



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



MÁRTA | MARCH 2023

TRIVIA FRIDAY MARCH 3RD @ 8PM

Wear something GREEN and have fun! Who knows maybe you'll win some cool stuff

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC SESSION FRIDAY MARCH 3RD FROM 6-8PM



This month's Special Guest is Loretta Egan Murphy. Loretta plays the button accordion and the concertina. She is the winner of numerous national awards and has taught Irish music to hundreds of students in New York and Connecticut. Her CD, *Beyond the Watery Lane*, received critical acclaim in both the U.S. and Ireland.

When she was younger, she and her sister Monica played the once bustling Catskills circuit. Loretta is also a GAC member and a key member of The Shamrock Traditional Irish Music Society and a fixture at our weekly Trad Music Sessions Wednesday nights from 7-9pm in the Carolan Room.

CEILI AT THE GAC SUNDAY MARCH 12 FROM 4 TO 7PM



Dance to the music of Ceol Agus Craic (*Maureen Cadden, James McInerney & Mark Demchak*). Lace up your dance shoes, bring some finger food or baked goods and join us for some great craic. Come dance or just listen to these talented musicians. **\$20 at the door.** For more info Noreen Forde 203-273-0483.

CULTURAL NIGHT - WEDNESDAY MARCH 15 - 6:30 PM



A showcase of Irish music, dance, language, drama & sports. Featuring The Shamrogs, Lenihan School of Irish Dance, St. Patrick's Gaelic Football Club, Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band, Clan na Gael, Set Dancers & Irish Language Club.

MESSAGE FROM THE GAC PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow GAC Members:

Some GAC members have made suggestions and we are grateful for their feedback. Our dynamic Executive Committee has been open to all of them. Susan Martin suggested a business networking group so Phil Dwyer, the retired YMCA CEO, has agreed to help coordinate some activities.

Martie Boulton suggested that first-time attendees introduce themselves at membership meetings causing Debbie Delorenzo to do so. Susan Barrett suggested a door prize causing Mary Ellen Lyons to win a 1.75 bottle of Jameson! Join us on Friday, March 10, 2023 at 8 PM for our next Membership Meeting and you may win a prize too!

March 17th at 10 AM is our annual Flag Raising Ceremony honoring some special members who passed. Afterwards, it's off to Black Rock for the Bridgeport Parade at Noon. Hope to have a large group from the GAC marching. My sister Cathy Brannelly Austin started the parade in 1983 so it's a family tradition.

Please feel free to reach out to me at johnbrannellyjr@gmail.com and my cell is 619-405-3523. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

John Brannelly

GAC Executive Committee President

MUSIC IN THE PUB

Friday	Mar 3	Eventide
Saturday	Mar 4	The C Sides
Friday	Mar 10	Mike McGovern
Saturday	Mar 11	Liz McNicholl Band
Sunday	Mar 12	Jefferson Hamer & Liz Hanley
Friday	Mar 17	<i>Schedule on PG 3 and Insert</i>
Saturday	Mar 18	Susan & Gerard
Friday	Mar 24	Once Removed
Saturday	Mar 25	Andrew Finn Magill & Alan Murray
Friday	Mar 31	Roamer
Saturday	Apr 1	Herman & Co

\$10 Guest Fee - Friday March 17th

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

GAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday March 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 card. Mail or drop off payment with your info to the Attn: Membership.

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 volunteer at definite times, whatever time you'd like, we can give you! Please volunteer to help our Club. The 'front desk' is 'the best seat in the house!' Please 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 March 11th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FEsecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mass cards were sent to:

The family of Peg O'Connor;
The family of Bartholomew Heavy;
The family of Bernadette Crowe.

Sympathy cards was sent to:

Simon McCarthy on the passing of his Grandmother in Ireland;
Maura Kallaway on the passing of her cousin, Beth Anne Hogan.

A Get Well card was sent to Ann Surber who spent 5 months in the hospital after complications from surgery.

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

Club ACTIVITIES**HOUSE COMMITTEE**

Iлона Paxton, House Chairperson
203-372-1280

IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Literature Group meets on Thursday, March 23rd at 7pm to discuss the book, *Did Ye Hear Mammy Died?* By Seamus O Reilly. The book is a memoir about a boy whose mother died and his life growing up with ten siblings in Northern Ireland during the troubles. The reviews say that it is very funny and only a little sad. All are welcome. contact: Mary Ellen Keresey maryellenkeresey@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 March 30TH @ noon
please make reservations by Sunday 03/26. 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

Thursdays at 6:45 pm via Zoom. For more information, call Cáit Thopsey, 203-459-9686

TRAD MUSIC SESSION

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

25 CARD GAME

Will meet March 26th from Noon to 3:30 pm. (weather permitting) Join us, we'll even teach you this Irish Traditional Irish Card Game.

2023 GALIC-AMERICAN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

The Fairfield Gaelic American Club is pleased to offer three, \$2000.00 scholarships to deserving high school seniors attending a four-year college in the fall. Recipients will be announced in early June. Applications are available at GAConline.org. All applications must be returned to the GAC by 5 PM on May 5, 2023

Six copies of applications must be placed in the Club Manager's mailbox with envelope labeled to the attention of GAC Scholarship Committee or sent to Elizabeth Power, 14 Paisley Lane, Fairfield, CT 06825.

30TH LECTURE IN A SERIES ON IRISH HISTORY**STAIR NA HÉIREANN****"MARK TWAIN, T.S. ELIOT, AND IRISH AMERICA"**

On May 7, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. in the Carolan Room, Christopher Dowd will be our lecturer.

