



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes  November 2023 | Samhain

MESSAGE FROM THE GAC PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members:

Our 75th Anniversary Celebration was a huge success. Thank you to **Mary Donnelly** and her dynamic committee for a weekend of festivities. Special thanks to **Maura O'Donell** (cultural activities); **Frances O'Neill** (Mass); **Donna LaHolt** (merchandise); **Maura Kallaway** (logo); **Chrissy Boccamazzo** (pub drinks and prizes). The history of the GAC, written by **Jim O'Donnell** - a good read that will be on our website.

Nine past GAC presidents attended our Mass and Irish Breakfast: **John Carolan** (1966), **Al Byrnes** (1973), **Jim O'Donnell** (1989); **Patrick Carolan, MD** (1995); **Mary Ann Doonan** (1997); **Jude Fitzgerald** (2005); **Jim Carolan** (2017); **Gerry Reidy** (2019); and **Gerry Forde** (2021). State Representative **Cristin McCarthy Vahey** issued a state proclamation. Club Mgr. **Tommy Flaherty** organized a delicious meal.

Two issues were debated at the October Membership Meeting. The cuts to the band budget were restored by a vote of the Membership and the cost of membership and script were increased. The totals are listed below with their percentage increases:

\$350 to \$410 Family (2 Adults & children U21) 17%
\$175 to \$205 Family (1 Adult & children U21) 17%
\$105 to \$125 Senior (1) 19%
\$210 to \$250 Senior (2) 16%
\$280 to \$320 Senior + Individual 14%

It is the first time in five years that dues are being increased and with inflation over 20% in the past five years, we are not even keeping up with inflation. This increase will allow the budget committee to plan the 2024 budget properly. Join us at our November 10th Membership Meeting at 8 PM to hear the candidates for the board positions and discuss other club matters.

As always, contact me at johnbrannellyjr@gmail.com

GB, John Brannelly Jr.
GAC Executive Committee President



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

This ghost story set in 1936 takes place in "Cliff End" an old manor house overlooking the Irish sea. Recently bought by the Fitzgerald's, (sister & brother) who'd 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.

Shows Times & Tickets

Shows are Thursday 11/16, Friday 11/17, Saturday 11/18 8pm and Sunday Matinee 11/19 at 2:30pm. Tickets are \$15.00 For reservations email Nancy O'Neil at playresvcng@gmail.com or call at (203) 377-1070



KIRA JEWETT
NOVEMBER'S FIRST FRIDAY
MUSICIAN 11/03 6-8 PM

Classically trained, Kira fell in love with Irish Music in her 20s and studied extensively with the virtuoso fiddler Brian Conway. She is the 2003 All-Ireland fiddle Slow Airs Champion and a member of the band *New Leaf* (who'll play in the Pub following Kira's performance) and has a CD due out in the spring.

MUSIC IN THE PUB - STARTS AT 9PM

Friday November 3 - *New Leaf* (8pm Start)
Saturday November 4 - *Camac*
Friday November 10 - *Riley Johnson*
Saturday November 11 - *Once Removed*
Friday November 17 - *Elana Zabari*
Saturday November 18 - *Alehounds*
Wed November 22 - *Night Visitors*
Friday November 24 - *The Jolly Beggars*
Saturday November 25 - *Sharon & Her Band*



TRIVIA NIGHT
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3RD @ 8PM
join us for another fun filled night of trivia.
Oh ... and wear something Brown.

GAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monthly Membership meeting
November 10th @ 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

Will meet November 19th around noon Join us, we'll be playing for Thanksgiving Turkeys!

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 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**FRÉAMB ÉIREANN**

The group will meet November 11th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

GOOD AND WELFARE

A Get Well Card was sent to Jim Kelly
A Mass card was sent to John Moran & Family on the passing of their son, Anthony.

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE

House Committee

Contact manager@gacemail.org

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, November 16th at 7pm. We will be discussing the book *Strumpet City* by James Plunkett. The story takes place in Dublin in the years leading up to World War 1 and is about a strike that occurred in Dublin. Thanks to one of our members, Mary Coe the book is available on Libby. All are welcome. For Info Contact: Mary Ellen Kersey maryellenkersey@gmail.com

BEGINNERS IRISH LANGUAGE

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

SENIOR LUNCH

Thursday November 30th @ noon with entertainment by *The Youthful Hearts*. Please make reservations by Sunday 11/26 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 Shamroques host an Irish Trad Music Night every Wednesday 7-9pm In the Carolan Room.

