



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes 

JANUARY 2024 | Eanáir

Message From The GAC President:

Happy New Year! Congratulations to new GAC President **Faith O'Connor Maciver** and Vice President **Joan Greenwood**. Executive Officers and Directors will be installed on Friday, January 12, 2024 at 8 PM at our Membership Meeting. All members are encouraged to attend. Fairfield First Selectman **Bill Gerber**, a GAC member, has been invited to speak.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. One of my fond childhood memories is being at the Club for the children's holiday party. Hundreds of presents were wrapped by volunteers led by my aunt **Mary Sullivan** and numbers were written on them for ages. When I received a present from Santa... a puzzle... I was thrilled! That was likely 50 years ago! These traditions are important so thank you to GAC staff and volunteers for keeping them going!

Since this is my last column, I would like to thank many people, especially the members who elected me! Thank my husband, **David Ivanko**, for all his support 24/7, 365; my sisters who are GAC members **Catherine Austin**, **Maura O'Malley**, **Eileen Callahan** and **Susan Martin** for their unwavering support; and new volunteers like **Phil Dwyer**, **Kelly O'Donnell** and **Terri Brown**.

It was great to be at the helm of the GAC as we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Club, especially since my father, the original **John M. Brannelly**, incorporated the Club and got its liquor permit as a young attorney in Bridgeport. Congratulations to **Mary Donnelly**, for successfully organizing the 75th anniversary celebration.

As a past president, I humbly join a distinguished list of Irish Americans. My dad was the first American, **Mary Ann Doonan** was the first woman, and I am proud to be the first LGBT person to be president. I look forward to more firsts in the years ahead! Cheers to 2024 and the next 75 years!

As always, contact me at johnbrannellyjr@gmail.com
John Brannelly, *GAC President*



TRIVIA NIGHT FRIDAY JANUARY 5TH @ 8PM

Join us for another fun filled night of trivia. Remember to wear Silver and that we're back to the regular start time of 8pm.
See you all there!

THE 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: **Faith Maciver**
Vice-President: **Joan Greenwood**
Financial Secretary: **Tom Egan**
Recording Secretary: **Pru O'Brien**
Treasurer: **Thomas Langdon**
Director 1 Year: **Tony Hogan**
Director 2 Year: **Kelly Rasmussen**
Director 3 Year: **Tracy James**

THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERSHIP

In particular, the Nominating / Election Committee, for an organized and professional nomination and election process. Congratulations and best wishes to our new leadership team, and another big thank you to all who ran for office. Your commitment to our club is appreciated and we need your energy and ideas going forward. Let this spirit of sincere dedication to the ideals of our beloved Gaelic American Club lead us to great accomplishments in 2024. ~ *Jude Fitzgerald, Chair, 2024 Nominating / Election Committee*

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC SESSION JAN 5TH @ 6PM

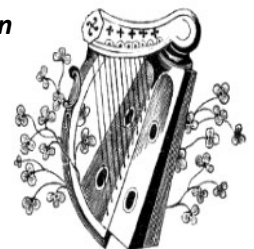


The Shamroques in partnership with the GAC present January's 'First Friday Trad Music Session' featuring the premier Irish fiddle player, Brian Conway. Conway performs with a skill, grace and force that are steeped in tradition but distinctively his own.

He has won numerous All-Ireland fiddling competitions, including the prestigious All-Ireland senior championship. New York born, Brian is a leading exponent of the highly ornamented Sligo fiddling style made famous by the late Michael Coleman. His talents have also been enthusiastically received all over North America and throughout Ireland and the rest of Europe.

MUSIC IN THE PUB - STARTS AT 9PM

Friday January 5 - **Peader Hickey**
Saturday January 6 - **Mike McGovern**
Friday January 12 - **Riley Johnson**
Saturday January 13 - **Liz McNichol**
Friday January 15 - **Riley Johnson**
Saturday January 19 - **Susan & Gerard**
Friday January 20 - **Once Removed**
Saturday January 26 - **Camac**
Friday January 27 - **Sharon & Her Band**



HELP WANTED BOOKKEEPER

The GAC has an opening for a Bookkeeper, job description can be found on GAC website at <https://gaconline.org/bookkeeper/>

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Executive Committee can be reach at executive@gacemail.org
Monthly Membership meeting on January 12 @ 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 January 21st around noon (*Irish Time*).

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

Wishing you all a Healthy and Happy New Year.

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 January 13th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Get Well Cards were sent to:
Chrissy Boccamazzo
Joan Greenwood

Rosemary Boone Langdon

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

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 Irish Literature Group will meet on Thursday, January 18th at 7pm. We will be discussing *My Father's House* by Joseph O'Connor. We will also be doing a book exchange. If you'd like to participate, bring a wrapped book that you have read. It doesn't need to have an Irish theme. For more Info: Mary Ellen Kerese maryellenkerese@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

SENIOR LUNCH

Thursday January 25th @ noon
Please make reservations by Sunday 1/21 by calling Shirley McMenemy 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.

