



# SCÉALA

Newsletter for the Gaelic-American Club  
74 Beach Road, Fairfield CT 06824  
[www.gaconline.org](http://www.gaconline.org)



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



DOLLAIS | December 2024

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November was a very busy month at the GAC, we celebrated a Mass of Remembrance for those we lost this past year. Fairfield Prep's Irish Club hosted its annual Trad for Trócaire, which raised funds and awareness for Ireland's largest international charitable-aid organization. We enjoyed the revelry of the Hanging of the Jersey's, the sold out Pride of New York Concert and Clan na Gael's well attended production of *The Seafarer*.

Then suddenly, it's December. It's a festive time at the club, the hearth fire has been lit, decorations have been hung and there are many holiday activities for members of all ages to enjoy. So let's take a moment to remember those ambitious young people from Fairfield Prep who raised funds for the needy and do our part by bringing a donation for the Food Drive and or a contribution to the Giving Tree.

Merry Christmas to all!

Faith Maciver - GAC Executive Committee President

## GAC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renewal commences on 1/1/25. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR RENEWAL ELECTRONICALLY BEFORE 1/1/25. Paying ahead of the new year will cause your account not to update correctly.

- ♣ You will receive an email on January 2, with the link to renew or if you have no email with us, a paper invoice will be sent in December.
- ♣ Any checks for 2025 sent in December will be held until January.
- ♣ Scrip expires on 2/28/25. Please do not wait until the last minute to discover your card is not working. After February 15th, we cannot guarantee card replacement in time to use Scrip before the deadline.
- ♣ Make sure your contact information is up to date on the membership portal.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy 2025!

Membership Committee



## CELTIC CHRISTMAS FAIR SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH 9-3PM



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 benefit The Lenihan Dancers' Fund. There's something special for everyone! For info contact Kelli [gradykel14@gmail.com](mailto:gradykel14@gmail.com)



## TRIVIA FRIDAY DECEMBER 6TH @ 7PM

Once again it's time to unleash that random knowledge and win some cool stuff. Don't forget to wear a bit of Green & Red.

And we start an hour early at 7 sharp!

## MUSIC IN THE PUB STARTS AT 8:30PM

- Friday, Dec 6 - Karaoke with Bill
- Saturday, Dec 7 - Keltic Kick
- Friday, Dec 13 - Outside Chance
- Saturday, Dec 14 - Liz McNicholl Band
- Friday, Dec 20 - Sharon & Her Band
- Saturday, Dec 21 - Mike McGovern
- Friday, Dec 27 - Susan and Gerard
- Saturday, Dec 28 - The C-Sides



## Executive Committee Elections Dec. 1 from 12-6pm

### For Executive Committee President

- ♣ Faith Maciver
- ♣ Tom Harding

### For Executive Committee Vice President

- ♣ Joan Greenwood
- ♣ Pat Carolan

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

## SUNDAY MUSIC IN THE PUB STARTS AT 4PM

- Sunday, Dec 1 - Celtic Mikes
- Sunday, Dec 8 - Bob Curiano
- Sunday, Dec 15 - Noreen & Mike
- Sunday, Dec 22 - Gab Kallay Duo
- Sunday, Dec 29 - Bob Curiano

## BLOOD DRIVE WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11TH FROM 9AM TO 2PM

Anyone wanting to donate needs to contact the Red Cross first at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

### GAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Committee can be reached Via email at [executive@gacemail.org](mailto:executive@gacemail.org) they meet monthly on the Tuesday prior to the membership meeting.

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The next Membership Meeting is Friday December 13th @ 8pm.

### MEMBER TO MEMBER MARKETPLACE

To place your professional listing in the Member to Member Marketplace at [www.gaconline.org](http://www.gaconline.org) send info to [communications@gacemail.org](mailto:communications@gacemail.org). And when you need a business or trade service check the list and support your fellow members.

### 25 CARD GAME

The Group meets on December 15th around noon (*Irish time*) and will be playing for a holiday Turkey

### FÁILTE COMMITTEE

Many Thanks to the GAC members who have been pleasant and respectful to the front desk Volunteers.

We are in need of many more Front Desk volunteers, especially for Sunday afternoon, Monday, Tuesday and/or Saturday nights. Many of the members are here very often, why not volunteer for a shift? For new members, this is a great way to meet membership. Bette Leary at 203-767-0117 or email: [betteleary@gmail.com](mailto:betteleary@gmail.com).

### FAIRFIELD GAELIC PIPE BAND

The group practices Mondays at 6:30pm in the Carolan Room of the GAC. For more info visit [fairfieldgaelicpipeband.org](http://fairfieldgaelicpipeband.org) or call 475-329-0202.

