

MARCH/ APRIL 2022

MÁRTA/ AIBREÁN 2022

# SCÉAL ÉILE

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



## Chair's Message



A Chairde,

It's finally almost here..... the long awaited CCÉ Convention.

In March 2020 we were so disappointed that we had to cancel the Convention at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Here we are, two years later, excited to present the 2022 Convention.

A new location, the Crowne Plaza, 1221 Chess Drive, Foster City.

Many of the same bands, musicians and workshop leaders.

Here is a sample of what's happening:

- Our local Golden Gate Céilí Band plays for the opening céilí on Thursday night and the closing céilí on Sunday afternoon.
- Another local band, Sourdough Céilí Band, will play for late night set dancing on Friday and Saturday nights.
- Comhaltas friends from the East Coast, The Pearl River All-Star Céilí Band plays for Friday night's céilí.
- World renowned accordion player, John Whelan, joined by Brendan Dolan, Pauline Conneely, Laurence Nugent and Katie Murray play for Saturday nights céilí after the Banquet.
- Dance Master Pádraig Mc Eneany, from Ireland, will teach the set dance workshops and lead the Friday and Saturday night céilís.

We have many workshops on Friday and Saturday. See the complete line up here:

**[www.cceconvention2022.com](http://www.cceconvention2022.com)**

We invite you to come on down to the Crowne Plaza, join the sessions in the Foyer, take a workshop or two, join us for Mass on Sunday with Irish Choir, Cór Radharc an Chnoic (from Mountain View).

All participants and attendees must be fully vaccinated, including booster. Proof of vaccination required to enter.

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 COOLEYKEEGAN CCE.ORG](https://sfcooleykeegancce.org)



## Saint Patrick's Day Parade



Good News...The St. Patrick's Day Parade will happen this year. First of all, we would like to thank all the people who have volunteered over the years to always make our unit in the parade a winner. Many people have helped in so many ways, and we have always had a good time working together.

So, this is to let you know that we -- Dan, Kasey, Connie -- are retiring, so this will be our last year coordinating parade logistics. We look forward to working with you this our final year. To those of you who are interested in taking over this project, please come forward this year and let us know so that we can give you help and guidance for future years. Of course, you will have lots of help and support because of great volunteers. It takes many hands to participate in the parade. Let's rally again to make our unit a winner. We need those many hands!

Building the float will be on Friday, March 11, 2022, at Cunningham Moving and Storage, 1250 Van Dyke Ave, SF. Starting around 9:30 a.m. Includes lunch. The parade is Saturday, March 12, 2022. There will be more information on that when you sign up to march or dance.

All participating in constructing and/or parade must be vaccinated and sign the hold harmless agreement. You will be required to show your proof of vaccination with your ID at your first point of volunteering (either at Cunningham's or on parade day at Duggan's). Participants on or with our float in the parade itself must be a member of CCE. (Contact Joannie if any questions on this: 415-279-7359)

There will be a dance practice one evening before the parade. Time and place to be announced. To sign up please contact Kasey: 707-280-1235 or Connie: 707-318-9200. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Slán, Dan, Kasey, Connie



## Dancing Announcement



Mícheál Minihaane and Mary McDonagh are resuming set dance classes in San Anselmo the second and fourth Fridays of each month. We will be verifying numbers in the days prior to each class via an email response, and we will not hold class if we have fewer than 12. Email [sonomarinirish@gmail.com](mailto:sonomarinirish@gmail.com) with questions or to be added to the mailing list. All classes will be for the fully vaccinated only (bring your card).

UPDATE: A positive response was received so the first night of dancing took place on Friday night, February 25<sup>th</sup>. See above info and email as indicated to get in on the action and let's get this dancing going again!!!



## Song and Storytelling



First-Friday singing sessions are still on Zoom for the moment, but will be transitioning back to in-person. 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@ieeee.org](mailto:mfj@ieeee.org)



## Branch Meetings



CCE Cooley-Keegan branch meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm. Upcoming branch meetings will be held 7:30pm - 9:30pm on March 1<sup>st</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup> via zoom (and thereafter, the first Tuesday of the month). All members are encouraged to attend

Contact [secretary@sfcwooleykeegancce.org](mailto:secretary@sfcwooleykeegancce.org) for more information.



## Events each Month



**No events**



## Fleadh 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>



## Emerald Society Awards Dinner and Dance



Back Row L-R: Betty Falvey, Tim Murphy, Joannie O'Leary, Cathy Mibach, Chris DelCarlo  
Front Row: L-R: Katherine Scanlon, Patsy Culhane, Josephine Brogan, Francie O'Leary



Joannie O'Leary, Moe Murphy,  
Josephine Brogan, Brenda Lyons



Ed Carew, Josephine Brogan, Paddy Brogan,  
Val Kerwin, Anne Carew

The San Francisco Bay Area Law Enforcement Emerald Society hosted their 22nd Annual Awards Dinner and Dance at the UICC on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. This event serves to honor outstanding members of the San Francisco Police Department and our community. The 2021 awardees were Joseph McClosky (retired SFPD) - Lifetime Achievement Award, Officer Andrew Clifford - Officer of the Year, and our own Josephine Brogan as Citizen of the Year!!

