Scéala

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



Céad Míle Fáilte **One Hundred Thousand Welcomes** **November 2026 | Samhain 2026**

Dear Members of the Gaelic American Club,

It's hard to believe how quickly the fall season has gone by. We've had another great season at the club, with plenty of events, gatherings, and opportunities to come together and celebrate our Irish heritage.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make these events a success—whether by volunteering, attending, lending a hand, or simply coming out to enjoy time with friends and fellow members. Our club is strongest because of the people who continue to support it.

As we look ahead, I want to strongly encourage every member to make your voice heard in our Executive Committee election. The election will take place on Sunday, December 6, from 12:00PM to 6:00 PM. Please make every effort to come to the club and cast your vote. The Executive Committee helps guide the future of our organization, and your vote is an important part of that process. This is your club, and your participation matters.

Most importantly, I want to wish all of our members and your families a very happy and peaceful Thanksgiving. I hope your holiday is filled with good food, gratitude, family, and friends.

Slainté!

Tom Harding President, Gaelic American Club

Candidates for 2027 Executive Committee

President
- Katheryn O'Donnell
- Faith Maciver

Vice President
- Tom Harding
- Cosbie Marable

Treasurer
- Thresa Fumo
- Tom Egan

Sg at Arms
- Maura O'Malley
- Michael Fenton

All of the following positions are uncontested

Financial Sec
- Phillip Dwyer

Recording Secretary
- Jean Einig

Directors
- Pur O'Brien - Director 1 Yr
- Cathy Austin - Director 2 Yrs
- Bill Reda - Director 3 Yrs

To read the candidates bio's visit https://gaconline.org/executive-committee-elections-2027/ or use QR code. Voting will take place Sunday December 6th from 12 noon to 6PM. Please remember to bring your membership card (white scrip/key card)



Deceased Members Mass

The Deceased Members mass will be held November 1st at 10:00. Refreshments and lunch will be served after the mass. Contact Kathleen Blackall 203-814-2263 with questions.



Trivia Night November 6th @ 7:30pm

Get ready to unleash that random knowledge and join us for another fun filled night and remember to wear Brown.

Celtic Christmas Fair Saturday Dec 5th from 9-3pm



Celtic Christmas Fair has a great selection of Irish vendors and unique crafters so you can do all you holiday shopping in one place. Bring the children & grandchildren to have their photo taken with Santa in front of the GAC's beautiful stone hearth. And don't forget the Lenihan School of Irish Dance will be serving lunch in the Pub. For info contact: Kelli Grady at email bkgrady@msn.com.

Music in The Pub @ 8:30pm

Friday Nov. 6 - Herman & Co.
Saturday Nov. 7 - Mike McGovern
Sunday Nov 8 - Bob Curiano (Chill Session 4-7pm)
Friday Nov. 13 - Noreen & Mike Sherry with Dave Kennedy
Saturday Nov. 14 - Juliet's Run
Friday Nov. 20 - Exit 5
Saturday Nov. 21 - Just Us
Sunday Nov. 22 - Fake ID Acoustic Duo (Chill Session 4-7pm)
**Wednesday Nov. 25 - Mostly Green (8 pm - 11:30 pm}*
Friday Nov. 27 - Brian Everard
Saturday Nov. 28 - The C-Sides
Sunday Nov. 29 - Eventide (Chill Session 4-7pm)

25 Card Game
Sunday November 22th at 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 November 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 Monday's at 7pm.
New players Welcome.

Fáilte Committee
Welcome to all new GAC members and a huge thank you to our volunteers at the Front Desk (many more are needed!!).

Any person entering the GAC must show their membership card or be signed in as a guest. Members without guests do not have to sign in.

ALL guests must be signed in and must leave when member leaves.

Your "children" who are 21 or older are not on your family membership - they are guests and must be signed in.

SIGNIN PROCEDURE

1) The Member signs (for each guest) filling in the date, member name and member card number.
2) EACH Guest writes their own name and full address. (No dittos).
3) Please sign in guests even if no one is *'manning'* the Front desk.

