



SCÉALA

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



CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



MAY 2026 | BEALTAINÉ 2026

Dear Members of the Gaelic American Club,

I hope this note finds you well and that you had a happy and meaningful Easter with those closest to you. As we move further into spring, the longer days and warmer weather bring a fresh sense of energy—and an exciting season ahead here at the Gaelic American Club.

One of the highlights this time of year is our annual Mother's Day Brunch. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together in appreciation of the mothers and special women who mean so much to us while enjoying great food and fellowship.

In the weeks ahead, we also look forward to marching together in Fairfield's Memorial Day Parade, followed by a commemorative lunch at the club. It's a meaningful way to honor the day while enjoying fellowship with friends and fellow members. Along with these events, our calendar continues to offer opportunities to gather—whether for music, conversation, or celebrating the traditions that connect us.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and dedication to our club. It is truly a privilege to serve as your president.

Slainté!

Tom Harding
President, Gaelic American Club



FIRST FRIDAY SESSION LEADER: JOE GERHARD MAY 1ST FROM 6-8PM

Joe learned to play traditional music on the fiddle in the early 70s, quietly watching and listening from the edge of Irish sessions in Boston. 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.

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH | SUNDAY MAY 10TH Two seatings - 12 noon & 2:15pm

Music by: Bob Curiano | Free Mimosa for Mom
\$32 for adults | \$12 for children (12 and under)

To reserve your table please contact:
tommyflaherty62@gmail.com

JOIN THE GAC AT THE FAIRFIELD MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND HONOR ALL WHO HAVE SERVED

The Fairfield Memorial Day Parade is May 25th @ 10am. Assembly begins at 9am.

Parade Route: The parade will march East from South Pine Creek Road along the Post Road to the Library, then South along Old Post Road to Flint's Corner, and then East along Old Post Road passing the Town Green and continuing beyond South Benson Road.

Then after the parade, come enjoy the Memorial Day BBQ at the GAC from 12-3pm with music by *Mostly Green*.



TRIVIA NIGHT MAY 1ST @ 7PM

Jump start your brain a little early this month because Trivia starts an hour early, oh and remember to wear red, white & blue.

MUSIC IN THE PUB @ 8:30PM

Friday May 1 - Fake ID

Saturday May 2 - Sharon and Her Band

Friday May 8 - Night Visitors

Saturday May 9 - Herman & Co.

Friday May 15 - Celtic Mikes

Saturday May 16 - Outside Chance

Friday May 22 - Once Removed

Saturday May 23 - Brian Everard

Memorial Day, Monday May 25, Mostly Green 12 - 3 pm

Friday May 29 - No Strings Attached

Saturday May 30 - Keltic Kick

25 CARD GAME

Sunday May 17th @ 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 May 8th @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, May 21st at 7 pm. We will be discussing Heart be at Peace by Donal Ryan. This book reintroduces some of the characters from his book The Spinning Heart. It takes place in a village in rural Ireland that is recovering from the recession but now is facing new problems. The story is told through 21 first person narratives. All are welcome.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday May 29 6-9pm with DJ Peter
No charge to attend. (Kids buffet \$7.)

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Contact manager@gacemail.org

GENEALOGY GROUP

FREAMB ÉIREANN

The group will meet May 9th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

GOOD AND WELFARE

A Get well card was sent to: Nadeen Csakany – who recently had surgery.

Mass Cards were sent to:

The family of Joan Woods; and
The family of Esther Lawless.

Deceased Member Plaques were engraved for: Anne L. Surber; Walter V. Bowen and Joan M. Woods.

Special Congratulations to Patricia K.

Lenihan, Gradam Award Honoree for her outstanding service, dedication and impact on the Irish Dance Community.

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.

SET DANCING

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

IRISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

• **Intermediate Class** -

Thursdays at 6:45 pm via Zoom.

• **Beginners I Class** - Sundays from 4-6 pm. For more info contact Robin Griskus - 203 233 4979

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Library Work Day is May 21st 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, May 28th at 12PM. Reservations are required by Sunday, 05/24. 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.

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 at the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum, in Norwalk CT has been extended and the artwork will now be on display through September 3rd.

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



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



Who was the Irish Bridget? "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.