Dr. Dowd is Associate Professor and Chair of the English Department at the University of New Haven. His focus is on Irish-American literature and culture. In addition, he is the author of *The Construction of Irish Identity in American Literature*, and *The Irish and the Origins of American Popular Culture*.

Tickets - \$5.00 (Students with ID \$2.00)

Sorry we cannot accept GAC scrip or credit cards

Help us plan seating and refreshments by registering in advance. Register online at: gaclectures@gmail.com Subject: Irish History. Please provide name, address, phone and email.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY AT THE GAC

AM FLAG RAISING - FOLLOWED BY LIGHT FAIR

MUSIC IN THE PUB

- ♣ 12-1PM SHAMROGUES
- ♣ 1:15-3:15PM CAMAC
- ♣ 3:30 - 5:30PM MOSTLY GREEN
- ♣ 5:45-7:45PM ONCE REMOVED

IN THE CAROLAN ROOM

- ♣ 12-2PM THE ALE HOUNDS
- ♣ 2:15-4:15PM THE IRISH BAND
- ♣ 5:15-7:30PM DAMIEN, SALLY

3:00PM FAIRFIELD COUNTY POLICE PIPES & DRUMS
4:30PM & 7:30PM LENIHAN SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

Special Menu will be served Friday 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. It will be a busy day at the GAC and we look to our members for your support as volunteers.

Volunteers are needed to help at the front door, contact Betty at betteleary@gmail.com. We'll need help making and serving sandwiches contact Mary O'Driscoll at 203-414-9462. And we also need volunteer bartenders, contact Chrissy Boccamazzo: chrissyboc7@gmail.com.

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.

IRISH FAMILY HISTORY DAY 2023 - MARCH 12TH

Doors open: 9:30AM

10:00AM – 2:00PM (IN-PERSON EVENT ONLY)

Join us for a half-day of in-person learning how to research Irish genealogy. Lectures are presented by Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt of the Ulster Historical Foundation (UHF, Belfast, Co. Antrim) for an all-day seminar. Topics cover all of Ireland (32 counties) and challenges tracing Irish ancestors. This is the only stop in Connecticut for these experts' 2023 North American tour.

Register online through Eventbrite by March 3rd:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/533821904687>

(early bird pricing through Feb. 17th) Additional event details can be found at <https://fegenealogy.org/>

Fee: \$30.00 A light lunch is included in the admission. Beverages not included. Cash bar from 12pm.

Lunch break is 30 minutes.

Bob Abercrombie, Chairman, Fréamh Éireann FEGA-Cinct@gmail.com or Clare Lawler Kilgallen

Email: FEsecretarygac@gmail.com

Hosted by Fréamh Éireann (Irish Roots) genealogy group
And sponsored by Féile.



GET IT ON A GUINNESS PINT GLASS

Thursday, March 9th 5:30 to 7:30pm

Get your engraved St. Patrick's Day Guinness Glass. In person sign up begins when pub opens at 4pm on the day of event.

THURSDAY MARCH 16TH @ 8PM

DREAMS
FREEDOM

Irish Ballad Band

Don't miss this ballad, folk and rebel band from Kerry, who carry on the proud history, culture and traditions of Ireland through song and stories!



CLAN NA GAEL NEWS One Act Playwright Contest

The Winning entries will be read Sunday, March 26, at 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

There will be a Q&A following each play with the actors and director

Clan na Gael's Spring Production

"The Poets Rebellion", by Jason Downes and Martin Butler. The play is being directed by Eamon Speer and Produced by Peg O'Leary.

Performances will be held on April 13,14,15 16.

Ticket information to follow

The action takes place in a pub in Dublin. A couple, tourists from America stop into a local pub, excited and enthusiastic about their day exploring the city. The bartender adds his thoughts, to theirs, on the events of the 1912 Uprising. Another patron, joins in, wanting his opposing views to be heard. The two men begin one-upping each other. Others coming into the pub dismiss the argument as "more of the same". It becomes apparent that only those who were involved in the Uprising could speak to facts. Or could they?

GR. BRIDGEPORT ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



All Members of the GAC are invited to participate in the Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade on Friday, March 17. The parade starts at the corner of Ellsworth Street and Fairfield Ave. Marchers will meet between 10:30 and 11AM at the Waksman's/Boroughs. The Parade steps off at Noon. The parade route runs down Fairfield avenue and is no longer than one mile - a nice stroll to kick off the St. Patrick's Day Festivities! Contact John Brannelly 619-405-3523.

FAMILY PRE-ST. PATRICK'S DAY SHOW

Liz McNicholl returns with her popular, fun loving, family entertainment on **Sunday, March 5th at 1:00 pm**



Her program is geared toward children of all ages, it brings smiles and joy to all the young at heart! This will be a special pre-Saint Patrick's Day Celebration show.

Liz McNicholl Pre-Saint Patrick's Day Show is sponsored by Feile, Inc. and is open to the public, so bring your friends! All are welcome. Admission is FREE! Oh and don't forget to wear your green!

CHILDREN'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Saturday, March 11th ~ 11am to 1pm

So much fun for the wee ones with a performance & mini lesson by Lenihan School of Dance, a demonstration by St. Patrick's Gaelic Football Club as well as neat crafts and food. Kelly Takacs: rasmussenkelly95@gmail.com



Address Service Requested

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

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

