

SCÉAL ÉILE

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

Events this Month

Comhaltas Night with Live Irish Music - CCÉ normally hosts a night of dancing at the UICC on the third Saturday of the month. For the holiday season these will be replaced by the West Region Céilí on November 15th and the Christmas Céilí on December 7th. See attached flyers for details. Our normal schedule will resume in January 2015.

San Francisco - On Thursdays, CCÉ hosts classes at the UICC starting at 7:30pm followed by more dancing at the Plough & Stars until midnight -- except for the first Thursday of the month when there is no class, dancing is at the Plough & Stars from 8-11pm. \$5 donation suggested. Contact: Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or (415) 681-4803.

South Bay/ Peninsula - On Tuesdays we meet at Lilly Mac's in Sunnyvale. Lessons: 7:30pm; Dance to live music 8-10pm. \$5 donation suggested. Info: Michael Murphy at (415) 999-6062.

North Bay - Mary McDonagh and Micheal Minihane teach set dancing on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at Brosnan School of Irish Dance from 7-9pm. There is a \$5 donation suggested for this class. Tea and cakes or sweets will be served. Contact: Mary McDonagh at cladaghdancer@gmail.com or Micheal Minihane michealminihane@yahoo.com.

East Bay - Céilí dancing is hosted at the Starry Plough in Berkeley on Mondays. Lessons from 7-9pm and dancing to live music from 9-11pm. Contact: John Slaymaker at john@starryploughceili.com.

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

Wren Boys 2014

This year's Wren Boys festivities will start at 6:30pm on Friday December 26th at the Murphy Residence, 1959 17th Avenue between Ortega and Pacheco Streets in San Francisco. Volunteer drivers are appreciated.

Dressed mostly like farmers in disguises of all kinds, we will be visiting houses and pubs, dancing sets and céilí dances and perhaps singing a chorus or two of Irish and/or Christmas songs. We will recite the Wren verse:

*The wren, the wren,
the king of all birds,
On St. Stephen's Day
was caught in the furze*

*From bush to bush
And tree to tree
On Donoughmore Cross
He broke his knee
We brought him here
To the holly bush
Holly and I are well set up
And the man of the house
Is in very good luck.*

*I have a little pot
Under me arm
A penny or two
Will do it no harm.
Up with the kettle
And down with the pan
Give us a penny
To bury the wren.*

For more information contact Michael Murphy at (415) 999-6062.



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 ON THE WEB AT [HTTP://SF.CCEWEST.ORG](http://sf.ccewest.org)



CCÉ West Region - Music, Song and Dance



The West Region Annual General Meeting, hosted by the SF Cooley-Keegan Branch will be held at the United Irish Cultural Center on Saturday, November 15th. The SF Cooley-Keegan, Phoenix, Four Peaks Irish Arts and Puget Sound CCÉ make up the U.S. West Region of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. We meet once a year to discuss matters relevant to our branches in Comhaltas, to get re-acquainted and have some fun!!!!

We will have Tom Connor and Mary Hill Connor from the Phoenix Branch, and Jim Belcher from Seattle. Please make plans to attend. All members are welcome to the AGM (Annual General Meeting).

Events for Saturday, November 15th:

1pm-3pm -- West Region AGM - St. Francis Room - UICC

4pm-8pm -- Informal music/song session at UICC bar /main dining room area. All Welcome, there is no cover charge.

5pm -- Group dinner -- set menu with 3 selections; set price to be paid with reservation in advance.

Everyone pays for their own drinks and dessert. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Joannie O'Leary at (415) 664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com. Dinner reservation deadline is November 14th at noon. There is a maximum of 30 places for dinner, so call early!

8pm-11pm -- We will have our November Night céilí with Miliosa & Rich Lundy and Friends' Band with set and céilí dancing in the St. Francis Room. Bring your dance shoes! See flyer.

Members and friends are very welcome to the dinner, session and céilí.