### GOOD AND WELFARE

Get Well cards were sent to: Joan Greenwood and Art Beagan. Mass Cards were sent to: The family of Joan Homa; Megan Hannum and family on the passing of her Mother, Kathleen Howard who passed away in January.

Notify Mary Alvarez of all member news at [alvarezmp@icloud.com](mailto:alvarezmp@icloud.com).

### GENEALOGY GROUP

### FRÉAMB ÉIREANN

The group will meet December 14th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info [FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com](mailto:FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com).

### HOUSE COMMITTEE

House Committee  
Contact [manager@gacemail.org](mailto:manager@gacemail.org)

### CELTIC CHRISTMAS SESSION WITH LORETTA MURPHY

Loretta playing Friday December 6th from 6-8pm will delight you with her selection of Celtic Christmas tunes. She is a gifted button accordion and concertina player, winning numerous national awards, taught Irish music to hundreds of students in New York and Connecticut. Loretta is a GAC member and a key member of the Shamrock Traditional Irish Music Society.



### KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday December 14th from 11am - 1pm

It's a great time for the little ones, with the Lenihan School of Irish Dance who will show them a step or two and there's sure to be a special visit by Santa!

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING & UGLY SWEATER NIGHT

Join us for this fun holiday sing along on Wednesday December 18 @ 7pm. And don't forget to put on your ugly ... sweater that is - you will be judged!



### ST. PATRICK'S GAELIC FOOTBALL AND HURLING CLUB ANNUAL DINNER DANCE



Saturday December 7th at the GAC Doors open 6:30pm | Tickets, \$125. Per person | Dinner by O'Neill's and Music by McLean Avenue Band. Please visit [stpatricksgfc.org](http://stpatricksgfc.org) for more information on tickets and journal ads.

### IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

We will not have new book discussion in December, instead please join your fellow readers to have a drink in the pub on Thursday December 19. When we meet at 7pm on Thursday January 16th we'll be discussing *A Musical Memoir of an Irish Immigrant Childhood* by Maureen O'Carroll. We'll also have an optional book exchange. A tradition where you bring an old book that you have read and would like to share. It does not have to be Irish. For info: Mary Ellen Keresey [maryellenkeresey@gmail.com](mailto:maryellenkeresey@gmail.com).

### IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

Thursdays at 6:45 pm via Zoom. For info: Cáit Thopsey, 203-459-9686  
**Beginners II Tuesday @ 6:45pm**  
Info: [DesNolan@Optimum.Net](mailto:DesNolan@Optimum.Net)

### NEW BEGINNERS IRISH CLASS

We meet in person at the GAC on Sundays from 4-5 pm. If you would like to learn Irish but missed the last beginners class, now is your chance  
Cáit Thopsey 203-459-9686.

### SENIOR LUNCH

Thursday December 19th @ noon  
Please make reservations by Sunday 12/15 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 - all are welcome.  
Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921.

### TRAD MUSIC SESSION

The Shamroques host an Irish Trad Music Night every Wednesday 7-9pm  
**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 [tdonohue@slwmco.com](mailto:tdonohue@slwmco.com) or visit the website [www.aohjfk.com](http://www.aohjfk.com).

### LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Volunteer workday on Thursday December 19th @ 11am. Anyone available to assist contact Mary Ellen Lyons - [maryellen.lyons@outlook.com](mailto:maryellen.lyons@outlook.com).

### Dancing with The GAC Stars

The sold out show raised \$6,200 for area charities. The social club would like to thank everyone who took part. Our dedicated dancers, Fred Astaire Dance Studio, our wonderful judges, staff of the GAC, attendees and our amazing volunteers who put together this club favorite.

# December Dollars 2024



## Kitchen hours

Mon - 5:50 pm  
Tues - Closed  
Wed & Thurs 4-9pm  
Friday 4-10pm  
Saturday 12-10pm  
Sunday 12-8pm

## pub hours

Mon - 5:30 pm  
Tues - 5:30-9 pm  
Wed & Thurs 4-10pm  
Friday 4pm - 12am  
Saturday Noon - 12pm  
Sunday 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.gaonline.org](http://www.gaonline.org)

