



# SCÉALA

Newsletter for the Gaelic-American Club  
74 Beach Road, Fairfield CT 06824  
[www.gaconline.org](http://www.gaconline.org)



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes ❁❁❁ December 2023 | Nollaig

### Message From The GAC President:

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. The GAC Election Day is Sunday, December 3 from 12 to 6 PM. All members are eligible to vote and you are encouraged to vote for your preferred candidates. There are three competitive races: President, VP and Sergeant At Arms. Best of luck to all the candidates.

Congratulations to fellow GAC Club member **Bill Gerber** on his election as First Selectman of the Town of Fairfield. Bill has served on the Town's Representative Town Meeting for the past ten years, so he is familiar with town government. His wife, Jessica, is of Irish descent and herself is well known for her volunteer leadership on the Town of Fairfield's Board of Ed. Many town issues impact the GAC so it is good to have someone familiar with our organization in the Town's top office.

At the November meeting, the Executive Committee recommended a letter of support of the Great Hunger Museum of Fairfield. The museum is seeking bond funding from the State of Connecticut to advance their project. The membership voted to endorse the endeavor so a letter was submitted in support of their application. Best of luck to the museum board of directors on securing the necessary funding to advance the project. To lend your support to the project, contact **John Foley** at [johndfoleygac@gmail.com](mailto:johndfoleygac@gmail.com).

The next membership meeting will be held on Friday, December 8, 2023 at 8 PM. All are welcome. The elected candidates will be announced and the budget will be reviewed and approved. Last month **Eileen Callahan** baked her famous cupcakes for everyone. If you would like to bake for the December meeting or donate a door prize, please let us know, these things always make the meetings more enjoyable.

As we begin to prepare for the holiday season, "Happy Christmas" to you and your loved ones.

As always, contact me at [johnbrannellyjr@gmail.com](mailto:johnbrannellyjr@gmail.com)

John Brannelly, *GAC President*



### THE GIVING TREE

Once again, the Giving Tree is up at the GAC. We will be collecting presents for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission and Sister Theresa Tremblay's Nursery School children and their families. Please take a tag (or 2), buy the designated present,

wrap it (with the original tree tag attached) and return the gifts to the GAC NO LATER THAN 12/13 - Please don't take a tag unless you fully intend to buy a gift.

**A Huge Thank You in advance to all who participate!**

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING & UGLY SWEATER NIGHT

Join us for this fun holiday sing along on Wednesday December 13 @ 7pm. And don't forget the ugly sweater - We will be judging you!



### LORETTA MURPHY DECEMBER 1ST @ 6PM



Our December First Friday Trad Musician is a gifted button accordion and concertina player. Loretta 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 United States and Ireland. In their younger years, Loretta and her sister, Monica, played the once-bustling Catskills circuit. She is a GAC member and a key member of the Shamrock Traditional Irish Music Society.

### MUSIC IN THE PUB - STARTS AT 9PM

- Friday December 1 - *Keltic Kick*
- Saturday December 2 - *Mostly Green*
- Friday December 8 - *Molly Byrne*
- Saturday December 9 - *The Jolly Beggars*
- Friday December 15 - *Riley Johnson*
- Saturday December 16 - *Once Removed*
- Friday December 22 - *The Irish Band*
- Saturday December 23 - *Sharon & Her Band*
- Friday December 29 - *Riley Johnson*
- Saturday December 30 - *Keltic Kick*



### TRIVIA NIGHT FRIDAY DECEMBER 1ST @ 7PM

join us for another fun filled night of trivia.

Oh ... and wear some Green & Red.

*Please note the early start time as we're accommodating for Celtic Christmas set-up*

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Executive Committee can be reach at [executive@gacemail.org](mailto:executive@gacemail.org)  
Monthly Membership meeting on  
December 8th @ 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.

## 25 CARD GAME

The Group meets on December 17th around noon (*Irish Time*). Join us, we'll be playing for a Holiday Ham!

## 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.

## GENEALOGY GROUP

### FRÉAMB ÉIREANN

The group will meet December 9th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info [FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com](mailto:FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com).

## GOOD AND WELFARE

A Mass Cards were sent to:  
Deirdre Fitzsimons and family on the passing of her husband Shane;  
Jean Marie Johnson on the passing of her husband, Frederick O'Hara Johnson;  
The family of Maureen Reidy Fracassini;  
The family of Elizabeth (Betty) Conway

Deceased member plaques were engraved for: Geoffrey Riches  
Frederick O'Hara Johnson  
Elizabeth Conway (Betty)

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).

### IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Irish Literature Group will not meet in December but will resume January 18th to discuss *My Fathers House* by Joseph O'Connor. During this meeting we will hold our annual book exchange. Bring any wrapped book that you have enjoyed. A list of the books we have read is available at the sign in desk. Mary Ellen Keresey [maryellenkeresey@gmail.com](mailto:maryellenkeresey@gmail.com).

### IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

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

### BEGINNERS IRISH LANGUAGE

Tuesday's at 6:45pm, 10 week course, in person at the GAC or via zoom. Contact [DesNolan@Optimum.Net](mailto:DesNolan@Optimum.Net)

### SENIOR LUNCH

Thursday December 28th @ noon  
Please make reservations by Sunday 12/24 by calling Shirley McMenamy 203-268-5083; Sally Savage 203-366-4826. Lunch price is \$9 members and for non-members \$11.

### SET DANCING

Come on out and dance. Thursdays at 7pm. (*starting a bit earlier*) Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921.

### TRAD MUSIC SESSION

The Shamrogs host an Irish Trad Music Night every Wednesday 7-9pm

## GAELIC AMERICAN CLUB ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

**ITEMS NEEDED:** Canned Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Gravy  
Cranberry Sauce, Non-perishable Food Items, Grocery Gift Cards.

Drop off at Club until December 20th

For information call Faith Maciver: 203-520-8048

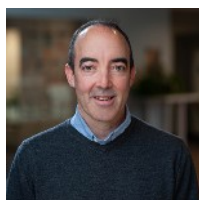
## KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 9TH FROM 11AM TO 1PM

It's a great time for the little ones, they'll meet Santa and enjoy themselves at the Christmas dance party. For more info contact Kelly at [rasmussenkelly95@gmail.com](mailto:rasmussenkelly95@gmail.com)



## IRISH HISTORY LECTURE - SUNDAY FEB 4 @ 2PM



Professor Brendan Kane will be our guest lecturer on February 4, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the Carolan Room. Dr. Kane is from Reading, Pennsylvania, received a B.A. in history from the University of Rochester, an M.Phil in Irish Studies from the National University of Ireland, Galway, and a PhD from Princeton. Prior to coming to UCONN in 2005, he spent a year as the NEH/Keough Fellow at the University of Notre Dame's Keough Institute of Irish Studies. He serves as Vice-President/President-elect of the Celtic Studies Association of North America, elected Council Member of the North American Conference on British Studies, and co-director of the digital humanities project Léamh.org.

He will lecture on Irish Bardic Poets and the Wider World, c. 1500-1650 considering the place of the Irish bardic poet in European context during the age of the Renaissance and Reformation. His talk will address some of the latest research on the Irish bardic poet in Continental context and will draw upon both Irish-language poetry and prose. It will aim to suggest some ways in which early modern Ireland might look a bit more European than expected and, conversely, how Europe might look a bit more Irish!

Tickets \$5.00 (Students with ID \$2.00) No scrip or credit cards

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

Subject: Irish History. Please provide name, address, phone



**GAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 3RD 12-6PM**

The candidates and positions are:

**President**

Faith Maciver | Tom Harding

**Vice-President**

Joan Greenwood | Gerry Forde

**Sergeant-at-Arms**

Connor Deane | Griffin Reidy

All are encouraged to be active Members and vote!

**Cherish THE Ladies**  
*Celtic Christmas*  
Celebrate the Holiday Season with one of America's most beloved Irish Music Ensembles!  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023 - 7PM**

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

Ticket are \$25 pp | for ticket got to theatre website [shucommunitytheatre.org](http://shucommunitytheatre.org)

**CELTIC CHRISTMAS FAIR SAT DEC. 2 FROM 9-3PM**

Featuring Irish vendors and unique crafters', Photos taken with Santa by GAC's Stone Hearth. Special Lunch Menu served by The Lenihan School of Dance (who will certainly do a step or two) Proceeds from lunch to benefit The Lenihan Dancers' Fund. There's something special for everyone!



**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY | MR. AND MISS SHAMROCK SCHOLARSHIP**

The 2024 Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is accepting applications for the Mr. and Miss Shamrock scholarship. All High School Seniors with an Irish background may apply. Each first-place male and female winner will receive \$5,000.00 and second place male and female students will receive \$2,500.00 each. The application can be found on the Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee website: [www.stpatricksdaybridgeport.com](http://www.stpatricksdaybridgeport.com)

Please submit the applications to Lisa Carroll-Fabian at [shamrockscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockscholarship@gmail.com) Applications are due no later than December 17, 2023. Any questions please contact Lisa Carroll-Fabian 203-814-2278

**HOLIDAY PAINT & AFTERNOON TEA | SUNDAY DEC EMBER 10TH FROM 4-6PM**

Paint your own Holiday Wreath with NY Artist Jenny Kenny Phibbs. All proceeds to benefit The Center For Family Justice to provide women and families with a safe place . \$60 per person . Contact [NGForde@aol.com](mailto:NGForde@aol.com) or 203-273-0483.

Address Service Requested

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Mail  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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Permit # 288

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