



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



MÍ MÁRTA | MARCH 2020

Celebrating ST. PATRICK'S DAY Tuesday March 17th

At the Gaelic-American Club we celebrate our proud Irish tradition every day of the year! So, when it comes to March, the GAC showcases the very best in Irish Spirit, Tradition and Talent. So please support the special events scheduled throughout this month. Schedule for Tuesday March 17th can be found on back page.

Special Menu will be served Tuesday March 17, this menu includes corned beef sandwiches, fish & chips, chicken fingers, fries and tuna sandwiches. Irish potato chips and Irish chocolates also are available.

We also need help making sandwiches and serving food on St. Patrick's Day. Please sign up at front desk or contact Mary O'Driscoll at 203-414-9462.

Volunteers needed for St. Patrick's Day. We need help at the front door for St. Patrick's Day. Contact Betty Leary at betteleary@gmail.com or 203-767-0117.

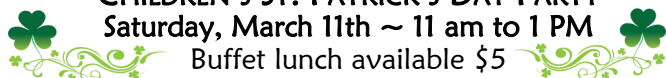
Volunteer Bartenders needed for St. Patrick's Day contact Christine Boccamazzo: cboccamazzo@yahoo.com.

\$10 Guest Fee on St. Patrick's Day

All members must show GAC Membership Card or pay \$10 guest fee. No exceptions!

(See full day's schedule on page 4)

CHILDREN'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY Saturday, March 11th ~ 11 am to 1 PM



Buffet lunch available \$5
Performance & Mini Lesson by Lenihan School of Dance. Kelly Takacs: kellyanntakacs@yahoo.com

ANDY COONEY'S IRISH CABARET THURSDAY MARCH 12 @ 8PM



Featuring the Guinness Irish Band, "Ireland's Favorite Voice" Eimear Reynolds, World Class Irish Dancers & Irish Comedian Jimmy Q

Tickets: \$20/Adult \$5/Child

Reservations: lizbyrnefeeney@hotmail.com

CÉILI SUNDAY MARCH 8TH FROM 4-7:30PM



We're warming up to St Patrick's Day with a Céili - so bring your friends and come dance with us with music by The Connolly Céili Band. Just come to enjoy the music or perhaps learn a step or two with the Set Dancers. Bring a little something to go along with a cup-a-tea or coffee. For info contact Noreen Forde 203-273-0483 \$20 admission.

Join us in the pub at 9pm

Friday	Mar 6	The Druids
Saturday	Mar 7	Four of a Kind
Friday	Mar 13	Dreams of Freedom
Saturday	Mar 14	Mostly Green
Sunday	Mar 15	Mike McGovern 2-6PM
Tuesday	Mar 17	See Special Schedule Page 4
Friday	Mar 20	Bedlam Bros String Band
Saturday	Mar 21	Highland Rovers
Friday	Mar 27	Coracles
Saturday	Mar 28	Keltic Kick

MARCH Events

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - PAGE 2

TRAD MUSIC SESSION - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH, 7PM

TRIVIA NIGHT - FRIDAY MAR 6TH, 8PM (WEAR GREEN)

CULTURAL NIGHT - WED MARCH 11TH @ 6:30PM, PG. 2

MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FRIDAY, MAR 13TH, 8PM

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN GENEALOGY - SAT, MAR 14, 10:30AM

KIDS ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY - SAT MARCH 14TH 11-1PM

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION TUES MAR 17TH, PG. 4

SENIOR LUNCH - THURS MAR 26TH, 12 NOON

FAMILY FUN NIGHT - FRIDAY MAR 27TH, 6-9PM

Dear Fellow Members,

as you know, the February membership meeting was moved to the third Friday in February to avoid interfering with members' plans for Presidents' Weekend. This means that the bulletin will have gone to press before the monthly meeting to insure it gets to you before the start of March. As such I will not be reporting on the monthly financials which will be presented at the February meeting. I can report however that after a great deal of work by Tom Harding over several years, we have successfully upgraded our payment system to accept credit cards.

