

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2021

FEABHRA / MÁRTA 2021

SCÉAL ÉILE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OF COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN



Chair's Message



A Chairde,

Bliain Nua faoi mhaise dhaoibh go leir (Happy New Year to you all)

At the AGM in November 2020 the following officers were elected/re-elected: Chair: Josephine Brennan, Co-Chair: Joannie O'Leary, Treasurer: Maureen Murphy, Secretary: Patricia Reilly, Public Relations: Josephine Brogan, Auditor: Maureen Brady, Treorai na Gaeilge: Imelda White, Youth Officer: Caoimhe Lyons.

Sincere thank you to Kate Wiese for serving as Secretary for the past couple of years. Kate did an amazing job especially with her efficiency in getting the minutes out to the members as soon as the meeting ended.

Thanks to Michael Duffy for all his work as Webmaster for many, many years. Countless hours of editing and updating the Website. We appreciate the time and effort Michael put into it. Kate Wiese is the new Webmaster for the Branch and continues to update the content. We have a new website address: www.sfcooleykeegancce.org

We welcome Patricia Reilly as our new Secretary. Delighted to have her on our team and grateful that she is willing to give her time and talents to the Branch.

Hope everyone stays healthy and safe. It's been a challenging time since the start of the Pandemic. We must keep our spirits up and look forward to getting back to a "normal" life. We will embrace the joy of our traditions: dancing, music and singing with renewed enthusiasm and energy.

Slán,
Josephine Brennan
Chair



FOUNDED IN 1951, COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN IS IRELAND'S PREMIERE CULTURAL MOVEMENT. WHEN YOU JOIN COMHALTAS, YOU JOIN PEOPLE IN MORE THAN 400 BRANCHES WORLDWIDE IN SUPPORT OF THE TRADITIONAL IRISH ARTS OF MUSIC, DANCE AND LANGUAGE. WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. PLEASE CONTACT THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION OR VISIT US AT: [HTTPS://SFCOOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG](https://sfcooleykeegancce.org)



Song and Storytelling



First-Friday singing sessions will be Zoom-based until further notice. Sessions start at 8pm. Information is emailed out each month.

For questions or to be added to the email list contact Michael Jones: mfj@ieee.org



Wedding News



Our friends, Micheál Minihane and Nellie Magee, were married on the 25th November 2020 via Zoom.

Micheál's and Nellie's children and her parents were in attendance in their back garden. Those of us from all over the US and Ireland attended via Zoom. We were kept entertained by Micheál's young grandson, Tadhg, and the banter going back and forth, until the ceremony started. The groom looked dapper in his suit and boutonniere and the bride was beautiful in a gown and carrying her bouquet.

All remained calm dealing with a few glitches with the County Clerk via Zoom. Vows were said and the knot was tied..First Zoom wedding for all of us and it was a memorable and exciting day.

May they be poor in misfortune and rich in blessings.

Mary McD



Wren Boys



The Wren Boys tradition still lives on in San Francisco, even during the pandemic. We were not able to go out and about and visit the usual pubs and houses this year with the King of the Wren, Michael Murphy, but we did have a virtual Wren Boys event on Saturday, December 26th via Zoom. This was made possible with the help of Michael Dillon, local dance teacher, and owner of Boscaí Beaga (Little Boxes) Productions and James Ward Mallinson in Manchester, UK.

We had some of our regular participants and some new participants attend from their own homes singing, playing music, reciting recitations, etc. We will have a link available in a week or two and will share that with you. We hope to see you on Wren night on December 26, 2021!



Events each Month



No events

See calendar page for address, phone number and web page for all venues.



Member News



Each February 14 marks the Anniversary of our favorite couple, Cathy and Harold Jones!!!! Yeah!!!!. So Raise your glass and toast Cathy and Harold. Cheers, Slainte and Best Wishes for the year ahead...you are both amazing!!

Best wishes to Steve Welch for a speedy recovery after shoulder surgery. You will be in good shape when the Convention comes around, Steve, in 2022!!

