



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FAILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Bealtaine | May 2023

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE GAC PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow GAC Members:

As I write this, it is **National Volunteer Week** and I would like to thank the countless volunteers, past, present and future who keep the Gaelic American Club alive. Without volunteers, our facility would just be a regular restaurant and pub. It is the members who donate their precious time, energy, experience and creativity to create the environment of our dynamic social club. It would be impossible to list every individual, just please know how very grateful the Executive Committee is for each and every one of you.

More volunteers are needed to keep our Club alive. Many of the committees were dormant during the pandemic. As we continue to emerge out of it, it is vital that they be re-activated. Members are needed to help with: **Auditing, Good and Welfare, Budget, Bar, Kitchen, Communications, Social, House, Facilities Management, Failte (Welcome), and Records Committees.** The most important requirement to help in any of these areas is that you are a member in good standing. If you would consider helping, please let me know by email, text, call or speak to me at the GAC.

Our next Membership Meeting is Friday, May 12 at 8 PM. You can learn how to get more involved in your club. You may win a prize. Last month, **The Russell Insurance Agency** of Southport generously donated three amazing gifts from **Peggy's Cottage**. Special thanks to **Tim Russell** for being so thoughtful.

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms on May 14! A great day is planned at our Club. One of my favorite Mother's Days was the year I flew in from my home in San Diego, my brother came down from Boston and with all six of our sisters celebrated at the Gaelic American Club with our mother, the late **Jeanne Gildea Brannelly**. Hope you create fond memories this year for your mom.

Please reach out to me at johnbrannellyjr@gmail.com or 619-405-3523 at any time.

GB, John Brannelly
GAC Executive Committee President

BRENDAN DOLAN

FRIDAY MAY 5TH @ 6PM

Brendan Dolan is a multi-instrumentalist, excelling in the piano, Irish flute and tin whistle. He has worked with accordionist John Whelan, singer/songwriter Cathie Ryan, Andy Statman and Itzhak Perlman, and can be heard



on the latest recordings of Billy McComiskey, Brian Conway and The Green Fields of America. Dolan is a teacher at the annual Augusta Heritage Center in Elkins West Virginia, and the Irish Arts Week in East Durham, New York. He maintains a vibrant school of Irish music for children in the New York City area.

TRIVIA NIGHT FRIDAY MAY 5TH @ 8PM

So wear something purple and play to win great stuff!

MUSIC IN THE PUB

Friday	May 5	Mike McGovern
Saturday	May 6	Liz McNichol
Friday	May 12	Bobby Morrill
Saturday	May 13	Sharon & Her Band
Friday	May 19	The Jolly Beggars
Saturday	May 20	Susan & Gerard
Friday	May 26	Mostly Green
Saturday	May 27	The Irish Band
Monday	May 29	Alehounds 1-4pm



GAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday May 12 @ 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.

The Business Directory Planning Group will meet on May 2nd @ 6pm at the GAC.

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 May 13th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Sympathy cards were sent to: Kathleen Shilling on the passing of her Mother; To Gerard O'Donovan on the passing of his brother

A Mass card was sent to: The family of Doreen O'Connell

Deceased member plaques were engraved for: Diane M. Dunn
Barbara Reilly

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 May 18th at 7pm. we will be discussing the novel *The Coroner's Daughter* by Andrew Hughes 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 May 25th@ noon . *The Youthful Hearts* will be our special guest so come enjoy the music! please make reservations by Sunday 05/21 Lunch price 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 Thursdays at 7:30pm. 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

New Irish Lite Language Series

Now is your chance to learn a cúpla focail in the new Irish language series presented by the GAC Language Group via Zoom. This short and fun series will get you started, so mark your calendars now for June 1, 8, 15, & 22 from 7:30-8 pm. More details coming. Bigi linn...be with us!

**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

The Irish Video History Project Begins A new Phase of Interviews

The goal is to preserve the stories of Irish people, of all ages, who've emigrated to the USA. At this time we are concentrating on GAC members. However, others will be considered.