I was also remiss in not giving a shout out in last month's bulletin to the members of our Facilities Committee chaired by Gerry O'Donovan in addressing the design problems we experienced with our elevator and getting it up and running. Thanks to Gerry, Tony Hogan, Johnny Commerford, Patrick (Musha) Maher, John Curtin, Billy O'Shea and Jeff Walsh and my thanks to our attorney Dan Ford the Chairman of the GAC Legal Committee who handled all of the contract issues.

I can also report that a great time was had by the 120 members who attended the Club Valentine party as you can see from the attached photo. The entertainment was provided by Liz McNichol, a great talent and well know to our members. A bottle of champagne was given to the longest married couple, to the most recently married couple and to the most "romantic" couple. I decided not to inquire as to the mannerisms that qualified the third couple as the most "romantic".

I want to thank Liz Feeney for arranging the evening's

entertainment and Rose Leahy and Suzanne Moore Co-Chairs of the Social Committee for putting together the event.

As you know, we are coming up to the high holy days in March. The NBA's March Madness is nothing compared to the Celtic Chaos that you can expect at the Club on St. Patrick's Day. Between the Pub and the Carolan Room there will be continuous performances by eleven different groups from 10:30 AM till closing. To get things started there will be a lead off 90-minute performance by the Shamroques; for my money the best traditional Irish music group in New England. For those of you who look forward to the pipers every year, there will not be one but two pipe bands; Our own Fairfield Gaelic American Club Pipe Band and the Fairfield County Police Pipes and Drums. There will also be two performances by the Lenihan School of Dance. The other groups are also long-time favorites at the Club. Come spend the day and keep Tommy Flaherty our General Manager and Chris Boccamazzo our Permittee company. I am sure they will be knackered by the end of the evening.



Finally, the part you have all been waiting for! What was the anomaly in the picture of the investiture of the new members of the Executive Committee in last month's bulletin? The lady in the yellow sweater is not Amy O'Shea member of the 2020 Executive Committee who couldn't be present that evening, but rather Jenny Byrne wife (God bless her) of the Reverend (for the day). Frank Byrne. Jenny was so inspired by the Rev's eloquence, she felt compelled to stand and take part in the prayer.

Regards to all and see you on the 17th.

Gerry Reidy

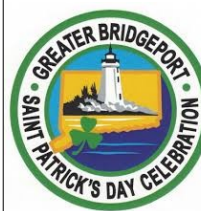
CULTURAL NIGHT WEDNESDAY MARCH 11 AT 6:30 PM



This entertaining evening showcases Irish music, dance, language & sports. Featuring The Shamroques, Lenihan School of Irish Dance, St. Patrick's Gaelic Football Club, Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band, Set Dancers & Irish Language Club.

Bring the family and friends to experience some of the Irish Cultural activities the GAC has to offer!

GREATER BRIDGEPORT ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE WITH GRAND MARSHAL MARY ANN DOONANA



Celebrate your Irish heritage and march with the Gaelic American Club. We will meet in the Harbor Yard lot at 11:20 and the parade steps off at noon! So put on your green and get ready to hop, skip or reel! Please email social@gacemail.org if you plan

to march. For information on Parade Day Festivities visit <http://stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com/2020>

\$10 Guest Fee ~ On St. Patrick's Day ~ Tuesday March 17th
All members must show GAC Membership Card or pay \$7 guest fee. No exceptions!

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

The meeting for the newly formed GAC Business Trade Network is on Wednesday April 8th @ 7:30pm Any interested businesses listed in the GAC Directory should contact Faith Maciver at fmaciver@easct.com

FÁILTE COMMITTEE

We always need 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!

And don't forget we need volunteers for St. Patrick's Day !

