



# SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



LUNASA August 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE GAC PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members:

Last Friday night, I joined my sister **Maura O'Malley** and her family for dinner at the GAC. Her granddaughters played in the Children's Room under her watchful eye while her son **Jack**, husband **Denis** and I "solved the world's problems." Later, Jack and Maura took the girls outside to play.

**Five generations** of our family have enjoyed the GAC. Our grandfather **Patrick Brannelly** was one of the early proponents of the GAC and now his great-great granddaughters **Lucy and Maddie O'Malley** are enjoying it, 75 years later. The **Gaelic American Club** is a wonderful family tradition so share our Club with your family too.

Our next membership meeting is Friday, September 8, 2023 at 8 PM. Our 75th Anniversary Celebration will be October 13, 14 and 15, 2023. Meanwhile, contact me at johnbrannellyjr@gmail.com or 619-405-3523.

GB, John Brannelly Jr.  
GAC Executive Committee President

## MUSIC IN THE PUB

- Fri: Aug 4:** Con O'Halloran - 6-8pm Outside  
Alehounds - 9pm in the Pub
- Sat Aug 5:** Mostly Green Duo - 6-8pm Outside  
Eventide - 9pm in the Pub
- Fri Aug 11:** Molly Byrne - 6-8pm Outside  
Sharon & Her Band - 9pm in the Pub
- Sat Aug 12:** C-Sides Duo - 6-8pm Outside  
Ruff Dogs - 9pm in the Pub
- Fri Aug 18:** Liz McNichol - 6-8pm Outside  
Mike McGovern - 9pm in the Pub
- Sat Aug 19:** Exit 5 - 6-8pm Outside  
Camac - 9pm in the Pub
- Fri Aug 25:** Molly Byrne - 6-8pm Outside  
Mostly Green - 9pm in the Pub
- Sat Aug: 26** Eventide Duo - 6-8pm Outside  
The Irish Band - 9pm in the Pub
- Fri Sept 1:** Elana Zabari - 6-8pm Outside  
Keltic Kick - 9pm in the Pub
- Sat Sept 2:** Munster's - 6-8pm Outside  
Liz McNichol Band - 9pm in the Pub

## FÉILE SCHOLARSHIPS



Tom Keane, Emma Grosshart and Jim O'Donnell

Féile is pleased to announce the recipients of their 2023 scholarships. The Joseph Moran Feile Scholarships were presented to Emma Grosshart, Catherine Murphy and Liam O'Byrne. The 1916

Patrick Dyer Scholarship was presented to Emma Grosshart. We wish these students the best in their higher edu-



Kathy Thopsey, Liam O'Byrne, Emma Grosshart and Griffin Reidy

## AN EVENING OF IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Sponsored by the Shamrock Traditional Irish Music Society and Gaelic-American Club

Séagda Coyle ~ Button Accordion

Eugene Bender ~ Fiddle | Krista Charles ~ Piano

Saturday, September 16 @ 7:30 pm in The Carolan

Tickets: \$20 donation at the door

(doors open to the public 7:00)

Visit [shamrockirishmusic.org](http://shamrockirishmusic.org)

(an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational organization)



## SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

Some Club Activities have taken the summer off, but no worries **First Friday Trad Musician, Genealogy Group, Irish Literature Group** and **Senior Lunch** will be back in the Fall.

### GAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meets monthly and can be reached Via email at [executive@gacemail.org](mailto:executive@gacemail.org)

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Meetings are on summer hiatus and will resume September 8 @ 8pm.

### 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](http://www.gaconline.org). send info to [communications@gacemail.org](mailto:communications@gacemail.org). And when you need a business or trade service check the list and support your fellow members.

### FÁILTE COMMITTEE

FAILTE needs more new 'front door' volunteers for definite time slots, whatever time you'd like, we can give you! The 'front desk' is 'the best seat in the house!' Please contact Bette Leary at email: [betteleary@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://fairfieldgaelicpipeband.org) or call 475-329-0202.

### GOOD AND WELFARE

Mass Cards were sent to:

Bette Leary on the passing of her husband, Kevin; The family of Gerry Rooney; Annette Ham on the passing of her husband, Edward, who was a lifetime club member.

Sympathy Cards were sent to:

The family of Gerry Rooney on the passing of his son, Patric; To Brian Reynolds in memory of his Sister-in-law Denise who passed away.

Deceased member plaques were engraved for:

Edward Robert Ham and Carol Ruddy  
*Notify Mary Alvarez of all member news at [alvarezmp@icloud.com](mailto:alvarezmp@icloud.com).*

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### HOUSE COMMITTEE

House Committee  
Contact [manager@gacemail.org](mailto:manager@gacemail.org)

### 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. Tom Donohue at [tdonohue@webbmason.com](mailto:tdonohue@webbmason.com).

