



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



feabhra | february 2023

THE IRISH-JEWISH ULYSSES:

HOW AND WHY TO READ THE WORLD'S GREATEST NOVEL The 29th Lecture in a Series of Lectures on Irish History

Our February presenter will be Dr. Abby Bender, Department of Languages and Literatures, and Director of the Minor in Irish Studies at Sacred Heart University. Dr. Bender's research is focused on Irish literature and culture, and she is the author of *Israelites in Erin: Exodus, Revolution, and the Irish Revival* (Syracuse UP, 2015), as well as essays on James Joyce, Lady Gregory, Patrick Pearse, the Irish Revival, and transnationalism.



Dr. Bender's current book project is a cultural and literary history of breastfeeding in Ireland, a topic that has led into further considerations of the body, biopower, disability, and medical humanities, with a particular focus on gender and women's writing. She continues to be interested in questions of transnational analogy, and her current work in Jewish-Irish studies addresses both historical and contemporary issues of solidarity, migration, and borders. Register at: gaclectures@gmail.com.

Sunday, February 5, 2023 in the Carolan Room at 2:00 p.m.
Tickets \$5, Students with ID \$2.

MESSAGE FROM THE GAC PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow GAC Members:

Family traditions are at the cornerstone of the Gaelic American Club (GAC). I am delighted to serve as your president in 2023 – 70 years after my father, the original John Brannelly, was elected in 1953. Following in the footsteps of President Gerry Forde is a daunting task, so I am grateful he is continuing as our Vice President to be a mentor. Much of the Executive Committee remains the same which provides great continuity to our good governance.

Some members have shared that the GAC is their 'home away from home.' That atmosphere was fostered when the GAC started in 1948 in members' homes before its first clubhouse opened. My late aunt Mary Sullivan would reminisce about visiting homes in these early days of the GAC. A second home atmosphere is what I hope to sustain as your new president.

Please feel free to reach out to me with suggestions, concerns and questions. As a volunteer, I likely won't have all the answers, but together we can work to find them. My email is johnbrannellyjr@gmail.com and my cell is 619-405-3523.

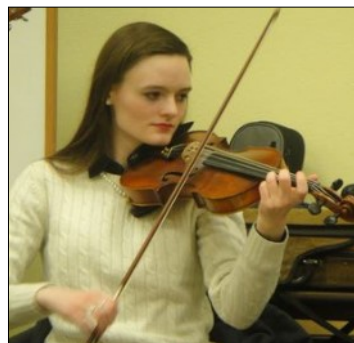
John Brannelly
GAC Executive Committee President

SAVE MARCH 12TH FOR IRISH GENEALOGY DAY

Sunday, March 12, 2023 is Irish Genealogy Day at the GAC from 10 to 2pm. Looking to discover more about your family history? Come listen to and meet the experts from the Ulster Historical Foundation of Belfast. Registration details to follow. Hosted by Fréamh Éireann (Irish Roots) genealogy group & sponsored by Féile.

Bob Abercrombie, Chairman, Fréamh Éireann FEGACinct@gmail.com or Clare Lawler Kilgallen

LINDSEY CÉITINN IS FEBRUARY'S 1ST FRIDAY MUSICIAN



This award-winning fiddler and teacher will play the February's First Friday Trad Music Session on February 3rd from 6-8pm. An accomplished musician, she's president of The PV O'Donnell Branch of Comhaltas and a student of Brian Conway.

WEEKEND MUSIC

Friday	Feb 3	McClellan Ave Band
Saturday	Feb 4	Camac
Friday	Feb 10	Mostly Green
Saturday	Feb 11	Eventide
Friday	Feb 17	Once Removed
Saturday	Feb 18	The Jolly Beggars
Friday	Feb 24	Mike McGovern
Saturday	Feb 25	Keltic Kick



~ Sorry No Trivia in February - But it'll be Back in March ~

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday February 10th @ 8PM
Members are encouraged to attend!

MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

The white membership card with your name and 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 car. You can mail or drop off payment with your info to : Membership.