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 staff 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 or email 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.

IRISH HEARTBEAT

Van Morrison Tribute Band
June 27 @ 7pm (\$30.00 + \$3.85 fee)



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.

FREE WORKSHOP WITH MICHELLE BERGIN

SPONSORED BY THE GERRY HERMAN MEMORIAL FUND
SATURDAY, MAY 16, 3-5:30 PM TO REGISTER
WWW.SHAMROCKIRISHMUSIC.ORG/CONCERTS

Join Michelle Bergin, a master of both piano and fiddle, for an engaging workshop that will explore practical approaches to accompanying Irish music for both harmony and melody instruments. Participants will learn strategies for how to identify the key of a tune and apply that understanding through chord selection, rhythm, phrasing, and stylistic awareness to support traditional music effectively. This workshop is open to musicians of all instruments, so whether you play the flute, guitar, fiddle, banjo or anything in between, come along and discover how to add depth and richness to your playing. Michelle holds a master's degree in music education and is a certified middle school educator with the New York State Department of Education, where she directs a string and keyboard program. She is the founder and director of a traditional Irish music school in the Woodlawn section of the Bronx, which she has led for over 20 years, teaching and mentoring hundreds of young musicians.

DANCING WITH THE GAC STARS XIII

The Social Committee is looking for stars - from teens to seniors - to dance in our annual fundraiser. Fred Astaire Dance Studio of Southport will provide lessons. No dancing experience is necessary. The sign-up deadline is June 30th. The spectacular event will be held on Saturday, September 26th. For more info e-mail Charlie at cwaddock@gmail.com or Laura at knudsen622@hotmail.com.

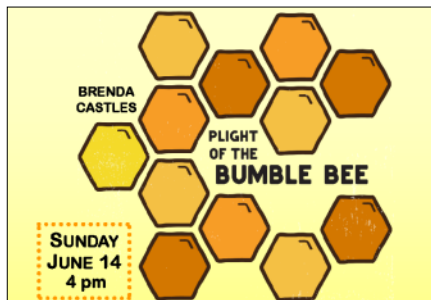


PLIGHT OF THE BUMBLE BEE (SHORT FILM)

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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\$15 Adults, \$10 Tweens. Reservations: E-mail social@gacemail.org or call (203) 377-1070



LÁ CUIMHNEACHÁIN NÁISIÚNTA AN GHORTA MHÓIR

Irish Famine Commemoration Day will be observed on Sunday May 17th at the Irish Heritage Society of Milford from 12-3pm. Please Join us.



SAVE THE DATE FOR IRISH MOVIE NIGHT

Friday July 24 at 7pm in the Carolan Room - Movie TBD

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/>

HISTORY OF ARAN KNITTING AND IRISH CLANS | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT 2PM

Calling all knitters. Here's a chance to share your knitting projects. The lecture, presented by Nancy Geary, Executive Director of the New Canaan Museum and Historical Society, will cover the history of Aran knitting and its connection to Irish clans and identity. If you have, or are in the process of knitting, any Aran style projects (or any projects with an Irish/Celtic motif), bring them along and we will put them on display.

Some examples of Aran Stitches:

- *The Cable - an integral part of a fisherman's life, is a wish for safety and good luck when fishing
- *The Honeycomb - represents work and its sweet reward as a reminder of the hard working honey bee
- *The Diamond - is the universal symbol of wealth and prosperity, truly a girl's best friend
- *The Zig Zag Stitch - represents the ups and downs of love as well as the twisting cliff paths of the Aran Islands

While most Aran/Celtic patterns are knitted, it would be interesting to have some crochet pieces on display as well. To help with the placement of the items, let us know prior to October 11 if you would like to display your finished or unfinished projects.

Any questions, please contact us at gaclectures@gmail.com

Tickets for the Lecture - \$5.00 (Students with ID \$2.00) | Sorry we cannot accept GAC script or credit cards

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

May 20th from 9 to 2pm - contact Red Cross in advance to register www.redcrossblood.org

MONDAY GRILL NIGHT IS BACK!

Starting May 4th The Crew will fire up the grill from 6 to 8pm every other Monday. Please bring a side to share.

Address Service Requested

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

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