Song and Storytelling



The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Marian and Greg McKenna on November 7th

777 San Antonio Rd. #31
Palo Alto
(650) 776-6543
chabansky@yahoo.com

The December Seisiún is on the 5th and will be hosted by Imelda White

275 Lassen Avenue
Mountain View
(650) 964-7643
imelda_white@yahoo.com

For those that plan months ahead, on January 2nd Bill & Perry Frantz are hosts:

16345 Englewood Ave.
Los Gatos, CA 95032
(408) 356-8506
frantz@pwpconsult.com



CCÉ Classes



CCÉ sponsors the following classes at the UICC:

Children's Tin Whistle
Children's Fiddle
Adult Tin Whistle

Adult Irish Language Class: A new course began October 18th; Eight Saturdays, UICC.

For more information, please contact Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or (415) 681-4803. **Pre-registration and payment is required to secure a place for all classes.**



Memorial Scholarship



The Cooley-Keegan Branch of Comhaltas is honored to be remembered with a scholarship named for the late Mike Hughes.

A native of Crossboyne, Co. Mayo, Mike left Ireland at age 15. In his adventurous life, he lived in England, Boston, SF and Berkeley. Mike was a Master Carpenter who volunteered his talents by building schools in Nicaragua and bringing much-needed medicines to far, outlying regions for many years. Mike never forgot his County Mayo origin and shared his love of Irish music and language with his family.

Mike Hughes passed away on June 9, 2014 and a celebration of his life was held on July 27th at the Starry Plough in Berkeley. Mike is survived by his wife, Frances (Co Clare), their five children and a legion of family and friends.

We extend our sympathy to all Mike's family and thank them for the generous tribute to him. This scholarship will be awarded to two students in our Irish Language Program.



Member News



Heartiest Congratulations to our own Harold Jones who danced his way to his 87th Birthday last September 21st!!! Keep on smiling and dancing Harold!!!

Sending our best wishes and continued prayers to Judi Milligan – hoping to see both you and Lew soon!!

We are so pleased that the United Irish Societies has named one of our own as an Honorary Grand Marshall in the 2015 St. Patrick's Day Parade. The late Pat Joyce is in our thoughts often. Pat will be remembered with love with a special entry in the parade and at the special activities of the St. Patrick's weekend.

We are also keeping our friend, Bill Ngai in our prayers and thoughts as he lost his father and aunt in the past months.

Your friends at CCE wish to extend our heartfelt sympathies to our longtime member and supporter Brian Cleary at the passing of his dear mother, Mary Cleary, August 27, 2014 in Ireland. Brian, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Johnny and Sue Sweeney were part of the core of our Cooley-Keegan Branch since our first SF convention in April 1995. Through the early years they would make the long trek from Ben Lomond and home again to attend our monthly céilís. John was ready with his fiddle and Sue brought her delicious tea brack. Both were always delighted to help wherever needed.

Before moving to the Bay Area, while serving in the US Navy, 1954-1959, Johnny spent one assignment in Northern Ireland, where he developed a great love of Ireland and traditional Irish Music. Johnny was a skilled Irish fiddler and played with several bands over the years. He and Sue hardly ever missed a Comhaltas Convention and sometimes headed off to Ireland or on a cruise afterwards. Many a 'seasoned' or aspiring fiddler sought Johnny out at the conventions and he was always keen to join them 'for a tune'...which could last most of the night! At our local events, Johnny eagerly met with his musician friends to play for our dancing. Even in the last few years as his health declined, he was happy to join a seisun and greet friends both in the pub and in their new home in Scotts Valley. Sadly, Johnny passed away on September 19th and was warmly remembered in a memorial mass by family and many friends. The Comhaltas Family extends their sincere sympathy to Sue and to Aine, Mick, Shuana and Patrick in the loss of this kind gentleman. May he rest in peace.



Membership Corner



IT'S TIME AGAIN TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP -

Our Membership runs from January 1 to Dec 31st. Single Membership: \$40.00. Multi-membership (2 or more in household or a family): \$50.00

If you receive your Scéal Eile by mail, a membership form is attached here for your convenience. If you received the Scéal by email Josephine will send you an email.

