



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes  FEBRUARY 2026 | FEABHRA

Dear Members of the Gaelic American Club,

As we move through February, I hope everyone has had a positive and healthy start to the new year. It's been wonderful to see members continuing to enjoy all that our club has to offer.

This is also a reminder that any remaining scrip will expire on February 28, so please be sure to use it before then. Please do not wait until the last minute to discover your card is not working. After February 15th, the office cannot guarantee card replacement in time to use scrip before the deadline. In addition, membership renewals must be completed by February 28 to remain in good standing. Emails with instructions regarding how to renew have been sent. Anyone who does not have an email on file, and those who requested it, will receive a paper copy of the renewal form in the mail.

Thank you for your continued support of the Gaelic American Club. I look forward to another great year together and hope to see many of you at the club in the weeks ahead.

Slainté!

Tom Harding
President, Gaelic American Club

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

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, and those who requested it, will receive a paper copy of the renewal form in the mail.

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.



Elaine Halliday's Free writing workshop where students learn how to write targeted, successful letters of continued interest (LOCIs). Elaine will share previous students' successful LOCIs, help them brainstorm and list updates that reveal their academic and extracurricular achievements since their October & November early applications.

February 22 from 1-3pm. Register at ehalliday@yahoo.com



TRIVIA NIGHT FEBRUARY 6TH @ 8PM

Be there at 8pm and be ready to unleash that random knowledge and join us for another fun filled night - and remember to wear red.

MUSIC IN THE PUB FRIDAY & SATURDAYS @ 8:30PM

- Friday Feb. 6 ~ The C-Sides
- Saturday Feb. 7 ~ Camac
- Friday Feb. 13 ~ Brian Everard
- Saturday Feb. 14 ~ The Girls
- Friday Feb. 20 ~ Susan and Gerard
- Saturday Feb. 21 ~ Mike McGovern
- Friday Feb. 27 ~ Noreen and Mike Sherry with Dave Kennedy
- Saturday Feb. 28 ~ Gab Kallay Band



FIRST FRIDAY TRAD MUSIC SESSION WITH LINDSEY CÉITINN FEBRUARY 6TH 6-8PM



Leading February's First Friday Trad Session is Lindsey Céitinn. Lindsey has been teaching for over seven years and holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music from Thomas Edison State University. She is skilled in a variety of styles, including classical, traditional Irish, American folk, and improvisation for contemporary worship. She studied classical violin and viola with Alison Breisler Corigliano of Danbury, Connecticut, and has performed with the Danbury Symphony Orchestra. Lindsey currently studies with Brian Conway, a premier traditional Irish fiddle player based in New York, and enjoys performing with him. She is the 2017 champion in the Over-18 Fiddle Slow Airs competition at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fleadh Cheoil, and traveled to Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland, in August 2017 to compete at the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil.

25 CARD GAME

Sunday Feb 15th @ 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 February 13th @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 information call 475-329-0202 or visit fairfieldgaelicpipeband.org.

IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Irish Literature Group meets Thursday, February 19th at 7pm. To discuss the book *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Ella Kazan. It's a book that many of us read while in middle school and will be interesting to discuss as adults. All are welcome maryellenkeresey@gmail.com.

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

The group will meet February 14th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

GOOD AND WELFARE

Get Well Cards were sent to: **Pat and Dave Pirrie**.

Sympathy Cards were sent to: **Christine Hogan and family** on the passing of her Father, **Robert Cahill**. To **Gail McGuirk** and family on the passing of her Mother, **Mary Nevins**; and **John Lydon** on the passing of his sister, **Helen Conneely**

Mass Cards were sent to: The family of **Maureen O'Keefe**; To **Eileen Sweeney** and family on the passing of her husband, **Paul**; The **Hallissey family** on the passing of their son, **Liam**; To **Joe Sepot** and family on the passing of his wife, **Joan**; To **Geraldine Hayes & family** on the passing of their Aunt, **Catherine Belardinelli**; and **Pat Pirrie** and family on the passing of **David**.

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE

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

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

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Library Work Day is Feb 19th from 11 to 1pm contact Maryellen Lyons maryellen.lyons@outlook.com

SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

First Social Committee Meeting of 2026 Monday February 9th @ 7pm.

New members welcome to help plan social events for the GAC in 2026.

SENIOR LUNCH

Join us for Senior Lunch on Thursday, Feb 26th at 12PM. Reservations are required by Sunday, 02/22. 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.

TRAD MUSIC SESSION

The Shamroques host an Irish Trad Music Night on Wednesdays (7-9pm). All are welcome, to play or just listen.



IRELAND'S GREAT HUNGER MUSEUM NEWS

2nd Annual Founders' Gala is planned for May 2nd at the GAC with dinner, entertainment & auction.

