



# SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MILE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



April 2026 | Aibreán 2026

Dear Members of the Gaelic American Club,

I would like to begin by thanking Tommy, Chrissy, our staff, and all the volunteers for their hard work during what is always our busiest time of the year—the end of Scrip and the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. As always, the club ran smoothly and everyone truly enjoyed the festivities. While many were celebrating, our staff worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make it all possible, and we are very grateful for their efforts. 🍀

Now that winter is behind us, I encourage everyone to take advantage of our outdoor seating area and bring family and friends to enjoy our wonderful club.

Lastly, I would like to respectfully remind members that children should not run through the club. This is for their safety as well as the safety of our staff and members. We have had a couple of close calls, and we ask that parents please help us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

Failure to comply with this request may result in a review of membership status.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support of the club.

Slainté!

**Tom Harding**  
President, Gaelic American Club

## CLAN NA GAEL PRESENTS ‘THE LOBBY’ BY DON CREEDON

‘The Lobby’ is an Irish immigrant story, a modern American comedy, and an old-school farce all wrapped up in one, hilarious play. Jimmy Burgess, a recent Irish immigrant, is the night doorman of the very fancy American Loft Building in downtown, New York. When his best friend, the incorrigible Miles O’Riordan, persuades Jimmy to let him pretend to live in one of the luxury loft apartments in order to impress his Mother who is visiting from Dublin, utter chaos ensues. The result is one big, elaborate and extremely hilarious hoax.

Director: Eamon Spear

Producer: Peggy O’Leary | Stage Mgr: Valerie Huegel  
Performances are Thursday thru Saturday (April 9-11)  
at 8pm and Sunday April 12th Matinee at 2:30pm

Tickets are \$20 and can be reserved by contacting  
Nancy O’Neil at 203-377-1070 or  
playresvcng@gmail.com.

## BRIDGEPORT ISLANDERS HOCKEY OUTING SUNDAY APRIL 12 @ 5PM \$25.66 PP

Join the Bridgeport Islanders in their final home game of the regular season as they take on the rival Hartford Wolf Pack! Fan Appreciation Night will include pre-game festivities on the plaza from 2-4PM and continue with giveaways and surprises as we wrap up our historic 25th Anniversary season. Every ticket comes with a commemorative anniversary season baseball cap featuring our retro Sound Tigers logo!



## FÉILE’S SPRING CÉILI



Féile will sponsor a Céili on Sunday, April 26 from 3-6pm. Leading the dancing is Boston band, Irish Express, with John Connors.

The Céili is to honor the memory of Peter Bellow, who was a Lifetime member of the Gaelic American Club before his passing in 2021. Peter was involved with many of the cultural activities at the Club and we are proud to remember him in this way. Members of Peter’s family will be in attendance that day.

Light refreshments will be served and we hope you will join us. If you have never seen or participated in Ceili Dancing, this is a great opportunity to give it a try.

**This event is free of charge and is open to all members and their guests.**

## MUSIC IN THE PUB @ 8:30PM

Friday April 3 - Good Friday - No Music

Saturday April 4 - Camac

Friday April 10 - Tony and the West Siders

Sat April 11 - Noreen & Mike Sherry w/ Dave Kennedy

Friday April 17 - Liz McNicholl Band

Saturday April 18 - The C-Sides

Friday April 24 - Mike McGovern

Saturday April 25 - Ruff Dogs

## 25 CARD GAME

Sunday April 19th @ noon. New players are welcome and we'll teach you to play this traditional Irish game.

## BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

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 April 17th @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.gaonline.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 Monday's at 7pm.  
New players Welcome.

