



# SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



MARCH 2025 | MÁRTA

Dear Members of the Gaelic American Club,  
As we welcome the month of March, we step into one of the most significant times of the year for our club and our heritage. It has been an honor to serve as your president in recent weeks. I am truly inspired by the passion and dedication of our members in preserving and celebrating our Irish culture.

On March 14th, we will proudly take part in the St. Patrick's Day Parade of Greater Bridgeport, a tradition that allows us to showcase our Gaelic pride and the deep-rooted legacy of the Irish in America. I encourage all members to join us as we march together, honoring our ancestors and the rich history they carried across the Atlantic.

Then, on March 17th, our club will come alive with a full day of festivities in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The day begins at 10:00am with the raising of the Irish and American flags in honor of those from the Irish community that we have recently lost. The rest of the day is more than just a day of revelry—it is a time to gather as a community, share in music, dance, and storytelling as only someone of Irish descent can do.

I look forward to celebrating with all of you and keeping our culture vibrant.

Sláinte,  
Tom Harding,  
President GAC Executive



## TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC SESSION FRIDAY MARCH 7TH 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.


## LIZ MCNICHOLL'S ST PATRICK'S DAY FAMILY SHOW Sunday, March 9th at 1 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!

 **TRIVIA NIGHT MARCH 7TH @ 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 THURSDAY MARCH 12 @ 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, Feb. 28 - Mike McGovern
- Saturday, March 1 - Herman & Company
- Friday, March 7 - The Cavan Lads
- Saturday, March 8 - Tune Squad
- \*Friday, March 14 - see special schedule
- Saturday, March 15 - Fake ID
- \*Monday, March 17 - see special schedule
- Friday, March 21 - Dreams of Freedom
- Saturday, March 22 - Bob C. and His One Man Band
- Friday, March 28 - Sharon and Her Band
- Saturday, March 29 - Outside Chance



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Executive Committee can be reached at [executive@gacemail.org](mailto:executive@gacemail.org) They meet the Tuesday prior to the Monthly membership meetings. The next Monthly Membership meeting is March 21st @ 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 23rd around noon (*Irish Time*).

## MEMBER TO MEMBER MARKETPLACE

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

## FÁILTE COMMITTEE

FAILTE needs more volunteers to ensure the Front Door has coverage. We have a large membership, surely we can get some more volunteers! Please sign up for the best seat in the house! [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.

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT IS BACK!

Friday, March 28th 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.

## IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Group will meet on Thursday, March 20th at 7pm. We will be discussing the book *Northern Spy* by Flynn Berry. The book is written about the troubles in Belfast after the Good Friday Agreement and should be an interesting discussion. All are welcome For Info: Mary Ellen Keresey [maryellenkeresey@gmail.com](mailto:maryellenkeresey@gmail.com).

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### GOOD AND WELFARE

Mass Cards were sent to:

Darlene Bagley and family on the passing of her husband, Donald;  
To Betsy Redgate and family on the passing of her husband Tom;  
To Tim Russell and family on the passing of his brother, George;  
To Albert Niznansky and family on the passing of his wife, Patricia;  
To Eileen Boland and family on the passing of her husband, Pat;  
To Kathleen Allen and family on the death of her husband, Peter;  
To Edward Zygmant and family on the passing of his wife, Joann (JB).

A Sympathy Card was sent to:

Lawrence Halliday and family on the passing of his Mother, Kathleen.

Get Well Cards were sent to: Eileen Boland and Pat Boland.

Deceased Member Plaques were

engraved for: Matthew Plomin,  
Dan Burns and John B. Barry

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

### HOUSE COMMITTEE

House Committee

Contact [manager@gacemail.org](mailto: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 [tdonohue@slwmco.com](mailto:tdonohue@slwmco.com) or visit the website [www.aohjfk.com](http://www.aohjfk.com).

### GENEALOGY GROUP

#### FRÉAMB ÉIREANN

The group will meet March 8th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info [FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com](mailto:FESecretaryGAC@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](mailto:DesNolan@Optimum.Net)

• **New Beginners Class** - Meets in person at the GAC on Sundays from 5-6 pm. For more info contact Cáit Thopsey 203-459-9686.

### SENIOR LUNCH

Thursday March 27th @ noon Please make reservations by Sunday 03/24 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. (*starting a bit earlier*) Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921.

### TRAD MUSIC SESSION

The Shamroques host an Irish Trad Music Night Wednesdays 7-9pm

### Clan na Gael's Spring Production

#### 'PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME!'

*Directed by Rich Mancini*

Gar O' Donnell is a 25 year old man who has grown up in Ballybeg, a fictional town in rural Donegal. Ballybeg is economically deprived and promises little future for young residents like Gar. In common with many young people of his age at the time, he decides to go to America where jobs and opportunities are more plentiful. The play takes place during the hours between the night before Gar leaves for Philadelphia and the morning he is due to depart.

