

OCT/ NOV/ DEC 2025

DEIREADH FÓMHAIR/ SAMHAIN/ NOLLAIG 2025



A Chairde,

After a relaxing summer, we are ready to shift gears and start planning for future events.

Check out our Instagram page for the latest information on events. It's ***sfcooleykeegan***.

Save the Dates:

UICC céilís are Sunday, November 9th and Sunday, December 14th.

March seems far away from now, but we need to begin talking about the SF Parade. The float truck that we used last year is too small for our group. Between the musicians, a set of dancers, and a few supporters on the float, there was not enough room to move around. It was very difficult for the set of dancers who walked alongside to dance on the pavement. We need a larger flatbed truck for next year. If you have any ideas or contacts for a larger flatbed truck, please let the board know. Also, we would love to see more folks get involved to update the float decorations and bring it into the 21st century. Please contact me by Oct 4th if you are interested. chair@sfcooleykeegancce.org

To get us started, our resident artist, Frank Rooney, has constructed a brand new "280" sign for the front of whatever truck we use. Frank felt the old one was worn and we needed a facelift so it is ready to go!! Thanks to Frank for his dedication and donation.

Slán,

Susan Keith, 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)



2026 North American Convention and Trad Irish Music



2026 North American Convention and Trad Irish Music Immersion Weekend

Information below from the organizing committee

This coming Spring, Chicago will be home to the North American Comhaltas Convention 9-12 April. It will take place at The Northbrook Hilton, a favorite event hotel for those who have previously attended the Chicago conventions. Reservations can be made at this link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/chinbhf-903-1301710c-9409-4397-b751-d5dd90bb48b1/>

We expect a sellout for this immersion weekend. However, the overflow hotel is nearby and there will be a shuttle going back and forth between the hotels as needed.

We have an exciting weekend planned. We will have workshops galore for sets, céilithe, and music, along with a special, full day of workshops for kids and teens.

Margaret Mount is our dance planning chair for the weekend and the ever-popular Pádraig & Róisín McEneaney will be our set instructors. Margaret and her committee are planning a full dance card, so be ready to wear out some shoe leather. We will, once again, have late night set dancing for those who just do not want the fun to end. So, after the regular céilithe each night Katie Grennan and John Williams will be playing the liveliest of tunes from 1 a.m. to 3 a.m. for the set dancers who never want to take off their dance shoes.

Pauline Conneely is the music maestra for the weekend. She will be organizing the bands and guarantees lively, driving dance music for the entire weekend.

Kathy Cowan and Kathleen Keane have composed an Irish Mass that will be a highlight of the Sunday morning service and they will also teach the Mass parts over the weekend so you can sing out.

The Institute of Traditional Irish Music (formerly known as Murphy Roche Branch) is your host for this immersion weekend. Co Chairs Kell and Mike Chole are looking forward to welcoming you for nonstop tunes and fun. "We welcome the Irish music world to Chicago one more time!"

We hope you will consider coming to Chicago for this wonderful immersion weekend. The hotel is close to O'Hare Airport and there is a shuttle bus that will whisk you over to the public transportation train station if you'd like to go downtown to experience the sights of The Windy City.



Robert Emmet Day in the Park



For generations, The United Irish Societies of San Francisco has been celebrating the Irish Patriot Robert Emmet in Golden Gate Park in mid-September. Each year, Comhaltas has participated in the Commemoration.

On September 14, 2025 Comhaltas Members took part in the Parade of flags; all 32 Counties, 4 Provinces, 2 Countries to the statue of Robert Emmet which stands directly in front of the Academy of Sciences. The Parade was led by the Irish Pipers and the Pearse and Connolly Fife and Drum Band. A wreath was placed at the statue and introductions were made. All then marched back to the bandshell where the Golden Gate Park Band played a selection of Irish music which was interspersed with performances by Comhaltas dancers. Since there were no step dancers this year, Michael Murphy led our dancers in two performances. They danced to lively tunes played by the Comhaltas musicians; Erin Schrader, Richard Mandel and Dave Cory. All in all, it was a great afternoon.

Story by Connie Lynch

Additional Note: Representing the UIS each year in organizing this event is our own Connie Lynch.

Thank you Connie. Very well done!



Comhaltas Céilí



Save the dates -

November Céilí Sunday, November 9th ~ 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm.