DECEASED MEMBERS MASS

Deceased members mass is November 5th at 10am.
Please join us as we remember our deceased members.
Sandwiches will be served after the mass.

**JOIN FAIRFIELD PREP AT THE GAELIC AMERICAN CLUB ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH FOR "TRAD FOR TRÓCAIRE"!**

On Sunday, November 12th, Fairfield Prep's Irish Club will host its annual Irish music-and-entertainment fundraiser for Trócaire. Trócaire, which means compassion in Gaelic, is Ireland's largest international charitable-aid organization. The event, which will include Irish music, dance and poetry readings, will take place at Fairfield's Gaelic American Club from 2PM to 4PM. It is free and open to the public, but contributions will be gladly accepted in support of Trócaire's efforts to alleviate poverty in some of the most distressed regions in the world. Join us for some great craic and a great cause!

HANGING OF THE JERSEYS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12TH 4-7PM

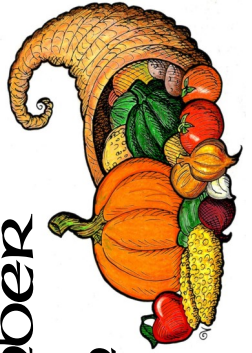
Join in the revelry and fun of this fine tradition celebrating the 4-in-a-row All-Ireland Hurling Champs Limerick, All-Ireland Football Champs Dublin and St. Patrick's Hurling & Football Club. There'll be plenty of food & craic for all so come early to get your seats.
Mícheál Hallissey 646-866-3357.

**ST. PATRICK'S GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING CLUB**

The Annual Dinner Dance is December 2nd at the GAC. Music by the McClean Avenue Band and food by O'Neill's Irish Pub and Restaurant of Norwalk. St. Patrick's Football & Hurling Club will be honoring Jim Carolan as the Gael of the year. Price: \$125 pp | \$75 Senior. \$125 to place an Ad. For reservations and Information: Brian Lynn @ brianlynn012@gmail.com.

