



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



FEBRUARY 2024 | FEABHRA

Dear Gaelic American Club members,

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the membership and, in particular, to those who voted for me.

My goal for the next 12 months is to create unity and transparency and demonstrate my commitment to working for the betterment of the Club.

There are a few specific goals that I would like to achieve:

1. Improve financial management, including responsible management of finances, including best practice methods for accurate accounting and record keeping to ensure transparency and answerability to all questions posed by members.
2. Promoting club values and upholding these values in all club activities, policies, and decisions.
3. Increase engagement in club activities.
4. Encouraging the membership to be more involved in decision-making practices, elections, and leadership roles, including increasing our volunteer participation.

I am looking forward to a great year alongside my fellow executive committee members to make improvements in all areas.

I as well as the executive committee are always approachable for you to answer any questions and listen to your suggestions and concerns .

We have lots of activities scheduled and are looking forward to seeing everyone participate.

It is my honor to serve as your 2024 GAC President.

Faith Maciver, President GAC Executive Committee

THE 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: **Faith Maciver**

Vice-President: **Joan Greenwood**

Financial Secretary: **Tom Egan**

Recording Secretary: **Pru O'Brien**

Treasurer: **Thomas Langdon**

Sergeant-at-Arms: **Griffin Reidy ***

Director 1 Year: **Tony Hogan**

Director 2 Year: **Kelly Rasmussen**

Director 3 Year: **Tracy James**

*Please note that Sergeant-at-Arms, Griffin Reidy was unintentionally left off the list posted in January's 2024 Sceala

SORRY NO TRIVIA NIGHT IN FEBRUARY

We're back March 1st so join us for another fun filled and remember to wear a bit of GREEN.

IRISH HISTORY LECTURE - SUNDAY FEB 4 @ 2PM



Professor Brendan Kane will be our guest lecturer on February 4 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.

Tickets \$5. (Students with ID \$2.) No scrip or credit cards

Register online: gaclectures@gmail.com.

Subject: Irish History. Please provide name, address,

INTRODUCTION TO GAELIC SPORTS

The first hour (4-5PM) is geared towards kids ages 5-8 to learn the basics and burn some energy.

The second hour (5-6PM) is for kids over 9.

This is for returning and new players alike to brush up on their skills or learn something new.

No experience necessary and all are welcome.

Saturdays from February 3rd to March 23rd

(no sessions 2/17 or 3/16)

4-5pm ages 5-8 | 5-6pm ages 9-13

The Fieldhouse 85 Mill Plain Rd, Fairfield, CT

Register: www.stpatricksgfc.org | Cost: \$50/player

MUSIC IN THE PUB - STARTS AT 9PM

Friday February 2 - **Riley Johnson**

Saturday February 3 - **Elana Zabari**

Friday February 9 - **Sharon & Her Band**

Saturday February 10 - **Molly Feeney**

Friday February 16 - **Camac**

Saturday February 17 - **Liz McNicholl Band**

Friday February 23 - **Peader Hickey**

Saturday February 24 - **Mike McGovern**



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Executive Committee can be reach at executive@gacemail.org
They meet the Tuesday prior to the Monthly membership meetings.
The next Monthly Membership meeting is February 9th @ 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 February 18th around noon (*Irish Time*).

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

To place your professional listing in the GAC Business Directory Trades List at www.gaonline.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

SIGN IN SIMPLIFIED:

1. Carry your own card (No card or ID, you are a guest and must be signed in. (*No Exceptions*);
2. Sign the book with your name, for each guest you have;
3. Each guest sign his/her own name and address.

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 February 10th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FEsecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

GOOD AND WELFARE

A Get Well Card was sent to Maura O'Connell.

A Mass Card was sent to Susan Moore on the passing of her husband, Michael.

A Sympathy Card was sent to The Murphy family on the passing of their daughter, Maura.

Deceased member plaques were engraved for:

Shane Fitzsimons
Michael K. Moore

Club ACTIVITIES

HOUSE COMMITTEE

House Committee

Contact 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. Contact Tom Donohue at ttonohue@slwmco.com or visit the website www.aohjfk.com

IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Group meets on Thursday, February 15th at 7pm to discuss *Trespassers* by Louise Kennedy. The book is historical fiction with a little romance. It is set in Belfast during the height of the troubles. Info: Mary Ellen Kersey maryellenkersey@gmail.com.

IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

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

BEGINNERS IRISH LANGUAGE

Tuesdays at 6:45pm, Contact DesNolan@Optimum.Net

SENIOR LUNCH

Thursday February 29th @ noon
Please make reservations by Sunday 2/25 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

A HEART FELT THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all who donated to the Holiday Food Drive. We raised \$550 in addition to the food items, all of which have gone to Operation Hope. Special thanks to Tommy Flaherty for dropping off the donations.



JERRY O'SULLIVAN | FEBRUARY 2ND FROM 6-8PM

Jerry O'Sullivan, February's First Friday Trad Musician has been widely hailed as America's premier uilleann piper. His reputation for technical and melodic mastery of the instrument, an Irish bagpipe known for its subtlety and expression, is unsurpassed in the United States, and is demanding considerable attention overseas. Jerry is also widely recorded on the tin whistle, the low whistle, the Highland Pipes and the Scottish small pipes.