Christmas Céilí Sunday, December 14th ~ 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

United Irish Cultural Center 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco/Sloat Blvd .

Admission: Comhaltas Members \$15, non Comhaltas members \$20. Music TBD



Song and Storytelling



Celtic singing sessions are on the first Friday of each month. They are held in people's homes around the Bay Area. Some months there is an option to join via Zoom. Start time is usually 8pm, and sessions typically go until 11pm or later.

For questions, to host, or to be added to the email list contact Patrick McEvoy: swagman@swagman.com

Upcoming sessions:

October 3rd
Michael Jones
412 Winding Way, San Carlos, CA 94070

November 7th
Tom Sleckman
San Francisco, Outer Sunset

December 5th
Imelda White
275 Lassen Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94043



Irish Language Classes



Check with Josephine Brogan at Josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-264-8856 for information on Irish Language Classes.



Branch Meetings



CCÉ Cooley-Keegan branch meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm via Zoom.

If you wish to join, or need additional information, please contact our Secretary, Patricia Reilly, at: secretary@sfcooleykeegancce.org



Community Events



The following set dance classes listed in this new section are being offered by individuals and groups and we are listing them as a public service. Please note that these classes/events are not sponsored/organized by the San Francisco Cooley-Keegan Comhaltas Branch.

Patronage at the venues are most appreciated. Alhambra Pub serves food and drinks. The Plough & Stars Pub and Shannon Arms Pub serve just drinks. Shannon Arms Pub is a cash-only establishment.



Set Dancing Lessons



Lessons are on Wednesdays:
Location: Ireland's 32,
3920 Geary Blvd., San Francisco
Time: 8:00-10:00 pm
Cost is \$10.00.

For more info contact Michael Murphy



Shannon Arms Pub Fall Céilí



Date: Saturday, OCT 11
Time: 7:00pm-10:00pm
Address: 915 Taraval Street in San Francisco
Band: TBD
Dance Styles: Set dancing, Céilí dancing, perhaps two-hands
Cost: \$15.00 per dancer



Community Events



Plough and Stars Dancing



There is set dancing at the Plough & Stars Pub on Clement Street on Thursday nights.

First Thursday will be from 8:00 pm to 11:00pm and every other Thursday 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm. There is a \$10 charge.

Band schedule:

SEP 18: Western Shore (8:30pm-10:30pm)
 SEP 25: Bog Buddies (8:30pm-10:30pm)
 OCT 02: Pigs in the Rigging (8:00pm-11:00pm)
 OCT 09: TBD (8:30pm-10:30pm)
 OCT 16: Western Shore (8:30pm-10:30pm)
 OCT 23: Ceo (8:30pm-10:30pm)
 OCT 30: Bog Buddies (8:30pm-10:30pm)

Contact Michael Murphy at
 irishboogieman67@yahoo.com or
 415-999-6062 for more information



Set Dancing in Berkeley



Mike Riemer is teaching set dance classes in Berkeley on the 3rd Friday of each month, from 7:00 to 9:00pm. (May expand to twice each month in 2026).

The focus is on footwork and style in addition to the patterns of the individual sets. Class is held in the Commons Room of University Terrace, which is on Jefferson, between Addison and Allston in Berkeley.

Email riemer@ce.berkeley.edu to get on the mailing list, ask questions or get directions.

Fall dates are
 September 19th,
 October 17th,
 November 21st, and
 December 19th.

Beginners Welcome, No Partner Necessary,
 \$5 donation requested



San Anselmo Dancing



Lead by Mícheál Minihane.

We meet the 2nd and 4th Fridays of MOST months from 7 to 9 pm. Fall dates are September 12 & 26, October 10 & 24, November 14 & 28, and December 12. The sole December date will be our Holiday Party.

Join our email list by writing to sonomarinirish@gmail.com so that you can be assured of the dates.

Beginners Welcome, No Partner Necessary,
 \$10/person requested

167 Tunstead, San Anselmo



Alhambra House Céilís



Michael Murphy organizes a céilí at Alhambra House in Redwood City.