November

Samhain



Sunday Dombnach

CHILDREN ARE NOT
PERMITTED IN THE
PUB AREA



5 Deceased Members Mass
10AM

12 Trad for Trócaire - 2-4pm

Hanging of the Jerseys 4pm

19 25 Card Game 12noon

Clan na Gael Presents:
"The Uninvited" 2:30pm

26



Monday Luan



6 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

13 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

20 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

27 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

Tuesday Máirt

PLEASE RETURN
YOUR GLASSES
TO THE BAR

7 Beginners Irish Lan-
guage 6:45pm
Executive Committee
Meeting 7pm
Lenihan Dance Lessons

14 Beginners Irish Language
6:45pm
Lenihan Dance Lessons
4pm Children - 8pm Adult

21 Beginners Irish Language
6:45pm
Lenihan Dance Lessons
4pm Children - 8pm Adult

28 Halloween
Beginners Irish Language
6:45pm
Lenihan Dance Lessons
4pm Children - 8pm Adult

Wednesday Céadaoin

1 Trad Music Session 7-9pm

8 Trad Music Session 7-9pm

15 Trad Music Session 7-9pm

22 Trad Music Session 7-9pm
Night Visitors - 9pm in the
Pub

29 Trad Music Session 7-9pm

Thursday Oúeardaoin

2 Irish Language
• (via zoom) 6:45pm
Set Dancing 7pm

9 Irish Language
• (via zoom) 6:45pm
Set Dancing 7pm

16 Clan na Gael Presents:
"The Uninvited" 8pm
Irish Language
• (via zoom) 6:45pm
Irish Literature Group 7pm

23 Happy Thanksgiving


30 Senior Lunch 12noon
Irish Language
• (via zoom) 6:45pm
Set Dancing 7pm

Friday Aoine

3 Trivia Night 8pm
Kira Jewett 6-8pm
New Leaf -
8pm in the pub

10 Membership Meeting 8pm
Riley Johnson
9pm in the Pub

17 Clan na Gael Presents:
"The Uninvited" 8pm
Elana Zabarí - 9pm in the
Pub

24 The Jolly Beggars - 9pm
in the Pub



1

St. Patrick's Football &
Hurling Club Dance 7:30pm

Saturday Satharn

4 Irish Trad Music Concert
7:30 pm \$20 per person
Camac
9pm in the Pub

11 Fréamh Éireann
Genealogy Group - 10:30am
Once Removed
9pm in the Pub

18 Clan na Gael Presents:
"The Uninvited" 8pm
Alehounds - 9pm in the Pub

25 Sharon & Her Band - 9pm
in the Pub

2 St. Patrick's Football &
Hurling Club Dance 7:30pm

Céad míne fálte



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

Pub hours

Closed
4 pm - 10 pm
4 pm - 12 am
12 noon - 12 am
12 noon - 9pm

Kitchen hours

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

Schedule

Mon & Tues
Wed & Thurs
Friday
Saturday
Sunday



**IRISH TRAD MUSIC CONCERT
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4TH AT 7:30**

ANNUAL GREGG & CLARE BURNETT MEMORIAL CONCERT



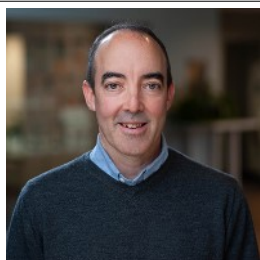
Open The Door For Three is fiddle player Liz Knowles, uilleann piper Kieran O'Hare, and Dublin-born singer and bouzouki player Pat Broaders. Their music is a rare combination of unearthed tunes from centuries-old collections, newly

composed melodies, fresh arrangements of songs old and new, homages to the musicians and bands they grew up listening to, and the unmatched energy of a trio of good friends playing great Irish music together.

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

Tickets are \$25 pp | for tickets visit theatre website shucommunitytheatre.org



**SAVE FEBRUARY 4TH @ 2PM FOR
32ND LECTURE IN A SERIES ON IRISH HISTORY**

Our guest speaker for February 4, 2024 will be Dr. Brendan Kane of UCONN Storrs. Professor Kane's areas of specialty are early modern Britain and Ireland, Reformation, early modern Atlantic world. Dr. Kane's talk considers the place of the Irish bardic poet in European context during the age of the Renaissance and Reformation.

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS PLEASE REMEMBER:

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult in the pub area and they are not permitted to sit at the bar. Also it is GAC Club Policy to return your empty glassware to the bar.
Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

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Gaelic American Club
74 Beach Road
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www.gaconline.org



SLATE FOR THE 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ELECTION TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD FROM NOON TILL 6PM

FOR THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT

FAITH MACIVER



I am running for President this year. My goals are to put the social back into our social club and get our club back on stable financial ground now and in the future.

To accomplish those goals, a President must have social involvement, volunteering activities, and an extensive financial background. One must immerse themselves in the club in order to achieve the knowledge necessary to hold the position of President. By being present and visible at the club frequently, members will see I am dedicated and involved.

Over the past years, I have served as Vice President and Financial Secretary. I have volunteered to run Trivia, Annual Turkey Drive, Senior Luncheon, and Music Bingo. As for my financial background, I am an accountant with over 35 years' experience. This is a necessary skill to make sure we are on budget with our income and expenses and to address any variances that may have or will occur. If we are not, we need to find ways to rectify those issues immediately and revisit budgeted items if need be.

I hope I have given your insight as to what it takes to be President. I thank you for your support.

TOM HARDING



I have previously served on the GAC Executive Committee as Treasurer and Financial Secretary. As Treasurer, I was a member of the financial team that improved accounting and the budgeting process that enabled the club to be more financially stable. As Financial Secretary, I was a member of the committee that navigated the club through COVID. We were able to keep the kitchen open and retain and compensate all employees. I installed credit card processing right before the pandemic shutdown. This allowed the club to accept pandemic friendly contactless payments. Since leaving the Executive Committee at the end of 2020, I have continued to serve on the budget committee responsible for the GAC's annual budget.

