



IRISH CULTURAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CT

Cúisle

Cumann Cultúr agus Spóirt na hÉireann
Triú Lá Déag is fiche de Eanáir

(The Pulse - 23rd of January)

A Chairde (Friends),



Social Committee Meeting - Monday 29th January 7.15 pm at the Playwright

Please join us for a social committee meeting on Monday, evening before the 8 pm Annual Membership Meeting. We need to plan events and activities for the spring and summer and we would love to have your input and your help. Come on down and visit with friends and help make our Club a success! Please contact Margaret if you have any questions: Margaret mprendergast@icsa-home.org or 203-675-6683.

Annual Membership Meeting - Monday 29th January 8 pm at the Playwright

The ICSA Annual Meeting will follow the Social Committee meeting at 8pm. This is the meeting where we elect our officers. The open positions this year were not contested, so the By Laws instruct us as to how to proceed:

Article V, Section 1: "In the event that a position is not contested and only one candidate has been nominated the Nominating and Election Committee will cast a single ballot for that candidate. The uncontested position will not appear on the eligible members' election ballot."

Mr. Clifford Lynch is the Chairman of the Nominating and Election Committee and will conduct the proceedings according to the By Laws. The following people have been nominated for the opening Officer's positions:

Tim Whalen, President
Shaun Donnelly, Treasurer
Rich Regan, Cultural Director
Meaghan Whalen, Program Director



Cumann Scannán - Film Club - Sunday 18th February 1pm

Members and friends are invited to come down to The Playwright on Sunday February 18th at 1pm and watch "**Michael Collins**", Neil Jordan's historical biopic of Irish revolutionary Michael Collins, the man who led a guerrilla war against the British, helped negotiate the creation of the Irish Free State, and led the National Army during the Irish Civil War. It stars Liam Neeson, Aidan Quinn, Stephen Rea, Alan Rickman and Julia Roberts. It is an R rated movie. Come down and chill out in front of the big screen and have some great food and drink.

Brewery Tour - February

We are considering running a bus to four or five breweries and we would like to gauge interest for this event. Please contact Shaun at sdonnelly@icsa-home.org if you would like to get a seat. We are looking at Kinsmen, Witchdoctor, Relic and Firefly Hollow as possibilities. More news to follow.

Whiskey Tasting - March

We will be bringing back the Whiskey Tasting event that we have had so much fun with in the past. This is always a great time and very informative with regard to what a good whiskey is. Details are not nailed down yet but if you are interested please contact Geoff at ghepok@icsa-home.org.

Irish Language Classes

Irish Classes have just started up after the winter break. If you are a beginner, now is a good time to come to a class and see if you like it. Classes are available to all ICSA members for no charge. Classes are also open to non-members for a nominal fee, so you can try it out and see how you like it. Classes take place every Wednesday night in North Haven with the beginners class at 7pm and the Advanced Beginners class is at 8pm. Sign up details are available on the club website (www.icsa-home.org) or contact Cultural Director, Rich Regan at (rregan@icsa-home.org).



Milford Saint Patrick's Day Parade - March 11th @ 1pm

March at the most family friendly parade in the area with the ICSA. We'll have candy to throw to the kids! The parade kicks off at 1pm sharp. We will muster at the rear of Parsons Complex on West Main Street. We will march up River Street and down Broad Street on the green. Parking is available in the same lot if you are there early enough. All members and friends are welcome to join us. We hope you can make it.

New Haven Saint Patrick's Day Parade - March 12th 1:30pm

We hope you can join the club to proudly show your Irish Heritage and march down Chapel Street and Church Street. We will march behind our club banner along with our National and Provincial flags. We will muster somewhere close to Winthrop A venue. Details will be posted as soon as the parade orders are made public. Last year we won the Grand Marshall's Award. As always, all club members, family and friends are welcome. It's a great time to see old friends again and enjoy the approaching Spring with a good stretch of the legs. Following the Parade, we will make our way to The Playwright for Ceol agus Craic and a wee drink to warm your Irish heart.

Saint Patrick's Day! - March 17th



Irish Flag Raising on New Haven Green and Breakfast - April 22nd @ 9am

On Sunday, April 22nd at 9 am, on the New Haven Green, there will be a Mass for Peace and a Flag Raising ceremony to commemorate the 102nd anniversary of the 1916 Easter Uprising. Ceremonies will start at 9am and conclude at 10:30am. Following Mass there will be a ceremony to honor the patriots of 1916. This annual public ceremony serves as a reminder to all ethnic groups that freedom and liberty carry a high price. Local honorees are remembered in a roll call and the original "Proclamation of Freedom" will be read. For information about the mass or ceremony, please contact Margaret Prendergast at mspren@snet.net. This event will take place rain or shine. The Parade Committee will be holding their annual breakfast following the Flag Raising, at The Playwright, Hamden.

