



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



FEABHRA | FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Members of the Gaelic American Club,

It is with great humility and gratitude that I write to you as the newly elected president of our club. To be entrusted with this honor is both humbling and inspiring, and I thank each of you for your confidence in me.

The Gaelic American Club is more than just a gathering place—it is a community that celebrates the rich heritage, traditions, and contributions of the Irish people. As we start the New Year, I look forward to working alongside all of you to build upon the foundation laid by past presidents, Executive Committee members and volunteers. I am committed to making our club a place where everyone, whether a lifelong member or newcomer, is warmly welcomed and valued. In addition to upholding our traditions, I also take seriously the responsibility of ensuring the financial health and sustainability of our club. Careful stewardship of our resources is vital to preserving what we have built and to supporting new initiatives for the future.

In the months ahead, while we will continue to host the events and programs that bring our community together, I also encourage each of you to reach out with your ideas and feedback. The club belongs not to the president, but to the members and your voices are crucial to shaping its future.

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to our dedicated Executive Committee, committee members, and volunteers. Your passion and hard work ensure that our club continues to thrive. I am honored to work alongside such a talented and committed group of individuals.

Together, let us celebrate the heart of the Gaelic American Club: a community united by culture, strengthened by friendship, and inspired by the legacy of those who came before us.

Tom Harding
GAC Executive Committee President

GAC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Annual renewal of membership continues until 2/28/25. Thank you to the 2000+ members who have already completed the process! Special thanks to the Senior Members who have generously supported the Club by making a donation to the Assessment. If you have not submitted your renewal yet, please take a moment to do so ASAP.

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.

FIRST FRIDAY SESSION LEADER: JOE GERHARD

FEBRUARY 7TH FROM 6-8PM



Joe learned to play traditional music on the fiddle in the early 70s, sitting on the edge of the Irish sessions in Boston, quietly watching and listening. Fiddlers Larry Reynolds, Paddy Cronin, and Roger Burrige were especially welcoming and helpful. Frequent

trips to Ireland led to lifelong friendships with many wonderful musicians, and cemented a love for the music and people of southwest Ireland. Joe led the well-regarded sessions at Anna Liffey's (New Haven) for 17-years until 2014. These days, he plays fiddle, banjo, and bouzouki with musical partners Damien Connolly and Jon Warner at sessions around the Northeast.

MUSIC IN THE PUB STARTS AT 8:30PM

Friday, Jan 31 - Mike McGovern

Saturday, Feb 1 - Night Visitors

Friday, Feb 7 - The C-Sides

Saturday, Feb 8 - Liz McNicholl Band

Friday, Feb 14 - Mostly Green

Saturday, Feb 15 - Camac

Friday, Feb 21 - Noreen, Mike and Dave

Saturday, Feb 22- Outside Chance

Friday, Feb 28 - Mike McGovern

Saturday, Mar 1 - Herman & Company



BLOOD DRIVE WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26TH 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 February 14th @ 8pm.

MEMBER TO MEMBER MARKETPLACE

Place your professional listing in the Member to Member Marketplace on www.gaconline.org by contacting 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 February 16th around noon (*Irish time*). For game instruction got to GAC website.

FÁILTE COMMITTEE

FÁILTE needs more volunteers. With almost 6000 members, it's sad that 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.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mass Cards were sent to: Jillian Plomin on the passing of her husband Matthew; Nancy Blagys on the passing of her husband, Calvin Blagys; The family of Michael Money, Kathy Ragland on the passing of her Mother, Jean Hoey; Joan Lavery on the passing of her husband, William Lavery.

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

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

The group will meet February 8th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Contact manager@gacemail.org

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Volunteer workday on February 20th 11-1pm. To assist contact Mary Ellen Lyons: maryellen.lyons@outlook.com.



NO TRIVIA IN FEBRUARY

Sorry, no Trivia in February but keep you skills sharp because it will reconvene in March and I suspect the color will be green.

TRAD MUSIC CONCERT ~ MARCH 8TH @ 7:30

The Murphy Beds (Eamon O'Leary and Jefferson Hamer) and Liz Hanley



These three have been performing together since 2013, when Eamon and Jefferson accompanied Liz on her 2013 release *The Ecstasy of St. Cecilia*. More recently, they performed in-studio as the backing ensemble for her latest release, *Paint This Life*. Eamon and Jefferson have been performing together for over 15 years, crafting their own blend of traditional and original folk duets for bouzouki, guitar, and mandolin. Whenever these three come together on stage, expect an exquisite delivery of traditional songs and fiddle tunes with three-part harmony vocals.

