



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



MARCH 2024 | MÁRTA

Dear Gaelic Members,

The year is off to a great start! We had the 70's dance back in January and it was a huge success. Expect many more events like that throughout the year.

The standing and ad hoc committees have been assembled and are starting to work on their tasks. Long overdue is updating the current bylaws and policy and procedures which are now being done. Special thanks to Betty Leary and her volunteers for being the gatekeepers at the front door.

St. Patrick's Day weekend will be filled with a great lineup of bands. Special thanks to Lorry Scott and Mike Conley for working so hard to make that happen.

As for our financial position, our new bookkeeper Andy Toner is doing a great job catching everything up.

The Executive Committee and I have been meeting with the staff and the managers so we can get their insights and suggestions on how we can make the club better than it already is.

Things are moving in a positive direction and the Executive Committee always welcomes your feedback.

Congratulations to Jimmy Feeney the 2024 Grand Marshall of the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Faith Maciver,
President GAC Executive Committee

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC SESSION FRIDAY MARCH 1ST FROM 6-8PM



This month's Special Guest is Loretta Egan Murphy. Loretta plays the button accordion and the concertina. She 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 U.S. and Ireland.

When she was younger, she and her sister Monica played the once bustling Catskills circuit. Loretta is also a GAC member and a key member of The Shamrock Traditional Irish Music Society and a fixture at our weekly Trad Music Sessions Wednesday nights 7-9pm.

CÉILI AT THE GAC SUNDAY MARCH 10 FROM 4 TO 7PM



Lace up your shoes and dance to the music of Seagda Coyle (Button Accordion), Eugene Bender (Fiddle) and Krista Charles (Keyboards). Bring some finger food or baked goods

and join us for some great craic. Come dance or just listen to these talented musicians. **\$20 at the door.**



TRIVIA NIGHT MARCH 1 @ 8PM

Trivia is back! So unleash that random knowledge and join us for another fun filled night and remember to wear a bit of GREEN.

CULTURAL NIGHT Wednesday MARCH 13 @ 6:30 PM



A showcase of Irish music, dance, language, drama & sports. Featuring The Shamrogs, Lenihan School of Irish Dance, St. Patrick's Gaelic Football Club, Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band, Clan na Gael, Set Dancers & Irish Language Club.

MUSIC IN THE PUB

Friday March 1 - *Noreen, Mike & Dave* - 8:30pm

Saturday March 2 - *Camac* - 8:30pm

Friday March 8 - *Outside Chance* - 8:30pm

Saturday March 9 - *Bob Curiano* - 8:30pm

Friday March 15 - *See Schedule Pg 3*

Saturday March 16 - *Celtic Mikes* - 8:30pm

Sunday March 17 - *See schedule Pg 3*

Friday March 22 - *Riley Johnson* - 9pm

Saturday March 23 - *Once Removed* - 8:30pm

Friday March 29 - *No Music - Good Friday* Saturday

March 30 - *Susan & Gerard* - 8:30pm



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Executive Committee can be reached at executive@gacemail.org. They meet the Tuesday prior to the Monthly membership meetings. The next Monthly Membership meeting is March 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 March 24th 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

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.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT IS BACK!

Friday, March 29th 6-9pm with DJ Peter No charge to attend. There will be a \$5 buffet for those kids who want to eat. Adults are asked to order from the regular Club Menu.

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

The group will meet March 9th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mass Cards were sent to:

The family of Peter Doonan on the passing of his brother, James.

The family of Jane O'Connor.

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@slwmc.com or visit the website www.aohjfk.com

IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Group will meet on Thursday, March 21st at 7pm to discuss the book 'Surrender' by Bono. The book is a memoir written by Bono where he describes how he and his band evolved from a high school band to world fame. He also talks about his personal growth from musician to activist. For 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

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

SENIOR LUNCH

Thursday March 28th @ noon Please make reservations by Sunday 03/24 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.

REMEMBER MARCH IS A NON-SCRIP MONTH

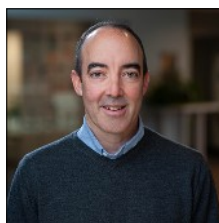


BREAKING TRAD | SATURDAY MARCH 9TH @ 7:30PM

The Shamrock Traditional Irish Music Society and the GAC present **Breaking Trad**

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

GO RAIBH MILE MAITH AGAT



The Fréamh Éireann Genealogy Group would like to thank Féile and the Irish Language Group for their continued sponsorship of our Irish History Lectures. In May, we will be presenting our 33rd Lecture! Our February lecture, presented by Brendan Kane, Ph.D., was on Irish Bardic Poets.

THERE ISN'T ANYTHING MORE THE SEA CAN DO TO ME" A MARITIME HISTORY OF MODERN IRISH LITERATURE"

Our May 5, 2024 Irish History Lecture will be presented by Nel Nels Pearson, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of English at Fairfield University. (Carolan Room, 2-4 pm)

The topic of the talk will be the role of the sea in modern Irish literature, and it will be drawn from his book manuscript (in process): *Dissolving Britain: Water, Coasts and Islands in the Modernist Literature of "the British Isles"*. For Full Lecture description visit