Our interview centers on: 1. Growing up in Ireland. 2. The decision to emigrate. 3. Living in the states. To date 55 interviews have been completed and we'd like to add your story So, we're asking anyone who has emigrated from Ireland to America to please share their own unique story. Interviews are one-on-one in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

To make an appointment, ask for more information or volunteer to assist with the project please contact Peg at: opegyo812@gmail.com

The Consequences Concert | Saturday May 20 | 7:30 | \$20

Driven by a passion for exploring the colors and complexities of Irish music, The Consequences are a new Irish traditional band founded by Lexie Boatright (concertina and harp) Jake James (fiddle) Cara Wildman (bodhran & dance) Ryan Ward (piano and piano accordion). Each an award winning soloist, the quartet comes together to create a dynamic and enthralling sound with a combination of traditional and original tunes.



Schedule

Mon & Tues
Wed & Thurs
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

Kitchen hours

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

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 MILE
FÁILTE**



Sunday <i>Dombnach</i>	Monday <i>Luan</i>	Tuesday <i>Máirt</i>	Wednesday <i>Céadaoin</i>	Thursday <i>Deardaoin</i>	Friday <i>Aoine</i>	Saturday <i>Satharn</i>
	1 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	2 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	3 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	4 Irish Language Class • Beginners (zoom) 6:45 • Intermediate(zoom) 7:30 Set Dancing 7:30pm	5 Trivia 8pm ♪ Brendan Dolan 6-8pm ♪ Mike McGovern	6 ♪ Liz McNichol
7 Irish History Lecture 2pm With Dr. Christopher Dowd	8 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	9 Executive Committee Meeting 7pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	10 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	11 Irish Language Class • Beginners (zoom) 6:45 • Intermediate(zoom) 7:30 Set Dancing 7:30pm	12 Membership Meeting 8pm Sceala Submissions Due ♪ Bobby Morrill	13 Genealogy Group 10:30am ♪ Sharon & Her Band
14 Mother's Day Celebration with Andy Cooney Seatings at 12pm & 2pm	15 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	16 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	17 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	18 Irish Language Class • Beginners (zoom) 6:45 • Intermediate(zoom) 7:30 Irish Literature Group 7pm Set Dancing 7:30pm	19 ♪ The Jolly Beggars	20 Consequences Concert 7:30 \$20 ♪ Susan & Gerard
21	22 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	23 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	24 Blood Drive 8am - 5:30pm  Trad Music Session 7-9PM	25 Senior Lunch 12pm Irish Language Class • Beginners (zoom) 6:45 • Intermediate(zoom) 7:30 Set Dancing 7:30pm	26 ♪ Mostly Green	27 ♪ The Irish Band
28 	29 Memorial Day BBQ 12pm The Alehounds 1-4pm Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	30 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	31 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	1 Irish Language Class • Beginners (zoom) 6:45 • Intermediate(zoom) 7:30 Set Dancing 7:30pm	2 ♪ Herman & Company	3  ♪ Once Removed



CLAN NA GAEL NEWS

The Reading of the winning plays of the 9th Annual CnG Playwright Contest, on March 26th provided the audience a chance to see the works of three emerging and entertaining playwrights.

- "*The Head of Shamus Dooley*" by Ben Scranton First Place \$200.00
- "*The Turquoise Sheep*" by Alison Flannery Second Place \$100.00
- "*Leaving*" by Brian Whelan Third Place \$50.00

Another Clan na Gael Premiere.

CnG was pleased to premiere "The Poet's Rebellion" by Jason Downes and Martin Butler. It was a pleasure working closely with the writers. Staging the play was challenging and rewarding.

Thank You, to the dedicated cast, Marie Stehle, Byrne White, Eileen Ficks, Steve Bennett, Alison Flannery, Joyce Fox, Peter Haynes, Eamon Speer, Patrick Baldwin, Bob Liftig, all of whom worked with their Director, Eamon Speer, to bring the writers words to life. As Eamon said, "The final ingredient is the audience." and they did not disappoint! Thank You for your enthusiasm!

Another big, and heartfelt Thank You to all the Staff who worked tirelessly to bring the production together. You are all appreciated!

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*.

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

Sorry we cannot accept GAC script 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.

Memorial Day BBQ | Monday May 29th | 12 noon

Good Food & Music by *'The Alehounds'* (1-4pm)

No reservation needed just come on down and enjoy a fun afternoon for the entire family!

(Bring a guest - but please sign'em in)

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

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