Address: 831 Main Street in Redwood City
 Date: Sunday, Sept 28th and Oct 26th
 Time: 5:00pm-8:00pm
 RSVP's appreciated.
 Contact: Michael Murphy
 Cell: 415-999-6062
 Email: irishboogieman67@yahoo.com

The band will be Western Shore for both dates plus guest and student musicians. Dance Styles: Set dancing, Céilí dancing, perhaps two-hands

Cost: \$10 per dancer in September; it may be raised to \$15 in October



Condolences



Remembering Theresa Joyce

Theresa was a well known face and energy around CCE for many years. She was kindhearted, courageous, a very hard worker who was "All things Irish" to so many in the Community. She loved to set dance, take trips to Ireland to visit family and friends, and create beauty in her gardens as well as in others' gardens too so all could enjoy.

She never lost her "Aran Island Roots." Along with husband Patrick, they were true partners in life raising their family, working side by side.

Favorite Memories include: the céilís they so enjoyed making sure all was left right before heading home, the many CCE Conventions meeting up with family and friends gathered round the music speaking Irish all the while, plus the many years of St. Patrick's Parade float building. Patrick was up on the ladders drilling and Theresa handed up what was needed.

In recent years, Theresa addressed the Judges and crowds at the Grand Stand, in Irish, wearing her "Aran" cardigan, (naturally) from our St. Patrick's Parade float. The crowd loved it. It took her a while to be convinced but I think she was proud of herself sharing her language alongside her family and friends. Not sure what Theresa was saying but know she was sending each one of us the "very best" of greetings. God bless Theresa and all the Family. We miss Theresa very much.

Contributed by **Maureen Murphy**

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/obituaries/theresa-joyce-oakland-ca/>



Condolences



Theresa Joyce

With much sadness, Theresa Joyce passed away on Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025, surrounded by her family at Oakland's Kaiser Hospital. Theresa was born on Inis Meáin, Aran Islands, Co. Galway in 1947 and at the age of 17 she emigrated to Boston, MA. It was in Boston where she met her husband, Patrick Joyce (1943 – 2013), also, from the Aran Islands. Patrick and Theresa settled in Oakland, CA, where they raised their four children, Diane, Sarah, David, and Linda.

Theresa and Pat were avid set dancers and active members of Comhaltas. They participated in the building of the SF St Patrick's Day Parade Comhaltas float every year and Theresa was proud to introduce Comhaltas as Gaeilge (in Irish) from the float to the judging stand during the parade. Theresa thoroughly enjoyed attending Comhaltas events and appreciated the many friendships she developed over the years with her fellow set dancers and members. Theresa was a very caring, considerate, and generous friend who did innumerable quite acts of kindness. She will be sorely missed.

We send out heartfelt sympathy to Theresa's children: Diane (Ernie), Sarah, David (Ratih), Linda (Mikol), and her grandchildren: Sophia, Quinn Alvarado; Aran, Patrick, Luke Joyce; Brayden, Ashley, and Caine Forth.

Beannacht Dé lena h-anam (God bless her soul).

Contributed by **Martin Giles**



Condolences



Terri Leonard

We fondly remember and keep in our prayers another wonderful supporter and friend of Comhaltas and our branch, Terri Leonard, who sadly passed away on February 8, 2025. Terri was a proud native of Killorglin, County Kerry. From the early days of our branch, Terri was active in the Comhaltas Concerts from Ireland and was one of the first to volunteer to host whomever we needed.

Many a dancer, singer, storyteller and musician found genuine hospitality in their home in South San Francisco. Terri LOVED to dance and seldom missed an event at the United Irish Cultural Center. In her retirement, Terri was a charming volunteer hostess at the UICC at lunchtime. Everyone was welcomed with a warm greeting and lovely smile. Terri's pride and joy were her two daughters, Maureen and Kathleen and her grandchildren in San Francisco and Ireland. She took every opportunity to travel back to Killorglin and loved spending time with all of them on both sides of the ocean.

We send our sincere condolences to Terri's brother and our stalwart member, Joe Galvin, daughters Maureen and Kathleen and grandchildren, niece and nephew Margaret and Johnny Dillon, and dear friends, Nora O'Sullivan and Sheila Purcell. May her gentle soul rest in peace.

Contributed by **Joannie O'Leary**



Condolences



Teresa Hallinan

We mourn the loss of another of our faithful and enthusiastic supporters at the passing of Mrs. Teresa Hallinan on September 8, 2025 at the grand age of 99 years young. A native of Cloonanaha, Inagh, County Clare, Teresa did everything in her power to foster the love of Irish Traditions and human kindness. She lived every day exemplifying the traits of her nursing career and when she retired you could find her serving meals at St. Anthony's Dining Room. Many a family in our community would know the quiet presence of Teresa with her rosary beads at the bedside of their loved one, in hospital or at home.