<https://gaconline.org/irish-history-stair-na-heireann-2/>

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

Register: gaclectures@gmail.com | Please provide name and address

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND AT THE SAC

FRIDAY MARCH 15TH PARADE DAY CELEBRATION

MUSIC IN THE PUB

- ♣ 12 PM - 2:30: CAMAC
- ♣ 3 PM - 5:30: MIKE MCGOVERN
- ♣ 6 PM - 8:30: LIZ MCNICHOLL
- ♣ 9 PM - 11:30: ONCE REMOVED

IN THE CAROLAN ROOM

- ♣ 12 PM - 1:30: SHAMROGUES
- ♣ 2 PM - 4:30: JUST US
- ♣ 4:30 - 5 PM: LENIHAN SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE
- ♣ 5 PM - 7:30: SUSAN & GERARD
- ♣ 8 PM - 10:00: KELTIC KICK

*WITH A SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY
FAIRFIELD GAELIC PIPE BAND

SUNDAY MARCH 17TH SAINT PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

- ♣ 10 AM FLAG RAISING - FOLLOWED BY LIGHT FAIR

MUSIC IN THE PUB

- ♣ 12 PM - 2:00: ONCE REMOVED
- ♣ 2:30 - 4:30: CAMAC
- ♣ 5:00 - 7:00: MOSTLY GREEN
- ♣ 7:30 - 10:00: THE JOLLY BEGGARS

IN THE CAROLAN ROOM

- ♣ 12 PM - 2:00: ALEHOUNDS
- ♣ 2:30 - 4:00: SHAMROGUES
- ♣ 4:30 - 5:30: LENIHAN SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE
- ♣ 6:00 - FAIRFIELD GAELIC PIPE BAND
- ♣ 7:00 - 9:30: THE C-SIDES

Special Menu will be served Sunday March 17, this menu includes corned beef sandwiches, fish & chips, chicken fingers, fries and tuna sandwiches. Irish potato chips and Irish chocolates also are available. It will be a busy day at the GAC and we look to our members for your support as volunteers.

Volunteers are needed to: bring baked goods for flag raising - Kathleen Blackall at 203-814-2263; help at the door - Betty at betteleary@gmail.com; to help make and serve sandwiches - Mary O'Driscoll at 203-414-9462; And we need volunteer bartenders, contact Chrissy Boccamazzo: chrissyboc7@gmail.com.

\$10 Guest Fee - Sunday March 17th

All members must show GAC Membership Card or pay \$10 guest fee. No Exceptions!

MARCH WITH THE GAC IN THE BRIDGEPORT ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE, 12PM ON FRIDAY MARCH 15TH.

We'll meet at 11:30 at the starting point, Burroughs Community, 2470 Fairfield Ave. (corner of Fairfield Avenue and Ellsworth St.) and travel down Fairfield Avenue to The Castle, Black Rock, 3171 Fairfield Ave.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND

Guest are allowed all weekend and not required to sign guest book. Friday & Sunday no credit cards will be excepted - **CASH ONLY!** Friday (3/15) club opens at noon, music all day and serving from regular menu. Music and regular menu available on Saturday (3/16). Sunday (3/17) Flag raising 10am. Music all day. Special menu. \$10 change at door for non-members. Members must show card or pay fee.



CHILDREN'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Saturday, March 9th ~ 11am to 1pm
So much fun for the wee ones.

CONGRATS TO THE 2024 SHAMROCK SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Mr. Shamrock 1.) Wyatt Morgan, Choate Rosemary Hall (Fairfield resident). 2.) William Reidy, Fairfield Prep.
Miss Shamrock 1.) Julia Lacasse, St. Joseph's High School. 2.) Sabela Gildea-Manso, Trumbull High School



GET IT ON A GUINNESS PINT GLASS !

Thursday, March 7th from 5 to 7pm

Get your engraved St. Patrick's Day Guinness Glass. In person sign up begins when pub opens at 4pm on the day of event.

GAC SCHOLARSHIP

The GAC is offering two, \$3,000. scholarships or three, \$2000. scholarships to deserving high school seniors attending a 4-year college in the fall. Recipients to be announced June of 2024.

Full Scholarship application can be found on the GAC website at <https://gaconline.org/gac-scholarship/>

60TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S SCHOLARSHIP DINNER MONDAY MARCH 11TH 2024

The St. Patrick's Scholarship Fund has been a tradition of the Bridgeport region since 1964! Please support the scholarship fund on March 11 at Vazzy's Four Seasons, 337 Kenyon Street Stratford CT

Cocktails at 6pm | Dinner at 7pm. \$150.

Minimum Donation additional Contributions are greatly appreciated Black Tie Optional
online payments: <https://givebutter.com/stpscholarship2024>



FÉILE, INC NEWS

CLAN NA GAEL'S SPRING PRODUCTION



Auditions for the Clan na Gael spring production of Jimmy Keary's comedy "Marrying Mike" will be held at the club on March 2nd from 2-4 p.m. and March 3rd from 1-3 p.m.

You may prepare a monologue or read from the sides that will be provided at the audition. Roles available for four men and three women ages 40-60ish. Performance dates will be April 25, 26, 27 and 28th. No experience necessary-newcomers welcome! We are also looking for people interested in helping with the production crew.

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

WHISKEY TASTING SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD



Join us from 3 to 5pm on March 3rd for an afternoon of tasting 5 different whiskeys from 3 vendors. Includes information on the blends and history of each. \$35 PP Sponsored by FÉILE, INC

LIZ MCNICHOLL'S INTERACTIVE FAMILY SHOW

Sunday, March 3rd at 1:00 pm



Liz McNicholl is a native of Co. Meath and GAC Member, and she'll perform an interactive children's concert. Her program is geared toward children of all ages and those young at heart! Come join the fun while fostering Irish culture and enrichment for the family.

Admission is FREE! Oh and don't forget to wear your green! Sponsored by FÉILE, INC

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