

JUNE / JULY 2022

MEITH / IÚIL 2022

SCÉAL ÉILE

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



Chair's Message



A Chairde,

Our long awaited CCE Convention has come and gone and what a Convention it was !!!!!

Non-stop music, song and dance from Thursday to Sunday evening. Over 300 attendees from the US, Ireland, England and Canada. Thanks to our local céilí bands, The Golden Gate Céilí Band and Sourdough Céilí Band for providing amazing music for the Set Dancers. The many workshops were well attended and enjoyed by all.

Thanks to everyone who attended, helped behind the scenes, helped in the planning process, attended the many, many meetings and special thanks to everyone who supported us financially. It was a Convention that will be remembered for many years to come.

Congratulations to our Service Award Recipient, Pat Cremin. Pat was an integral member of the planning committee and we thank him for his support.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer.

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://SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG](https://sfcooleykeegancce.org)



Convention Stories



First of all, MANY thanks for all that you folks did to host the event! The convention was a fabulous experience...my first post-pandemic large gathering & I felt quite safe and remained healthy during and after the event. The dancing was fabulous & reminded me how much I missed our South Bay sessions & the larger UICC ceillis. I learned a lot from the teachers...set dancing as well as my intro to the Irish language. I hope to attend many more such conventions in the future!

***Much appreciation,
Kelly Shepherd***

As the chair of the Langan/Gorman Toronto branch and Canada East I want to give acknowledgement for a long awaited and well run Convention. Due to the pandemic many Canadians were not able to make it but those who did were included in many ways from volunteering at the door, workshops, mass, singing the national anthem and carrying the flag. The music, the dancing, the workshops were fantastic. One I really enjoyed was the storytelling which was unique. The welcome and the hospitality was genuine and much appreciated by all who attended. Thanks-Go raith maith agat for all your hard work.

Maureen Mulvey-O'Leary.

The CCÉ Convention is the highlight of my year! Three years was a long time to wait after the last convention which was held in Chicago. I love this event not only for the top-notch dancing and music, but also because it's a grand reunion each and every year. I look forward to seeing friends from past conventions, but also making new friends each time. Everything about this year's convention was just wonderful: the venue, the music, the dancing, the dance floor, the attendees, the sessions, the workshops... I could go on and on. The bands were incredible! The Pearl River and John Whelan bands were fantastic, but I have to say, our very own Golden Gate Ceili Band was phenomenal! I didn't do the late-night dancing but did listen in on the Sourdough Ceili Band and they, too, were just wonderful! All in all, this convention fed my soul and left me on a 'convention high' for days. Now begins my countdown and eager anticipation of the next one!

Maureen Callanan

I would like to thank you for asking me to do the singing workshop at the convention. It was a very pleasant experience for me and I was totally surprised that 20 people showed up at 10 am. I was very pleased how it went off. The fact that I was joined by two Fermanagh men - Kenny Somerville and Larry Nugent made it all the better and I thank them both. Unfortunately I wasn't able to stick around as we were flying to Ireland the following morning but by all accounts the whole thing went off very well. I think you should be very proud, well done and congrats.

Vincey K.

It was at a set dancing lesson at the Irish Center in 2009 that Mary said, "Bob, why don't you dance with Alyse?" She knew he'd be able to guide a beginner like me and get me in the right place at the right time. He agreed to do so—and two years later we were married! For that reason and others, I've always been grateful to those teachers who helped me so much when I first started.

Since we moved to Merced, Bob & I haven't been around the Irish venues we used to frequent when we lived in the Bay Area—the Plough & Stars, Irish Center, and classes with Micheal and Mary in Marin. Like most of us, for the past two years we haven't had the chance to dance with others in a group setting at all, and we've missed the conviviality of joining with others in music and dance. The 2022 Comhaltas convention gave us a chance to enjoy these things again. I loved to walk down the halls and hear the sessions in every nook and cranny. And I especially enjoyed the set dancing workshops with Pdraig and Roisin McEneaney. They made it all so easy for some of us who were a bit rusty on the floor!

And to top it off it was also great to see so many of our set dancing friends from the Cooley-Keegan branch and to meet such a bunch of friendly strangers from near and far.

Many thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make this a very special time.

Alyse Benjamin



The Convention in Review



As a member of the convention committee, I felt that we had things under control as the first day arrived, but was still a bit worried that we could pull off the event properly. Not to worry! It was a splendid success! What a joy it was to be on the dance floor with so many smiling faces, dancing to live music at its best. After a two year absence, I enjoyed meeting friends from across the country, reestablishing our connections on the dance floor and over a glass of wine (or a Cooley-Keegan cocktail). I appreciated Pádraig and Roisin's instructions for battering, giving us steps that varied in complexity. It was a delight to listen to the session musicians as they played the night away. Everyone was in such high spirits—what a welcome sense of community after a long period of social isolation. The weekend flew by—can't wait until the next one!