25 CARD GAME

Will meet Feb 5 & 19th from Noon to 3:30 pm. (weather permitting) Join us, and we'll even teach you this Traditional Irish Card Game.

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

To place your professional listing in the GAC Business Directory Trades List at www.gaconline.org. send info to communications@gacemail.org. And when you need a business or trade service check the list and support your fellow members.

FÁILTE COMMITTEE

FAILTE needs your help! We need more new 'front door' volunteers, who can schedule a definite time. Whatever time you'd like, we can give you! Please volunteer to help our Club. Contact Bette Leary at email: betteleary@gmail.com or 203 767 0117 - Thank you!

FAIRFIELD GAELIC PIPE BAND

The group practices Mondays at 6:30pm in the Carolan Room of the GAC. For more info visit fairfieldgaelicpipeband.org or call 475-329-0202.

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

The group meets on February 11th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FEsecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Sympathy Cards were sent to:
Kenneth Gallagher on the passing of his sister, Doreen Picorello;
Elaine Hogan on the passing of her Dad, Eamon Hogan in Ireland;
And Kevin Post on the passing of his father, John Post
Mass Cards were sent to: William & Miriam Fitzpatrick on the passing of their son, Kevin; To Mary Kelly Flanagan on the passing of her husband, Richard Thomas Flanagan.

A Get Well Card was sent to
Noreen Forde.

Notify Mary Alvarez of all member news at alvarezmp@icloud.com.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

GAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meets monthly and can be reached
Via email at exective@gacemail.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Ilona Paxton, House Chairperson
203-372-1280

IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Literature Group meets on Thursday, February 16 at 7 pm to discuss *The Witch Elm* by Tana French. All are welcome. Contact Mary Ellen Kerese maryellenkerese@gmail.com.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

Meets at the GAC every 3rd Thursday of the month. The AOH is a fraternal group that mixes social functions and Christian charity. Join the AOH for good times and on-going charitable works. Mark Ryan at 203 258-9846 or mark.ryan@sbcglobal.net.

SENIOR LUNCH

Thursday February 23rd @ noon
please make reservations by Sunday 02/19. Lunch price has increased and is \$9 members. non-members \$11 Shirley McMenamy 203-268-5083; Sally Savage 203-366-4826.

SET DANCING

Lace up your dance shoes because Set Dancing is back on Thursdays at 7:30pm. Contact Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921.

IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

Thursday Evenings via Zoom

6:45 beginners | 7:30 intermediate
For more information: Cait Thopsey 203-459-9686

TRAD MUSIC SESSION

The Shamroques host an Irish Trad Music Night every Wednesday 7-9pm in the Carolan Room.

GR. BRIDGEPORT ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Any school, civic, volunteer, bands or marching units that would like to participate in the Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade are welcome to participate. The parade is planned for Friday, March 17, 2023 from Noon to 1 PM in Bridgeport and will be no longer than a mile long. Exact parade route is being formatted with details to follow soon. For more information: John Brannelly at 619-405-3523 or johnbrannellyjr@gmail.com

GAC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2023

If you have a working email on file with us, you received notification in January to renew your GAC membership for 2023.

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 into your account to review your information at any time on the GAC membership website <https://www.gaelicamericanclub.com/>
- If you usually receive your renewal from the GAC by email and did not receive an email from us by January 3rd, 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 2023 scrip will be loaded onto that card on April 1, 2023.
- All 2022 scrip expires on February 28, 2023. You can contact membership committee via email 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 beginning on January 1 each year. We allow up to a 60-day grace period to pay. All memberships must be renewed by February 28, 2023. Beginning March 1, there will be a \$100 reinstatement fee added to all unpaid accounts.

february

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Schedule
 Mon & Tues
 Wed & Thurs
 Friday
 Saturday
 Sunday