THE 40TH ANNUAL GRAND MARSHAL'S GALA HONORING JIMMY FEENEY THE 2024 GRAND MARSHAL



February 3, 2024 @ 6pm At Gaelic American Club



Dinner, Dancing & Open Bar | Music by 9 Miles of Bad Road

Tickets \$125.00 – can be purchased

online @ <https://stpatricksdaybridgeport.com/> or reservation to chogan2267@gmail.com

IRISH TRAD MUSIC CONCERT | SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11TH @ 3PM

A special afternoon of outstanding traditional Irish music direct from Ireland presented by the Shamrock Traditional Irish Music Society and the GAC.

Prior to the concert, at 2:15 pm, there will also be a special meeting with the artists as an opportunity for conversational dialogue in the Irish language. Advance registration is required. Please call Loretta Egan Murphy (203-816-1178) to reserve your seat, or for more information.

Ticket donation \$20 at door ~ \$5 for children under 10 years old.

And STIMS & The GAC will also present

BREAKING TRAD | SATURDAY MARCH 9TH @ 7:30PM

Tickets \$21 purchase online at <https://www.shamrockirishmusic.org/concerts.html> (\$25 at the door)

february

feabhra

2024



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 míne fáilte



Sunday Dombnach

CHILDREN ARE NOT
PERMITTED IN THE
PUB AREA

4

Irish History
Lecture 2pm
With Prof. Brendan Kane | \$5

Monday Láir

Reminder
Renew your
membership by
2/29

5

Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

Tuesday Máirt

Please Return
Your Glasses to
the Bar

6

Executive Committee
Meeting 7pm
Beginners Irish Language
6:45pm
Lenihan Dance Lessons

Wednesday Céadaoin

Reminder
Use your scrip
by 2/29

7

Trad Music Session 7-9PM

Thursday Déardaoin

1 St. Brigid's Day
Irish Language
• (via zoom) 6:45pm
Set Dancing 7pm

8

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

Friday Aoine

2 Groundhog Day
Jerry O'Sullivan 6-8pm
Riley Johnson
9pm in the pub

9

Membership Meeting 8pm
Sharon & Her Band
9pm in the Pub

Saturday Satharn

3 Grand Marshal's Ball 6pm
Elana Zabari
9pm in the Pub

10

Genealogy Group 10:30am
Molly Feeney
9pm in the Pub

11

Irish Trad Music Concert
3pm | \$20 adult \$5 children

12

Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

13

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

14

Trad Music Session 7-9PM

15

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

16

Carnac
9pm in the Pub

17

Liz McNicholl Band
9pm in the Pub

18

25 Card Game 12noon

19

Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

20

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

21

Trad Music Session 7-9PM

22

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

23

Peader Hickey
9pm In the Pub

24

Mike McGovern
9pm in the Pub

25



26

Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

27

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

28

Trad Music Session 7-9PM

29

Last Day to Pay
Membership Dues
Senior Lunch Noon
Irish Language
• (via zoom) 6:45pm
Set Dancing 7pm

1

16 Dys till St. Patrick's Day

2





FÉILE, INC NEWS



THANK YOU

Féile, Inc thanks the audience that came to hear the Staged Reading of Mike Boland's award-winning screenplay, YO ANDREA on Jan. 7th. The audience reacted with spontaneous laughter throughout the reading by 14 professional actors who brought every character to life. To show their delight the audience gave the Readers a well-earned Standing Ovation. A casual reception followed mixing actors and audience members. Thanks to Jim Cyr and Colleen Filush of the Highland Rovers for opening the Reading with their energetic music. And, to Peg O'Leary and Janine Wolfe for organizing the event.

CLAN NA GAEL SPRING PRODUCTION

The Clan na Gael Players will announce their Spring production, a comedy, in the March newsletter.

The play will be presented April 21, 22, 23, 24,

Auditions will be held Saturday March 2 and Sunday 3 from 1:00 to 3:30.

Call backs Saturday March 9, 2024 1pm.

ONE ACT PLAYWRITING CONTEST

The Clan Na Gael's 9th One Act Playwriting Contest has returned. This contest strives to support and encourage emerging playwrights and to provide a stage for scripts that might not otherwise find one. Playwrights of all ages are encouraged to enter. All entries must be submitted by email no later than August 1st, 2024 to be considered.

For the first time, monetary prizes will be rewarded and the three winners will also receive a staged reading of their play at the Gaelic American Club in 2024.

COMPLETE 2024 RULES & INSTUCTIONS

<https://cngplayers.org/one-act-playwriting-competition/>
For Submission Form email: cngoneactplay@outlook.com

LIZ MCNICHOLL'S INTERACTIVE KIDS SHOW RETURNS Sunday, March 3rd at 1:00 pm




Her program is geared toward children of all ages and those young at heart! This will be a special pre-Saint Patrick's Day Celebration show.

Liz McNicholl show is sponsored by Feile, Inc. and is open to the public, so bring your friends! Admission is FREE! Oh and don't forget to wear your green!

Address Service Requested

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



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