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 back on Friday, March 27th. This past January we had one of our biggest FFN's in the last 15 years! Kudos to Tom Flaherty, the 'boys' who help set up and keep things flowing, to Corky who keeps that kitchen going so the kids, adults and regular GAC patrons all have a great meal.

This month we again ask each family to bring in 1 canned vegetable for a local food kitchen. This is a perfect month for a GREEN canned veggie. Can we beat last month's donations? While January's FFN was well attended we had only 3 donations of canned soup. I think we can do better than that...One can per family would be great, one can per child would be ideal. See you all on March 27th - Rest up and be ready for the DJ Peter 'workout'!

Please remember our 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.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

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 **Sympathy card** was sent to Mark Ryan on the death of his father Francis. *Notify Noreen Reda of all member news at npreda4@gmail.com.*

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

Genealogy Group meets Mar 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.

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 March 13th @ 8pm. All members welcome!

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

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

LITERATURE GROUP

The Group meets Monday, March 23rd at 7:30 pm in the GAC library. We will discuss *A Good Man Is Hard To Find*, a short story by Flannery O'Connor. The story appears in a collection of short stories by the same name. The collection firmly laid claim to O'Connor's place as one of the most original and provocative writers of her generation. Everyone is welcome! For more Information contact Clare Burnett at 203-255-3848 or ClareBurnett@optonline.net

SENIORS

Senior Lunch is Thursday, Mar 26th reservations by Sunday, Mar 22rd, 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.

TRYING TO LOCATE

CHRISTMAS FAIR CUSTOMER

Could the person who ordered knit pillow covers at the Christmas Fair please contact Mary Ann Doonan at 203 -377-4586.

IRISH MELODIES RADIO

Join Mary Ellen Lyons, Tom Keane and John Brannelly for the best of Irish and Irish American music. They have a great lineup of guests and the latest in GAC and local Irish news. Tune in every Sunday from Noon to 2PM, on Fairfield University Radio WVOF 88.5FM. Also available everywhere online @ www.wvof.org click:

TWO SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The GAC is offering two \$2000.00 scholarships to deserving high school seniors attending four year colleges in the fall of 2020. Applications available at GACOnline.org and due by May 8th 2020.



DUELING PIANOS

SATURDAY APRIL 4 FROM 8 TO 11 PM

Get ready to rock & roll, jam & jive and dance the night away! Bring a list of your favorite songs. Featuring music by the Flying Ivories. Doors open at 7 pm. Tickets: Send e-mail to social@gaconline.org and drop-off or mail check payable to GAC, Attn Pianos. \$20 pp

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION AT THE GAELIC-AMERICAN CLUB



10 AM - Flag Raising Ceremony with
Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band and light fare to follow.

IN THE PUB

10:30am-12pm Shamroques

12-3pm The Murphy Beds with Dylan Foley

3-5:30pm Camac

6pm Lenihan School of Irish Dance

5:30-8:15pm Damien, Sally & Coleman Connolly

7:30pm Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band

8:30pm to close The Jolly Beggars

CAROLAN ROOM

12-2pm Ringrose & Freeman

2pm Lenihan School of Irish Dance

3-6pm The Ruffians

6pm Fairfield County Police Pipes & Drums

6-9pm Tipperary Nights

\$10 Guest Fee on St. Patrick's Day

CLAN NA GAEL SPRING PRODUCTION

POETS REBELLION

DIRECTED BY EAMON SPEER

PRODUCED BY PEG O'LEARY



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?

Performance Dates

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

Tickets \$15.00 checks made out to Feile, Inc.

For Reservations contact 203.752.7172 or email
CNGPLAYS@gmail.com

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.

GRAND MARSHAL'S GALLOP 5K ~ SUNDAY MARCH 15, 2020 @ 9 AM

2020 GRAND MARSHAL MARY ANN DOONAN

Start your St Patrick's celebration two days early as we bring back the historic "running of the green" event to Bridgeport! Proceeds benefit the Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade and Thomas

Merton Center Soup Kitchen and Black Rock Food Pantry.