Here are the ways you can renew:

- Renew on-line through our website and remit payment through PayPal: sf.ccewest.org
- Renew on-line through our website and send your check to our PO Box (we do not bill);
- Complete your membership form and either give it to Josephine at dancing or mail it with your check to our PO Box.

If you have any questions, please contact Joannie at (415) 664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com; or talk with Josephine at dancing.

Thank you for your support



Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta



The 16th annual Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta (San Francisco Irish Language Immersion Weekend) took place September 26-28, 2014, and its especially gala atmosphere made it one of the best ever.

Seated, L to R, are teachers Liam Ó Cuinneagáin (1st level), Bairbre Ní Chiardha (3rd Level), Ray Mac Mánaís (4th Level), and Brian Ó Broin (2nd level). Second row, 3rd from left is our Treoraí na Gaeilge, Nikki Ragsdale, who puts together this event.

The 47 students who took part included 16 beginners and 16 in the advanced class!



CCÉ has a Facebook group where we can share photos, ask questions and generally discuss all things Irish music and dance. In the search field at the top of your facebook page enter **Cooley-Keegan Branch**, select it from the list of choices and join the group.

Or, you can enter the following URL:
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/316504905030686/>



General Meetings



General Meetings of the Membership are typically held on the first Tuesday of the month at the UICC. The next ones will be on November 4th and December 2nd.

This is a members' meeting and all are encouraged to attend in order to plan future activities.



Halloween at the Plough and Stars



***Halloween at the Plough and Stars had a Wizard of Oz theme.
Dorothy, the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Fearless Lion provided the entertainment.
Queen Maeve, the good and evil witches together with the monkey and the geisha girl danced.
A grand time was had by all.***

SAMHAIN 2014

Dé Domhnaigh SUNDAY	Dé Luan MONDAY	Dé Mairt TUESDAY	Dé Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Déardaoin THURSDAY	Dé h-Aoine FRIDAY	Dé Sathairn SATURDAY
Oct 26 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	27 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	28 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	29	30 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ live music	31	Nov 1
2 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	3 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	4 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30pm <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	5	6 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	7 <u>Song Seisiún</u>	8
9 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	10 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	12	13 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	14 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	15 <u>CCÉ West Region Meeting</u> UICC 1-3pm <u>CCÉ West Region Céilí</u> UICC 8-11pm w/ live music
16 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	17 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	18 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	19	20 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton Céilí Band	21	22
23 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	24 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	25 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	26	27 Happy Thanksgiving No Set Dancing	28 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	29



CO-CHAIRPERSON: MICHAEL DUFFY (CCE_CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG)
 CO-CHAIRPERSON: MICHAEL RIEMER (CCE_CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG) (510) 548-4727
 PUBLIC RELATIONS: JOSEPHINE BROGAN (CCE_PR@CCEWEST.ORG) (415) 681-4803
 SECRETARY/REGISTRAR: JOANNIE O'LEARY (CCE_SECRETARY@CCEWEST.ORG) (415) 664-6579
 TREASURER: MAUREEN MURPHY (CCE_TREASURER@CCEWEST.ORG) (415) 661-0351
 TREORAÍ NA GAELIGE: NIKKI RAGSDALE (CCE_GAEILGE@CCEWEST.ORG)
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 NEWSLETTER EDITOR: TIM SULLIVAN (CCE_SCEAL@CCEWEST.ORG)
 YOUTH OFFICER: CERI GARFIELD

Nollaig 2014

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAOIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
Nov 30 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	Dec 1 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	2 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30pm <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	3	4 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	5 <u>Song Seisiún</u>	6
7 <u>Christmas Céilí</u> UICC 8-11pm w/ live music <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	8 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	9 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	10	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton Céilí Band	12 <u>Set Dancing</u> Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo	13
14 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	15 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	16 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	17	18 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	19	20
21 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	22 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	23 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	24	25 Merry Christmas No Set Dancing	26 <u>Wren Boys</u> Murphy's House	27
28 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	29 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	30 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	31	Jan 1 Happy New Year No Set Dancing	2	3

