



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



DOLLAIS | December 2022

GAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS SUNDAY DECEMBER 4TH 12-6PM

PRESIDENT

- ♣ John Brannelly
- ♣ Faith Maciver

SERGEANT AT ARMS

- ♣ Aaron Curtis
- ♣ Brian Filush
- ♣ Hilary Koreeda

VICE PRESIDENT

- ♣ Gerry Forde
- ♣ Joan Greenwood

DIRECTOR

- ♣ Kelly Rasmussen
- ♣ Timothy Russell

Uncontested Committee Positions:

RECORDING SECRETARY - Simon McCarthy

TREASURER - Tom Langdon

FINANCIAL SECRETARY - Tom Egan

(Bios can be found on GAConline.org)

CHERISH THE LADIES: CELTIC CHRISTMAS

Tuesday December 6, 2022 at 7:30 pm

Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts



One of the most engaging and successful ensembles in the history of Celtic music, Cherish The Ladies have shared timeless Irish traditions with audiences worldwide for over thirty years. In their Celtic Christmas program, the Ladies put their signature mark on classic carols such as "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Silent Night," in arrangements that highlight the group's unique Celtic instrumentation, beautiful harmonies and spectacular step dancing.

General Admission Tickets : \$30*

Faculty & staff: \$25 & Students: \$10

Visit www.edgertoncenter.org to purchase tickets online or call the Edgerton Center box office at 203-371-7908.

*Gaelic American Club members will receive \$5 off the general admission ticket price. Visit the box office on campus to show proof of membership.

Sponsored by Sacred Heart University's Irish Studies, the Society for Traditional Irish Music and The Gaelic American Club

CELTIC CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3RD FROM 9AM - 3PM

Featuring Irish vendors and unique crafters' Photos taken with Santa by the GAC 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!

TRIVIA FRIDAY DECEMBER 2ND @ 7PM

Wear something green & red and have fun! Who knows maybe you'll win some cool stuff!

Please Note The Earlier Start Time!

PLAYWRITING CONTEST

The Clan Na Gael Players, sponsored by Feile Inc. are very pleased to announce the winners of their 9th One Act:

First Place: *Head of Shamus Delaney*

Ben Scranton, playwright (\$200)

Second Place: *The Turquoise Sheep*

Alison Flannery, playwright (\$100)

Third Place: *Leaving*

Brian Whelan, playwright (\$50)

A Reading of the winning plays will take place on Sunday March 26, 2023 at 2:30pm.

The Clan Na Gael Players congratulate the winners and thank all who participated and made this contest possible.

KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11TH 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: Kelly @ rasmussenkelly95@gmail.com

WEEKEND MUSIC

Friday	Dec 2	Camac
Saturday	Dec 3	Sharon & Her Band
Friday	Dec 9	Mike McGovern
Saturday	Dec 10	Allen Gogarty
Friday	Dec 16	Liz McNichol
Saturday	Dec 19	The C-Sides
Friday	Dec 23	Once Removed



When visiting the GAC please consider bringing a non-perishable item for the food drive

GAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday December 9th @ 8PM
Members are encouraged to attend!

25 CARD GAME

December 18th from 12 to 3:30 pm.
Join us, we'll even teach you this Irish
Traditional Irish Card Game. It's great
craic and the winner gets a Ham!

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 sup-
port your fellow members.

FÁILTE COMMITTEE

FAILTE needs your help! We need
more new 'front door' volunteers,
who can volunteer at definite times,
whatever time you'd like, we can give
you! Please volunteer to help our
Club. 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 meets on December 10th
@ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For
info FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

TRAD MUSIC SESSION

The Shamroques host an Irish Trad
Music Night every Wednesday from 7-
9pm in the Carolan Room. All are
welcome to join in or just listen.

Club ACTIVITIES**GOOD AND WELFARE**

Get well cards were sent to:

Mike DeVaney
Pat O'Connell
Elizabeth O'Neill
Noreen Reda

Sympathy cards were sent to:

Tom Fallon on the passing of his
Mother, Julia in Ireland

Mass cards were sent to:

The family of Joan Reeves;
Debi Hogan on the passing of her
husband, Tom;
Maria Gould on the passing of her
husband, Kenneth.