CT Irish Theatre Troupe Production of Billy Roche's "Lay Me Down Softly" - April 27th, 28th, 29th

The cast has been set for the Connecticut Irish Theater Troupe production of "Lay Me Down Softly" written by Billy Roche, directed by Karl Ryan and starring Packy Lillis, Doreen Busca, Jason Santacroce, Paul Tynan, Katie Santacroce and Seamus Lonergan. The April 27th and 28th shows will be evening start times. The April 29th show will be a matinee. The venue is the Whitneyville Cultural Commons. Ticket details have not been released yet but will be here as soon as we know. Volunteers are always needed to help make this production great. Please consider helping - contact Geoff Herpok (gherpok@icsa-home.org).



Great Hunger Museum Summer Program

Grandparent's Day - Ireland's Great Hunger Museum invites grandparents and their families to a day at the museum. On February 3, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. enjoy a day learning about the Great Hunger, an important event in Irish history. A docent led public tour of the collection will begin at 10:30 a.m. All day, family trees will be available for children to fill in and decorate while learning about their ancestors. This event is free and open to the public, no registration is required.

Tenement Museum Bus Trip

The bus will depart the museum at 7 a.m. on February 23. The first stop will be the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. Guests will enjoy seeing how the Irish lived upon arrival in the United States through the "Irish Outsiders" tour. There also will be a brief period for exploring the area and lunch on your own. After lunch, the group will visit Battery Park to see the Irish Hunger Memorial. The bus will depart from Battery Park by 3 p.m. and return to Hamden by 6 p.m. Tickets are \$65 and include museum admission. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

For more information visit www.ighm.org.

New Haven Parade Committee Events

Comedy Night - Friday 26 January 2018, 8pm at KOSP, tickets \$10, contact Mary Malenda 203-397-8523/jmalenda@snet.net.
Fashion Show Saturday 10 February 2018 6pm at NHGF&H Club, Hosted by Ann Nyberg and Ryan Kristafer. Doors open @ 6pm. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Contact Anne Ballard 203-215-2991 or anne614@outlook.com.
Corned Beef Dinner - Sunday 11 February at KOSP. Contact Berni Canning at berniathome@comcast.net.

Memberships Dues: It's time again. Membership dues should be paid before March 1st. Cost has remained the same as last year with a family membership at \$40 and an individual membership at \$25. **If you pay your dues before February 19th, you will receive a \$5 voucher to use on any ICSA event ticket.** Letters are going out any day. Send your annual dues to ICSA, P.O. Box 6562, Hamden, CT 06517. If you are not a member and would like to join up, you can find information on our website icsa-home.org or contact Siobhan Dacey at sdacey@icsa-home.org.

Sheep Flock Fundraiser

Soon to return to their winter hibernation. Contact Siobhan Dacey to order your flock at sdacey@icsa-home.org.

January 29th - Annual Member's Meeting and Social Committee meeting at The Playwright

February 18th - Cumann Scannán - ICSA Film Club "Michael Collins" 1pm at The Playwright

February - Brewery Bus Tour

March 11th - Milford Saint Patrick's Day Parade

March 12th - New Haven Saint Patrick's Day Parade

March 17th - Saint Patrick's Day

March - Whiskey Tasting

April 22nd - Irish Flag Raising and Breakfast

April 27th, 28th, 29th - CT Irish Theatre Troupe Production of Billy Roche's "Lay Me Down Softly"



Tailtiu Games - The Lughnasa Games At Telltown

The Telltown or Tailtiu Games were said to have been instituted by the Gaelic god Lú Lamhfada Samildánach - Lugh- the Long-Armed Master of the Arts, and are considered to be the Irish Olympic Games. They predate the Greek Olympics by about 1200 years and it could be reasonably speculated that the Irish Telltown Games were the inspiration for the later Greek and, as such, modern Olympic games. More than a just battles of skill and brawn the Telltown Games were a celebration of Irish culture and its arts.

