



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Eanáir | January 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Hope you all had a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year. I cannot believe how fast the year flew by. As you know, this will be my last President's message. As I sit here and look back at all we have accomplished over the past year, I cannot help but feel proud and grateful. My goals at the beginning of the year were to bring our club back socially and financially. We not only achieved those goals but exceeded our expectations, but we could not do that without the help of many people- the members, the volunteers, and the staff. I say "we" meaning myself and the 2024 Executive committee. We worked together facing challenges and issues but always putting the Club, its members and staff first. I appreciate every one of them with their input, thoughts, and opinions as well as their support for the matters that needed to be discussed and addressed. We all came together with our diverse backgrounds and managed to work cohesively as a team. It was an honor and pleasure serving with them this year.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that contributed their time, energy, and willingness to step forward to help. Many thanks to Tommy Flaherty, Chrissy Boccamazzo and their staff for always going above and beyond to make our members happy and keep our club running smoothly. I would like to thank all the members for trusting me and electing me as your President this year. I appreciated your compliments, comments, opinions, suggestions, and complaints. I value the fact that you took time to tell me whether in person or by email.

In closing, I'd like to wish the 2025 Executive Committee success for the upcoming year and know that they will continue this upward trend financially and socially.

On a personal note, there is one last person I must thank and that is my husband, Angus Maciver who supported me throughout this year- he was and always will be my number one fan and the feeling is mutual. I could not have done it without him.

See you all at the next trivia!

Faith Maciver - *GAC Executive Committee President*

GAC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**2025 Membership Renewal begins January 1, 2025
and ends on February 28, 2025.**

Current members in good standing will receive an email on January 2, with details and instructions on how to renew online. Anyone who does not have an email on file, will receive a paper copy of the renewal form in the mail.

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.

Email us at membership@gacemail.org anytime.

EUGENE BENDER -JANUARY 3RD FROM 6-8PM



The very accomplished and much 'in-demand' fiddler Eugene Bender will lead off January's First Friday Session. He began learning the Sligo style of Traditional Irish fiddling when he was in the 3rd Grade, with Jo-Ellen Blossom. He went on to study with famed fiddler and teacher Brian Conway and placed 1st in the U18 fiddle competition at the Mid-Atlantic fleadh in 2007. He studied classical violin at the Music Conservatory of Westchester and was first violin in The Baroque Ensemble, The String Ensemble and the Orchestra. He was also Concertmaster/violinist of the Manhattan College Orchestra, as well as being a member/secretary of the Manhattan College Jazz Band.

MUSIC IN THE PUB STARTS AT 8:30PM

Friday, Jan 3 - Camac
Saturday, Jan 4 - The Tune Squad
Friday, Jan 10 - Bob & His One Man Band
Saturday, Jan 11 - Keltic Kick
Friday, Jan 17 - Once Removed
Saturday, Jan 18 - Susan & Gerard
Friday, Jan 24 - Fake ID
Saturday, Jan 25 - Sharon & Her Band
Friday, Jan 31 - Mike McGovern
Saturday, Feb 1 - Night Visitors



BLOOD DRIVE THURSDAY JANUARY 2ND FROM 9AM TO 2PM

Anyone wanting to donate needs to contact the Red Cross first at www.redcrossblood.org

GAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Committee can be reached Via email at executive@gacemail.org they meet monthly on the Tuesday prior to the membership meeting.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The next Membership Meeting is Friday January 10th @ 8pm.

MEMBER TO MEMBER MARKETPLACE

To place your professional listing in the Member to Member Marketplace 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.

25 CARD GAME

The Group meets on January 19th around noon (*Irish time*) for game instruction got to website.

DART NIGHT

Join the group every Tuesday night for a little competitive Dart Game at 7pm

FÁILTE COMMITTEE

FÁILTE needs more volunteers. With almost 6000 members, it is pitiful we only have 10 FAILTE volunteers. Some of the volunteers are doing 2-3 shifts a week, every week, to ensure the Front Door has coverage. Please volunteer, especially if you are going to be at the GAC anyway! To Sign up Email 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 or call 475-329-0202.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

January 31st 6-9pm With DJ Peter and a \$7 Kids (only) Buffet. Great time for the entire Family with Music and activities. (*Parents must stay and order from the regular menu*).