**Performances: April 24 -27, 2025**

Contact Producer Peg O'Leary [opeggyo812@gmail.com](mailto:opeggyo812@gmail.com)

### THE FOUNDERS' GALA | APRIL 5TH - 6PM AT THE GAELIC AMERICAN CLUB



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, Open Bar 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 IGHEMF. For more information visit [IGHEMF.org](http://IGHEMF.org).



**BLOOD DRIVE MARCH 20TH FROM 9AM - 2PM AND MARCH 26TH 12:30 - 5:30PM**

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



# SAINT PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND



## FRIDAY MARCH 14TH PARADE DAY CELEBRATION

### MUSIC IN THE PUB

- ♣ 1:30 - 3:30: MIKE MCGOVERN
- ♣ 4:00 - 6:00: CAMAC
- ♣ 6:30 - 8:30: LIZ MCNICHOLL
- ♣ 9:00 - 11:00: ONCE REMOVED

### IN THE CAROLAN ROOM

- ♣ 1:30 - 3:30: NOREEN, MIKE & DAVE
- ♣ 4 PM - 5:30: SHAMROGUES
- ♣ 5:30 - 6:30: LENIHAN SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE AND FAIRFIELD GAELIC PIPE BAND
- ♣ 7:00 - 9:00: SUSAN & GERARD
- ♣ 9:30 - 11:30: JUST US



## MONDAY 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 - 9:30: NIGHT VISITORS

### IN THE CAROLAN ROOM

- ♣ 12 PM - 2:00: ALEHOUNDS
- ♣ 2:30 - 4:00: SHAMROGUES
- ♣ 4:30 - 5:30: LENIHAN SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE AND FAIRFIELD GAELIC PIPE BAND
- ♣ 6:00 - 8:00: KELTIC KICK
- ♣ 8:30 - 10:30: THE JOLLY BEGGARS



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 bettelearjuy@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 - Monday 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 14TH.

We'll meet at 11:30 sharp 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

Guests are allowed all weekend and not required to sign guest book. Friday & Monday no credit cards will be excepted - **CASH ONLY!** Friday (3/14) club opens at noon, music all day and serving from regular menu.

Monday (3/17) Flag raising 10am. Music all day. Special menu. \$10 charge at door for non-members. Members must show card or pay fee.



### GET IT ON A GUINNESS PINT GLASS ! Thursday, March 6th from 6 to 8pm

Get your engraved St. Patrick's Day Guinness Glass. In person sign up begins at 4:30pm on the day of event.

### WHISKEY TASTING SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND



Join us from 3 to 5pm on March 2nd 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.



### CHILDREN'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Saturday, March 8th ~ 11am to 1pm with the Lenihan school of Irish Dance So much fun for the wee ones.

### 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. Dave Howe davehowe173@gmail.com.

### 61ST ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S SCHOLARSHIP DINNER MONDAY MARCH 10TH 2025

Vazzy's Four Seasons, in Stratford CT Cocktails at 6pm | Dinner at 7pm. \$150. Minimum Donation additional Contributions are greatly appreciated Black Tie Optional <https://givebutter.comstpscholarship2024>



### 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 2025. Return the completed application to the GAC- by 5 PM on May 3, 2025. Full Scholarship application can be found on the GAC website at

<https://gaconline.org/gac-scholarship-2025/>

### TRAD MUSIC CONCERT | MARCH 8TH @ 7:30 PM 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>

### 2025 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION SPONSORED BY FÉILE

#### 2025 Joe Moran Memorial Scholarship

FÉILE is pleased to offer up to three scholarships of \$2000 each to high school seniors who will attend college in fall 2025.

#### 2025 Patrick J. Dyer -

#### 1916 Easter Rising Memorial Scholarship

In partnership with the family of Patrick J. Dyer. One scholarship of \$1916 will be awarded to a high school senior who will attend college in fall 2025.

Information, applications, and details for both scholarships are available at [FEILEINC.ORG](http://FEILEINC.ORG).


### SAVE THE DATE - IRISH HISTORY LECTURE May 4, 2025 - 2:00pm - Carolan Room

CONALL PIARAS Ó FÁTHARTA will be presenting: *"Scandal or Silence: The Irish print media role in investigating and shaping historical Church and State abuse as national 'scandals' 1990-2020"*, examining the media coverage of interlinked episodes of injustice: (1) Magdalene Laundries (1993-2018), (2) abuse in industrial schools (1999-2009), and (3) the Banished Babies scandal (Irish- American adoption scheme) (1996-2020).

Conall Ó Fátharta is an award-winning former journalist who previously worked as a Senior News Reporter with the Irish Examiner. He is currently a Fulbright Scholar doing research at the Glucksman Ireland House

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