During this time the people of Ireland would travel to the Áenach Tailteann or Telltown Fair to sell and trade, to court young women and make marriage arrangements, or to enter into contracts for winter accommodation and work. But the main attraction was the games themselves as thousands gathered to watch the best of Ireland's youth pit their wits and strength against each other in the hopes of obtaining the glory and reputation for themselves and their tribal kin-groups.

"From time immemorial the sons of Erin have played a most conspicuous part in every branch of athletic sports. When and where did athletic games originate? In Ireland, almost 2,000 years before the Christian era. The "Annals of the Four Masters" tell us that the Tailtan games were instituted in ancient Ireland at a place now known as Telltown. Those games developed mighty heroes, the greatest of whom was Cú Chulainn, who has been aptly called the Hercules of Hibernia." -Thomas Lonergan

The games are named after the goddess Tailtiu the wife of Eochaid mac Eirc, last of the Fir Bolg High Kings and beloved foster-mother of Lugh who established the celebrations in her honor; although in modern times people tend to mistakenly associate this festival primarily with Lugh, not Tailtiu. They took place every three years around August to mark the year's first harvest, to this day the Gaelic word for August is Lughnasa named after Lugh. It was traditionally a month of reaping and celebrations and Lughnasa was one of the great fire festivals that took place throughout the year. They took place close to the ancient seat of power on the Hill of Tara in Co Meath at a place that to this day still bears the anglicised name for Tailtiu - Telltown and lasted until 1169AD with the coming of the Anglo-Norman invasion, a time that marks the beginning of the erosion of native Irish culture.

"While Lugh was king, his foster-mother Tailte, daughter of Magh Mor, the Great Plain died. And before her death she bade her husband Duach the Dark, he that built the Fort of the Hostages in Teamhair, to clear away the wood of Cuan, the way there could be a gathering of the people around her grave. So he called to the men of Ireland to cut down the wood with their wide-bladed knives and bill-hooks and hatchets, and within a month the whole wood was cut down.

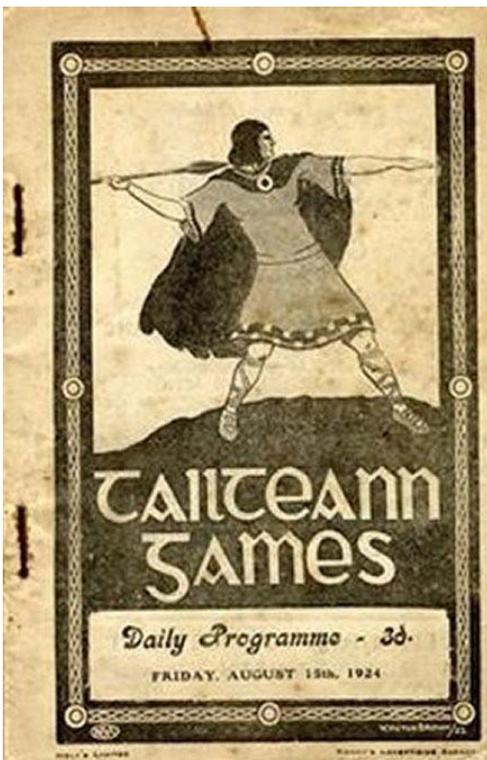
And Lugh buried her in the plain of Midhe [Meath], and raised a mound over her, that is to be seen to this day. And he ordered fires to be kindled, and keening mourning to be made, and games and sports to be held in the summer of every year out of respect to her. And the place they were held got its name from her, that is Tailtten (Telltown)." -Lady Gregory, Gods and Fighting Men.



Tailtiu herself is considered the goddess of Irish sovereignty and like most goddesses she exhibits the characteristics of fertile land and a fruitful harvest. Given the themes of harvest and fertility it seems fitting that the month of celebrations should have this aspect of a female deity in harmony to counter-balance with the male deity in the form of Lugh.

The first three days of the games were spent burning the dead on funeral pyres, while the druids called out their incantations. Once all the corpses were turned to ash, the druids were then joined by the bards, word was spread of the new laws envisioned by the Ollamh Éireann (the Professors of Ireland). The crowds then received their reward through the entertainment of the physical and mental challenges of the games. Long jump, high jump, running, hurling, spear throwing, boxing, contests in sword fighting, archery, wrestling, swimming, and chariot and horse racing were all favorites, while the strategists met their competitors in games testing their skills. Other competitions involved singing, dancing and storytelling, while craftsmen faced off against each other to win the title of best in Ireland. The Games were extremely popular between the 6th and 9th century AD, but the games declined after the Norman invasion of Ireland in 1169.

