

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2013

SAMHAIN/NOLLAIG 2013

# SCÉAL ÉILE

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



## Open Letter to the Membership



A chairde,

Thank you to the two Michaels for agreeing to allow me to address an important concern in this month's letter to our CCE community. It takes a lot of work to keep our organization up and running year after year. **There are many jobs which need to be done!!**

A few examples:

- 1) Our music and Irish language programs require a lot of admin work, from organizing the classes to keeping track of students, collecting fees, etc. We could use a "class parent" to collect the fees on the first class day and keep track of the students for the 6 or 8 wk session.
- 2) We need help with our newsletter – gathering info for the Editor and getting it to him in an organized, timely manner; updating the 2 calendars for each edition.
- 3) Our 3 Céilís a year (and this year the West Region Meeting/Céilí/Seisiún) require setting up the hall & sound equipment, maintaining the hospitality food table during the Céilí, decorating, CLEANUP afterwards.
- 4) Management, set-up and storing of sound equipment for monthly CCE/UICC Nights.
- 5) Working with Michael Duffy to update information in our website including current photos.
- 6) Planning and physically working on our parade float.

So here's the thing - a small group of people with big hearts, and a love for our Irish traditions have been keeping this branch going for all of us. **WELL, THEY NEED HELP!!** Our branch has grown and programs have been expanded (and that's great) but the work is becoming more than a few people can handle. I am asking for more of our CCE community members to get involved. We would all miss the privilege of enjoying the benefits that CCE provides for us. I for one would be heartbroken if I did not have the opportunity to set dance weekly with friends that we have made through this organization.

So here's the deal...our Board (that small group of dedicated people) need OUR help and support. It is up to us to come forward and let them know: "I want to help and what can I do?", and start the conversation to figure out where you can fit in. We all have full lives, some more than others. The point is, I may have to give up a little of "me" time to make time to give back. Let's face it, we would all miss out on a lot if this small group just can't handle it all on their own any more. Now is the time to step up. You know what they say, "Many hands make light work."

Slán, Kasey Curtin



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)



## Western Region Meeting



### **Come One...Come All to our West Region Meeting/Seisiún/Dinner/Céilí**

The SF Cooley-Keegan, Phoenix Four Peaks Irish Arts and, Puget Sound CCÉ make up the West Region of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

We are delighted to again host this weekend in San Francisco on November 16-17, 2013 at the United Irish Cultural Center. As in the past, we will have visitors from the Phoenix and Puget Sound branches.

Last year we had a mighty seisiún and a céilí - and will have more of the same this year. Please make plans to attend. All members are welcome to the AGM (Annual General Meeting), and members and friends are very welcome to the dinner, seisiún and céilí.

#### **Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**

**1-4pm** - West Region business meeting - Board Room 3rd Floor-UICC

**5pm** - There will be an open seisiún in the UICC bar area on Saturday evening from approximately 5pm until... All are welcome – some dancing may be an option – we won't know until that evening.

**6pm** - We will meet for dinner at the UICC. A limited menu with a set price is being organized. Everyone pays for themselves and their own drinks. Limit is 40 dinner seats. We will have info on all this next week at Thursday night dancing – or you can call Joannie at 416 664-6579 and leave your name & phone number if interested, or email at joannieoleary@msn.com.

#### **Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

**1-4pm** - West Region *afternoon* céilí in the St. Patrick's Ballroom of the UICC featuring the Emperor Norton Céilí Band

*PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE FROM OUR REGULAR EVENING CÉILÍ AND HOPE IT WILL ALLOW MORE OF YOU TO ATTEND ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON.*

*See attached flyer for more information.*



## Events this Month



**Céilís at the UICC** - The regular third Saturday Céilís will be replaced by the West Region Céilí and the Christmas Céilí below.

**West Region Céilí** - Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 1-4PM.

**Christmas Céilí** - Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 7-10PM.

*See attached flyers for both events.*

**San Francisco** - On Thursdays, CCÉ hosts classes at the UICC starting at 7:30 followed by more dancing at the Plough & Stars until midnight -- except for the first Thursday of the month when there is no class and dancing at the Plough & Stars from 8-11PM.

**South Bay/ Peninsula** - On Tuesdays we meet at Lily Mac's in Sunnyvale. Lessons: 7:30; Dance to live music 8-10. \$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 to 9PM. There is a \$5 charge for this class. Tea and cakes or sweets will be served. Contact: Mary McDonagh (irishsetdancer@yahoo.com), Micheal Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com).