### SET DANCING

Don't take your dance shoes off because we dance all summer. 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 In the Carolan Room.

## 31ST LECTURE IN A SERIES ON IRISH HISTORY STAIR NA HÉIREANN

### "Brexit & the Past and Future of Irish Unification"

by Dr. John Tully October 1st at 2:00 pm in the Carolan Room



During the preparation for and after the United Kingdom's official departure from the European Union (Brexit), there has been considerable discussion of Brexit's effect on Irish unification. This talk will examine the original division of the island of Ireland, the implications of Brexit on Irish borders, and the possible future of Northern Ireland."

Dr. Tully earned his Ph.D. from Ohio State University with a concentration in the history of American Foreign Relations in 2004 and joined the CCSU history faculty that year. He is currently Central's Interim Vice President for Student Affairs. He has written, cowritten, or co-edited three books, with the most recent being *The United States and the Rise of Tyrants: Diplomatic Relations with Nationalist Dictatorships Between the World Wars*. His first book, *Ireland and Irish Americans, 1932-1945: The Search for Identity*, grew in part out of his research as a Visiting Fellow at the Clinton Institute for American Studies at University College Dublin. He has won numerous teaching awards and has given talks in Ireland and Poland and presented conference papers at national meetings of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the National Council for the Social Studies, the American Conference for Irish Studies, and many others.

Register at: [gaclectures@gmail.com](mailto:gaclectures@gmail.com).

Tickets \$5, Students with ID \$2. | Sorry no GAC Scrip or credit cards

## LÁ GAELIGE

### THE ANNUAL DAY OF IRISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE EVENT

Saturday, October 7 - 8:30 am -4:30 pm

One-day Irish language immersion course for all levels of speakers, presented by the GAC Irish Language group and Féile, Inc. The day features classes taught by Fulbright Scholars, cultural workshops, door prizes, "coffee &" all day, lunch by Chef Joe; so bring a friend and join us for the most fun you've had since the last Lá Gaeilge! Cost is \$50/pp, all inclusive; students with ID-\$25. For more information or questions:

Róibín Griskus, 203-233-4979, [rdgriskus@aol.com](mailto:rdgriskus@aol.com)

Cáit Thopsey, 203-459-9686, [kthopsey01@gmail.com](mailto:kthopsey01@gmail.com)



**18TH ANNUAL GREATER BRIDGEPORT ST. PATRICK'S DAY SCHOLARSHIP CLASSIC**  
Tuesday, September 12 | Mill River Country Club | 4567 Main Street | Stratford  
For information: David Curtin 203 685 2381 Peter Carroll 203 913 0259  
or Terrence Fairfield 203 521 0795  
Registration Info can be found on website: [stpatriksdaybridgeport.com](http://stpatriksdaybridgeport.com)

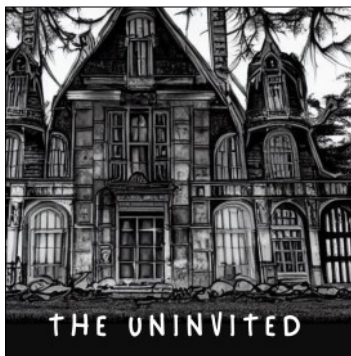
**HELP CELEBRATE THE GAC'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY**  
OCTOBER 13, 14 AND 15, 2023



The GAC's 75th Anniversary Celebration will take place the weekend of October 13, 14 and 15. It will kick off with our Membership Meeting on Friday the 13th and end with a Céilí on Sunday evening, the 15th.

Volunteerism has been and continues to be the backbone of the GAC, So in the spirit of "chipping in" we'll need your help to make this memorable occasion happen. To volunteer contact Mary Donnelley at [mdonnelly@swcaa.org](mailto:mdonnelly@swcaa.org).

**"THE UNIVITED " BY TIM KELLY,**  
**DIRECTED BY PEG O'LEARY**



This mysterious ghost story is set in 1945 and takes place in "Cliff End" an old manor house overlooking the Irish sea. The house was recently bought by the Fitzgerald's, a sister and brother who had heard stories of disturbances but they are undaunted as they begin renovating and settling in. Their housekeeper, Lizzie Flynn, however, quickly becomes disenchanted when her cat goes missing and her strong Irish sense of unnatural occurrences foreshadows what is to come.

The production will be reminiscent of the time as it will be presented entirely in shades of black and white. Nov. 16-19, 2023

**TRIVIA FRIDAY AUGUST 4TH @ 8PM**

Brush up on all that random knowledge and win great stuff, so join us for another fun filled night of trivia! Oh and wear some tie dye.

Address Service Requested

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Permit # 288

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