A New Exhibition titled, **A Journey of Hope: The Irish American Immigrant Experience** will open at the Lockwook-Mathews Mansion Museum, Norwalk on March 12 through May 17. For more info on this and other programs visit www.IGHMF.org

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)



february feabhra 2026

Kitchen hours

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

pub hours

Mon - 5:30-9:30pm
Tues - Closed
Wed & Thurs 4 - 10pm
Friday 4pm - 12am
Saturday Noon - 12pm
Sunday Noon - 9pm

How to Reach us

Office (203) 254-0673
Membership (203) 256-0380
Social social@gacemail.org
Website www.gaconline.org

Céao nua
fáilte



Sunday Oombach	Monday Luan	Tuesday Máirt	Wednesday Céadaoin	Thursday Deardaoin	Friday Aoife	Saturday Satharn
1 Lá Fhéile Bríde (St. Brigid Day) Irish History Lecture with Elizabeth Stack, PhD 2pm Beginners Irish 5-6pm	2 Groundhog's Day Potluck in the Pub 5:30-9:30pm Gaelic Pipe Band 6:30pm	3 Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - Adult 8pm Irish Language II 6pm	4 Blood Drive 9-2pm Trad Music Session 7-9pm Dart Night 7pm	5 Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	6 Trivia @ 8pm First Friday Trad Musician Lindsey Céitinn 6-8pm The C-Sides 8:30pm in the Pub	7 Camac 8:30pm in the Pub
8 Beginners Irish 5-6pm 	9 Potluck in the Pub 5:30-9:30pm Gaelic Pipe Band 6:30pm Social Committee Meeting 7pm	10 Ex. Committee Meeting 7pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - Adult 8pm Irish Language II 6pm	11 David Geaney & The Irish Lads 7pm (\$39.19) Dart Night 7pm	12 Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	13 Membership Meeting 8pm Brian Everard 8:30pm in the Pub	14 Valentines Day Genealogy Group 10:30am The Girls 8:30pm in Pub
15 25 Card Game 12 noon Beginners Irish 5-6pm	16 Italian Themed Potluck In the Pub 5:30-9:30pm Gaelic Pipe Band 6:30pm	17 Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm Irish Language II 6pm	18 Trad Music Session 7-9pm Dart Night 7pm	19 Library Work Day 1pm Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Irish Literature Group 7pm Set Dancing 7pm	20 Susan and Gerard 8:30pm in the Pub	21 Mike McGovern 8:30pm in the Pub
22 Beginners Irish 5-6pm Free Writing Workshop 1-3pm	23 Potluck in the Pub 5:30-9:30pm Gaelic Pipe Band 6:30pm	24 Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm Irish Language II 6pm	25 Blood Drive 9-2pm Trad Music Session 7-9pm Dart Night 7pm	26 Senior Lunch 12noon Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	27 Noreen and Mike Sherry with Dave Kennedy 8:30pm in the Pub	28 Last Day to Renew Your Membership (and use your scrip) Gab Kallay Band 8:30pm in the Pub
1 Beginners Irish 5-6pm	2 Potluck in the Pub 5:30-9:30pm Gaelic Pipe Band 6:30pm	3 Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm Irish Language II 6pm	4 Trad Music Session 7-9pm Dart Night 7pm	5 Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	6 Pipe Dream 8:30pm in the Pub	7  Herman & Company 8:30pm in the Pub

DAVID GEANEY & THE IRISH LADS

FEBRUARY 11 @ 7PM



Five time World Champion Irish Dancer David Geaney, World Class Irish Singer Bryan Murphy and multi instrumentalist John Paul Reynolds LIVE at the GAC!

Irish Music & Dance at its very best! Join David, Bryan and John Paul in a special intimate

evening featuring songs of old and new Ireland with some explosive and incredible Irish dancing! Tickets On Sale: Eventbrite **\$30 + Fee**. GAC Members Use Promo Code GAC2026 or Cash at Door \$30 If Tickets Are Still Available.



SHAMROCK TRADITIONNAL IRISH MUSIC SOCIETY'S

SPRING CONCERT SERIES STARTS

Saturday, March 7, 7:30 pm with

Mary Courtney, Patrick Madden, Jack Ryan

(\$22 online | \$25 at the door)

Mary Courtney (guitar, vocals) grew up in a musical family in the parish of Castlegregory, near the sea in County Kerry, a likely beginning for this remarkable singer and guitarist. Whether accompanying herself, or holding the rhythm line with her trad band, Morning Star, she is a consummate musician.

Patrick Madden (fiddle) is a first-generation Irish-American, born and raised in Queens, New York. As a dancer, he was introduced to traditional Irish music and went on to learn the fiddle under the tutelage of the great Maureen Glynn. He has been playing with Mary Courtney and Morningstar for over a decade.

Jack Ryan (whistle) was born in the Bronx and began playing the whistle at age eight. He initially learned from his father, who taught himself the instrument to pass it along to his children. Jack went on to study Irish music under Dawn Doherty, who was born in Co. Mayo and runs the Dawn Doherty Academy of Irish Music, based in Yonkers. Jack has competed multiple times at the Fleadh Cheoil in Ireland.

For more information to www.shamrockirishmusic.org

**ST. PATRICK'S FOOTBALL & HURLING CLUB'S
Annual Introduction to Gaelic Sports**

An energetic introduction to Gaelic Sports For kids Ages 5-8 | \$75 per player. **Dates:** 03/7; 03/14; 03/21; 03/28 at the Fieldhouse 85 Mill Plain Road Fairfield **Bonus:** Outdoor hurling Session | TBA. No experience necessary and all are welcome. **To Register** visit stpatricksgfc.org or use QR Code.



BLOOD DRIVE FEB 4TH & 25TH FROM 9 TO 2PM CONTACT RED CROSS FIRST AT WWW.REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG

Address Service Requested

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

Gaelic American Club
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