

# SCÉAL ÉILE

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



## Chair's Message



A Chairde,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer.

It's been a pleasure to have served as Chairperson of the Branch for the past six years. It was a busy time with Convention Planning, which started in 2017 and ended in April 2022. We were disappointed when we had to cancel the planned Convention in April 2020 due to Covid- 19, but we ploughed through and hosted a very successful Convention in April 2022.

I will not be seeking re-election as Chairperson at our upcoming AGM.

If you ever thought about becoming involved in the running of the Branch now is the time to do so. Our AGM will be held, via Zoom, on November 1st starting at 7:30pm. Please renew your Comhaltas membership for 2023 prior to the end of October. This is the deadline for us to submit all memberships to Ireland for the year 2023. See detailed information in this edition of the Scéal.

Slán,

Josephine Brennan  
Chair



### November Night Céilí



Please join us for a Céilí on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the United Irish Cultural Center from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Admission is \$15.

Music by the Sourdough Ceili Band



### Christmas Céilí



Please join us for a Céilí on Sunday, December 11th at the United Irish Cultural Center from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Admission \$15.

Music by the Golden Gate Ceili Band. Feel free to bring your favorite dessert (try to keep it to finger-food only), to share.



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)



## Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann 2023 Convention



The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Comhaltas North America will be celebrated in grand style when "THE CONVENTION" 2023 is hosted by the O'Neill-Malcolm Branch of Washington, D.C.

The date has been set for June 29 - July 2, 2023 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

Due to the high popularity of this area as a visitors center, Comhaltas has made an exception to allow this Convention to be held at a later date in order to secure a better room rate and availability. We hope many of you will consider going. You can sign up for updates at the following link:

<https://www.ccepotomac.org/convention2023.html>



## Plough and Stars Dancing



Set dancing has resumed at the Plough & Stars Bar on Clement Street on most 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 [irishboogiemanager67@yahoo.com](mailto:irishboogiemanager67@yahoo.com) or 415-999-6062 for more information or watch out for an email from Josephine Brogan.



## San Anselmo Dancing



After a summer break, we have resumed classes in San Anselmo on the second and fourth Fridays of each month from 7-9 pm. Classes are held at the Brosnan School of Irish Dance at 11B Belle Ave, San Anselmo, and there is a \$10/person requested donation to help pay for the space. Tea and treats are served after.

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 attendees. Email [sonomarinirish@gmail.com](mailto:sonomarinirish@gmail.com) with questions or to be added to the email list.



## Fairfax Irish Festival



The town of Fairfax in Marin County will be having its 11th Fairfax Irish Festival of Music and Dance on October 21, 22, and 23. Bars, restaurants, and community buildings all over town will host music, singing, and dancing events, and one can walk from one to another.

The lineup this year includes many of the Bay Area's finest musicians and dancers. The full schedule can be found at [fairfaxirishfestival.com](http://fairfaxirishfestival.com). There are no cover charges to attend, but patronage of the hosting establishments is very much appreciated.



## Wren Boys 2022



A Wren Boys celebration is planned on St. Stephen's Day on Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Not all details have been confirmed, but we will meet at 6:15pm on December 26<sup>th</sup> at the Murphy house at 1959 17th Avenue between Ortega and Pacheco Streets in San Francisco.

All other details will be released via Josephine Brogan's email announcements. Main contact:  
Michael Murphy 415-999-6062 [irishboogiemanager67@yahoo.com](mailto:irishboogiemanager67@yahoo.com)

Due to the recent Covid pandemic, there may be some changes which may affect whom we visit and how we visit houses and pubs.

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

## Irish Language Classes

We took a break from the Irish Language Class for the Summer and we are planning to resume November 19th.

For further information and pre registration, please contact Josephine Brogan at [josephinebrogan@yahoo.com](mailto:josephinebrogan@yahoo.com) or 415-264-8856.

## Branch Meetings

CCÉ Cooley-Keegan branch meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm via zoom. The next branch meeting, which is our AGM, will be held on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Our December Meeting will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to join, please contact our Secretary, Patricia Reilly at [secretary@sfcooleykeegance.org](mailto:secretary@sfcooleykeegance.org)

Contact [secretary@sfcooleykeegance.org](mailto:secretary@sfcooleykeegance.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->

## 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 “CCÉ Night” which were very successful. 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>

## Events each Month

**No events**

## Feadh Fesc 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/irishdance) at the following URL:

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



## 2023 Membership Renewal



### TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2023 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. By the way, the most recent Treoir gave great coverage to our Convention with lots of photos!

Membership is effective January 1st to December 31st. However, 2023 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](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 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.) The date shown on your address label indicates when you are paid up to. (i.e., “2023 means you are paid up for 2022 and need to renew for 2023.)

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@sfcooleykeegan.cce.org](mailto:membership@sfcooleykeegan.cce.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.



## Treoir Magazine From Ireland



As a benefit of your 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 which you should have received by August contains a wonderful review and a wealth of photos of our 2022 convention. (Photos courtesy of Ena Doocey, CCÉ Photographer. We do apologize that the editors did not verify the names/spellings under the photos before publication and regret that some are incorrect. Thank you for your understanding.)