Help Wanted | Hiring Chefs
tommyflaherty62@gmail.com

Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band
The group practices 6:30pm Mondays in the Carolan Room of the GAC. For more information call 475-329-0202 or visit fairfieldgaelicpipeband.org.

Good and Welfare
Mass Cards were sent to: The family of Ford Lynch; James Kelly and family on the passing of his wife, Terry; The family of Sheila Keenan; Madeline Minerly and family on the passing of her husband, Jim.

A Get Well Card was sent to: Andrew Carney

A Deceased Member Plaque was engraved for Kevin McGovern

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

Family Fun Night
Friday Nov. 27th 6-9pm with DJ Peter No charge to attend. (Kids buffet $7.)

Genealogy Group
Fréamh Éireann
The group will meet November 14th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

House Committee
Contact manager@gacemail.org

Irish Language Classes
Basic Conversation Level Classes
Meet on Sunday Nov. 1 ("Samhain"). Nov 15. Nov 22 from 4- 5:30pm. NO CLASS on Nov 8 or, Nov 29. MUST REGISTER by contacting Robin Griskus rdgriskus@aol.com ~ Bigi linn!!

Intermediate Class
Thursdays at 6:45 pm via Zoom.
For existing students only.
No class 11/26 - Thanksgiving

Irish Literature Group
The Irish Literature Group will meet on Thursday , November 19th at 7pm. We'll be discussing *Rememberings* by Sinead O'Connor. This book is a memoir of this famous singer and songwriter. During her life she spoke out against issues such as child abuse and human rights.
All are welcome to join the group.

Library Committee
Library can be accessed during club hours by swiping your membership card. Books may be borrowed by swiping your membership card attached to catalog screen. maryellen.lyons@outlook.com

Senior Lunch
Thursday November 19th @ noon. Please make reservations by Sunday 11/15 by calling Sally Savage: 203-366-4826 or Kathy Spellman: 203-984-8383. $9 for members/$11 non-members.

Set Dancing
We're on the dance floor every Thursday night at 7pm
Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921.

Social Committee Meeting
All are welcome to join the Committee to help plan GAC social events. Contact Social@gacemail.org

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

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 Frank O'Brien at frankjobrieniii@gmail.com or visit the website www.aohjfk.com.

GAC's Food Drive


The GAC will be kicking off the annual food drive We will be accepting dry goods in the donation bin (which will be placed in the lobby) and gift cards for the purchase of turkeys. Please bring an item (or two) when you come to the club to enjoy one of the GAC's many events!

Monday Night Football BBQ


The Crew will continue cooking on Monday nights through November 23rd. Don't forget to bring a side or dessert to share.

St. Patrick's Annual Dinner Dance December 5 at 6pm
Please save the date for our infamous Annual Dinner Dance
For more details go to https://www.stpatricksgfc.org/

2027 Mr. and Miss Shamrock Scholarship

The Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Celebration Committee invites high school seniors in the Greater Bridgeport area to apply for the 2027 Mr. and Miss Shamrock Scholarship Program!

Mr. and Miss Shamrock: $5,000 scholarship each
Mr. and Miss Shamrock Runners-Up: $3,000 scholarship each.

Application Deadline: Sunday, November 29, 2026.
Interviews will take place in early December. This opportunity is open exclusively to high school seniors.
Completed applications should be emailed to ShamrockScholarship@gmail.com by November 29. For questions, please contact Mary Donnelly at 203-610-0453.

Application: https://stpatricksdaybridgeport.com/
Or use QR Code

La' Gaeilge: Day of Irish Language and Culture

GRMA - to the support of GAC and Feile for another successful La' Gaeilge held on Oct 3rd. There were about 50 people from 5 states attending, and our club makes a very positive impression. Bagpiper Art Beagan elevated our flag-raising and march. A special appreciation to *gan gaeilge* beginners who came for the day.