Susan Keith

During a workshop at the convention, Pádraig & Róisín Mc Eneaney, taught the Valentia Right and Left, a set dance that originated on Valentia Island. They dedicated the set to Josephine Brennan our chair, who grew up on Valentia Island.

The English name Valentia (or Valencia) Island comes from a settlement on the island called An Bhaile Inse or Beal Inse – “mouth of the island” or “island in the mouth of the sound.” The Irish name may have been reinterpreted as similar to the name of the Spanish town by English and Spanish speaking sailors and settlers. The native name of Valentia Island, is Dairbhre, meaning The Oak Wood. It is one of Ireland's most westerly points and lies off the Iveragh Peninsula County Kerry.

For set notes see <https://setdanceteacher.ie/VALENTIA.HTM>
a YouTube video at: https://youtu.be/-HZmXMu_9Gw or email padraigmceneaney@gmail.com



Thanks to all Volunteers!



Thank you so much for volunteering your time to make our convention such an amazing event. Some of you signed up ahead of time, some made yourselves available throughout the weekend, and some filled in at the last minute with no hesitation. Doors were properly monitored, you greeted attendees with a smile as you answered questions, and the registration room ran like clockwork.

Special thanks to Judy Forrest for tackling the management of that room. We appreciate each and every one of you for giving your time and pitching in wherever you saw a need.

Of course, a huge shout out to the committee members who oversaw the planning, organization, and execution of this successful convention. Their many hours of volunteer work over the past three years does not go unnoticed! We applaud you!

Susan Keith



Irish Center 2025 Project



For more than 35 years, “The Center” has been our “home away from home”. Our first convention in 1984 was hosted there and we have held numerous céilís, sessions, fund-raisers, parties and weekly dance, language and music lessons. We enjoyed spontaneous dinners at the weekend in the Restaurant and a monthly “CCE Night” which was a great success. We attended weddings, birthday parties and memorials throughout the year.

The building is now showing its age and will be unable to fulfill the needs of the coming generations. Exciting plans are underway and it will take the interest and participation of all of our community to ensure its success. We encourage you to check out the website to keep up to date on the progress. <https://irishcenter2025.org>



Dancing Announcement



Since February, we have again been enjoying set dancing classes at the Brosnan School of Irish Dance in San Anselmo the second and fourth Fridays of each month. We verify numbers in the days prior to each class via an email response, and we will not hold class if we have fewer than 12 confirmed attendants. Email sonomarinirish@gmail.com with questions or to be added to the email list. All classes are for the fully vaccinated only (bring your card).

The teachers will take a summer break during July and August. We plan to meet on June 24 and then not again until the second Friday in September.

Set dancing has resumed at the Plough & Stars Bar on Clement Street on Thursday nights. First Thursday will be from 8:30 pm to 11:00 pm and every other Thursday 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm. There is a \$7 charge. Supporting the bar by purchasing a beverage is much appreciated. Contact Michael Murphy at irishboogieman67@yahoo.com or 415-999-6062 for more information or watch out for an email from Josephine Brogan.



Saint Patrick's Day Parade 2022



On behalf of Dan McAuliffe, Kasey Curtin, Connie Lynch and our parade committee, thank you to all who participated in any way with the planning, construction, playing music, dancing, marching, providing meals or otherwise supporting us in our float for the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade. We are delighted to announce that we received the First Place award for an Irish Float!!

On behalf of the SFCooley-Keegan Board: We are all indebted to Dan, Kasey & Connie for their dedication and hours spent bringing the float and choreography to life! A very special tip of the hat to Frank Rooney who resurrected "Reidy's Irish Kitchen" so beautifully, which brought back great memories. Our awesome team of musicians of Anne Bingham-Goess, Peter Persoff, Alan Patterson, Michael Riemer and John Sherry were delightful.

It was wonderful to be able to have our parade back again. Thanks to the tremendous work of the United Irish Societies of San Francisco committee. Many thanks to all!!



Saint Patrick's Day Parade 2022



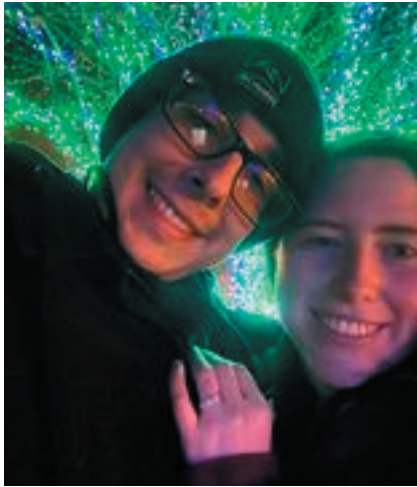
Parade Musicians: Alan Patterson, Anne Bingham-Goess, John Sherry, Peter Persoff, Michael Riemer



Reidy's Kitchen in Parade Float with Nellie Magee holding baby on left and Frank Rooney and Eileen O'Malley



Member News



Congratulations to our very own Eileen O'Malley and Gerard Kohler who recently got engaged in South Korea, where Gerard is currently based. We wish you both a lifetime of love and happiness.



