

OCT/ NOV/ DEC 2026

DEIREADH FÓMHAIR / SAMHAIN/ NOLLAIG

SCÉAL ÉILE

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

Chair's Message

A Chairde,

Happy Autumn to you all! I hope the summer brought you relaxation and good times with family and friends.

Now we can look forward to the Fairfax Irish Festival in October and our two annual céilís, which are scheduled for Sundays, November 8th and December 13th. Mark your calendars!

At the Lark In The Morning music and dance camp this summer, a number of young people from the Berkeley area came for the first time and truly enjoyed themselves. They sing, dance, and are full of energy. If you meet any of these new faces at events in the fall, encourage them to join our activities. They are enthusiastic youngsters!

I hope to see you on the dance floor or at a singing session soon!

Slán,

Susan Keith,
Chair

Sean Nós/Set Dance Workshops

Maldon Meehan came down from Portland in June and taught a sean nós dance class at the UICC. About 14 people attended the two hour class. She showed some steps that can be used for solo dancing, but can also be incorporated into sets. Later in the week, she also led a set dance workshop in Berkeley.

Two sets worth of folks attended and learned a new set. Music was provided by Colúr, with Autumn Rhodes and Ben Roberts playing a lively set of tunes.



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)



A new event happened in San Francisco for two days in August. It was an immersive living history event that recreated the early Gold Rush era in SF. It was produced by Red Barn Productions (the team behind the Dickens Fair) and the SF Historical Society. The UICC became involved and built the Dowling Library, a reproduction of an inviting room where people could learn about their Irish roots in SF.

A tip of the hat and special thanks to Susan Keith and Michael Murphy who, with very short notice, organized and led the performance and social dancing. Thanks to all the dancers who welcomed the audience participation.

Some CCÉ set dancers performed on both days. They showcased figures from three sets and then opened up the dancing to include the audience for a few céilí dances. Participants enjoyed themselves and thanked CCÉ for the experience.

Live music was provided by Valerie Rose, Dave Cory, and Michelle Tan on Saturday and Autumn Rhodes, Richard Mandel, Erin Schrader, and Dave Cory on Sunday.

The organizers hope to expand the event next year and run for two to four weekends. Let CCÉ know if you are interested in participating!



CCÉ West Region Annual General Meeting



Join us for the CCÉ West Region Annual General Meeting Saturday, October 10, 2026 at 1 - 3 pm on Zoom

Branches in Comhaltas North America are divided into regions. If you went to the Buffalo Convention in April 2024, it was hosted by the North East Region. St. Louis Irish Arts and the Murphy-Roche Branch of Chicago are part of the MidWest Region.

Our West Region, headed by Chair Jim Belcher, is comprised of four branches: The Barry Crogan Branch of San Diego, The Mícheál Ó Domhnaill Branch of Oregon, the Puget Sound Branch in Washington and our own SF Cooley-Keegan Branch.

Due to the vast area between the West branches, we meet during the year over Zoom to share ideas on artists who may be coming to our area, set dance and sean nós classes (Maldon Meehan visited us during the year) and many other activities involving Irish music, song, dance and language.

If you go to the CCÉ Conventions, you know that several branches or regions in North America take turns hosting them. The 2027 Convention (now called the “Comhaltas Cultural Experience”) will be hosted by the Canadian Eastern Region in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Although it seems like ages ago now, San Francisco hosted in 2022 under the leadership of Josephine Brennan after the 2020 event was cancelled due to the pandemic.

If this “Comhaltas Cultural Experience” is to continue, all Regions need to step up and more than likely band together in their region to host. Our West Region has been asked to consider hosting this at or near the site of one of our branches within the next 3-4 years. As members, your input and help is needed in this discussion.

Please make time to attend by Zoom on Saturday, October 10th at 1pm. Email Susan (chair@sfcooleykeegancce.org); Josephine (pr@sfcooleykeegancce.org) or Joannie (vicechair@sfcooleykeegancce.org) so we can send you the Zoom link.



Discover Irish Language



Irish Language Classes - Fall 2026 with Mary Connolly

10 Saturdays beginning September 26, 2026 through December 5, 2026
At the United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco at Sloat Blvd.

\$150.00 per person

The classes are supported in part by a generous donation from the Theresa Joyce Memorial Fund through the San Francisco Cooley Keegan Branch of Comhaltas Ceoiltoirí Éireann and the 2026 UICC Annual Appeal Fund.

Register here at “Reserve Your Spot” to ensure participation:
<https://irishcentersf.org/event/fall-2026-irish-language-classes/2026-09-26>



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



Comhaltas Céilí



Save the dates:

November Céilí: Sunday, November 8th ~ 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Christmas Céilí: Sunday, December 13th ~ 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco at 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 added to the email list contact Patrick McEvoy: swagman@swagman.com



Comhaltas Cultural Experience 2027



Save the date for next year's Comhaltas Cultural Experience (It is not called a convention anymore.)

Comhaltas Cultural Experience 2027 is a celebration of Ireland in North America sponsored by CCÉ Canada East Region. It will be held in Toronto from April 1st-4th.

For information including hotel reservations visit <https://www.bloomtickets.ca/event/1006>



Comhaltas West Region News



We wish our friend and musician, Judy Carlstrom, of the San Diego Craobh Barry Cogan all the best in her recovery. While a dedicated member of this branch, Judy also volunteers at the San Diego Natural History Museum in invertebrate paleontology. She spent 12 weeks helping to ID fossil shells and has recently published a book entitled "The Seashells of San Diego County and the Animals Within: A Beginner's Guide."

For details of the events in the San Diego Branch in case you are in the area check out their website: <https://www.sandiegocomhaltas.org>



Fairfax Irish Festival



This year's Fairfax Irish Festival will be held the weekend of October 16-18. A look back at previous years can be found at fairfaxirishfestival.com. When this year's schedule is finalized, it will be found there as well.