Plough and Stars - 116 Clement Ave. (Between 2nd and 3rd), San Francisco, (415) 751-1122 theploughandstars.com

UICC - United Irish Cultural Center - 2700 45th Ave. (At Sloat Blvd.), San Francisco, (415) 661-2700 www.irishcentersf.org

Lilly Mac's - 187 S. Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale (between Washington and Evelyn Aves)
(408)732-0200 www.lillymacs.com

Starry Plough - 3101 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (510) 841-2082 starryploughpub.com

Brosnan School of Irish Dance - 11 Belle Avenue, Suite B, San Anselmo, Ca 94960 brosnanschool.com

You can also visit the following website for events:

San Francisco CCÉ - Cooley-Keegan Branch - sf.ccewest.org



Set Dancing



Mondays:

- Starry Plough in Berkeley: Céilí dancing on Mondays. Lessons from 7-9pm
Dancing to live music from 9-11pm. Contact: John Slaymaker.

Tuesdays:

- Lilly Mac's in Sunnyvale. Lessons: 7:30pm; Dance to live music 8-10pm. \$5 suggested to support the live music.

1st Thursday: Plough and Stars in San Francisco at 8pm. Music by the Shannon Céilí Band. \$5 suggested to support the live music.

2nd through last Thursdays:

- Lessons at the United Irish Cultural Center (UICC) in San Francisco at 7:30pm in the bar area. Taped music.
- Plough and Stars in San Francisco at 9:30pm.
Live traditional music featuring Topsy House, Emperor Norton Céilí Band and other fine bands.
Dancers are encouraged to contribute \$5 to support the live music.

2nd and 4th Fridays:

- Brosnan School of Irish Dance in San Anselmo: From 7-9pm. There is a \$5 charge for this class.
Contact: Mary McDonagh (cladaghdancer@gmail.com) or Micheal Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)



Seisiún



Seisiún: - Sundays and Tuesdays starting at 8:30 at the Plough and Stars, various hosts.

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

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

SAMHAIN / NOLLAIG 2014 SCÉAL EILE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH



CHRISTMAS CÉILÍ

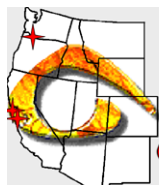


JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF MUSIC, SINGING AND DANCING

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 2014
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45th Avenue/Sloat Blvd, San Francisco
- TIME:** 7.00 PM TO 10 PM
- LIVE MUSIC:** Live Traditional Music
- ADMISSION:** Adults: \$10.00. Children: FREE

*For Information, contact Josephine Brogan (415) 681-4803 or
josephinebrogan@yahoo.com*

Please visit our website at : <http://sf.ccewest.org>



WEST REGION

COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN



West Region Annual Meeting/Seisiún/Dinner/Céilí

San Francisco Cooley-Keegan Branch, The Puget Sound Branch and the
Phoenix Irish Arts Branch

Everybody Welcome!

Saturday, November 15th 2014

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

Schedule:

West Region Meeting: 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

As always we invite and encourage all members to attend the meeting.

Informal Music/Song Session in the UICC bar area 5.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Traditional Irish Music, singer friendly. Come along, pull up a chair, join in, and enjoy!

Céilí: 8.00 pm – 11.00 pm

(St. Francis Room)

bring treats to share at our pot luck dessert table

Music by : Miliosa & Richard Lundy and Friends

Admission—Adults: \$10.00, Teens 12–18: \$5.00

Children under 12 accompanied by an adult: free

The UICC restaurant will be open for dinner from 5.00 pm to 9.00 pm. Please note that reservations are required. Call the UICC at 415-661-2700, ext. 100, to make your reservations.

For more information, please contact

Josephine Brogan at: josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-681-4803
or Joannie O'Leary at joannieoleary@msn.com or 415-664-6579