We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathies to our own Katherine Scanlon and Joannie and Francie O'Leary and Families for the untimely passing of their nephew and cousin, Jimmy Manley. Jimmy could be seen at many of the football matches, especially if Limerick had a toe in, and Irish activities through the years. As recited at his graveside service; "May God hold you in the palm of His hand" Jimmy.



St. Patrick's Season



We would like to thank the many of you that have contributed over the years to make the St. Patrick's Celebrations such a success. Sadly, the get-togethers are canceled again. But stay tuned: The United Irish Societies will put together a virtual parade.

Look for an e-mail with information on that. If anyone has good video footage of our float in a previous parade, please let us know. Looking forward to a time in the not-to-distant future when we can be together again.



Trad Teachers Database



The Western Region has started a new initiative for a database of teachers of traditional Irish music, dance, song and language. It will be free for anybody to search and free to be listed, but the teacher must be a Comhaltas member.

The website will list the teacher's contact info, the level of students they wish to teach and share an introductory video of up to 10 minutes.

CCE members who wish to be listed may contact Michael Jones (mfj@ieee.org) for more information.



CHRISTMAS CARD FROM SAN FRANCISCO



The idea of producing a virtual concert called Christmas Card from San Francisco was the inspiration of Michael Dillon, local Bay Area Irish Dance teacher from Clare and owner of Boscai Beaga (Little Boxes) Productions, to showcase Irish culture from around the world. He invited the San Francisco Cooley Keegan Branch of Comhaltas and the United Irish Cultural Center to join in this event. Joannie was really excited at this and didn't think twice about getting involved.

The Concert consisted of both local and international entertainers and distinguished speakers sending their message of goodwill. Our heartfelt thanks to everybody who participated to make this a huge success. We are delighted to announce that this concert is now available on YouTube in the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2aJiltfLCM>

We hope you all enjoy it as much as we enjoyed producing it.



We should like to express our sincere thanks to the dancers from the following local Irish Dance schools for their contribution to the 'Christmas Card' online event.

Michael Dillon

Whelan Academy
McGrath
McKeever School
Murphy Irish Dance School
Butler Fearon O'Connor
Kennelly School
Keenan Irish Dance
Healy School
Michael Dillon School

sharonemac@comcast.net
valerie@mcgrathirishdancers.com
nicole.mckeever@gmail.com
trishandcolm@gmail.com
pvocsf@gmail.com
pkenn83589@aol.com
keenan5678@att.net
ajbelew77@gmail.com
Jigginmick@me.com



Urgent Request!!



Please send us your photos, videos, stories and memories of the SF Cooley-Keegan Branch. Comhaltas-Ireland has requested that we participate in a project providing the history of our branch as part of the West Region of North America. Due to Covid-19, there will not be any live events such as the annual Fleadh Chéoil na hÉireann in 2021. Instead, all Comhaltas branches are asked to submit the story of their branch. We are working with the other 6 branches in our West Region (Oregon, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Diego, Puget Sound and Albuquerque) to put this 2 hour presentation together. When finished, the story will be incorporated into a production by Irish Television TG-4 (Teilifís na Gaeilge) and will be made available for viewing world-wide.

We are asking everyone to send us copies of any photos, videos, stories and memories of our branch that you may have from over the years. It is our opportunity to showcase all the wonderful musicians, singers, dancers, poets, storytellers, and all the other individuals who have kept our branch running so successfully.

The Committee will work to put this story together, but it is about YOU, OUR MEMBERS, and all those wonderful friends and family members that have gone before us, who gave us such a great start. We need this information by Saturday, February 13, 2021. Please help us pay tribute to all who have worked to keep our traditions alive and to those who continue to foster these traditions today.

HERE IS HOW:

- 1) Email with attachments to: **FleadhFestSF@gmail.com**
- 2) Information may be mailed or dropped off to: Joannie O'Leary, 1475 34th Avenue, SF 94122
- 3) Contact Joannie O'Leary (415-664-6579) or Josephine Brogan (415-264-8856) to arrange another method of delivery, or with any questions you may have.