## 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 Voices



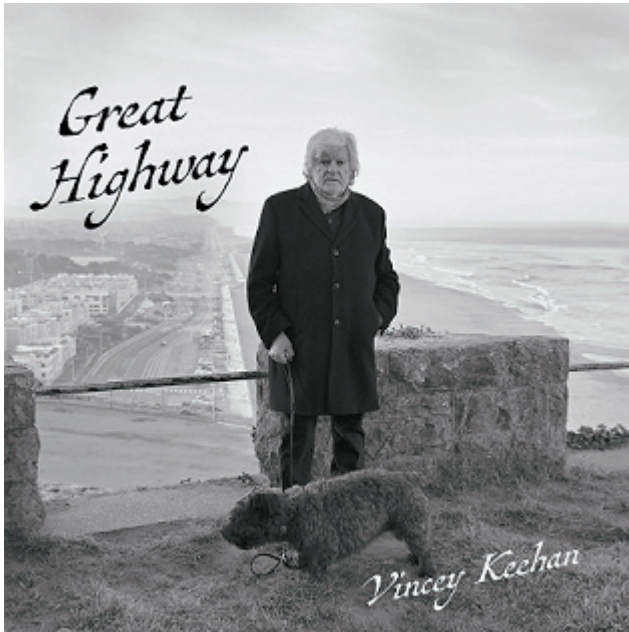
Our old friend and member, Donagh McKeown sends his best wishes from Ireland.

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.

Tune into Donagh’s radio show on Saturdays at 2 pm Pacific Time on [www.gir.ie](http://www.gir.ie)



## Community News



### Local Irish Folk Musician Vincey Keehan Releases New Album

Congratulations Vincey on your new album. We wish you every success for the future.

The album will be available to listen everywhere on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> so follow Vincey on Spotify or your streaming service of choice to get notified when the album is live at <https://open.spotify.com/artist/6a3a5jtKS6wLPmTavnbfgz>



## West Region Meeting



The 2022 West Region Meeting will be hosted by the Craobh Barry Cogan in San Diego on Saturday, October 22nd at 11:00 am in Vice Chair, Susan Boyle's home.

This will be attended in person and virtually by members of the seven West Region branches. The meeting will be available on ZOOM and is open to all current members.

If you are interested in attending, please email Joannie ([joannieoleary@msn.com](mailto:joannieoleary@msn.com)) by Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. The Zoom link will be sent to you during the week...but only to those who contact Joannie by the requested date. WE CANNOT ACCOMMODATE LAST-MINUTE REQUESTS.

There will be a Ceili that evening in Old Town San Diego.



## Volunteers



### THE BRANCH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The volunteer response for our convention was outstanding. It would be wonderful to see the same participation going forward. The current officers have been serving for quite a long time and need help with some of the tasks and events required to keep the branch going.

We will be holding our Election of Officers for 2023 at the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. We will also be actively seeking members to come forward to assist in the day to day running of the branch which is critical for its survival.

We are deeply indebted to our outgoing Chair, Josephine Brennan, who has superbly led us as Branch Chair and Convention Chair over the past six years. Her excellent leadership was one of the main reasons our convention was so successful and enjoyable.

Thank you, Josephine, for your unwavering dedication to our branch and wishing you all the best for the future.



## Member News



Wishing Kasey Curtin a speedy recovery after her knee surgery. You'll be back to dancing soon Kasey!

We are all very happy to see Cathy Mibach up and around enjoying life so soon after her recent surgery. You're a mighty woman!!

Sending our best wishes to Julia Howard. Missing both herself and Martin at various events in the Irish Community. They are great supporters and have always greatly enjoyed the traditional music, song and dance.



## Get Well Wishes



Sending Get Well Wishes to Maldon Meehan who is undergoing treatment for cancer and surgery in November. We will keep her in our thoughts and prayers.



## Condolences



Mary Hill-Connor (Four Peaks Irish Arts Branch, Arizona)

Our sincere condolences to Mary Hill-Connor's husband, Tom and daughters, Aisling and Siobhan and extended family on her recent passing. Mary was the driving force in forming the Comhaltas Branch in Phoenix, Four Peaks Irish Arts with Tom ever at her side. A proud Clare woman, Mary was instrumental in establishing the Sister City relationship between Ennis and Phoenix. As the photo below indicates, Tom and Mary were great hosts to us during the two West Region meetings in Phoenix. She was a wonderful person, always so full of life and what fun to be around. She will be greatly missed.



We were saddened to hear of the passing of our long-time member and supporter, Paul Reynolds. Paul resided in Santa Rosa but was always faithful in coming to our ceilis and volunteering at our events over the years. He loved to waltz and to chat about Ireland where he visited often. May Paul rest in peace.

Our fondest memories of Maeve Devlin in the "olden" days of Comhaltas was the family trek from Santa Cruz area, including husband Tom and Angela, to our monthly Sunday night ceilis in the St. Francis room at the Center.

Maeve and Angela were always on the floor for her favorite, "The High Cauleed Cap". There was a great sense of fun and devilment. Maeve maintained her sense of humor through the years and stayed in touch.

Our sincere condolences to Peggy, Jim, Pat, Danny and Sean O'Donnell and their extended family on the passing of their dear mother and grandmother, Peg Carroll. Mrs. Carroll and her late husband Tom lived in the Sunset District most of their lives, where they raised their four children. They were blessed to be a close, loving family and were constant visitors to Peg when she moved to the Villa Sienna Retirement Community. We pray for her eternal rest.

Remembering Maeve, at Sue Sweeney's Birthday Party, in Scotts Valley only a few years back. Angela and her sisters and family made sure Maeve made the rounds visiting friends and attending parties. We extend our sympathy to them in their loss. Maeve you will be missed by all.



**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: PATRICIA 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)

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