## 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 on Thursday, April 16th at 7pm. We will be discussing the book How to Build a Boat by Elaine Feeney. This book is the story of Jamie, whose young mother died in childbirth leaving his very young father to raise him. Jamie is 13 and a very quirky precocious child entering secondary school in Ireland. As he starts to fit in we learn about the people around him who help him and are helped by him. The author's writing reminds me of Clare Keegan. It is a good tea and should be a good discussion. All are welcome

## HOUSE COMMITTEE

Contact manager@gacemail.org

## GENEALOGY GROUP

### FREAMB ÉIREANN

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

## GOOD AND WELFARE

**Mass Cards** were sent to: The family of Anne Surber; Nancy Glynn and family on the passing of her husband Tom

**Sympathy Cards** were sent to:

The family of Michael O'Connor whose Dad died in Ireland; To Caroline Feeney on the passing of her Dad, John Wright.

*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.

## 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

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday April 24 6-9pm with DJ Peter  
No charge to attend. (Kids buffet \$7.)

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Library Work Day is April 16th from 11 to 1pm. The library accepts only books by Irish authors, about Ireland or the Irish. Books with Highlighted, underlined, or have handwritten notes in the margins can not be accepted.  
maryellen.lyons@outlook.com

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

New members welcome to help plan social events for the GAC.  
Contact Social@gacemail.org

## SENIOR LUNCH

Join us for Senior Lunch on Thursday, April 30th at 12PM. Reservations are required by Sunday, 04/26. Please call:

Sally Savage: 203-366-4826 or

Lisa Winkel: 203-259-0766

\$9 for members | non-members \$11.  
must be signed in by a club member, each member is limited to four guests.

## SET DANCING

We're back on the dance floor every Thursday's at 7pm.

## 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

**A Journey of Hope: The Irish American Immigrant Experience** exhibition opened at the Lockwook-Mathews Mansion Museum, in Norwalk CT and the artwork will be on display through at least May 17th.

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

**Famine Commemoration Day** will be celebrated May 17th at Irish Heritage Society of Milford.

For more info visit [www.IGHMF.org](http://www.IGHMF.org)



## STAIR NA HÉIREANN | IRISH HISTORY LECTURE | MAY 3RD @ 2PM



Who was the Irish Bridget? What relevance does her story have to the history of Irish immigration to America? Learn the answers to these questions in Dr. Margaret Lynch-Brennan's presentation "The Irish Bridget: Irish Immigrant Women in Domestic Service in America, 1840-1930" which is based on her book of the same name. Dr. Lynch-Brennan will use photographs and personal letters the Irish Bridgets wrote to one another to give insight into the lives of these young immigrant girls. She will discuss their work life, their social life and their contribution to American ethnic history, labor history and women's history. Dr. Lynch-Brennan will also explore the impact they had on Irish-American life in facilitating the rise of the Irish into the American middle class. (Read more: <https://gaonline.org/stair-na-heireann/>)

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

## JOIN THE PIPE BAND

The Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band is always looking for new members! If you have an interest in learning to play the pipes or drums, feel free to contact us at [fairfieldgaelicpipeband@gmail.com](mailto:fairfieldgaelicpipeband@gmail.com).

## ST PATRICK'S GALEIC FOOTBALL & HURLING CLUB NEWS

St. Patrick's GAA Club will host its annual Cúl Camp, a summer camp in Gaelic football, hurling & camogie for children 5-12 years of age from June 15-20 at Sacred Heart University. Cúl Camps are held in every county in Ireland and throughout North America. Whether you're an experienced player seeking to improve skills or have never played Gaelic games before, this camp is designed to introduce boys and girls to the excitement and challenges of Gaelic games. GAA Certified coaching staffing direct from Ireland will lead the training. Camp hours are 9 am to 3 pm each day. Space is limited and there are early registration and sibling discounts available.

**For registration and more information, please visit [www.stpatricksgfc.org](http://www.stpatricksgfc.org) or email [camp@stpatricksgaa.us](mailto:camp@stpatricksgaa.us).**

The North American Youth Gaelic Games Championships (the Continental Youth Championships or CYC) are coming to Philadelphia this summer! St. Patrick's is forming teams and we're looking for youth student-athletes - under 8 to under 18 - to join us for this challenge as we take on the best youth Gaelic football and hurling teams from July 30 to August 2. So, if you're taking a summer break from youth hockey, soccer, lacrosse, baseball, & football, St. Patrick's welcomes you to try your athletic skills at Gaelic games. No experience necessary.

