDAY JAN 3RD, 8PM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FRIDAY, JAN 10TH 8PM

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN GENEALOGY - SAT, JAN 11TH, 10:30PM

SENIOR LUNCH - THURS JAN 30TH, 12 NOON

FAMILY FUN NIGHT - FRIDAY, JAN 31ST, 6-9PM

## ST. PATRICK'S INTRO TO GAELIC SPORTS

St. Patrick's GAA Club hosts its annual winter program "Introduction to Gaelic Sports for Children 5-8 years old" on Saturdays, 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 our website: [www.stpatricksgfc.org](http://www.stpatricksgfc.org). For questions email: [training@stpatricksgaa.us](mailto:training@stpatricksgaa.us)





~ A SPECIAL NOTE ~

The GAC lost two long time members recently. Jean Haggerty and Donal Gleeson volunteered tirelessly for many years on the Membership Committee.

Jean's time goes back more than 20 years to the days when membership was managed on paper and literally thousands of letters, checks, paper scrip and membership card labels had to be processed and mailed between December and March every year. Somehow, it all got done, and as Membership Committee chairs and volunteers came and went, Jean was the common thread that kept everything on track. When Donal became the chairman of the Committee and brought us into the world of online renewals and electronic scrip, Jean adapted and continued to volunteer, sometimes 30 hours or more per week, until this last year.

Donal streamlined the membership application, acceptance and renewal process by bringing us into the world of Paypal and e-check renewal, web-based applications and email communications. He oversaw the day to day management of the Membership Committee and spent more than two years researching to find the card and POS system that we are currently using. Donal's genuine interest in the GAC as a place for native Irish and Irish Americans to gather and enjoy their common heritage was unmatched.

**We thank them for their years of service, and may they, and all our deceased members rest in peace.**

**AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMBINE A LOVE OF WRITING WITH A LOVE OF IRISH HISTORY**

Maybe it is in our DNA?

The ability to tell stories, after all, began with the seanchaí, those men who traveled from cottage to castle telling stories to entertain.

Ireland has produced some of the world's finest poets and authors. If you're interested in writing and visiting Ireland, The Sancho Panza Literary Summer Workshop at Trinity College Dublin will combine both interests for you.

Over the two weeks, you will workshop 10 pages of your poetry, short story or manuscript, get written feedback to help hone your piece, attend two plays, one at The Gate Theater and the other at The Abbey as well as do a reading of your work at the end of the two-week session at Trinity College Dublin.

You'll be within a train ride from Dunbrody Famine Ship, The Irish Workhouse Center and Cobh Heritage Center, and walking distance from your dorm at Trinity to many other historical sites in Dublin.

For information about the Sancho Panza 2-week Summer writing workshop at Trinity College Dublin, please contact [Lorettoleary@yahoo.com](mailto:Lorettoleary@yahoo.com).

**SAVE THE DATE ~ LEAP NIGHT PARTY  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH @ 9 PM**

Address Service Requested

Presorted First Class  
Mail  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Fairfield, CT 06824

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




| Schedule    | Pub hours        | Dinner       | Lunch & Branch   |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Mon & Tues  | 7 pm - 12 mid    |              |                  |
| Wed & Thurs | 4 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 |



| Sunday<br>Dombnach | Monday<br>Luan | Tuesday<br>Máirt | Wednesday<br>Céadaoin | Thursday<br>Deardaoin | Friday<br>Aoine | Saturday<br>Satharn |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|

|  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| <p align="center">~ AN IRISH BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR ~</p> <p align="center">ALWAYS REMEMBER TO FORGET, THE TROUBLES THAT PASS AWAY.<br/>BUT NEVER FORGET TO REMEMBER, THE BLESSINGS THAT COME EACH DAY.</p> |  |   | <p><b>1</b> New Year's Day<br/><i>GAC Closed</i></p>  | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Irish Language Class - 6:45<br/>25 Card Game - 7:30pm<br/>Set Dancing - 7:30pm</p>                          | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>Trivia Night 8pm<br/>Keltic Kick 🎵<br/>In the Pub at 9pm</p>  | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>Bedlam Bros String Band 🎵<br/>In the Pub at 9pm</p>   |
| <p><b>5</b></p>  | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm<br/><i>(at the church)</i></p> <p>Irish Reading Class 7pm<br/>Irish Instrument Session - 8pm</p>                                      | <p><b>7</b></p> <p>Executive Committee Meeting 7:30pm</p> <p>Lenihan Dance Lessons<br/>4pm Children - 8pm Adult</p> | <p><b>8</b></p>   | <p><b>9</b></p> <p>Irish Language Class - 6:45<br/>25 Card Game - 7:30pm<br/>Set Dancing - 7:30pm</p>                          | <p><b>10</b></p> <p>Membership Meeting 8pm<br/>Sceala Submissions Due</p> <p>Madz &amp; Ladz 🎵<br/>In the Pub at 9pm</p> | <p><b>11</b></p> <p>Fréamh Éireann Genealogy Group -10:30am</p> <p>Highland Rovers 🎵<br/>In the Pub at 9pm</p> |
| <p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Reminder</b><br/>You <b>MUST</b> use your scrip by 2/29 or <b>LOSE IT!</b></p>  | <p><b>13</b></p> <p>Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm<br/><i>(at the church)</i></p> <p>Irish Reading Class 7pm<br/>Irish Instrument Session - 8pm</p>                                     | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>Lenihan Dance Lessons<br/>4pm Children - 8pm Adult</p>  | <p><b>15</b></p>  | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>Irish Language Class - 6:45<br/>25 Card Game - 7:30pm<br/>Set Dancing - 7:30pm</p>                         | <p><b>17</b></p> <p>Susan &amp; Gerard 🎵<br/>In the Pub at 9pm</p>   | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>Jolly Beggars 🎵<br/>9In the Pub at 9pm</p>   |
| <p><b>19</b></p>   | <p><b>20</b></p> <p>Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm<br/><i>(at the church)</i></p> <p>Irish Reading Class 7pm<br/>Irish Literature Group - 7:30pm<br/>Irish Instrument Session - 8pm</p> | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>Lenihan Dance Lessons<br/>4pm Children - 8pm Adult</p>  | <p><b>22</b></p>  | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>Irish Language Class - 6:45<br/>25 Card Game - 7:30pm<br/>Set Dancing - 7:30pm</p>                         | <p><b>24</b></p> <p>Coracles 🎵<br/>In the Pub at 9pm</p>   | <p><b>25</b></p> <p>Four of a Kind 🎵<br/>In the Pub at 9pm</p>   |
| <p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Reminder</b><br/>Please Sign-In Guests (maximum of 4)</p>   | <p><b>27</b></p> <p>Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm<br/><i>(at the church)</i></p> <p>Irish Reading Class 7pm<br/>Irish Instrument Session - 8pm</p>                                     | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>Lenihan Dance Lessons<br/>4pm Children - 8pm Adult</p>  | <p><b>29</b></p>  | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>Senior Lunch 12Noon<br/>Irish Language Class - 6:45<br/>25 Card Game - 7:30pm<br/>Set Dancing - 7:30pm</p> | <p><b>31</b></p> <p>Family Fun Night 6-9pm<br/>Karaoke 🎵<br/>In the Pub at 9pm</p>                                       | <p><b>1</b></p> <p>Camac 🎵<br/>In the Pub at 9pm</p>   |