Josephine is widely known, not only as our Public Relations Officer, but to the Irish Community at large for her volunteer work, particularly at the UICC. She is always on the ball and keeps Comhaltas members and friends apprised of news and events home and abroad. Her love of dancing (especially sets) is legendary. She tirelessly works with other CCE volunteers to organize Irish language and children's workshops, céilís and adult dance workshops to name a few.

Josephine is a dedicated Board Member of the United Irish Cultural Center (UICC). Since the onset of the pandemic, she has energetically run "The Irish Shoppe" there. Wawona Gates was an oasis for many during Covid and survived due to a huge community volunteer effort led by the amazing Mark and Molly Burke and "our girl" Josephine. Always in good humor, "Josephine from Cork" is ready to help at a moment's notice.

This night was a bright spot amid the pandemic and we heartily congratulate Josephine Brogan and Officers McCloskey and Clifford. As you can imagine, after the dinner and ceremonies, Josephine and Paddy danced the rest of the night away!



Tim Murphy, Maureen Brady, Josephine Brogan, Dan McAuliffe, Joannie O'Leary

Members and friends of the Rebel Cork Benevolent Association gathered at the Irish Center on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to honor Comhaltas friend and supporter, Tim Murphy, who celebrated sixty years of loyal membership in the revered R.C.B.A. organization. From the time of his arrival in the West Coast from Dromtariffe, Co. Cork, Tim formed lasting friendships with co-workers and within the large Irish Community in the San Francisco Bay Area. A man of many talents and never afraid of work, one of Tim's early jobs was at British Motor Car Distributors. For those who are familiar with the sport, Huffaker Engineering ran the race car division for BMC. Tim's great interest in race cars found him as a member of the BMC Pit Crew that won the National SCCA Class D Championship in 1973, 1974 and 1980!

During this time, Tim supported the growing Irish Community by helping to organize numerous Irish Concert Tours, the Pat Delaney "Sounds of Erin" radio broadcast, live broadcasts of the Gaelic Athletic Association games from Ireland and playing on local GAA teams. He was inducted into the San Francisco GAA Hall of Fame in 2009. Tim served as President of the United Irish Cultural Center between 1978-1979.

Tim has been an outstanding advocate of the traditions and culture of Ireland through many local organizations. He has supported Comhaltas in many of our dances and fund-raisers over the years including our upcoming North American Convention in April 2022. We owe Tim a huge debt of gratitude and were delighted to celebrate with him and his family. A "Teastas" (Certificate of Commendation) from Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann - Ireland was gratefully presented to Tim by members of the San Francisco Cooley-Keegan Branch.



## Community Announcements



We also wish a Fond Farewell for one of our long standing friends from our Branch, Michael Duffy or "Duffy" as he is known. He has supported our dancing, been Co-Chair for Branch, Musicians, Plough/Le Chapeau and Wren follower to name a few. Also a man of many other talents from Computers, Carpentry to Trains. We wish "Duffy" all the best, as he begins his journey this weekend, next project: working on his new home near the Mojave Desert. You will be missed "Duffy".

Anyone have a chance to see the "Keepers of the Step" Exhibit held at the Irish Center during Jan 2022? It was brilliant. The exhibit told the history of Irish Dancing in San Francisco since the 1850's on, complete with photos, costumes and stories of the Irish dancing Masters and Schools in the Bay Area, the Parades down Market Street and newspaper clips from the different eras.

It held quite a few surprises of faces and names of people we knew including early photos (not mentioning the year) of Cathy Mibach and Connie Lynch as young girls showing their steps. (They are still showing their steps today!!!) Hope to see this exhibit and so much more at the New Irish Center Archive Library.

For all you Convention goers of the past several years, you all know Colleen O'Leary of crazy flip-flop dancing fame. We have a bit of good news to share. Colleen is now an engaged woman! Please extend your good wishes when you see her at the Convention 2022. She will be the one wearing flip-flops and a ring! Very best wishes to Colleen and Sean!!!

### 2022 Convention Volunteers

To make the convention a success, we are counting on your help to staff various events over the weekend.

A Signup through SignUpGenius is in the works and will be published at the end of this week. The title is "2022 North American CCE Convention."

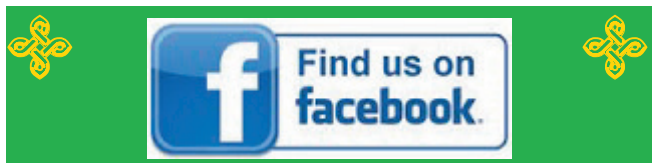
Contact Susan Keith at [susanmaria.keith@gmail.com](mailto:susanmaria.keith@gmail.com) with questions.