For the fall semester-Irish language classes are scheduled for continuing students. Any beginners interested in upcoming Pop-Ups or open house meetings should contact Robin Griskus by e-mail at rdgriskus@aol.com

TRAD FOR TRŌCAIRE | November 15 @ 2-4PM

Fairfield Prep's Irish Club is hosting its annual Irish music & entertainment fundraiser, Trad for *Trōcaire*, with the Gaelic American Club on Sunday, November 15th. *Trōcaire*, which means compassion in Gaelic, is Ireland's largest international charitable-aid organization. The event will take place from 2PM to 4PM, and it will include Irish music from *Ceól Agus Craic* as well as student performances in Irish dance and Irish poetry-reading. It is free and open to the public, but contributions will be gladly accepted in support of *Trōcaire*'s efforts to alleviate poverty in some of the most distressed regions of the world. Please join us on the 15th for some great craic and a great cause!

The Best Craic at the GAC!
Hanging of the Jerseys Nov 15 @ 4PM

Let's hear it for Limerick All Ireland Hurling and Mayo All Ireland Football Champs. We'll be hanging those Jerseys at about on Sunday November 15th. This is always a fun event with music by Camac, Food, Fans and Great Craic!
And to finish off a great day at the GAC we'll be lighting the hearth for the season
Contact: Micheal Hallissey at Hallissey.M@gmail.com

Saturday, November 7, 3:00-5:30| Free Workshop With Brian Conway (open to all instruments) | Sponsored by the Gerry Herman Memorial Fund

Register for free at https:/www.shamrockirishmusic.org/



The workshop will delve into the New York Sligo style of traditional Irish music, focusing on forgotten and overlooked tunes from its master musicians. While the primary focus will be fiddle technique, **players of all instruments are welcome to attend.**

Brian Conway performs with a skill, grace and force that are steeped in tradition but distinctively his own. He has won numerous All-Ireland fiddling competitions, and has been called one of the finest fiddlers of his generation. His fiddle students, including students in the Baltimore-Washington region, have won multiple local, regional, and All-Ireland championships. He is a leading exponent of the tastefully ornamented Sligo fiddling style made famous by the late Michael Coleman. The winner of two All-Ireland junior titles and the All-Ireland senior championship of 1986, Brian's early studies were with his father Jim of Plumbridge County Tyrone and with Limerick-born fiddler/teacher Martin Mulvihill. However, it was the legendary fiddler and composer Martin Wynne who taught him the real secrets of the County



Once again, the Giving Tree will be put up at the GAC on the night before Thanksgiving. We will be collecting presents for those in need. Please take a tag or 2 two, buy the designated present, wrap it (with the original tree tag attached) and return the gifts to the GAC NO LATER December 14. Please don't take a tag unless you fully intend to buy a gift . Thank you to all who participate.

Dracula! The Radio Play by Philip Grecian
Directed by Peggy S. O'Leary

In his home high above the sea and valley, Dr. Jack Seward bends over a large book searching for cures for his fiancée Lucy's illness. Mina, Lucy's childhood friend, and her husband Jonathan arrive to help during a frightening thunder and lightning storm. The three anxiously await the arrival of Dr. Van Helsing, a Dutch specialist in obscure illnesses. His examination of Lucy brings horrifying news no one is prepared for as the house takes on feelings of unseen figures lurking in the dark. You are invited to come see Dracula performed by the Clan na Gael Players.

Featuring: Mat Apgar, Steve Bennett, Jack Fruin, Jerry Hodges, Patrick Lane, Coz Marable, Susan Maxham, Noeleen Nelson, Amy Strachan and Byrne White.

Performances: November 19th, 20th, 21st at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 22nd at 2:30.

Tickets: $20 Reservations: Contact Nancy O'Neil at playresvcng@gmail.com or call (203) 377-1070 and leave your name and phone number. Payment accepted in cash or by check. (Sorry no credit card or scrip). All checks must be made payable to Feile, Inc,

St. Patrick's GAA Newa

Fall Youth Training

Fall youth season is underway! Our youth teams have been competing throughout the fall down in New York. For more information, please contact Brendan O'Reilly at (347) 748-8178

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.

A Reminder to Vote

Voting takes place Sunday December 6th from 12 noon to 6PM. Please remember to bring your membership card (white scrip/key card)

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