



SCÉALA

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



CÉAO MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes ❁❁❁ December 2025 | Nollaig

Dear Members of the Gaelic American Club,

December is always a busy and joyful time at the club. I encourage everyone to take part in our Executive Committee Elections on Sunday, December 7, from 12:00 – 6:00 PM. Your vote matters. It helps shape the future of our club, so please take the time to come out and participate.

The holiday spirit will be in full swing with our Celtic Christmas Fair on Saturday December 6. You will find unique gifts, crafts, and treats that will make the perfect gift for family and friends. That same weekend, don't miss the St. Patrick's Hurling & Football Club Dinner Dance on Saturday, December 6, at 6:30 PM. It's always a great night of celebration and camaraderie.

Throughout the month, I encourage you to enjoy the festive atmosphere in the pub with live music, great food, and good company. There is no better way to unwind and connect with old friends and new ones.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I want to wish all our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the season bring you peace, joy, and time well spent with those you love.

Slainté!

Tom Harding
President, Gaelic American Club

TRIVIA NIGHT DECEMBER 5TH @ 7PM

Trivia meets an hour earlier this month.



Be there at 7pm and be ready to unleash that random knowledge and join us for another fun filled night - and remember to wear Green and Red

MUSIC IN THE PUB

Friday, Dec. 5 - Karaoke with Bill Richards (8:30pm)

Saturday, Dec. 6 - Alehounds (8:30pm)

Sunday, Dec. 7 - Gab Kallay Duo (4-7pm)

Friday, Dec. 12 - Susan and Gerard (8:30pm)

Saturday, Dec. 13 - Outside Chance (8:30pm)

Sunday, Dec. 14 - 2 In the Pocket (4-7pm)

Friday, Dec. 19 - Sharon and Her Band (8:30pm)

Saturday, Dec. 20 - Mike McGovern (8:30pm)

Sunday, Dec. 21 - Nayra and Cyril (4-7pm)

Friday, Dec. 26 - The C-Sides (8:30pm)

Saturday, Dec. 27 - Camac (8:30pm)

Sunday, Dec. 28 - Bob Curiano (4-7pm)



2026 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL BEGINS ON JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDS ON FEBRUARY 28, 2026.

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, or has previously requested, will receive a paper copy of the renewal form in the mail. Please do not renew online before January 2, 2026. Doing so will delay activation of your 2026 membership.

IMPORTANT-Recently approved by-laws and procedures require that ALL MEMBERS who are requesting a change to their member profile, (name, membership level, address, phone or email) must email membership@gacemail.org with the changes. Members may no longer make these changes themselves. Please let us know ASAP if you plan to add or drop a spouse or if your contact information has changed this year and you have not yet notified us.

A primary member, (the person whose name appears first or only on your membership profile) is the person in whose name the membership is listed. Spouses are granted membership regardless of heritage but cannot take over the membership to become the primary member.

Scrip expires on 2/28/26. 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.



GAC CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3RD AT 6PM

It's a family festive event in the back yard with the Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band, Cookies and Hot Coco.

FIRST FRIDAY TRAD MUSIC SESSION

WITH LORETTA MURPHY DECEMBER 5TH 6-8PM



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 the weekly Trad Music Sessions Wednesday nights from 7-9pm in the Carolan Room

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR WRAPPED GIFTS FOR THE GAC GIVING TREE

SUNDAY CHILL SESSION

The Club will feature *Sunday Chill Sessions* in the Pub from 4-7pm ~ So stop in for a bite to eat and good tunes.

25 CARD GAME

Sunday Dec 21st @ noon. New players are welcome and we'll teach you to play this traditional Irish game.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Anyone interested in working on the By-Laws Committee please contact Cathy Austin at caustin@cox.net

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Executive Committee can be reached at executive@gacemail.org. They meet the Tuesday prior to the Monthly Membership meetings.

The next Monthly Membership meeting is December 12th @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 cards. Mail or drop off payment with your info to the Attn: Membership.