Big News on the BIG DRAW



Tickets are now on sale for the Comhaltas Big Prize Draw on May 2, 2021.

We are again being provided with a very generous fund-raising opportunity sponsored by Comhaltas-Ireland. In view of the cancellation of so many activities and events, CCE is allowing each branch to keep 100% of the ticket sales this year while they provide the following prizes!! Tickets are \$5.00 each.

1st prize €5,000

2nd prize €500

3rd prize €250

Luxury Weekend at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann

4 Tickets to the Brú Ború Show & Dinner at the Rock of Cashel, Tipperary

Gift Card €150

A Collection of 10 Traditional CD's and DVD's

In addition, our branch will sponsor a "local draw" of four prizes of \$25.00 each from all the "local" tickets we sell. Four lucky local winners!!

The last few years we have raised several hundred dollars in this draw. It will be a huge help towards our 2022 Convention since fund-raising events have been curtailed. Would you consider buying a ticket... and perhaps one for a friend?

How to purchase tickets:

1) Send your check payable to CCÉ to our PO Box 16244, SF, CA 94122. Include the name, address & phone or email of the person(s) purchasing the ticket(s) and we will forward the ticket stub(s) to you by mail; or scan and email the stubs to you.

2) NOW you can purchase tickets using PayPal:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=M4QV4GHYRWFMJ

Once we receive your order, we will scan the stubs and email them to you. Contact Joannie O'Leary with any questions: Telephone: 415-664-6579 (please leave message) or email: joannieoleary@msn.com

DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS: APRIL 1, 2021. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!



In Memory of Catherine Linehan



We were greatly saddened to hear of the passing of Catherine Linehan, one of our long-time members and supporters. A kind and talented lady, Catherine has, over the years, provided wonderful entertainment on her keyboard for so many organizations and events in our Bay Area Irish Community. She served tirelessly as a secretary for the United Irish Societies for many years and seldom missed a meeting or event.

Catherine and her late husband, Jerry often brought their young children, Nora and Patrick to our céilís at the Irish Center and it was no bother to Catherine to volunteer to play during those occasions. She was a favorite entertainer at the Drishane Club and Cork Club dances and many will recall waltzing around the floor to Catherine's lively tunes. She was always very modest and offered her talents wherever they were needed.

For many, many years Catherine and her son, Patrick, graciously provided "sustenance" to all who attended the Reception after each St. Patrick's Day Mass at St. Patrick's Church. The Cork Ladies Bus Trip to Reno each year was a "catering extravaganza" thanks to Catherine and daughter, Nora. The Cooley-Keegan family extends their sympathy and prayers to Catherine's family and are grateful for the generous spirit with which she lived her life.

In Memory of Catherine Linehan

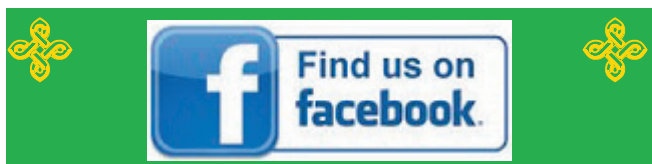
I have many fond memories of Catherine Linehan and her sister, Joan (rip) as we were growing up. As children we would gather at our parents' homes. As years went by we always looked forward to Catherine playing her music at the Drishane Club dances and other Irish parties.

Whether it was the Reception after a St. Patrick's Day Parade Mass, a United Irish Societies meeting, or UIS entertainment at the rest homes, Catherine always provided delicious homemade cookies, breads and goodies. Catherine and her son, Patrick always made sure we were all well-fed and went home with a "goody bag".

I enjoyed the Cork Ladies' bus trip to Reno where Catherine and her daughter, Nora must have prepared for days to make sure we never went hungry on the bus trip, from beginning to end!

Our sincere sympathy and prayers go out to Patrick, Nora, son-in-law Paddy and Catherine's grandchildren. Catherine was my good friend and will be dearly missed. May she rest in peace.