We especially need someone to oversee the Registration table. This person would be very familiar with the contents of the registration package and be able to answer questions from table volunteers.

### 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, fundraisers, 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>



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](https://www.meetup.com) at the following URL:

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



## Congratulations



Heartiest congratulations to Jim and Peggy O'Donnell on the births of their two new granddaughters!!

Fáinse Clíodhna - Born on November 1, 2021, daughter of Pat and Ceri O'Donnell, now residing in County Clare. Pat and Ceri were wonderful music teachers for our branch when they lived here a few years ago and Ceri was our delightful Youth Officer.

Lily Margaret - Born on December 30, 2021 - daughter of Danny & Jenny O'Donnell, San Francisco.

Do doubt Jim and Peggy will be wasting no time in lovingly spoiling and enjoying their granddaughters and are keeping tabs on Fáinse Clíodhna in Clare. Congratulations also to proud Uncle and Aunt, Sean and Kerrin O'Donnell.



Welcome to the newest member of our Branch, Maeve O'Brien, first grandchild of our own Maureen Brady. Delighted parents are Jimmy Cook and Natalie Graf. Congrats to All!



## Member News



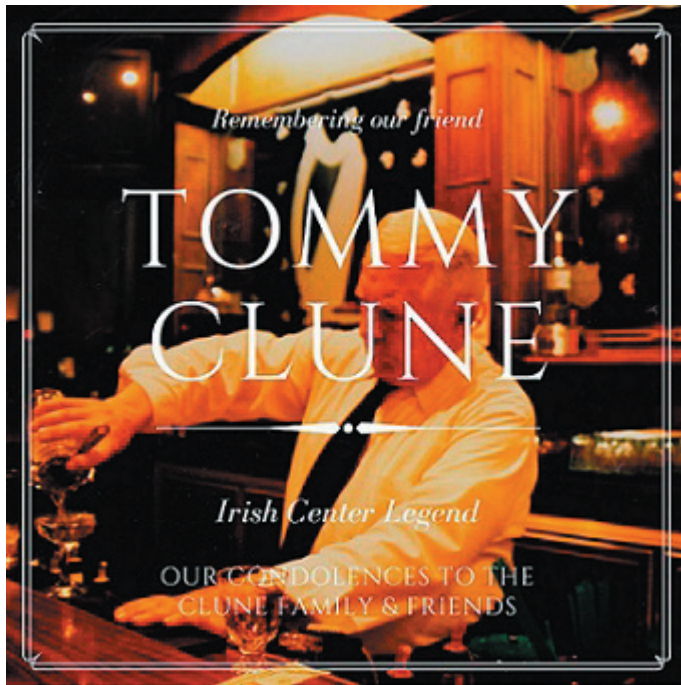
Congratulations to our member, Michael Dillon who was recently awarded a Global Excellence in Teaching Award. The international award recognizes excellence in teaching by honoring extraordinary dance teachers. Denise Keane, publisher of Irish Dancing Magazine covered the event and relates, "We are thrilled that San Francisco teacher, Michael Dillon, a native of Co. Clare is one of only 23 teachers in the world receiving the 2021 Excellence in Teaching Award". Michael, whose dance school was founded in Ireland in 1997 and now teaches in the San Francisco Bay Area is an example of "The Positives of Irish Dance". Well done, Michael!

(Excerpts courtesy of the UICC Inc. February 2022 newsletter)

Get well wishes to Katherine Scanlon who is on the mend and hopefully soon ready to resume her duties as Scéal Eile helper and be ready for Convention 2022!! Frank McDonagh is still waiting for that waltz!!



## Condolences



Anyone who crossed the threshold of the United Irish Cultural Center in the past 25 years would find a true Irish welcome in Tommy Clune “the face of the UICC” This soft-spoken gentleman from County Clare greeted hundreds of UICC members, customers and visitors alike and always had a joke or a story to share.

Tom was a natural diplomat at crowd control during the St. Patrick’s Day festivities. He was a mentor to the young waiters, waitress and bus boys who served in the UICC dining room and banquet hall through the years. You surely met him as you were coming or going to a céilí or having dinner before-hand.

Having worked at numerous restaurants in The City, Tommy was well known and respected in many circles before he came “Home” to our Irish Center. His love for the Center and all those who entered its doors was extraordinary. It was an honor for so many of us who worked for Tom and benefitted from his life-lessons.

Tom passed away January 7th, just two months shy of his 90th birthday. His memorial mass and the reception following at the UICC was a testament to the gentle Clareman who was a blessing to generations. Our sympathy to his daughter, Michelle and family. May Tommy rest in peace. We will never see the likes of him again.