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.

DART NIGHT

The Group meets Wednesday's at 7pm.

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.

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.

IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Irish Literature Group will not be meeting in December. We will meet in January on the 15th and will be discussing *Belonging* by Catherine Corliss. The book is part memoir and part the story of the Tuam Mother and Baby Home. We wish all a Happy Thanksgiving and very Merry Christmas. maryellenkeresey@gmail.com.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

The group will meet December 13th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mass Cards were sent to:

The family of **Rick Reidy**

The family of **William LeVasseur Ann Curtin** on the passing of her husband, **David**

Deceased member plaques were engraved for:

John Doonan, Rick Reidy and Joe Cahill Surber

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

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. To join contact Tom Donohue at tdonohue@slwmco.com or visit the website www.aohjfk.com.

TRAD MUSIC SESSION

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Contact manager@gacemail.org

IRISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

•Intermediate Class -

Thursdays at 6:45 pm via Zoom.

•Beginners II Class - Tuesdays at 6 pm.

•Beginners I Class - Sundays from 5-6 pm. For more info contact Robin Griskus - 203 233 4979

CELTIC ART INSTRUCTIONAL CLASS

Tuesday December 9th 7pm Celtic Patterns - Zoomorphics, which are simplified representations of both people and animals you might find in the pages of Christian Medieval Manuscripts. RSVP DesNolan@Optimum.net. to get pre-class handouts by email. As this is a new subject, new attendees are welcome You need a pencil, eraser and some paper."

SENIOR LUNCH

Join us for Senior Lunch on Thursday, Dec 18th at 12PM. Reservations are required by Sunday, 12/14. Please call:

Sally Savage: 203-366-4826 or

Lisa Winkel: 203-259-0766

\$9 for members | non-members \$11.

SET DANCING

We're back on the dance floor every Thursday's at 7pm . For more info: Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Library Work Day is Dec 18th from 11 to 1pm contact Maryellen Lyons maryellen.lyons@outlook.com



KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday December 13th 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 AT THE CLUB | WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17 FROM 7-9PM.

Lorry & Mike lead us in song. Don your festive apparel
Light fare and Prizes

STAIR NA HÉIREANN | IRISH HISTORY LECTURE

**FEBRUARY 1ST 2026 @ 2PM WITH ELIZABETH STACK, PHD,
CONTESTED CITIZENS: IRISH AND GERMAN IMMIGRANTS**

Elizabeth Stack, PhD, Director of Education at Celtic Junction Arts Center in St. Paul, MN. Dr. Stack is the recent recipient of the 2025 Heroes of Irish America Award. She was the Executive Director of the American Irish Historical Society in New York City and prior to that was executive director of the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany, NY.

Elizabeth Stack will explore the subject of how the two largest immigrant groups chose to define their ethnic identity amidst myriad Americanization policies, making it possible for other groups to be ethnic Americans.

(Read more: <https://gaconline.org/stair-na-heireann/>)

Tickets - \$5.00 (Students with ID \$2 | Sorry no GAC script or credit cards

IRISH CANDY & TREATS ON SALE IN THE PUB - SEE YOUR SERVER



December DOLLAIS 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 - Closed
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.gaconline.org