Teresa's house always had an open door and an extra bed for anyone visiting...should they be an Irish football or hurling player, members of the Comhaltas Concerts in the early days (1980's), a neighbor or friend brought in by her children, Susan, Mary and Michael, or just any of us to pop in for "a cuppa" and a good chat. "Hallinan's basement" on 18th Avenue was the scene of many a great party over the years along with her husband, "Benjoe", where "the craic" was mighty and the Irish Bread, sandwiches and tea ever-ready.

During her "twilight years" Teresa remained well-loved and cared for, especially by her children, grandchildren and good friends. She was always energized by a lively tune or familiar ballad or song. We can truly say we will never see the likes of her again. Rest in Peace, Teresa.

Contributed by **Joannie O'Leary**



Condolences



PJ Gannon - St. Louis Irish Arts CCÉ

Our sincere sympathy to Helen Gannon and family on the passing of her husband, PJ Gannon on August 25th, 2025. Helen and PJ were founders of St. Louis Irish Arts School of Music and Dance, Inc. Over 50 years, thousands of students would learn traditional Irish music, dance, language, and poetry. The late Barb Southworth would head off to a Convention hoping to get in a few tunes with PJ. In the earlier years, Helen, PJ and their committee hosted wonderful Conventions and spared no effort in making us welcome.

Contributed by **Josephine Brogan**



Condolences



We extend our prayers and condolences to Josephine Brennan and family on the passing of her sister Margaret (Mags) Lynch, Valentia Island, Co. Kerry. May she rest in peace.



SF Cooley-Keegan Comhaltas Membership 2026



TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2026 CCÉ – SF COOLEY-KEEGAN MEMBERSHIP

Please renew your membership NOW.

The Membership list is our way of advising you of information on upcoming events & sending you the Treoir magazine 3 times a year.

Membership is effective January 1st to December 31st.

However, 2026 Memberships info is due in Ireland to be recorded before the end of October, so please take action NOW.

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

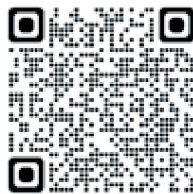
If you receive the Scéal Eile by U.S. mail, a renewal form with your name is included in this September/October/ November/ December Scéal Eile. Please make any necessary changes and mail it along with your check to our PO Box shown below. (Please note we do not bill.)

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 Thank you for your support. CCÉ Membership, Attn: Joannie O'Leary, PO Box 16244, San Francisco, CA 94116

You will also receive an email reminder from Josephine Brogan to renew.



Social Media



Instagram



*Irish Culture
Bay Area*

Use the QR code above or the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064373092151>

<https://www.instagram.com/sfcooleykeegan?igsh=MTIya>

<https://www.meetup.com/irishdance/>

<https://irishculturebayarea.com/>



Set Dancing



Mondays:

- Starry Plough in Berkeley: Céilí dancing on Mondays. Lessons from 7-9pm live music from 9-11pm.
Contact: Danny Botello mr.dannyb@gmail.com or Michael Rael michaelbpr@gmail.com

Wednesdays:

- Ireland's 32 for lessons. Contact: Michael Murphy at irishboogiemanager67@yahoo.com or 415-999-6062

1st Thursday: Plough and Stars in San Francisco at 8pm.

2nd through last Thursdays:

- Plough and Stars in San Francisco at 8:30pm.
Contact: Michael Murphy at irishboogiemanager67@yahoo.com or 415-999-6062

2nd and 4th Fridays:

- 167 Tunstead Ave, San Anselmo: From 7-9pm.
Contact: Nellie at sonomarinirish@gmail.com

3rd Friday:

- Berkeley: From 7-9pm.
Contact: riemer@ce.berkeley.edu to get on the mailing list, ask questions or get directions.

4th Sunday:

- Alhambra House in Redwood City
Contact: Michael Murphy at irishboogiemanager67@yahoo.com or 415-999-6062



Seisiún



Song and Storytelling Seisiún: Held on the first Friday of each month,
See **Song and Storytelling** section for details.

COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OF
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P.O. Box 16244
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