

MAY/ JUNE 2021

BHEALTAINÉ/ MEITHEAMH 2021

# SCÉAL ÉILE

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

## Youth Officer's Message

A Chairde,

A year of social distancing, sheltering-in-place, and endless Zoom meetings have challenged us to create unique ways of engaging with each other. This included drive-by birthday parties, writing letters, and connecting through social media. Especially during this time of separation caused by COVID-19, it is essential that we share special moments and events with our community. As the Youth Officer of the Cooley-Keegan branch of San Francisco, I wanted to engage with other youth who are equally as passionate about Irish culture. While virtually connecting with others does not compare to playing a tune alongside others or dancing at a céilí, it has allowed us to create international relationships.

In order to bring together children from around the globe and to celebrate the many talents found within Comhaltas, we decided to create an all youth concert. We were very excited to present an international selection of musicians, singers, and dancers who shared their amazing gifts. This free event was initially shown "live" on April 24<sup>th</sup>, and is now available on YouTube.

Here's the link: <https://youtu.be/VI-TMkSU6E>

*(for those typing: the second letter is capital I as in India; the sixth is lower l as in lima)*

If you would like further information on this event or our activities, please reach out to [youthconcert.21@gmail.com](mailto:youthconcert.21@gmail.com).

We hope you will enjoy this "gathering". We look forward to the many connections we are building right now!

Go raibh maith agaibh!

Caoimhe Lyons  
S.F. Cooley-Keegan Youth Officer

## 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](mailto:mfj@ieee.org)

## Events each Month

### No events

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



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)



## Fleadh Fest 2021



In the February -- March issue of this newsletter we told you about a project that Comhaltas-Ireland instituted, requesting that we provide 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 worldwide.

The Fleadh Fest committee has been working tirelessly on information gathered, editing videos, photos and stories. While this particular "Fleadh Fest" project is limited in scope, it has made us realize that we do not have an organized archive of our branch's 45+ year history.

We will be putting another committee together to seek out the best way to do this. You are all invited to participate...either by providing any archive experience you may have and/or sending us your photos, videos, stories and memories of the SF Cooley-Keegan Branch.

We are sure you have a lot to share. It will serve as a platform for our 50th anniversary coming soon!

You may submit information by:

- 1) Email with attachments to: [FleadhFestSF@gmail.com](mailto: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



First of all, apologies for the confusion on this draw. The tickets were originally to be drawn in 2020 in Ireland, but with the continuation of the pandemic, CCE decided to postpone the draw until May, 2021. We then advertised it as a 2020-2021 draw, not realizing that CCE intended to have another draw this year in November for new 2021 tickets.

So, the tickets which we sold are for 2020. 100% of the proceeds of this draw are kept by the branch for 2020 only. We sincerely appreciate all those who purchased tickets. The "2020" Draw will be held in Ireland the beginning of May. Our own "Local" draw for four prizes of \$25.00 each will be held at "Wawona Gates" at the United Irish Cultural Center on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 4pm. Come out and see what the UICC has to offer. <https://irishcentersf.org/>

We will also have 2021 Big Draw tickets for sale at that time. Tickets are \$5.00 each and our branch keeps 80% of the ticket price. The Big Draw in Ireland for 2021 tickets will be in November 2021. We will also again have our own "Local Draw" for four prizes of \$25.00 each.

- 1st prize: €5000.
- 2nd prize: €500.
- 3rd prize: €250.
- 5 prizes of €100.
- 5 prizes of €75.

You may purchase 2021 Big Draw Tickets as follows:

- 1) Send your check payable to CCE to our P.O. Box 16244, San Francisco, CA 94116 Please include the name, address & phone number or email of the person(s) purchasing the ticket(s) and we will forward the ticket stubs 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=53N73WUNPF3MU](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=53N73WUNPF3MU)

Thank you for your help. Contact Joannie for any questions. [joannieleary@msn.com](mailto:joannieleary@msn.com) or 415 664-6579



## Wedding Bells



**Andrew and Winnie Keith**



**Susan Keith, Cathy Jones, Alan Keith, Andrew and Winnie Keith, her parents and grandmother**

Wedding Bells for Andrew Keith and his sweetheart, Winnie, on April 10th, 10 years after their first date. It took place in Portola, California. There was a surprise when the dancing started. Andrew and his mom, Susan, started to do a waltz and broke into the St. Patrick's Day Set Dance. The crowd loved it and a great time was had by all.

