



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Meán Fómhair | September 2023

Dear Fellow Members:

The next Member Meeting is Friday, September 8th at 8 PM, our first since June so plan to attend. New members are invited to come and socialize at 7PM, as a way for new members to make friends. It will be a fun night with a special dessert. If you have a business to promote by donating a door prize, text me at 619-405-3523.

Congratulations to **Jimmy Feeney**, selected as the Grand Marshal of the 2024 Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade. The first event of the parade season is the Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day Party to be held at the **GAC** on Sunday, September 17 from 4-7PM. Tickets are \$30. Thank you to **Suzanne Moore** for organizing.

GAC's 75th Anniversary Celebration is October 13, 14 & 15. The weekend kicks off with our Membership Meeting on Friday the 13th and ends with a Ceili on Sunday afternoon. **Mary Donnelly** is coordinating all the festivities including a cultural extravaganza on Saturday.

With inflation rising and no price increases at the Club in five years, you might see some new prices at the pub in September which will be announced at the September meeting. To keep costs down, we will be hosting less bands in the pub as we close out the year.

As always, contact me at johnbrannellyjr@gmail.com

*GB, John Brannelly Jr.
GAC Executive Committee President*

DON MEADE OCTOBER 6TH FROM 6 - 8PM



The First Friday Trad Music Session Features Don Meade who has been a central part of the Irish traditional music scene in New York for over forty years. After relocating from California in 1976, he encountered and spent time with many of the older players including Martin Wynne, Mike Rafferty, Tom Doherty and especially Paddy Reynolds.. Highly respected among Irish traditional musicians of all ages, he has a vast knowledge of the music tradition in New York. This, combined with his journalistic skills ensured that Don is best placed to create an account of Irish trad music history in the New York area.

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

LÁ GAEILGE: THE ANNUAL DAY OF IRISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE EVENT

Saturday, October 7 FROM 8:30AM - 4:30PM

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 & tea" 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
Cáit Thopsey, 203-459-9686, kthopsey01@gmail.com

TRIVIA NIGHT - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST @ 8PM

join us for another fun filled night of trivia.
Oh and wear something white!

MUSIC IN THE PUB

Friday September 1st - Keltic Kick
Saturday September 9th - Susan & Gerard
Friday September 15th - Mike McGovern
Saturday September 23rd - Sharon & Her Band

GAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monthly Membership meeting re-
sume on 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

A Networking Social is planned for
Wednesday Sept 20th from 5:30-7pm.
All members of GAC's Business &
Trade Directory are invited!

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 sup-
port 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
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 September 9th @
10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For
info FEsecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Get Well cards were sent to: Noreen
Forde and Maureen Fracassini.

A Sympathy Card was sent to:
Tom Langdon and family on the pass-
ing of his Mother, Patricia Langdon

Deceased member plaque was
engraved for: Kevin Leary

Deceased member plaques were en-
graved for: Edward Robert Ham

And Carol Ruddy.

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

CLUB ACTIVITIES**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.

IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Group will meet on Thursday
9/21 at 7 pm to discuss *Queen of Dirt
Island* by Donal Ryan. The story is set
in Tipperary and follows four genera-
tions of women. All are welcome!

Contact: Mary Ellen Keresey
maryellenkeresey@gmail.com

IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

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

BEGINNERS IRISH LANGUAGE

Tuesday Sept 12th 6:45pm, 10 week
course, in person at the GAC or
via zoom. Contact
DesNolan@Optimum.Net

SENIOR LUNCH

Thursday September 28th @ noon.
please make reservations by Sunday
09/24 by calling Shirley McMenamy
203-268-5083; Sally Savage 203-366-
4826. Lunch price is \$9 members and
for non-members \$11.

SET DANCING

Don't take your dance shoes off be-
cause we dance all summer. Thurs-
days at 7:30pm. Brian Reynolds
203-214-2921.

TRAD MUSIC SESSION

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

IRISH TRAD MUSIC CONCERT - SATURDAY OCTOBER 21 AT 7:30

Shamrock Traditional Irish Music Society and the Gaelic American Club
Presents: Rose Conway Flanagan (*Fiddle*), Kieran Flanagan (*Piano*), and
Eileen Clune Goodman (*Flute, Whistle*) Admission \$20

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 Europe-
an 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 Uni-
versity with a concentration in the history of
American Foreign Relations in 2004 and joined
the CCSU history faculty that year. He is cur-
rently Central's Interim Vice President for Stu-
dent 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 Be-
tween 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 Ire-
land and Poland and presented conference papers at national meetings of
the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Histori-
ans, the National Council for the Social Studies, the American Conference
for Irish Studies, and many others.

Register at: gaclectures@gmail.com.

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

September

Meán Fómhair

September is a great time to Join in an Activity or Club at the GAC

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 míle fáilte



Sunday Dombnach	Monday Láir	Tuesday Máirt	Wednesday Céadaoin	Thursday Oéaraoin	Friday Aoine	Saturday Satharn
	Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	1 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	2 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	3 Irish Language • (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7:30pm	1 Trivia Night 8pm • Keltic Kick - 9pm in the Pub	2 
3 Please Remember to Sign in Your Guests in the Lobby	4 Labor Day Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	5 Executive Committee Meeting 7pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	6 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	7 Irish Language • (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7:30pm	8 Submissions Due Membership Meeting 8pm	9 Genealogy Group 10:30 • Susan & Gerard - 9pm in the Pub
10 	11 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	12 Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Classic Beginners Irish Language 6:45pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	13 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	14 Irish Language • (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7:30pm	15 • Mike McGovern - 9pm in the Pub	16 Irish Trad Music Concert 7:30 \$20 per person
17 Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Celebration - 4-7pm - \$30	18 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	19 Beginners Irish Language 6:45pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	20 Business Directory Networking Social 5:30-7pm Trad Music Session 7-9PM	21 Irish Language • (via zoom) 6:45pm Irish Literature Group 7pm Set Dancing 7:30pm	22 Last Day of Summer 	23 Autum Begins  • Sharon & Her Band - 9pm in the Pub
24 	25 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	26 Beginners Irish Language 6:45pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	27 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	28 Senior Lunch 12pm Irish Language • (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7:30pm	29 Reminder Please Return Your Glasses to the Bar	30 

**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 10/13, Showcase GAC's Clubs & Activities and special concert on Saturday ending with a Mass and Breakfast followed by a Céilí on the 15th.



**"THE UNINVITED " BY TIM KELLY,
DIRECTED BY PEG O'LEARY
Cast: Steven Bennett, Anne Marie Donohue, Jack Frum, Jennifer Healey, Valerie Huegel, Sara Kelly, Noleen Nelson, Eamon Speer, Marie Stehle, Byrne White and Erin Williams**

This mysterious ghost story is set in 1936 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 sense of unnatural occurrences foreshadows what's to come.

The production will be reminiscent of the time and will be presented entirely in shades of black & white.

Shows are November 16th, 17th, 18th & 19th

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

18TH ANNUAL GREATER BRIDGEPORT ST. PATRICK'S DAY SCHOLARSHIP GOLF 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: stpatriksgivingbridgeport.com

SAVE WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13TH FOR 'CHERISH THE LADIES'

This Christmas Spectacular at SHU Community Theatre is Presented by The Gaelic American Club, Sacred Heart University's Irish Studies Program and The Shamrock Traditional Irish Music Society

Address Service Requested

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

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