Song and Storytelling



First-Friday singing sessions are mostly hybrid at the moment: simultaneously at a local house for those who prefer that, as well as on Zoom for those who prefer that..

The situation is fluid and the best way to stay informed is to be on the singing session email list.

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



Branch Meetings



CCÉ Cooley-Keegan branch meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm via zoom. We take a break from meeting in July and August. The next branch meeting will be held Tuesday, September 13th. All members are encouraged to attend.

Contact secretary@sccooleykeegancee.org for additional information



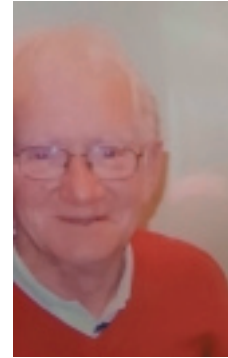
Stay up to date on céilís, seisiúns, and other events by checking out our Cooley-Keegan Facebook page. In the search field at the top of your facebook page enter **Cooley-Keegan Branch**, select it from the list of choices

or enter the following:

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



Condolences



We extend our deepest sympathy to Veronica, Bosco and Meagan and extended family on the passing of Veronica's Dad, Shay White on October 24th, 2021. Shay was a regular visitor to San Francisco when his daughter Veronica lived here.

He was a mighty set dancer and came to our class and danced with us at the Plough & Stars Bar on Clement Street. We have a lot of great memories of him and he will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace.



Events each Month



No events



Feadh Fest 2021



Several branches of Comhaltas Worldwide, including our own West Region, participated in a video project, telling the story of each of our branches.

We are very proud of the outcome, and urge you to access the link below. There is brilliant music, dancing, stories and interviews which we hope you will enjoy.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/comhaltas/videos>



Another online group where events are planned is [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) at the following URL:

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



2022 Membership Renewal



Our 2022 Membership Drive is ongoing. Thank you to all who have given such support to our drive this year and welcome to the new members who joined and came to our Convention!!

Membership is effective January 1st to December 31st.

If you are interested in joining, please email Joannie O'Leary at: joannieoleary@msn.com.

Or visit our website: https://www.sfcooleykeegance.org/misc/join_cceck.html

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

Single Membership: \$40.00 Multi-Membership: \$50.00 (2 or more in household or family) If you have any questions, please contact Joannie at 415-664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com/ or write to: CCE Membership, Attn: Joannie O'Leary, PO Box 16244, San Francisco, CA 94116.

Thank you for your support.



Treoir Magazine From Ireland



As a benefit of your 2022 membership, the Treoir magazine from Ireland is sent out three times during the year. All Households receive a copy of the Treoir. The latest issue will be coming out shortly and will include a wonderful review and photos of our 2022 convention. Please let Joannie know if you do not receive yours.



Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2022



Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2022 will return to Mullingar where Comhaltas was founded in 1951.

Hundreds of thousands of Fleadh fans from the villages, the towns and cities of Ireland – and from right across the globe - will converge on Mullingar from 31st of July to 8th of August.

This will be a celebration of hope, renewal, camaraderie, creativity and excellence wrapped in the comforting glow of our own native music which in the seventy years since the founding of Comhaltas has captured the hearts of the world.

For anyone fortunate enough to be going to Ireland during that time, this event is not to be missed!!

Congratulations to all the organizers.



Irish Language Classes



We are taking a break from Irish Language Classes for the Summer and plan to resume in September.

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



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 Voices



Our old friend and member, Donagh McKeown sends his best wishes from Ireland.

As you may recall, Donagh under the name of "Irish Voices" was the author of many adventures while he was here including videos of our céilís, street tours of the Irish in San Francisco, interviews of local personalities in the Irish Community and much more.

Donagh is starting a new radio show on Saturdays at 2pm Pacific Time on

www.gir.ie



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.

2022 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)

2022 KEY MEMBERS:

PUBLIC RELATIONS: JOSEPHINE BROGAN (PR@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)
TREORAÍ NA GAELGE: IMELDA WHITE (GAELGE@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)
YOUTH OFFICER: CAOIMHE LYONS (YOUTH@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)
REGISTRAR: JOANNIE O'LEARY (REGISTRAR@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)
WEBMASTER: KATRYN WIESE (WEBMASTER@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: TIM SULLIVAN (SCEAL@SF COOLEYKEEGANCCE.ORG)

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