**East Bay** - Starry Plough in Berkeley hosts céilí dancing on Mondays with John Slaymaker. Lessons from 7 to 9PM and dancing to live music from 9 to 11PM.

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



## Song and Storytelling



The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Oceanlightl on November 1<sup>st</sup>

3373 St. Michael Drive  
Palo Alto  
650-494-1332  
fiddledancer@yahoo.com

The December Seisiún is on the 6<sup>th</sup> will be hosted by Imelda White:

275 Lassen Avenue  
Mountain View  
650-964-7643

In January Patrick McEvoy is hosting:

251 Chestnut  
Palo Alto  
650.493.3773



## T. Kevin Mallen Scholarship Michael Healy Music Scholarship



The deadline for submission of these scholarship applications is January 30, 2014. Applications may be obtained by calling Josephine at 681-4803 or emailing her at [josephinebrogan@yahoo.com](mailto:josephinebrogan@yahoo.com) or Joannie at 415-664-6579.

For some years now, thanks to the generosity of our good friend, Kevin Mallen, RIP, and the support of the Michael Healy Music Scholarship Fund, we are able to offer music scholarships to children who are members of the SF Cooley-Keegan Branch of Comhaltas. Many have benefitted from this scholarship through fiddle, tin whistle and bodhran classes.



## CCÉ Classes



CCÉ sponsors the following classes at the UICC.

- **Adult Irish Language**
- **Children's Tin Whistle**
- **Children's Fiddle**
- **Adult Tin Whistle**

**Beginner fiddle class for children:** We are excited to announce that Pat O'Donnell will teach this class on Tuesday nights at the UICC, from 7.15 – 8:15pm. We will need 4 students to make this feasible. If your child is interested, please contact Josephine Brogan at 415 681-4803 or [josephinebrogan@yahoo.com](mailto:josephinebrogan@yahoo.com). Registration and payment are required before the start of class.

**Irish Language class for children:** Grainne NiRian, a native Irish speaker and teacher will be teaching at the UICC on Tuesday evenings from 6-7pm. If your child is interested, please contact Josephine Brogan at 415 681-4803 or [josephinebrogan@yahoo.com](mailto:josephinebrogan@yahoo.com). We will need a minimum of 6 children in order to sponsor this class. Registration and payment are required before the start of class.

Ceri Garfield organizes monthly mini-seisiúns involving musicians and youth interested in playing music. This is held in the bar/restaurant area of the UICC: Sunday, Nov 17th & Dec 15, 3-5pm. All are welcome.

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



## 2014 CCÉ Convention



### North American Convention of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann

The Mid Atlantic Branch will be hosting the convention next year from April 24th - April 27th.

This is a wonderful weekend of Irish Music and Dance, Céilís, Concerts, Instrument, Singing, Set Dance, Céilí and Sean-Nós Workshops, and a great banquet on Saturday night. Please see more information at <http://www.cce-ma.com>

Be sure to make your hotel reservations at the Convention Hotel (Parsippany Hilton) as the branch needs to meet a certain quota of hotel rooms in order to get rooms for workshops, etc. free.



## Membership Corner



Please renew your membership **NOW**.

Single Membership is \$40. Multi-membership (2 or more in household) or family memberships is \$50.

Membership form is attached here for your convenience. Josephine will email those who received the Seal by email.

Here are the ways you can renew:

- Renew on-line through our website and remit payment through PayPal; <http://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 mail it with your check to our PO Box.
- Complete your membership form and include either a check or cash – give to Josephine at dancing.
- Complete your membership form and mail it with your check to our PO Box;

If you have any questions, please call Joannie at 415 664-6579; email Joannie at [olearyj@urology.ucsf.edu](mailto:olearyj@urology.ucsf.edu); or talk with Josephine at dancing.

Thank you for your support.



## General Meeting



General Meetings of the Membership are typically held on the first Tuesday of the month. The next ones will be on November 5<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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



## Member News



Our sincere sympathy goes out to long-time, faithful member Steve McEntee and his sister, Mary McNally on the passing of their sister, Anne Darcy. Steve has been a great supporter of our branch, from the early days. We keep him and all the McEntee family in our prayers.

We also remember in our prayers the family of Mary Reidy who passed away recently. Mary was the wife of our own Tim Reidy who played the “box” and inspired us for many early years in CCÉ. Both came from the Kerry “Kingdom” and were a great duo. Mary had a keen sense of humor and would keep us laughing with her stories, and she loved the traditional Irish Music. May Mary and Tim rest in peace.