Deceased member plaques
were engraved for:

Walter A. Flynn and Kenneth Gould

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

LITERATURE GROUP

The Literature Group will meet on
Thursday, December 15th at 7 p.m..
We will be getting into the Christmas
Spirit by discussing *An Irish Country
Christmas* by Patrick Taylor. All are
welcome to join even if you haven't
had time to read the book it often fun
to hear about a new book. For info
contact Mary Ellen Keresey @
maryellenkeresey@gmail.com.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Ilona Paxton, House Chairperson

IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

Thursday Evenings via Zoom

6:45 beginners | 7:30 intermediate

Tir gan teanga, tir gan anam
'Irish-lite' Part II - 4 week Course

Thursday evenings on Zoom
Nov. 3, 10, 17, Dec. 1 | 7:30- 8pm
We'll review greetings and basic vo-
cabulary, learn songs of the season,
toasts, "seanfhocals," and more.

Newcomers welcome!

For more information: Cait Thopsey
203-459-9686

SENIOR LUNCH

Thursday December 29th @ noon
please make reservations by Sunday
12/26. Lunch is \$8 members. non-
members \$10. **Please bring non per-
ishables items for Operation Hope**
Shirley McMenamy 203-268-
5083; Sally Savage 203-366-4826.

SET DANCING

Lace up your dance shoes because
Set Dancing is back on Thursdays at
7:30pm. Contact Brian Reynolds
203-214-2921.

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. Mark Ryan at 203 258-9846
or mark.ryan@sbcglobal.net.

ST. PATRICK'S GAA CLUB'S DINNER DANCE

St. Patrick's GAA Club will once again hold its Annual Dinner Dance
at the GAC on Saturday December 3rd with cocktail hour beginning at
6:30pm & music provided by the McLean Avenue Band. This year the Gaelic
football and hurling club will honor Jarlath & Celine Carbin as the Gaels of
the Year for their long-standing dedication & commitment to St. Patrick's &
the GAA. Tickets are \$100 per person and include appetizers, dinner,
dessert, & open bar; \$75 for seniors. Journal ads are \$100 for a full page;
\$50 for half-page ads. To reserve tables or place an ad in the journal,
please email: fundraising@stpatricksgaa.us.

TRAD MUSIC SESSION FRIDAY DECEMBER 2ND 6-8PM

This month's Guest Loretta Eagan 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. 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 from 7-9pm in the Carolan Room.

IRISH TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Thursday December 8th, 8pm -
10:30pm in the Carolan Room
Featuring Patrick Mangan - Two Time
all Ireland fiddle and John Wheland -
All Ireland Button
Accordion Player. Admission \$10 at the
door | light refreshments will be served
For more information call Noreen
Forde 203-273-0483





THE IRISH-JEWISH ULYSSES: HOW AND WHY TO READ THE WORLD'S GREATEST NOVEL

The 29th Lecture in a Series of Lectures on Irish History

Our February presenter will be Dr. Abby Bender, Department of Languages and Literatures, and Director of the Minor in Irish Studies at Sacred Heart University. Dr. Bender's research is focused on Irish literature and culture, and she is the author of Israelites in Erin: Exodus, Revolution, and the Irish Revival (Syracuse UP, 2015), as well as essays on James Joyce, Lady Gregory, Patrick Pearse, the Irish Revival, and transnationalism.

Dr. Bender's current book project is a cultural and literary history of breastfeeding in Ireland, a topic that has led into further considerations of the body, biopower, disability, and medical humanities, with a particular focus on gender and women's writing. She continues to be interested in questions of transnational analogy, and her current work in Jewish-Irish studies addresses both historical and contemporary issues of solidarity, migration, and borders. Register at: gaclectures@gmail.com.

Sunday, February 5, 2023 in the Carolan Room at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets \$5, Students with ID \$2.

Sorry no GAC Scrip or credit cards

CHRISTMAS CAROLING & UGLY SWEATER NIGHT



Join us for this fun holiday sing along on Wednesday December 14 @ 7pm. And don't forget the ugly sweater — We will be judging you!



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 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!

Save January 7th 2023 for The Greater Bridgeport | St. Patrick's Day Grand Marshal's Ball at the GAC
Music by the McLean Avenue Band and food catered by O'Neil's Irish Pub.

HOLIDAY PAINT & AFTERNOON TEA SUNDAY DECEMBER 11 4-7PM

Hosted by Noreen Forde & Friends. Paint 2 holiday stem glasses with New York artist Jenny Kenny. \$60 per person adults & teenagers only register by 11/27. Proceeds to benefit Discovery to Cure Yales School of Medicine

Address Service Requested



Gaelic American Club
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