In 1924, having obtained independent nationhood, there was an effort to revive the ancient games and photos from the time give us a rare glimpse or an echo of an even earlier past. While being a 20th century interpretation of how the ancients might have dressed and acted these photos probably the closest thing we have to an authentic image of the likes of the Red Branch Knights of Cú Chulainn or na Fianna of Fionn MacCumhail.



The revival of the Telltown games happened during the same year as the Games of the VIII Olympiad, or simply the Olympics, that were held in Paris that year. At this time there was a hope among the Irish that the Telltown Games would resume their place as the original and pre-dominating athletics competition with talks of opening entry for everyone regardless of nationality, not just the Irish. A Dáil debate dated 8th June 1922 states:

"We have got representations from America to the effect that it would be advisable to depart from the idea of confining the Tailteann games to the Irish race and seeing that they predated the Greek Olympics by a thousand years we should be justified in entering upon a more varied program."

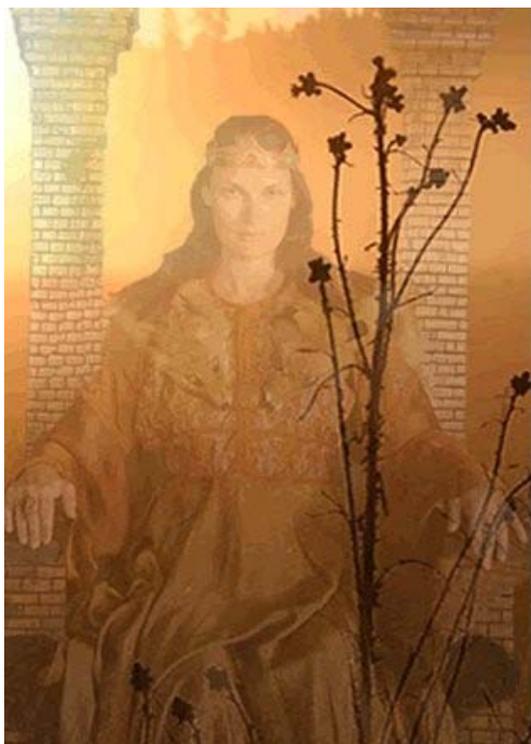
The Tailteann Games were more than a mere sporting competition, though. They were a testament to the world that Ireland had returned, and that she hasn't forgotten her culture and history; that was at least as rich as Ancient Greece and Rome, if not more so.



However, the Irish Civil War of 1922-23 caused the revival to be delayed and the first of the revived games or "meeting of the Irish race" was in 1924 and for this purpose the Hogan Stand was built-in Croke Park, the home of the Gaelic Athletics Association, but further events took place every four years until 1932. Entry was open to anyone of Irish descent and participants came from all over the world to take part or to watch the sports. Would they be revived again? We would like to see this happening but know it would only come at a time when the modern Irish people wish to connect and assert their true native heritage once again.

This TG4 documentary covers the rise and fall of this great national celebration and shows how the advent of Fianna Fáil and their allegiance to the Catholic Church led to its ultimate fading back out of Irish life only to be confined to the old film reels that have been dusted off and represented in this captivating piece.