We bid “fond adieu” to Sean and Tracey Griffin as they move to Pennsylvania, at least for a time, to pursue new opportunities there. Sean and Tracey have been great volunteers in our branch and enthusiastically supported all events. We wish them the very best and will miss their company.

Congratulations to Theresa Joyce and family on the birth of her twin grandsons in S. California. We are sure Doting grandmother, Theresa, and aunties Diane, Linda and Sarah will be making the trek down to see the boys often. Grandad Pat, RIP, is looking fondly down on Luke and Patrick - maybe one will be a carpenter and the other a dancer...??!!

We wish our member, Mary Maguire and her husband Austin the very best as they travel on to make Colorado their home. Mary was an avid student in the Saturday Irish Language class and we enjoyed having her as a member of our branch.

We are delighted and thrilled that our own Dan and Margaret McAuliffe have been chosen as Grand Marshalls for the 2014 St. Patrick’s Day Parade festivities. This is certainly well-deserved and we send them our sincere congratulations. (Will Dan wear his famous Stetson in the Parade? Inquiring minds want to know....)

A very Happy 70th Birthday to our member and Irish language teacher, Imelda White who traveled to S. California to celebrate with her family. Imelda travels from Mt. View each week to teach an ever-growing class in Irish – and keeps them all well-entertained. Best wishes, Imelda!

Our own Cathy and Don Mibach celebrated 50th years of wonderful wedded bliss on August 10th and then proceeded to travel up and down the state and to South Carolina, Georgia and beyond. They are stellar members of our branch, great volunteers and wonderful friends. We wish Don and Cathy the very best on their Golden Wedding Anniversary...and many more years in good health and happiness.

And last but not least we’d like to wish Terry & Craig Ritts Congratulations on the birth of their grandson Finnegan Mac Ritts born to April & Matthew 10/26/13...8lb 3oz... ? This makes 4 & enough for a half Set of dancers.....



## Wren Boys



*Wren’s day is celebrated on December 26<sup>th</sup>, St. Stephen’s Day. The tradition consists of “hunting” a fake wren, and putting it on top of a decorated pole. Then the crowds of mummers or strawboys celebrate the Wren by dressing up in masks, straw suits and colourful motley clothing and, accompanied by traditional céilí music bands, parade through the towns and villages. These crowds are sometimes called Wren Boys.*

It is time to “bury the wren” again! Join us on St. Stephen’s Day, Thursday, December 26, 2013. We will meeting at the Murphy House, 1959 17th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116 (between Ortega & Pacheco Sts) at 6PM and continue until 11 or 12 PM.

For what to wear and more details, please refer to Josephine Brogan’s email announcements and future fliers as the date draws near. As the Wren has hopped from “bush to bush” and “tree to tree”, we will be going from house-to-house and pub-to-pub, spreading holiday cheer and keeping the Wren Tradition alive as we have done so successfully for the past 28 years! Whether you can drive a “wren-mobile”, play music, sing, dance or just want to hang out and party with us, please join us and bring friends.

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

Up with the kettle, down with the pan, hope to see you out on the Wren!





## Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta



### (Irish Language Immersion Weekend)

The 15th annual Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta was a wonderful success, with a capacity crowd! The UICC was filled with the happy lilt of Irish Gaeilge in rooms and halls, restaurant and bar. A grand time was had by all! Many thanks to Cooley-Keegan for its contribution of 3 partial scholarships. The recipients, all long time attendees, were grateful for help this year to be able to come.

We had super teachers for the 4 levels of adult classes and enjoyed special workshops Saturday p.m. In addition, the children's activities expanded (for children of attendees we began some years ago with just a Sat trip to the zoo.) This year we had 7 children, so in addition to Sat zoo they had classes every day. This year, our zoo trip made it to YouTube before dinner on Saturday! It can be viewed here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMjmidT4XLU>

Nightly seisiúns were fun, w/ our usual complement of excellent musicians and singers. Teachers Ray Mac Manais & Seosaí Nic Rabhairtaigh played and sang. We had Vicki & Michael of Standing Stones, Galt & Janet from Dance Around Molly, and several students joined in w/ instrument and song. Cooley-Keegan member Máirtín Howard was welcome when he joined our open seisiún Sunday. And 3 of our children played, too! Conall Barber, and Aisling & Conall Smith, all fiddlers aged 7-9, added a special touch each night.