**For more information on training and tryouts, just email St. Patrick's youth coaches at [cyc@stpatricksgaa.us](mailto:cyc@stpatricksgaa.us).**

## IRISH HEARTBEAT

Van Morrison Tribute Band  
June 27 @ 7pm (\$33.85+3.85 fees)



Kick off Summer with the Van Morrison Tribute Band Irish Heartbeat. A group of thirteen of the area's finest musicians promise to bring an unforgettable night of live music to the GAC.

Tickets go on sale April 1, 2026. Online Tickets can be purchased through the QR code.

Use **GACMEMBER26** for a member discount.

In-person, Cash-only tickets can be purchased on any Friday night in April or May from 7-8pm. Ticket Sales will be at the table in the GAC entryway.

## SEÁN GAVIN AND CAOIMHÍN Ó FEARGHAIL SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 7:30 PM (\$22)



**Seán Gavin** is one of the most highly regarded Irish musicians of his generation. Master uilleann piper and flute player, he is the first and only musician born outside Ireland to win the prestigious Seán Ó Riada Gold Medal. His latest recording, *The Boys of 25*, with accordion maestro Colm Gannon "is a superb bit of pure drop music that stands tall on the strength of Gavin's and Gannon's musicianship."

**Caoimhín Ó Fearghail** (Kwee-veen) comes from An Rinn in the Waterford Gaeltacht. He received the TG4 Young Musician of the Year award and was chosen as Best Folk Instrumentalist at the RTÉ Radio 1 Folk Awards. His music is greatly influenced by that region as well as diverse players throughout Ireland. With a start on the tin whistle at the age of eight, he has since mastered uilleann pipes, flute, guitar, and bouzouki, as well as being an accomplished singer.

<https://www.shamrockirishmusic.org/concerts>

## PLIGHT OF THE BUMBLE BEE (SHORT FILM) Followed by a live traditional Irish music session.

Brenda Castles is the composer.

Sunday, June 14 @ 4 pm



A captivating short film focusing on Irish bio-diversity, folklore and the urgent need for conversation, featuring interviews with experts and showcasing a corridor linking pollinator sites created by locals in Skerries. Explore the vital role bees play in our ecosystems and how we can help ensure their survival.

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**\$20 Adults, \$10 Tweens. Reservations: E-mail [social@gacemail.org](mailto:social@gacemail.org) or call (203) 377-1070**



### FREE COLLEGE WORKSHOP APRIL 19 | 1-2:30



Free Workshop Sunday, April 19th, 2026 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Award-winning, certified educator Elaine McLaughlin Halliday Cornell University BS, Biology; Fordham University Grad School of Ed Fellow, MS 25+ years of award-winning teaching Who's eligible? GAC-member college-bound HS Sophomores & Juniors Enrollment limited to 25 HS students.

Pre-register with Gaelic American Club educator by emailing ehalliday@yahoo.com Provide: 1) Parent's & student's names; 2) Grade; 3) Name of High School; 4) Email addresses. For more information go to <https://gaconline.org/free-college-workshop/>

### 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 2026.

Return the completed application to the GAC by 5 PM on Friday May 1, 2026. Full Scholarship application can be found on the GAC website at

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

### Scholarship Information 2026 Sponsored by FÉILE Inc.

#### 2026 Joe Moran Memorial Scholarship

FÉILE is pleased to offer Scholarships to high school seniors who will attend college in the fall of 2026.

#### 2026 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 attending college in the fall of 2026.

Information, applications, and details for both scholarships are available at FEILEINC.ORG



### SORRY, NO TRIVIA NIGHT IN APRIL

But we'll be back at it on May 1st - only we'll be starting an hour earlier at 7pm.

SEE YOU ON MAY 1ST AT 7PM

### BLOOD DRIVE APRIL 23 FROM 9 TO 2PM

Contact Red Cross in advance at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

Address Service Requested

Presorted First Class  
Mail  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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Permit # 288