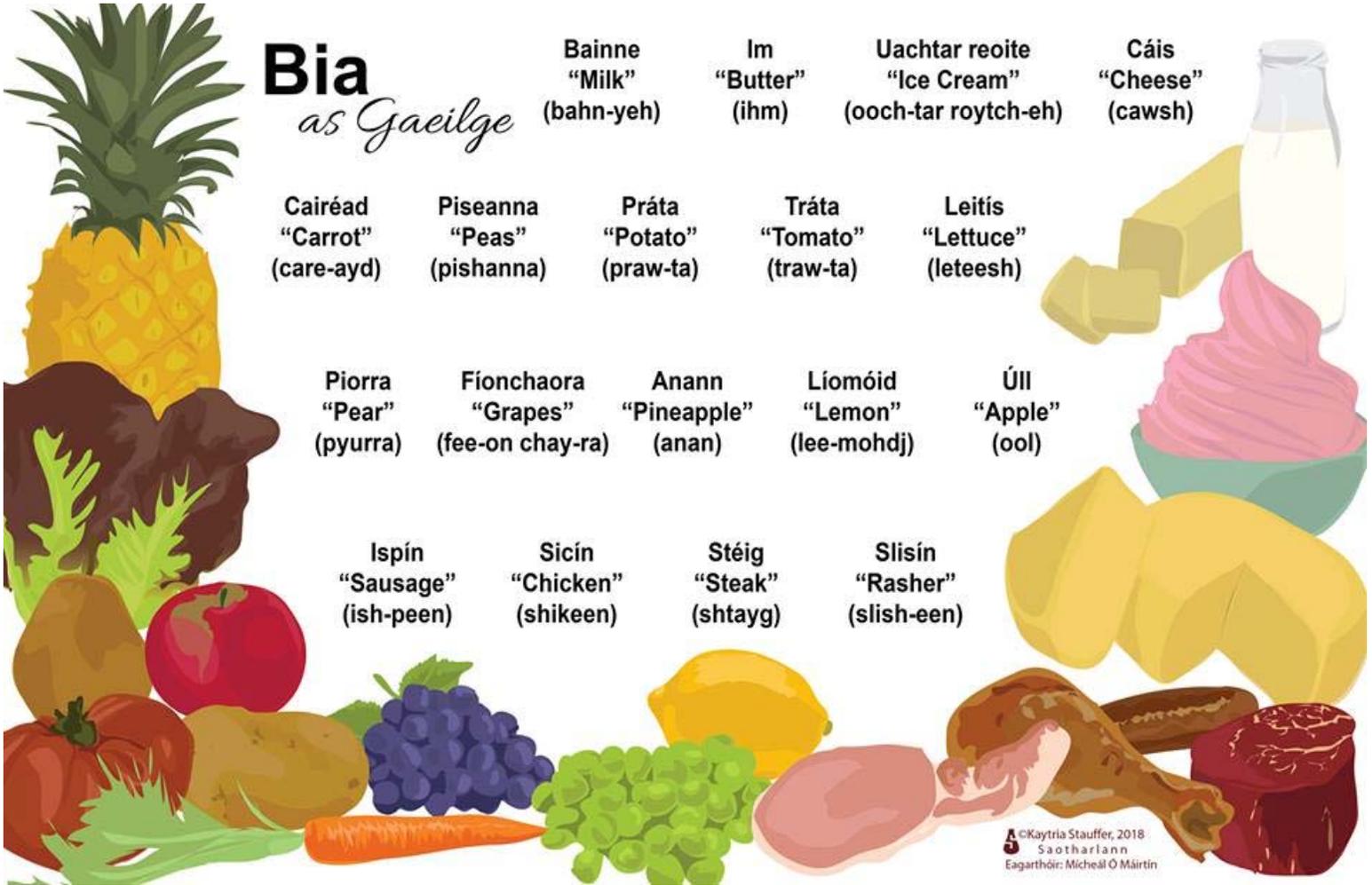
Source: stairnaheireann.net, historum.com, irishcentral.com, ancientpages.com



Teanga agus Cartúin Ghaeilge
Irish Language and Cartoons

Bia
as Gaeilge

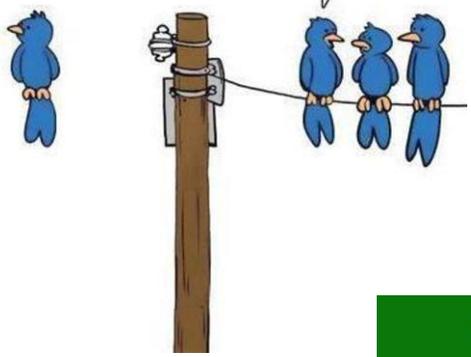
	Bainne "Milk" (bahn-yeh)	Im "Butter" (ihm)	Uachtar reoite "Ice Cream" (ooch-tar royctch-eh)	Cáis "Cheese" (cawsh)
Cairéad "Carrot" (care-ayd)	Piseanna "Peas" (pishanna)	Práta "Potato" (praw-ta)	Tráta "Tomato" (traw-ta)	Leitis "Lettuce" (leteesh)
Piorra "Pear" (pyurra)	Fíonchaora "Grapes" (fee-on chay-ra)	Anann "Pineapple" (anan)	Líomóid "Lemon" (lee-mohdj)	Úll "Apple" (ool)
Ispín "Sausage" (ish-peen)	Sicín "Chicken" (shikeen)	Stéig "Steak" (shtayg)	Slisín "Rasher" (slish-een)	



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Saotharlann
Eagarthóir: Micheál Ó Máirtín

...and you! Can you identify the difference between the Irish language and the Kninglon? Can you identify the difference between the Irish language and Klingon?

Tá Wi-Fi aige.