On the Saturday afternoon, Mícheál Minihaue will have a group demonstrating dancing and will be inviting audience participation for parts of it. Please join us!"



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.



Plough and Stars Dancing



Address: 116 Clement Street between 2nd & 3rd Avenues in San Francisco

When: Every Thursday

Times: First Thursday (8-11pm); All other Thursdays: 8:30-10:30pm

Cost: \$10 minimum. (A little extra for the band is helpful and appreciated.)

Other details: Patronage of the bar is appreciated. If a new dancer, the best way to approach is to ease into the dancing. Wednesday lessons are advised to potential Plough dancers who've never seen Irish set dancing before. LIVE MUSIC.

Oct 8: Pigs in the Rigging

Oct 15: TBD

Oct 22: Yellowfoot Céilí Band

Oct 29: Barry O'Connell and Vinny Cronin

Contact Michael Murphy

Text/phone: (415) 999-6062 for more information

Email: irishboogieman67@yahoo.com



Set Dancing Lessons at Ireland's 32



Events upstairs at Ireland's 32

Address: 3920 Geary Blvd. between 3rd & 4th Avenues in San Francisco

Lessons every Wednesday

Time: 8-10pm

Cost: \$10 per dancer

Contact: Michael Murphy

Text/phone: (415) 999-2062

Email: irishboogieman67@yahoo.com

Other details: No partner needed. All levels are welcome, but the instructor will cater more to beginning-level and new dancers. Patronage of the bar downstairs is greatly appreciated (does not have to be alcoholic). RSVP's are greatly encouraged.



Shannon Arms



The Shannon Arms Pub Fall Ceili is scheduled for Saturday, October 24th.

Time: 7-10pm

Cost: \$15 per dancer

Address: 915 Taraval Street between 19th and 20th Avenues in San Francisco

Band: Barry O'Connell, Vinny Cronin and Dave Cory

Contact: Michael Murphy (415) 999-6062.



Community Events



San Anselmo Dance Class



Led by Mícheál Minihañe and occasional guest teachers.

We meet the 2nd and 4th Fridays of MOST months from 7 to 9 pm. Join our email list by writing to sonomarinirish@gmail.com so that you can be assured of the dates.

167 Tunstead Avenue, San Anselmo

Additional information about our group can be found at sonomarinirish.weebly.com.

Beginners welcome
No Partner Necessary
\$10/person requested

Dates for autumn are:
October 9 & 23
November 13 & 27
December 11 (holiday party)

SAVE THE DATE: There is a Marin Céilí being planned for October 24, 6pm to 9pm.



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.

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.

For further information, and to sign up in advance for the next Berkeley class, please visit:

https://www.bx.psu.edu/~cathy/event_reg/set_dance/

Fall dates are: October 16th and November 20th

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



O'Reilly's Irish Pub Set Dancing



Yevgeny Binder leads a beginner-friendly class once a month, normally on the 2nd Sunday (see website), followed by open dancing to a live band. No partner required.

Next dates: October 11, November 1, and December 6

\$10+ requested donation to musicians.

Website: sundays.irishdancesf.com

RSVP on the website is REQUIRED to attend

5pm (sharp!) – Beginner-friendly lessons
6 - 9pm – Dancing to live music

O'Reilly's Irish Pub, 1840 Haight St, SF 94117
Arrive 30 minutes early to find parking.

Bring your friends!



Alhambra House Céilís



Address: 831 Main Street in Redwood City

When: LAST Sundays of each month

The next dates: Oct 25th, Nov 22nd

Time: 5-8pm

Cost: \$15 per dancer

LIVE MUSIC mostly by Western Shore band

Other details: This venue serves food. Kitchen closes at 8pm. Patronage greatly appreciated. RSVP's are requested. Mostly Irish Set Dancing is done, but Céilí dancing (long Céilí and Céilí figure styles) and two-hand dances are featured too. Beginner-friendly.

RSVPs to Michael Murphy (contact info above)



SF Cooley-Keegan Memberships



TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2027 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 from Ireland 3 times a year. Membership is effective January 1st to December 31st. However, 2027 Memberships info must be sent to 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 online 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.)

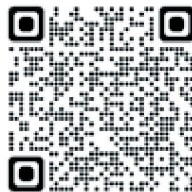
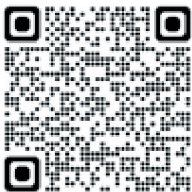
Single Membership: \$40.00 Multi-Membership: \$50.00 (2 or more in household or family)

If you have any questions, please contact Joannie at 415-279-7359 or membership@sfcooleykeegancce.org Thank you for your support.

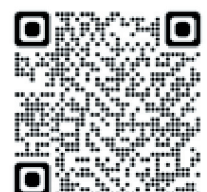
*CCÉ Membership, Attn: Joannie O'Leary, PO Box 16244, San Francisco, CA 94116 · You will also receive an email reminder from Josephine Brogan to renew.



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 and Seisiún



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 From 8-11pm.

2nd through last Thursdays:

- Plough and Stars in San Francisco From 8:30-10:30pm.
Contact: Michael Murphy at irishboogiemanager67@yahoo.com or 415-999-6062

1st Friday:

- Song and Storytelling Seisiún
See **Song and Storytelling** section for details.

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.

2nd Sunday:

- O'Reilly's Irish Pub, 1840 Haight St, SF 94117 From 5-9pm
Info: sundays.irishdancesf.com

Last Sunday:

- Alhambra House in Redwood City From 5-8pm
Contact: Michael Murphy at irishboogiemanager67@yahoo.com or 415-999-6062

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