Before retiring to become a high school Track and Field coach. I was the Chief Operating Officer of a \$1 billion foundation focused on improving global health. Prior to that, I was a senior financial executive with over 25 years of experience working for major corporations.

My diverse financial experience includes debt & equity capital markets, asset management, financial planning & analysis, financial risk, and cash management.

Currently an avid runner, I participated in US Olympic Trials for the marathon and ran professionally in a prior life.

FOR THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VICE PRESIDENT

JOAN GREENWOOD



A member of the GAC since 1992, I have had the honor of previously serving as Treasurer (2-years) and a Director (3-years) during the club's expansion. I have also served on the Membership, Communication (issuing the weekly Email Bulletin) and House Expansion committees. I am a retired

insurance agent and a member of my condominium's executive board.

Our club's success depends on member participation, both on a social and volunteer level. I want to focus on member participation, maintenance needs and fiscal issues. I welcome the members' suggestions and will use my vote in the best interest of the club.

GERRY FORDE



As a GAC member of over 20 years, Gerry has previously served as the Vice President for three terms then two as President. During his time as President Gerry and his board of executives managed to get Féile back to the table in order to resolve the tax credit issue, while also handling the GAC tax controversy with the town of Fairfield.

When not serving the Club, Gerry Forde and his family enjoy the many activities the GAC has to offer like the annual hanging of the jerseys or the Ceili's (organized by Gerry's wife Noreen and where you might have a chance to taste her famous Irish Soda Bread). Thursday's you can catch them at Irish set dancing or on Sundays playing the traditional Irish card game of 25.

FOR THE POSITION OF SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

CONNOR DEANE



Connor Deane is thrilled to be running for office at the Gaelic-American Club. Growing up in Orange, Connor frequently attended the New Haven Irish club and every Irish festival in the state with his loving grandparents, Eileen and Bill Ferguson. After their passing, Connor wanted to keep their memory and love of their culture alive, by joining the club in 2016.

Connor graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 2014, with a degree in musical theater. Now as a Fairfield resident, Connor is the Executive Director and Founder of Black Rock Theater on Black Rock Turnpike. For the last ten years Connor has been educating students interested in musical theater while linking them with working Broadway professionals. Connor has produced more than 50 musicals since the theater's inception.

Connor is running to ensure the younger members have a voice in the future of the club. He looks forward to ensuring that the club evolves and provides enjoyable ways for the community to connect and celebrate our Irish heritage!

GRIFFITH REIDY



I teach History and Economics at Fairfield Prep—in Jesuit schools we have to be very reflective and intentional about how we preserve and pass on the culture, traditions and spirit of Jesuit Catholic education to today's teenagers amidst fewer Jesuits than before, and in a financially sustainable manner, too. The Gaelic American Club faces a similar challenge in preserving and passing on the Irish culture, traditions and spirit.

That is why I seek to rejoin the Executive Committee—to contribute to the GAC's ongoing success in meeting that challenge. I have four years of prior experience in serving on the Committee as Vice-President and as Director. My understanding of the GAC's role in promoting Irish culture is also drawn from my role in planning its annual high-school Trad for Trócaire charitable fundraiser as well as from my past service on the boards of St. Patrick's Gaelic Football Club, Féile and the Clan na Gael Players.

I am pretty frequently present here and my ear is always open to other members' ideas, for we're all part of this effort in helping the Club succeed in that mission.

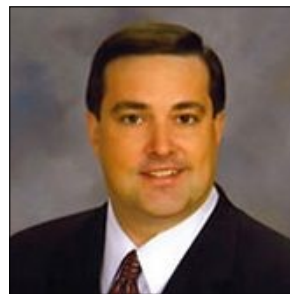
THESE POSITIONS HAVE BEEN FILLED UNCONTESTED



Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary



Tom Egan
Financial Secretary



Tom Langdon
Treasurer



Tracy James
Director 3-Years



Tony Hogan
Director 1-Year



Kelly Rasmussen
Director 2-years

THE GAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS ARE SUNDAY DECEMBER 3RD FROM 12 TO 6PM

Join us at the next
Membership Meeting on Friday
November 10th at 8pm, when our
Executive Committee Candidates
will address the group.

All Members are also encouraged to
vote and stick around for the results
then join the impromptu election
day after party in the Pub!

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