Everyone is already talking about next year's Irish Language Immersion Weekend, which is set for September 26-28, 2014. More info: [OneSourceGraphics.com/Gaeilge/](http://OneSourceGraphics.com/Gaeilge/) or [cce\\_gaeilge@ccewest.org](mailto:cce_gaeilge@ccewest.org)



## 20th Anniversary of Set Dancing



On Oct 16, 2013, enthusiastic set dancers gathered at the Shannon Arms in San Francisco to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of 1st Thursday Set Dancing. Most people think that these fun 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays we do with the 3-hour, 5-7 set dances format began at the Plough and Stars. Actually, from 1993-2001, thanks to Jim Belcher, our leader at the time, and to proprietors Audie and Theresa Morris, we danced up many storms and grand times at the Shannon Arms.

To mark the occasion, 20-25 dancers and friends enjoyed the evening to the music of Birds in the Bush and two members from the Shannon Céilí Band (Suzanne Cronin and Barb Southworth). Another reason this evening was so successful was that out of the number of dancers, 12 danced during the Shannon Era. Nostalgia, indeed!

Many thanks go to Theresa Morris for opening her doors to us once again and to Josephine Brogan who helped publicize the event. A finally, appreciation for Joel Hollingsworth for taking care of the "sound" and to Linda, the bartender for tending the "rounds". Michael Murphy



## Set Dancing



**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday:** Plough and Stars in San Francisco at 8:00pm. Music by the Shannon Céilí Band.

**2<sup>nd</sup> through last Thursdays:**

- Lessons at the United Irish Cultural Center (UICC) in San Francisco at 7:30pm -- check at bar for room. Taped music:
- Plough and Stars in San Francisco at 9:30pm. Shannon Céilí Band typically plays on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday; Topsy House on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and last Thursday;
- Dancers are encouraged to contribute \$5 to support the live music.

**Tuesdays:**

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

**Mondays:**

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays:**

- Brosnan School of Irish Dance in San Anselmo: From 7 to 9 pm. There is a \$5 charge for this class. Contact: Mary McDonagh (irishsetdancer@yahoo.com), 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, check above for details.

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

# SACBHAIN 2013

De Dómhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deáardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Oct 27 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	28	29 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	30	31 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	Nov 1 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Oceanlight Palo Alto	2
3 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	4	5 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	6	7 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	8 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	9
10 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	11	12 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	13	14 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Crooked Road	15	16 <u>West Region AGM</u> UICC 1-4PM Business Meeting 5PM-late Open Seisiun 6PM Dinner
17 <u>West Region Ceili</u> UICC 1-4PM Emperor Norton Ceili Band <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	18	19 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	20	21 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars	22 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	23
24 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	25	26 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	27	28 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	29 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Michael Jones San Carlos	30



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# Nollaig 2013

D'É DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	D'É LUAN MONDAY	D'É MAIRT TUESDAY	D'É CÉADAOIN WEDNESDAY	D'ÉARDAOIN THURSDAY	D'É h-Aoine FRIDAY	D'É SATHAIRN SATURDAY
Dec 1	2	3 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	4	5 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	6 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Imelda White Mountain View	7
8 <u>Christmas Ceili</u> UICC 7-10PM w/ Live Oak Ceili Band <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	9	10 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	11	12 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	13 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	14
15 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	16	17 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	18	19 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton	20	21
22 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	23	24 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	25	26 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	27 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	28
29 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	30	31 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	Jan 1	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	3 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Patrick McEvoy Palo Alto	4

**Plough and Stars** - 116 Clement Ave. (Between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>), San Francisco, (415) 751-1122 [theploughandstars.com](http://theploughandstars.com)

**U.I.C.C.** - 2700 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. (At Sloat Blvd.), San Francisco, (415) 661-2700 [www.irishcentersf.org](http://www.irishcentersf.org)

**Lily Mac's** - 118 S. Murphy St. Sunnyvale (between Washington and Evelyn Aves)

**Starry Plough** - 3101 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (510) 841-2082 [starryploughpub.com](http://starryploughpub.com)

**Beckett's Irish Pub** - 2271 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (510) 647-1790 [www.beckettsirishpub.com](http://www.beckettsirishpub.com)

**Bronsan School of Irish Dance** - 11 Belle Avenue, Suite B, San Anselmo, Ca 94960 [bronsnanschool.com](http://bronsnanschool.com)

**Shannon Arms** - 915 Taraval Avenue, San Francisco Ca 94116 (415) 665-1223

*You can also visit the following website for events:*

**San Francisco CCE - Cooley-Keegan Branch** - [sf.ccewest.org](http://sf.ccewest.org)