GOOD AND WELFARE

Get Well Cards were sent to: Margie Laurie and Peter Doonan.

Mass Cards were sent to: The family of Mike DeVaney; Pam Riccio on the passing of her Mother, Elaine Eckenrode

Deceased member plaques were engraved for: Michael DeVaney; James Mulligan and Marion Queripel

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



TRIVIA FRIDAY JANUARY 3RD @ 8PM

Once again it's time to unleash that random knowledge and win some cool stuff. Don't forget to wear blue & white.



2025 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE GRAND MARSHAL'S GALA

Join us for the Grand Marshal's Gala on Saturday, January 18th, 2025, 6-11pm as we honor Mark T. Ryan, D.M.D. This elegant evening will feature dinner, an open bar, and dancing to live music by the McLean Avenue Band. The event will be held at Vazzano's Four Seasons, 337 Kenyon Street, Stratford, CT. Tickets are \$150 each. Sponsorship opportunities are available to support this special celebration. Contact tkeane@optimum.net.

THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS' 75TH ANNUAL MASS in Honor of Saint Patrick & Communion Breakfast Sunday, March 2, 2025

Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Augustine at 10:am and celebrated by His Excellency, The Most Reverend Frank Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport with breakfast immediately following at the Gaelic American Club.

Limited seating available.

Tickets will be available on January 1st for more information contact Dave Howe davehowe173@gmail.com.

TRAD MUSIC CONCERT ~ MARCH 8TH @ 7:30

The next Shamrock Traditional Irish Music Society concert will feature featuring **Liz Hanley** fiddle, **Eamonn O'Leary** and **Jefferson Hamer** (*The Murphy Beds*).

For more info on this show - <https://www.shamrockirishmusic.org/concerts>

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

The group will meet January 11th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FEsecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

House Committee

Contact manager@gacemail.org

IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Group will be meeting on Thursday January 16th at 7 pm. We will discuss *Maureen O'Carroll: A Musical Memoir of an Irish Immigrant Childhood* by Maureen O'Carroll. All are welcome. For info: Mary Ellen Keresey maryellenkeresey@gmail.com.

IRISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

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

• **Beginners II Class** Tuesdays @ 6:45pm - DesNolan@Optimum.Net

• **New Beginners Class** - Meets in person at the GAC on Sundays from 5-6 pm. If you would like to learn Irish but missed the last beginners class, now is your chance. For more info contact Cáit Thopsey 203-459-9686.

SENIOR LUNCH

Thursday January 30st @ noon Please make reservations by Sunday 1/26 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 - 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 or visit the website www.aohjfk.com.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

GAC Library have over 2,500 books, publications, videos and a copy of *The Book of Kells*. All are written by Irish authors. Contact: Mary Ellen Lyons - maryellen.lyons@outlook.com.



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.

The Irish critique of abolitionism coalesced around a cadre of nationalists who viewed the transatlantic antislavery movement as neglectful of the welfare of Irish peasants and a distraction from the cause of Irish sovereignty. Amid the Famine migration and simultaneous acceleration of the sectional crisis over slavery, Irish-born newspaper editors, exiled nationalists, and common workers transformed the Irish critique of abolitionism into an Irish-American critique of antislavery writ large.

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.

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

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

CLAN NA GAEL NEWS

Clan na Gael Thanks the audiences of THE SEAFARER for their enthusiastic support of our production. Our director, cast and crews found the play both challenging and rewarding.

2025 begins our 38th year of presenting plays by or about the Irish. We are an open welcoming growing group. Each production we introduce new actors and crew Experienced, or not experienced, please come play with us!

If you would like to learn more about CnG please reach out to us: opeggyo812@gmail.com

**61ST ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK’S
SCHOLARSHIP DINNER**

The annual dinner, presented by the Saint Patrick’s Scholarship Fund Committee since 1965, provides a \$6,000. scholarship for each of four years to a full-time university student regardless of race, creed, color, religion or natural origin. The next dinner will take place on Monday, March 10, 2025 at Stratford’s Four Seasons Restaurant at 6:pm (cocktails & socializing) followed by dinner & entertainment at 7:pm. \$150. pp/ formal attire suggested.

For Tickets and Scholarship Information

contact Dave Howe, (203) 767-6519
or davehowe173@gmail.com. Limited seating. All are welcome. Contributions are graciously accepted.

Address Service Requested

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