Céao nua
fáilte



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Remember To Vote on December 7th From 12-6pm	2 Gaelic Pipe Band 6:30pm Dart Night 7pm	3 Irish Language II 6pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - Adult 8pm	4 Christmas Tree Lighting 6pm Trad Music Session 7-9pm Darts 7pm	5 Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	6 Trivia @ 7pm First Friday Trad Musician Loretta Murphy 6-8pm Karaoke 8:30pm	7 Christmas Fair 9-3pm St. Pat's Dinner Dance 6:30pm Alehounds 8:30pm
8 GAC Ex Committee Elections 12-6pm Beginners Irish 5-6pm Gab Kallay Duo 4-7pm in the Pub 4-7pm	9 Gaelic Pipe Band 6:30pm Dart Night 7pm	10 Ex. Committee Meeting 7pm Irish Language II 6pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - Adult 8pm	11 Blood Drive 9-2pm Trad Music Session 7-9pm Darts 7pm	12 Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	13 Genealogy Group 10:30am Kids Xmas Party 11-1pm Irish Famine Immigrants of CT 7pm Outside Chance 8:30pm	14 Beginners Irish 5-6pm 2 In the Pocket 4-7pm in the Pub
15 Gaelic Pipe Band 6:30pm Dart Night 7pm	16 Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm Irish Language II 6pm	17 Caroling in the Pub 7-9pm	18 Senior Lunch 12noon Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	19 Sharon & Her Band 8:30pm in the Pub	20 Mike McGovern 8:30pm in the Pub	21 25 Card Game 12 noon Playing for a ham Beginners Irish 5-6pm Nayra and Cyril 4-7pm in the Pub
22 Gaelic Pipe Band 6:30pm Dart Night 7pm	23 Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm Irish Language II 6pm	24 Christmas Eve GAC is Closed	25 Nollaig shona dúit	26 The C-Sides 8:30pm in the Pub	27 Camac 8:30pm in the Pub	28 Beginners Irish 5-6pm Bob Curiano 4-7pm in the Pub
29 Gaelic Pipe Band 6:30pm Dart Night 7pm	30 Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm Irish Language II 6pm	31 New Year's Eve Pub Closes at 10pm Kitchen Closed	1 Athbhlai Faoi Mhaise Daoibh 2026	2 Reminder Please Return Your Glasses to the Bar TBA	3 TBA	

CANDIDATES FOR THE GAC's 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION

Election will be held on Sunday December 7th from 12 6pm.
Please remember to bring your GAC Membership Card (the white scrip/key card) when voting.

President

Tom Harding
Faith Maciver

Vice-President

Sheila Tesei
Michael Conley

Financial Secretary

Bill Lenahan (*unopposed*)

Treasurer

Phil Dyer (*unopposed*)

Sergeant at Arms

Pat Carolan (*unopposed*)

Recording Secretary

Bill Reda (*unopposed*)

Directors Position

Director 1yr Tracy James*

Director 2yr Catherine Austin*

Director 3yr Pru O'Brien

(*unopposed*)

**Currently serving 3 year directors term*

Candidate Bio's located on www.GACOnline.org

ST PATRICK'S GAA CLUB ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH AT 6:30PM

Music by the McLean Avenue Band. Tickets are \$125 per person and include appetizers, dinner, dessert & open bar; \$75 for seniors. To reserve tables or place an ad please email: fundraising@stpatricksgaa.us

GAC's ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Collecting for both Thanksgiving and Christmas distribution ITEMS NEEDED: non perishable foods; such as canned veggies, stuffing or Grocery Gift Cards. Drop off at Club until December 20th For information call Faith Maciver: 203-520-8048

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

The 2026 Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is accepting applications for the Mr. and Ms. Shamrock Scholarship. High school Seniors with an Irish background may apply. Each first place male and female winner will receive \$5,000.00 and the second place male and female students will receive \$3,000.00 each.

For applications visit www.stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com.

Please submit the applications to Lisa Carroll Fabian at shamrockscholarship@gmail.com.

Applications are due no later than December 22, 2025.

For more info: Lisa Carroll Fabian, 203-814-2278

Blood Drive December 10th from 9 to 2pm

contact Red Cross first at www.redcrossblood.org

CELTIC CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH 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!

Irish Famine Immigrants of Connecticut | Wednesday December 13th @ 7pm

This informative presentation given by Loretto Leary IGHMF Educational and Cultural Director, explores the influence of Irish Famine Immigrants in Connecticut followed by updates and renderings of Ireland's Great Hunger Museum of Fairfield by John Foley President IGHMF.

Address Service Requested

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Fairfield, CT 06824
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