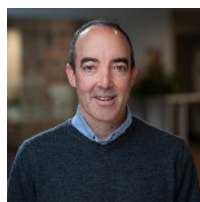
TRAD MUSIC SESSION

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

SAVE THE FEBRUARY 3RD FOR
THE 40TH ANNUAL GRAND MARSHAL'S GALA HONORING
JIMMY FEENEY THE 2024 GRAND MARSHAL

LET'S DANCE!**SATURDAY JANUARY 20TH AT 8PM ADMISSION FREE**

Join the Fun at GAC's 70's Disco Party hosted by DJ Peter G. The party starts at 8pm. So dig out on your platforms, dress the part, practice your dance moves and get ready for GAC's own version of Saturday Night Fever!

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.

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

JANUARY

Eanáir

2024



Sunday
Dombnach

CHILDREN ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE PUB AREA

7
Clan na Gaels' Theatrical Reading of 'Yo Andrea' 2pm | Free



15
Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

21
25 Card Game 12noon

28



Monday
Luan

1
Athblhliain Faoi Mhaise Daoibh!
(HAPPY NEW YEAR!)

8
Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

15
Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

22
Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm

Tuesday
Máirt

2
Beginners Irish Language 6:45pm
Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult

9
Executive Committee Meeting 7pm
Beginners Irish Language 6:45pm
Lenihan Dance Lessons

16
Beginners Irish Language 6:45pm
Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult

23
Beginners Irish Language 6:45pm
Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult

30
Beginners Irish Language 6:45pm
Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult

Wednesday
Céadaoin

3
Trad Music Session 7-9PM

10
Trad Music Session 7-9PM

17
Trad Music Session 7-9PM

24
Trad Music Session 7-9PM

31
Trad Music Session 7-9PM

Thursday
Déardaoin

4
Irish Language
• (via zoom) 6:45pm
Set Dancing 7pm

11
Irish Language
• (via zoom) 6:45pm
Set Dancing 7pm

18
Irish Language
• (via zoom) 6:45pm
Set Dancing 7pm
Irish Literature Group 7pm

25
Senior Lunch Noon
Irish Language
• (via zoom) 6:45pm
Set Dancing 7pm

1
Irish Language
• (via zoom) 6:45pm
Set Dancing 7pm

Friday
Aoine

5
Trivia Night 8pm
• Brian Conway 6-8pm
• Peadar Hickey 9pm in the pub

12
Membership Meeting 8pm
• Riley Johnson 9pm in the Pub

19
Susan & Gerard 9pm in the Pub

26
Camac 9pm in the Pub

2
Riley Johnson 9pm in the Pub

Saturday
Satharn

6
Mike McGovern 9pm in the Pub

13
Genealogy Group 10:30am
• Liz McNichol 9pm in the Pub

20
70'S Disco Party 8pm
• Once Removed 9pm in the Pub

27
Sharon & her band 9pm in the Pub

3
Elana Zabari 9pm in the Pub

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

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





CLAN NA GAEL NEWS



THEATRICAL READING SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH AT 2:00PM

Feile, Inc is pleased to sponsor, with the help of, Clan na Gael (CnG) a FREE Reading of YO ANDREA, by local writer and actor, Mike Boland. Mike, a Fairfield native, is looking forward to sharing his multiple award winning screenplay.

YO ANDREA, tells the story of a modern day Don Quixote, Tommy Hogan, an old small town football hero. The romantic comedy looks at second chances, courage and the risks we take for love.

Admission: Free! Open to all.

Guaranteed FREE seating,

please reserve at: opeggyo812@gmail.com

All others, open seating.

There will be a casual Meet and Greet

Reception following the reading.

CnG Thanks the audiences who came to see THE UNINVITED for their support and enthusiastic response to our fall production!

CnGs next production, to be announced in February's newsletter, will open April 4, 2024.

ONE ACT PLAYWRITING CONTEST

The Clan Na Gael sponsored 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.

The contest is seeking original One Act plays of not less than 15 mins and not more than 30 minutes in length and must be the original writing of the submitting playwright. Scripts are restricted to plays that have not been produced, published or won other contests. Submissions to this contest must have an Irish theme. Playwrights under the age of 18 must have their guardian's permission to submit their play. One script per playwright accepted each contest year.

This is our 9th contest. It runs from June 1st thru August 1st, 2024. 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 for the three winning plays, \$200.00 for 1st place, \$100.00 for 2nd place and \$50.00 for 3rd place. The 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

ATHBHLIAIN FAOI MHAISE DAOIBH (HAPPY NEW YEAR!)

Wishing the GAC Membership and their Families a very Happy and Healthy 2024.

Address Service Requested



Gaelic American Club
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