Katherine Scanlon



Stay up to date on céilís, seisiúns, and other events by checking out our Cooley-Keegan Facebook page. In the search field at the top of your facebook page enter **Cooley-Keegan Branch**, select it from the list of choices

or enter the following:

<https://www.facebook.com/Comhaltas-Ceoltoiri-Eireann-Cooley-Keegan-Branch-San-Francisco-CA-456882161020939/>



Another online group where events are planned is meetup.com at the following URL:

[meetup.com/irishdance](https://www.meetup.com/irishdance)

2020 CCÉ Convention Pins



Thanks to the generosity of member, Steve Welch, we have a beautiful new branch pin commemorating our 2022 Convention. The pin reflects our very special Convention logo and is available now for a steal...\$5.00 each.

A great fund-raising idea...thank you, Steve! They are in great demand so get yours from Moe Murphy by contacting her at treasurer@sfcooleykeegansf.org or leave a message at: 415-309-9780 Thank you.

Branch Meetings

CCÉ Cooley-Keegan branch meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm, Upcoming Branch meetings will be held 7:30-9:30 pm on February 2nd and March 2nd via Zoom (and thereafter, the first Tuesday of the month).. All members are encouraged to attend.

Contact secretary@sfcooleykeegance.org for more information.

Irish Culture Bay Area

What if you could view all the many Irish Events, Arts & Cultural programs in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond in one place?

NOW YOU CAN AT IrishCultureBayArea.com

Irish Language Classes

Adult Irish Language classes are happening via Zoom on Saturdays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm with Imelda White.

For further information, please contact Josephine Brogan at Josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-264-8856

CCÉ 2021 Membership

Membership runs from January 1 to December 31st.

**Our Membership drive for 2021 Continues.
If you have not yet renewed, please see below and take action:**

If you receive the Scéal Eile by email link, please renew now by visiting our website:
http://sf.ccewest.org/misc/join_cceck.html

Please be sure to complete the on-line form so we can match it with your PayPal payment.

If you receive the Scéal Eile by mail, a renewal form was included in this November/December Scéal Eile. (Call or email Joannie if you don't have it.) We ask that you respond immediately as we must report the memberships to Ireland. As a benefit of your 2021 membership, the Treoir magazine from Ireland will be sent out in March, June and November.

Single Membership: \$40.00
Multi-Membership: \$50.00 (2 or more in household or family)

Here are ways you can renew:

- Renew online through our website and remit payment through PayPal:
http://sf.ccewest.org/misc/join_cceck.html
- Renew online through our website and send your check to our PO Box (We do NOT bill).
- Complete your paper membership form and send it with your check to our PO Box.

If you have any questions, please contact Joannie at 415-664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com.

Thank you for your support.

CCÉ Membership, Attn: Joannie O'Leary, P O Box 16244, San Francisco, CA 94116



Editor's Note: Due to suspension of many events during the pandemic, we are not including our calendar in this issue.

The following information includes the new email addresses of our officers and supporting Key Members, should you need them. Thank you.

2020 BRANCH OFFICERS:

CHAIR: JOSEPHINE BRENNAN (CHAIR@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)
VICE CHAIR: JOANNIE O'LEARY (VICECHAIR@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)
SECRETARY: PATRCIA REILLY (SECRETARY@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)
TREASURER: MAUREEN MURPHY (TREASURER@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)
AUDITOR: MAUREEN BRADY (AUDITOR@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)

2020 KEY MEMBERS:

PUBLIC RELATIONS: JOSEPHINE BROGAN (PR@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG) 415-681-4803
TREORAÍ NA GAELIGE: IMELDA WHITE (GAELIGE@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)
YOUTH OFFICER: CAOIMHE LYONS (YOUTH@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)
REGISTRAR: MICHAEL JONES (REGISTRAR@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)
WEBMASTER: KATRYN WIESE (WEBMASTER@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: TIM SULLIVAN (SCEAL@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)

COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OF
COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
P.O. Box 16244
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116