### 2022 Convention Volunteers

The CCE Convention is a year away, but we're organizing early. If you are interested in volunteering for the event, please send an email to Susan Keith and she will start a list.

Her email: [susanmaria.keith@gmail.com](mailto:susanmaria.keith@gmail.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 ceilis, 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)

### 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@ieeee.org](mailto:mfj@ieeee.org)) for more information.

### Member News

A very special Birthday Wish to a special young fellow, Crane Riemer on his April 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

He is all of 9 years.

Happy Birthday Crane!



## In Memoriam



It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of our long time member Harold Jones. He always had a twinkle in his eye and a smile for all. A sad day for our own Cathy, Susan, David and all the family near, in Ireland and England. Harold and Cathy attended and were the couple people gathered round at many of the South Bay Ceilis and parties.

I last met Harold at Cathy's 90th Birthday Party. Harold was taking in all the action with his all familiar smile. May God Bless you Harold! Our hearts are with you Cathy, Susan and David and family



Another sadness, at the sudden passing of OJ Erickson. Some of you may remember "Clogging OJ" as he was known. He was one of the dancers in our 1998 Convention Entertainment piece where he exhibited Clogging, Irish and Sean Nos. He loved life and was a self proclaimed "Ham" as evidenced by the number of dance groups he belonged to.

He was a member of Barbary Coast Cloggers, Westwind, Jubilee and most especially where we knew and loved him best, Brian Cleary's Celtic Dance Ensemble. We danced at many a ceili and events. He danced anywhere and for any reason and was a longtime supporter of CCE. Our hearts go out to Marilyn, his wife, OJ, his son and his daughters and their families. We will miss your Spirit OJ always.....



## In Memoriam



Condolences are also being sent to the McDonagh and Sexton families on the recent passing of Neil Sexton, Mary McDonagh's brother-in-law in Ireland. Those who have been to the Petaluma ceilis have met his son Michael Sexton behind the bar, along with his cousins, Shane, Kieran and Colm McDonagh. Our prayers go out to Neil's wife, Joan and daughter, Shauna in Limerick and son Neil & family in Australia. Remembering Neil and the good times.

In our last Sceal Eile issue we mentioned our member, Catherine Linehan had passed away, but inadvertently neglected to also extend our sympathy to our member and Catherine's sister-in-law, Noreen Fitzpatrick and her niece, Maura deGeorge and Family. May Catherine rest in peace.

Our hearts go out to the family of Bridget Boyle, a native of Killybeggs, County Donegal, who passed away in March. Bridie and her husband Jerry and their family have been devoted members of our branch for many years. This kind lady always welcomed visitors to their home and she and Jerry encouraged the support of the Irish culture in their children and grandchildren.

Bridie and Jerry are among the legends who met at the KRB (Knights of the Red Branch Hall on Mission Street, SF) and enjoyed a wonderful life together. Daughter, MaryAnn told of how Bridie would be seen on her bicycle with her faithful dog, touring the Sunset neighborhood and helping anyone she could.

May Bridie rest in peace



## St. Patrick's Day Parade



This year we had a virtual Parade as we could not meet in person due to the pandemic. You can access the Parade on YouTube with this link -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7YgiR\\_9Hak](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7YgiR_9Hak)

Our branch did submit a video clip from a prior parade to include in this virtual event, but unfortunately it did not make it into it due to space limitations. Here is the link to the piece we submitted

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWbODiPLrVg>

Hope you enjoy watching this.



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)

## 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! They are in great demand 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.

## Branch Meetings

CCÉ 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 May 4th and June 1st via zoom (and thereafter, the first Tuesday of the month). All members are encouraged to attend

Contact [secretary@sfcooleykeegance.org](mailto: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](http://IrishCultureBayArea.com)

## Irish Language Classes

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

We also have a beginners Irish Language Class via Zoom on Tuesday nights from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm with Máirtín Mac An Ghoill.

For further information, please contact Josephine Brogan at [josephinebrogan@yahoo.com](mailto: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 and are able to do so, 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](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.

As a benefit of your 2021 membership, the Treoir magazine from Ireland will be sent out in March, June and November. PLEASE ADVISE JOANNIE IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE FIRST (March/April Fleadh Fest) ISSUE. BE SURE TO CHECK OUT PAGE 49!!!

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](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](mailto: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)  
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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