Céao nuaie  
fáilte



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Executive Committee Elections 12-6pm Beginners Irish 4-5pm ♫ Celtic Mikes 4pm in the Pub	<b>2</b> Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	<b>3</b> Irish Language 6:45pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	<b>4</b> Trad Music Session 7-9PM 	<b>5</b> Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	<b>6</b> Trivia 7pm Celtic Christmas Session Loretta Murphy 6-8pm ♫ Karaoke with Bill Richards 8:30pm In the Pub	<b>7</b> Celtic Christmas Fair 9-3pm St. Patrick's Dinner Dance 6:30pm ♫ Keltic Kick 8:30pm in the Pub
<b>8</b> Beginners Irish 4-5pm ♫ Bob Curiano 4pm in the Pub	<b>9</b> Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	<b>10</b> Irish Language 6:45pm Executive Committee Meeting 7pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	<b>11</b> Blood Drive 9-2pm Trad Music Session 7-9PM 	<b>12</b> Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	<b>13</b> Membership Meeting 8pm Food Drive (bring nonperishable item to meeting) ♫ Outside Chance 8:30pm In the Pub	<b>14</b> Genealogy Group 10:30am Kids Christmas Party 11-1pm ♫ Liz McNicholl Band 8:30pm in the Pub 
<b>15</b> 25 Card Game 12 noon Playing for a Holiday Ham Beginners Irish 4-5pm ♫ Noreen & Mike 4pm in the Pub	<b>16</b> Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	<b>17</b> Beginners Irish Language 6:45pm Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm	<b>18</b>  Ugly Sweater Competition & Caroling 7pm	<b>19</b> Senior Lunch Noon Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm Irish Literature Group 7pm	<b>20</b> Sharon and Her Band 8:30pm In the Pub	<b>21</b> Mike McGovern 8:30pm in the Pub
<b>22</b> Beginners Irish 4-5pm ♫ Gab Kallay Duo 4pm in the Pub	<b>23</b> Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	<b>24</b> Kitchen Closed Beginners Irish Language 6:45pm Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm		<b>26</b> Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	<b>27</b> Susan and Gerard 8:30pm In the Pub	<b>28</b> The C-Sides 8:30pm In the Pub
<b>29</b> Beginners Irish 4-5pm ♫ Bob Curiano 4pm in the Pub	<b>30</b> Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	<b>31</b> Kitchen Closed Beginners Irish Language 6:45pm Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm		<b>2</b> Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	<b>3</b> TBA 8:30pm In the Pub	<b>4</b> TBA 8:30pm in the Pub



### STAIR NA HÉIREANN | IRISH HISTORY

**FEBRUARY 2 AT 1:30PM IN THE CAROLAN ROOM**  
**Dr. Ian Delahanty discuss “Hibernianism” or “Americanism?”**  
**The Irish Origins of Irish-American Anti-Abolitionism.**

Drawing from portions of his newly released book *‘Embracing Emancipation: A Transatlantic History of Irish Americans, Slavery, and the American Union, 1840-1865’* Dr. Ian Delahanty offers a novel explanation for Irish-American anti-abolitionism by uncovering the emergence of an Irish critique of abolitionism in Famine-era Ireland.

Dr. Delahanty is an Associate Professor of History Humanities & Social Sciences Department Springfield College.

Tickets \$5.00 (Students with ID \$2.00) No scrip or credit cards

Register online: [gaclectures@gmail.com](mailto:gaclectures@gmail.com).

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

Note - time change for this lecture only is 1:30 p.m.

### THE GIVING TREE



A GAC Holiday Tradition. Take a tag from the tree and purchase the designated gift then return gifts with the original tag back to the GAC tree by Wednesday December 11th.

All tags are color coordinated.

- Lilac and/or Red - Center for Family Justice
- Yellow - Bridgeport Rescue Mission
- White - Read School in Bridgeport
- Light Blue - Ronald McDonald House
- Green - Yale New Haven Pediatric Ward

**No need to wrap the gifts this year.**

Any questions please call Bette Leary at 203-767-0117

**A Huge Thank You in advance to all who participate!**  
**Please return all gifts to GAC by Wednesday, Dec 11th.**

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Collecting for both Thanksgiving and Christmas distribution.



#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Canned Vegetables, Stuffing, Gravy  
Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce,  
Any Non-Perishable Foods,  
Grocery Gift Cards

**Drop off at Club until**  
**December 20th For information**  
**Faith Maciver: 203-520-8048**

### MANY THANKS TO THE MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL BBQ CREW !

A huge thank you, Mike Conley, Ellen Kiely, Bill Lenahan, Chris Lussen, Meghan Lussen, Elly Scott, Lorry Scott and Betsy Woods Brooks. Each Monday you kept us well fed just as they did during the summer. We look forward to the next time you all spark up the grill. And a special shout out to those who brought an appetizer, side dish, or desert to share.

You guys are awesome!

**EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS ARE SUNDAY DECEMBER 1ST FROM 12-6PM**

Address Service Requested

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

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