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

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.

For more information contact: Dave Howe davehowe173@gmail.com.

THE FOUNDER'S GALA | APRIL 5TH - 6 TO 11PM



Ireland's Great Hunger Museum of Fairfield will unveil the latest additions to the collection and host an informative evening of Fine Art, Live & Silent Auctions with Food provided by The Castle Blackrock. \$150 Per Person.

This event will not only mark the official debut of two remarkable pieces being added to the museum's collection but also celebrate the unwavering support and dedication of the local Irish-American community to the mission of the IGHMF. For more information visit IGHMF.org



IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Group will meet on Thursday, February 20th at 7pm. We will discuss the book *What the Wind Knows* by Amy Harmon. The book combines historical fiction, time travel and romance. All are welcome. For information: Mary Ellen Kerese maryellenkerese@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 February 27 @ noon, please make reservations by Sunday 2/23 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. For more info visit the website www.aohjfk.com.

february feabhra 2025




Kitchen hours
 Mon - Closed
 Tues - Closed
 Wed & Thurs 4 -9pm
 Friday 4 -10pm
 Saturday 12 -10pm
 Sunday 12-8pm

pub hours
 Mon - Closed
 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

**Céao nime
fáilte**



Sunday Dombnach	Monday Luan	Tuesday Mairt	Wednesday Céadaoin	Thursday Oéaraois	Friday Aoine	Saturday Satharn
SAVE YOUR CARD						
GOT SCRIP?			SAVE YOUR WHITE CARD ONCE SCRIP IS USED - ITS ALSO YOUR KEY CARD			
USE IT OR LOSE IT - DON'T WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE			MARCH IS A NON-SCRIP MONTH - SCRIP WILL RELOAD ON APRIL 1ST			
YOU HAVE UNTIL FEBRUARY 28 TO USE YOUR SCRIP						
2 Groundhog Day Irish History Lector with Dr. Ian Delahanty 1:30pm Beginners Irish 5-6pm	3 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	4 Irish Language 6:45pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - 8pm Adult	5 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	6 Irish Language • (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	7 Trad Music Session with Joe Gerhard 6-8pm • The C-Sides 8:30pm In the Pub	8 Genealogy Group 10:30am • Liz McNicholl Band 8:30pm in the Pub
9 Beginners Irish 5-6pm	10 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	11 Irish Language 6:45pm Executive Committee Meeting 7pm Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm	12 Trad Music Session 7-9PM 	13 Irish Language • (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	14 Membership Meeting 8pm • Mostly Green 8:30pm In the Pub	15 • Camac 8:30pm in the Pub
16 25 Card Game 12 noon Beginners Irish 5-6pm	17 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	18 Beginners Irish Language 6:45pm Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm	25 Trad Music Session 7-9PM	20 Library Workday 11-1pm Irish Language • (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm Irish Literature Group 7pm	21 • Noreen, Mike and Dave 8:30pm In the Pub	22 Intro to Gaelic Sports 4-5:30pm @ The Fieldhouse • Outside Chance 8:30pm In the Pub
23 Beginners Irish 5-6pm	24 Gaelic Pipe Band - 6:30pm	25 Beginners Irish Language 6:45pm Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm	26 Blood Drive 9-2pm Trad Music Session 7-9PM	27 Senior Lunch Noon Irish Language • (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	28 • Mike McGovern 8:30pm In the Pub	1 Intro to Gaelic Sports 4-5:30pm @ The Fieldhouse • Herman & Company 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.

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.

ST. PATRICK'S GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING CLUB



The club will host an **Intro to Gaelic Sports** for ages 5-8, this program runs every Saturday (4:00-5:30pm) from February 22nd through March 15th at the Fieldhouse. \$60 per player. No experience necessary.

The 2025 Club Membership is also open. **April-Youth Season Matches and Cul Camp**, dates and location TBD. **For more info and To Register visit: stpatricksgfc.org**

61ST 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

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

Gaelic American Club
74 Beach Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
www.gaconline.org

