

SCÉAL ÉILE

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

Chair's Message

A Chairde,

It's happening and we're back on course. The CCE North American Convention is finally coming to San Francisco in April 2022. Our Convention runs from April 21st to 24th, 2022. So, now we're getting ready to welcome you all, with open arms, helping hands and hugs at the ready, to an amazing weekend lineup of music, song, dance and above all "craic".

Our venue is the Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Foster City, just 7 miles south of the San Francisco International Airport. The hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport, along with free parking.

Please visit www.cceconvention2022.com for more details, including links to Hotel Reservations and Weekend package purchase.

Slán,
Josephine Brennan
Chair

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@ieee.org

Events each Month

No events

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 November 2nd and December 7th via zoom (and thereafter, the first Tuesday of the month). All members are encouraged to attend

Contact secretary@sccooleykeegancce.org for more information.



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)



Results of the BIG DRAW 2020



The 2020 Big Drawing was held in Ireland in June 2021 and we are delighted that our own Deirdre McNamara won the 7th Prize: A Collection of 10 Traditional Music CDs & DVDs.

Comhaltas allowed all branches to keep 100% of the proceeds for this particular draw only. As a result, we made a profit of \$425.71 towards our Convention. Thanks you to all who participated!!



We had our "local draw" on June 5, 2021 at "Wawona Gates" at the U.I.C.C. Supervising the proceedings were (left to right) Patricia Culhane, Cathy Mibach, Dan McAuliffe, Katherine Scanlon and Don Mibach.

Our "local winners" of \$25.00 each were: Kasey Curtin, Michael Jones, Connie Lynch, Terry Ritts.



BIG DRAW 2021



In an effort to help CCE branches take advantage of this fund-raising event the 2021 Draw will be in **November**.

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE AND ***BIG NEWS*** ALL PRIZES FOR THE 2021 DRAW ARE BEING AWARDED IN CASH!!!

The prizes being offered for 2021 are:

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

Tickets are \$5.00 each and our branch keeps 80% of the ticket price. We will also again have our own "Local Draw" for four prizes of \$25.00 each. Thanks to those who have already bought 2021 tickets.

You may purchase 2021 Big Draw Tickets as follows:

1) Send your check payable to CCÉ 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 on-line, securely using PayPal:
https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=53N73WUNPF3MU.

Please purchase your tickets asap as we must return the stubs to Ireland in time for the November drawing. We apologize that we have not had an opportunity to publicly announce this before now.

For more information contact: Joannie O'Leary at (415-279-7359) joannieoleary@msn.com



Congratulations



Congratulations and Best Wishes to Sean O'Donnell and Kerrin McKenney on their recent wedding. May they have a long and happy life together.



Congratulations and Best Wishes to Áine and Abram on their new Baby girl, Nóra Lili Smith pictured here with her brother, Tadhg.



Congratulations to Katherine Scanlon on her 90th birthday!! Katherine is a long-time member and supporter of Comhaltas and helps with the organizing and mailing of each issue of our Sceal Eile. In pre-Covid times when we held ceilis and concerts, she was one of the friendly faces at the door and her Jello-pudding cake was a favorite, enjoyed by all. Wren Boys Night is her Christmas party. Family and friends gathered at the U.I.C.C. on September 19th to celebrate Katherine being 90 year young. Good Health and Congratulations to a special lady!!



Community Announcements



We are including the following as a Community Announcements for your information:

Set Dancing In The Park!

Less than seven months until the convention, so time for more set dancing! Sunday, October 31st outdoors at a park on the peninsula at 900 Chestnut St, San Carlos. 20 mins walk from San Carlos Caltrain. Will reserve a picnic site. Surface will be concrete and/or grass. Live Music! Sliding scale of \$5-\$10 (or more if you want!): all money will go to the musicians.

Meet 1pm, dancing starts at 1:30pm. Fully vaccinated people only, masks optional. Spread the word: this is open to all vaccinated people, including beginners. Calling by whoever shows up and wants to call.

Email Michael Jones (mfj@ieee.org) for final information.

This is an experiment... if enough people show up we will likely do it again.

Two-hand dancing classes and more...

Michael Dillon, who taught lively two-hand dances in early summer would like everyone to know..."Building from the amazing success of our "two hands of Ireland" series, we are back, revisiting the twos, adding threes, half sets and I'm excited to say, whatever the mood takes us. Dust off the covid blues, come on down to the UICC and get fit in a fun way.

All Welcome - Beginner to Advanced. Just \$10. Drop in fee. Starting, Wednesday, October 6, 2021 - 8:00 - 9:15pm".

Fairfax Festival

The 10th Annual Fairfax Irish Festival of Music & Dance will take place on the weekend of October 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 2021 in the town of Fairfax in Marin County. The Bay Area's finest musicians and dancers will be performing jigs, reels, hornpipes, polkas, waltzes and more.

Comhaltas dancers will join in the fun. Sweet voices and the sounds of dancing shoes will be heard all over the town in the bars, restaurants, stores, tea houses and community building and The Pavillion throughout the weekend. This is a free event and you can easily walk around town from venue to venue. Come and enjoy an Irish Fleadh Cheoil (festival of music), Fairfax style.

Please visit the website for venues, schedules and additional information:

Web link: fairfaxirishfestival.com



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



2022 Membership Renewal



October marks the start of our 2022 Membership Drive.

We ask that you renew your membership now, if possible, so we may report it to Ireland by mid-November. We realize this may be a challenge for some of our members who have been hit hard this year, between the pandemic and natural disasters that have befallen us. We appreciate whatever you can do to help us keep up the momentum and work towards future activities.

Membership is effective January 1st to December 31st.

If you receive the Scéal Eile by email link, 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. You will also receive an email reminder from Josephine Brogan to renew.

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

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

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! 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.



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 will resume on Saturday, November 20th for four weeks via Zoom with Imelda White from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. (note new beginning time).

Registration in advance is required.

For further information, please contact JosephineBrogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415- 264-8856.

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 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.

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>

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

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 ceilis, 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>

Condolences

Condolences to Bill Ngai who lost his mother earlier this year.

Koon Shue Ngai lived in New York. She was 100 years old when she passed away in March 2021 from COVID.

She is survived by two sons, a daughter, 4 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren.

We are so sorry for your loss, Bill.

Condolences

Our condolences to Cathy Jones and Family on the recent passing of her dear Sister in Ireland, Theresa Boyle.

Heard tell she was a great woman of hospitality and made you feel right at home.

We know she will be greatly missed by all the family.



In Memorium



Our sincere sympathy to Jonathan Coxhead and Jenny on the recent passing of his Dad, Roy Coxhead, in England. He was a long-standing printing industry journalist and former Printweek columnist who was described as a “people person”. Mr. Coxhead died on 17 May 2021 at age 90. He is survived by Pat, his wife of 63 years, their sons Jonathan and Gavin and three grandchildren Joe, George and Sarah. May he rest in peace.



A Parting Glass for Harold.... For those who could come to honor Harold, we all agreed it was a time and space so befitting Harold, he would've loved it. From the Mass at St. Justins' Church presided by long-time friend, Fr. Gene O'Donnell, to the music aura amongst the trees provided by Julie Horner, David Chadwick, Art Friedman, Galt, Conal & Tadgh Barber and others, singing Galway Bay, to the great sharing of food & drink amongst friends after so long. We thank Cathy, Susan & David for gathering us in the Glen to raise our glasses and toast our friend, Harold. May God Bless.
<http://idonotlike.tv/2021/Harold.mp4>



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.

2021 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)

2021 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)

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