He has
Wi-FI

Take it easy and
speak Irish


**TÓG GO
BOG É**
AGUS
**LABHAIR AN
GHAELGE**



President's Message:

Dia Dhaoibh !!

All the best for a great 2018, as we start the New Year the club is already hard at work.

The ICSA is again sponsoring the Irish Flag Raising on the New Haven Green in commemoration of the Easter Rising. This year's flag raising will be on Sunday April 22nd and commence at 9 am.

The Connecticut Irish Theater Troupe is happy to announce the dates and show for their spring theater production. This year's show will be directed by Karl Ryan and will be "Lay Me Down Softly" written by Billy Roach. Show dates are April 27th 28th and 29th. We hope to see you there!

We are working on a Whiskey Tasting event for late March / early April, as well as another movie screening, local brewery tour and much more!

Let's not forget parade season is fast approaching! Milford's St. Patrick's Day parade will be on March 10th and New Haven's on March 11th. We will pass along information as we get it from the respective parade committees.

The Irish Cultural & Sports Association's annual golf outing is on track for a July date at Alling Memorial in New Haven. It's a fun time followed by dinner and prizes at the Playwright. We will be sure to let you know when we confirm the date!

A couple of last, very important items: I invite all of you to come down to our meetings and get involved, make our existing events more exciting and offer input and suggestions for new events. It's your club and we appreciate everyone's input. Also, the first club meeting of the year is set for **Monday January 29th, 8pm at the Playwright in Hamden**. This is our annual meeting and will include elections of officers. This will be preceded by a meeting of the social committee (everyone is invited to attend and offer input) at 7:15pm.

55 days till St. Patrick's Day!!

Go Raibh Maith Agaibh,
Tim.



• **Almost there!** The Cook Book is being edited as we speak! If you have a favorite Recipe or two, you can still send it along. Ship them off to sdonnelly@icsa-home.org with the subject line "Cook Book". When the book has been completed we will make it available to members and friends for a nominal fee. Thanks in advance for your support. **We're almost there!**

House Keeping: 2018 dues are now being accepted. Your dues should be paid by March 1st to maintain your good standing. Reminders will be sent out. If you have already submitted your dues for 2018, thank you and welcome back! **This year, if you pay before February 19th, you will receive a \$5 voucher to use at any ICSA event.** If you have questions, please contact our Financial Secretary, Siobhan Dacey at sdacey@icsa-home.org.

A Club Fundraising Opportunity! Don't forget to use the Amazon Smile portal and then list the Irish Cultural & Sports Association your non-profit of choice, when shopping on-line. A link to Amazon Smile is on our web page at www.icsa-home.org.

*** Irish Language Classes * Wednesdays @ 7pm and 8pm** - Classes are **free** to ICSA members and are also open to non-members for a nominal fee so you can try it out and see how you like it. Classes take place every Wednesday night in North Haven with beginners class at 7pm and the Advanced Beginners class is at 8pm. **Sign up details are available on the club website or contact Cultural Director, Rich Regan at rregan@icsa-home.org.**

Irish Radio Show: Echoes of Erin. We encourage you to listen to our friends and club supporters at Echoes of Erin Radio show (88.7FM), broadcasting live every Sunday from 12 to 2 p.m. and Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. from the University of New Haven in West Haven CT and over the internet at <http://www.wnhu.net/>. This is your source for Irish music, news, sports and community events. Hosted by Pat and Joan Kennedy, Mike McGrath, Pat Hosey and Siobhan Dacey.

Irish Radio Show: Ceol na nGael. Club member Molly Monahan used to host this show on Fordham Radio (90.7FM). Now she is part of the production team. Listen in on Sundays from noon to 4pm. You can also listen to archive shows at WFUV.org.

Go raibh mile maith agaibh (Thank You)
Irish Cultural and Sports Association

<http://icsa-home.org/>

www.facebook.com/IrishCultureCT

If you do not wish to be included in these email updates please respond to this email and you will be taken off the list.

2018 Officers

President - Tim Whalen twhalen@icsa-home.org
Vice President - Margaret Prendergast mprendergast@icsa-home.org
Secretary - Mary Williams mwilliams@icsa-home.org
Treasurer - Shaun Donnelly sdonnelly@icsa-home.org
Financial Secretary - Siobhan Dacey sdacey@icsa-home.org
Cultural Director - Rich Regan rregan@icsa-home.org
Program Director - Meaghan Whalen - mwhalen@icsa-home.org