Register at- <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Bridgeport/TheGRANDMARSHAL5K>



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Gaelic American Club
74 Beach Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
www.gaconline.org





MARCH MÍ MÁRTA



Schedule

Pub hours

Dinner

Lunch & Branch








How To Reach us

Mon	7 pm - 10 pm		
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

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

CÉAD MILE FÁILTE



Sunday DOMHNACH	Monday LUAN	Tuesday MÁIRT	Wednesday CÉADAoine	Thursday DEARDAoine	Friday AOINE	Saturday SATHARN
1 	2 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm <i>(at the church)</i> 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 <i>(wear green)</i> The Druids 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm	7 Four of a Kind 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm
8 Day Light Savings Poor Man's Gambit 🎵 In the Pub 2-5PM  Céili with The Connolly Céili Band - 4-7:30pm	9 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm <i>(at the church)</i> Irish Reading Class 7pm Irish Instrument Session - 8pm	10 Executive Committee Meeting 7:30pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	11 Cultural Night 6:30pm 	12 ANDY COONEY CABARET - 8PM Irish Language Class - 6:45 25 Card Game - 7:30pm Set Dancing - 7:30pm	13 Membership Meeting 8pm Sceala Submissions Due Dreams of Freedom 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm	14 Fréamh Éireann Genealogy Group -10:30am Kid's St. Patrick's Party 11- 1pm Mostly Green 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm
15 Grand Marshal's Gallop 9am Mike McGovern 🎵 In the Pub from 2-6pm	16 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm <i>(at the church)</i> Irish Reading Class 7pm Irish Instrument Session - 8pm	17  St. Patrick's Day See Schedule on Pg. 4	18 Reminder There are 365 days till St. Patrick's Day	19 Celebrate Spring! Irish Language Class - 6:45 25 Card Game - 7:30pm Set Dancing - 7:30pm AOH Meeting - 7:30pm	20 Bedlam Bros String Band 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm	21 Highland Rovers 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm
22 Reminder To return your glassed to the bar	23 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm <i>(at the church)</i> Irish Reading Class 7pm Irish Literature Group - 7:30pm Irish Instrument Session - 8pm	24 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	25 	26 Senior Lunch 12Noon Irish Language Class - 6:45 25 Card Game - 7:30pm Set Dancing - 7:30pm	27 Family Fun Night - 6-9pm Coracles 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm	28 Keltic Kick 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm
29 	30 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm <i>(at the church)</i> Irish Reading Class 7pm Irish Instrument Session - 8pm	31 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	1 Reminder Please Sign-In All Guests (maximum of 4)	2 FRIEL SISTERS 7:30PM Irish Language Class - 6:45 25 Card Game - 7:30pm Set Dancing - 7:30pm	3 Li McNichol Band 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm	4 Dueling Pianos 8- 11pm  Susan & Gerard 🎵 In the Pub at 9pm

The Gaelic American Club & Shamrock Traditional Irish Music Society present

An unforgettable night of Traditional Irish music & song!

The Friel Sisters



GÆLIC AMERICAN CLUB

74 Beach Road, Fairfield CT

The Friel sisters represent the very finest of the great Irish diaspora. Born and raised in Glasgow, their musical and family roots are deeply entrenched in the Donegal Gaeltacht of their parents and ancestors. Recipients of numerous awards both as soloists and a group, they have garnered critical acclaim worldwide and performed with many renowned acts including the Chieftains, Altan, Lunasa, Sharon Shannon, Cherish the Ladies and Solas. In addition to their powerful instrumentals, their unique style of unison singing has audiences spellbound.

THUR. APRIL 2ND
7:30 PM

Admission \$20
Children only \$5

For reservations or more info call (203)255-3848 or email greggburnett@optimum.net

Visit our website at www.shamrockirishmusic.org for directions to concert or more info on the Society