



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Aibreán | April 2023

WILL WOODSON & CAITLIN FINLEY Saturday APRIL 22 7:30 | \$10



Will Woodson (*flute, uilleann pipes*) and Caitlin Finley (*fiddle*) play sparky and driving traditional Irish music that's grounded in the textures and rhythms of the rich Irish-American soundscape of the 1920s and 30s. With roots in the living Irish musical cultures

of Boston, New York City, and Philadelphia, the duo conjure up the sounds of the dance halls, vaudeville theaters, and house sessions central to Irish-American music from the first half of the twentieth century - a diverse set of influences that are channeled by the two into punchy, powerful, and joyous music.

CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY WITH THE ANDY COONEY BAND

Sunday May 14, 2023

2 Seatings : 12pm-1:30pm or 2pm-3:30pm

Buffet style meal & a complimentary glass of Prosecco for Mom!

\$35/person, \$15/children 12 & under

Reservations Required

Email tommyflaherty62@gmail.com

In your email please specify what seating time and how many in your party - limit 8 to a table. Include #adults, #kids, and a phone number. Space is Limited RSVP ASAP to ensure your desired seating time.

The GAC accepts credit cards, along with scrip and cash.

MUSIC IN THE PUB

Friday	Mar 31	Roamer
Saturday	Apr 1	Herman & Co
Friday	Apr 7	No Music - Good Friday
Saturday	Apr 8	The Alehounds
Friday	Apr 14	Sharon & Her Band
Saturday	Apr 15	Mike McGovern
Friday	Apr 21	The C-Sides
Saturday	Apr 22	Band O Brothers
Friday	Apr 28	Susan & Gerard
Saturday	Apr 29	Ruff Dogs

MESSAGE FROM THE GAC PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow GAC Members:

Hope you celebrated Irish American Heritage Month in some way. At the GAC, it culminated with our St. Patrick's Day Flag Raising Ceremony. We remembered some special members who passed over the past year including: **Kevin Fitzpatrick, Peg O'Connor, Jim Ruddy and Tom Walsh.** Grateful to **Sheila Tesei** for helping plan the program.

For Veteran's Day, **Brad Baldwin and Brian Vahey** have agreed to help coordinate a ceremony honoring GAC Veterans on November 11. Both men are Navy veterans. Let them know if you are willing to help.

There were so many special activities all March long and I am so grateful to everyone for helping out in so many significant ways. Bravo to **Megan Lenihan** for orchestrating our Irish Cultural Night. Irish Step Dancers are my favorite and her students are outstanding! Speaking of dancers, kudos to **Brian Reynolds** who volunteers every Thursday night at 8 PM to teach Set Dancing. Beginners welcome!

Thank you to everyone who marched with the GAC in the Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was wonderful day recognizing Grand Marshal **Gerry Reidy** and the four Mr. & Miss Shamrocks: **Cate Gutowski, Zoe Curtin, Emmet Moran and Colman Connolly.** Once again, **Sheila Tesei** helped assemble our large group in the parade.

Our next Membership Meeting is Friday, April 21 at 8 PM. Please come and learn how you can get more involved in your club. You may even win a prize. Last month there were three lucky door prize winners, thanks to donations from **Madeline O'Shea** of Coldwell Banker Realty: **Patrick Fee** of Shamrock Painting and **Jane Walters** of William Pitt Realty. If you have a business to promote and would like to donate a prize, let me know.

Volunteers are needed for many roles at the GAC. Please let me know if you are willing to help out in some way. Please email me at johnbrannellyjr@gmail.com or contact me on my cell 619-405-3523.

Have a Blessed Easter!

John Brannelly
GAC Executive Committee President

NO TRIVIA IN APRIL | IT'LL BE BACK IN MAY!

GAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday April 21 @ 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.

25 CARD GAME

Will meet April 23th from Noon to 3:30 pm. Join us, we'll even teach you this Irish 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 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**FRÉAMB ÉIREANN**

The group meets on April 8th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

GOOD AND WELFARE

A Get well card was sent to
Joanie McInerney

A Mass card was sent to
Carole Riches on the passing of her
husband, Geoffrey

A deceased member plaque was
engraved for Peggy O'Connor

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

CLUB ACTIVITIES**HOUSE COMMITTEE**

Ilona Paxton, House Chairperson
203-372-1280

IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Irish Literature Group will meet on Thursday, April 20th at 7p.m. We will be discussing *The Drowning Sea* by Sarah Stewart Taylor. All are welcome. contact: Mary Ellen Keresev maryellenkeresev@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 April 27th@ noon
please make reservations by Sunday 04/23 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.