-Joannie O’Leary

We extend our deep sympathy to members Bridget and Don West and family on the untimely passing of Bridget’s sister, Joan Healy who passed away on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. A lovely, lively lady from Currow, Co. Kerry, Joan was a tireless volunteer and organizer in the community and parish while raising their four sons in the Sunset District. She proudly carried a flag for the United Irish Societies in St. Patrick’s Day parades and was an avid sports enthusiast for Bay Area teams as well as for teams her sons and grandchildren participated in.

After retiring from the Carpenters’ Trust Fund Joan organized numerous trips through her company, Peter’s Travel. Her legacy will be carried out in good spirit by all her family and we pray for Joan’s family and for her eternal rest.

We extend our deepest sympathies on the sudden passing of Tony McLoughlin from Donegal by way of Chicago, to his wife, Mary and all the family.

His contributions are many to the CCÉ Branch in Chicago, or to the football matches, fundraisers or just a gathering His passion for dancing and all things Irish was evident. He would be the last to leave the dance floor and you wouldn’t think he could do one more set. The music would start and up he went.

You will be sorely missed at our Convention 2022 Tony and all the Conventions to come. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary and all your family and friends everywhere.



## 2022 Membership Renewal



Our 2022 Membership Drive is ongoing. Thank you to all who have given such support to our drive this year. Please consider joining, especially if you are participating in the CCE North American Convention activities. (see Chair letter for Convention details.)

Membership is effective January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you receive the Scéal Eile by email link, please renew now by visiting our website:

[https://www.sfcooleykeegancce.org/misc/join\\_cceck.html](https://www.sfcooleykeegancce.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 do not use PayPal, but do renew on-line, please forward a check to our \*PO Box shown below. You will also receive an email reminder from Josephine Brogan to renew.

If you currently receive your newsletter by US Mail and do not renew on-line, please contact Joannie (415-664-6579) and a form will be sent to you.

As a benefit of your 2022 membership, the Treoir magazine from Ireland will be sent out in March, June and November. Please let Joannie know if you do not receive yours.

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  
[membership@sfcooleykeegancce.org](mailto:membership@sfcooleykeegancce.org)

Thank you for your support.

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



## 2022 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! We will be selling these pins at the Convention and expect to be sold-out so get yours from Moe Murphy by contacting her at [treasurer@sfcooleykeegansf.org](mailto:treasurer@sfcooleykeegansf.org) or leave a message at: 415-309-9780. Thank you.



## 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](http://IrishCultureBayArea.com)



## Irish Language Classes



Adult Irish Language Classes will resume via Zoom in mid to late March from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm with Imelda White.

Registration in advance is required.

For further information, please contact Josephine Brogan at

[Josephinebrogan@yahoo.com](mailto:Josephinebrogan@yahoo.com) or  
415-264-8856



## 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](http://www.gir.ie)





Our 171<sup>st</sup> Year

# UNITED IRISH SOCIETIES

*of San Francisco*

*Sponsors of the St. Patrick's Day Parade*

P. O. Box 16026 • San Francisco, CA 94116

## Schedule of St. Patrick's Events for 2022

**CONSUL GENERAL OF IRELAND**

Honorable Robert O'Driscoll

**CHAPLAIN**

Father Michael Mahoney

**PRESIDENT**

Liam Frost

**VICE PRESIDENT**

John Lynch

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Hilda Kissane

**TREASURER**

James Weixel

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Christine Del Carlo

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

John O'Keefe

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

Patrick Linehan

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Seamus Canning

Connie Lynch

Valerie McGrew

Cathy Mibach

Paul O'Sullivan

Diarmuid Philpott

James Quinn

**Friday February 25, 2022**

**GRAND MARSHAL DINNER**

6:00 p.m. No Host Cocktail

7:00p.m. Dinner

UICC

**Friday March 4, 2022**

**FLAG RAISING**

Per Mayor's office

**Saturday March 5, 2022**

**Veteran's No Visitors at this time**

**St. Anne's 2:00 p.m.**

**Sunday March 6, 2022**

**Laguna Honda No Visitors at this time**

**Alma Via 2:00p.m.**

**Saturday March 12, 2022**

**Mass at St. Patrick's 9:00 a.m.**

**Reception following**

**Parade 11:30 a.m.**

**Sunday March 13, 2022**

**BLOCK PARTY**

**On 45<sup>th</sup> Ave by the UICC**

**Sunday April 10, 2022**

**Fr. Peter Yorke Day**

**Holy Cross**

**10:00am**

**Kate Kennedy Day**

**June ? TBD**

**Robert Emmet Day**

**Sunday Sept. 18, 2022?**

[www.uissf.org](http://www.uissf.org)



**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 GAELIGE: IMELDA WHITE (GAELIGE@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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