Kitchen hours

4pm - 9pm
 4pm - 10pm
 12pm - 10pm
 12pm - 8pm

pub hours

Closed
 4 pm - 10 pm
 4 pm - 12 am
 12 noon - 12 am
 12 noon - 9pm

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

Céad míne fáilte



Sunday Dombach	Monday Luan	Tuesday Máirt	Wednesday Céadaoin	Thursday Déardaoin	Friday Aoine	Saturday Satharn
Reminder Renew your membership by 2/28		Reminder Use your scrip by 2/28	1 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	2 Saint Brigid's Day Irish Language Class • Beginners (zoom) 6:45 • Intermediate(zoom) 7:30 Set Dancing 7:30pm	3 Lindsey Céitinn 6-8pm McClean Ave Band - 9pm	4 Camac - 9pm
5 25 Card Game 12: - 3:30pm Irish History Lecture - 2pm	6 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	7 Executive Committee Meeting 7pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	8 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	9 Irish Language Class • Beginners (zoom) 6:45 • Intermediate(zoom) 7:30 Set Dancing 7:30pm	10 Sceala Submissions Due Membership Meeting 8pm Mostly Green - 9pm	11 Genealogy Group 10:30am Eventide - 9pm
12 	13 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	14 Valentines Day Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	15 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	16 Irish Language Class • Beginners (zoom) 6:45 • Intermediate(zoom) 7:30 Irish Literature Group 7pm Set Dancing 7:30pm	17 Once Removed - 9pm	18 The Jolly Beggars - 9pm
19 25 Card Game 12-3:30pm	20 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	21 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	22 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	23 Senior Lunch 12pm Irish Language Class • Beginners (zoom) 6:45 • Intermediate(zoom) 7:30 Set Dancing 7:30pm	24 Mike McGovern - 9pm	25 Clan na Gael Auditions 1:30-3:30pm Keltic Kick - 9pm
26 Clan na Gael Auditions 1:30-3:30pm	27 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	28 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	1 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	2 Irish Language Class • Beginners (zoom) 6:45 • Intermediate(zoom) 7:30 Set Dancing 7:30pm	3 TBA	4 TBA



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SHAMROCK SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

Catherine Gutowski - Miss Shamrock; Emmet Moran - Mr. Shamrock;
Zoe Curtin - 2nd Miss Shamrock; and Colman Connolly - 2nd Mr. Shamrock.

SLIABH NOTES - MARCH 11TH @ 7:30PM

Sponsored by Shamrock Traditional Irish Music Society
In the Carolan Room - Admission \$20

Sliabh Notes a traditional group from the south-west of Ireland, features Dónal Murphy from Abbeyfeale, Matt Cranitch from Cork, and Tommy O'Sullivan from Dingle. Since 1995, they have established an enviable reputation for their high-quality traditional music. Sliabh Notes, which has been described as 'having a distinctive regional flavor but with international appeal', always receives a very enthusiastic reception.

TÉADA - TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC FROM SILGO
Tuesday March 14 at 7pm - Tickets \$20

This invigorating Traditional Irish Music Band is known worldwide appearing as a frequent headliner at major music festivals throughout the US, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Africa, Russia, the Middle East and Australia. Spring 2022 brought the release of Téada's sixth album on the Gael Linn label, featuring the brilliant vocals of the late Séamus Begley along with the band's customary re-energizing of rare tunes from the tradition.

CLAN NA GAEL NEWS



CnG's Spring Production Auditions of *The Poets Rebellion* under the direction of Eamon Speer will be held February 25, 26 from 1:30-3:30 at the Gaelic American Club. Cast of 6 Males and 3 Females. Auditions are open to all. No experience necessary.

One Act Playwright Contest Winning entries will be read Sunday, March 26, 2023, 2:30pm - Admission is Free! 1st Place "The Head of Shamus Delaney" by Ben Scranton
2nd Place "The Turquoise Sheep" by Alison Flannery
3rd Place "Leaving" by Brian Whelan

CnG is planning an **Evening of Merriment** for those involved in prior CnG productions. And all interested in learning more about us as we celebrate 36 years of presenting plays by or about the Irish. No Experience Necessary! But always welcome! For more information please contact cng-plays@gmail.com.

~ USE IT OR LOSE IT ~
YOU MUST USE YOUR SCRIP BY FEBRUARY 28TH

Address Service Requested

Presorted First Class
Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Fairfield, CT 06824
Permit # 288

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