**ST PATRICK'S GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING CLUB****Registration is open for Spring Season U7 - U17**

Season runs from April - June with weekly games and/or practice. All players must be registered to play in any games and/or tournaments.

Gaelic Sports Summer Camp -Cul Camp

June 26 - June 30th from 9am-3pm at Notre Dame High School \$300

For more information contact training@stpatricksgaa.us or visit the club's website stpatricksgfc.org

**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 pm 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*.

Two of the most notable American writers of the 19th century helped shape popular perceptions about Irish-American identity. In *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain created one of the most beloved characters in all of American literature—Huck Finn—and describes him as an Irish boy. Yet, Huck's Irishness has largely been ignored or erased over the past century. Similarly, T.S. Eliot's character Sweeney appears in many plays and poems, including "The Wasteland." Yet, the significance of his Irishness is also overlooked. This talk will consider the importance of Irish ethnicity to these foundational Irish texts by non-Irish writers and how it helped shape popular understandings of what it means to be Irish in America.

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.

April

AIBREÁN



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
Lam

Tuesday
Máirt

Wednesday
Céadaoin

Thursday
Déardaoin

Friday
Aoine

Saturday
Satharn

Please Note: GAC's Monthly Membership meeting has moved to Friday April 21st.

All members are encouraged to attend!

Also take notice of the Scholarship opportunities list on back page!

2

Palm Sunday

3

Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

4

Lenihan Dance Lessons
 4pm Children - 8pm Adult

5

Trad Music Session 7-9PM

6

Irish Language Class
 • Beginners (zoom) 6:45
 • Intermediate(zoom) 7:30
Set Dancing 7:30pm

7



Sceala Submissions Due
 • No Music Good Friday

8

Genealogy Group 10:30am
 • The Alehounds

31

• Roamer

1



• Herman & Co

9

Closed for Easter



10

Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

11

Executive Committee Meeting 7pm
 Lenihan Dance Lessons
 4pm Children - 8pm Adult

12

Trad Music Session 7-9PM

13

Irish Language Class
 • Beginners (zoom) 6:45
 • Intermediate(zoom) 7:30
Set Dancing 7:30pm
 CnG's "Poets Rebellion" 8pm

14

• Sharon & Her Band

15

• Mike McGovern
 CnG's "Poets Rebellion" 8pm

16

CnG's "Poets Rebellion"
 2:30pm

17

Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

18

Lenihan Dance Lessons
 4pm Children - 8pm Adult

19

Trad Music Session 7-9PM

20

Irish Language Class
 • Beginners (zoom) 6:45
 • Intermediate(zoom) 7:30
 Irish Literature Group 7pm
Set Dancing 7:30pm

21

• The C-Sides

22

Woodson & Finley Concert
 7:30pm | \$10
 • Band O Brothers

23

25 Card Game
 12-3:30pm

24

Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

25

Lenihan Dance Lessons
 4pm Children - 8pm Adult

26

Trad Music Session 7-9PM

27

Senior Lunch 12pm
 Irish Language Class
 • Beginners (zoom) 6:45
 • Intermediate(zoom) 7:30
Set Dancing 7:30pm

28

• Susan & Gerard

29



• Ruff Dogs

30



CLAN NA GAEL NEWS

Clan na Gael's Spring Production

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

Performances are Thursday 04/13, Friday 04/14 & Saturday 04/15 at 8pm and Sunday 04/16 Matinee at 2:30pm

Featuring: Patrick Baldwin, Steven Bennett, Eileen Fickes, Alison Flaherty, Joyce Fox, Peter Haines, Bob Leftig, Marie Sthele and Byrne White.

The Poets Rebellion takes you to Dublin where a couple, tourists from America stop into the 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?

Admission for the Poet's Rebellion is \$15.00.

For reservations please email Nancy O'Neil at playresvcng@gmail.com or call at (203) 377-1070.

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 GAOnline.org. All applications must be returned to the GAC by 5PM 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.

JOE MORAN AND PATRICK J. DYER SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by FÉILE

2023 Joe Moran Memorial Scholarship

FÉILE is pleased to offer up to three scholarships of \$2000 each to high school seniors who will be attending college in fall 2023.

2023 Patrick J. Dyer - 1916 Scholarship

FÉILE is pleased to announce our 2023 scholarship program in partnership with the family of Patrick J. Dyer. One scholarship of \$1916 awarded to high school senior who will be attending college in fall 2023.

Deadline for all scholarships applications is 05/01/2023

Information, applications, and details for both scholarship opportunities are available at

<https://feileinc.org/scholarships/>

Scholarship recipients will be notified in June 2023.

Questions - Email feileinc89@gmail.com

GAC Blood Drive May 24th | 8am - 5:30pm
Come roll up you sleeves and give a pint!

Address Service Requested

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

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