

SCÉAL ÉILE

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



Chair's Message



A Chairde,

The annual CCÉ North American Convention is right around the corner. It will be held in Chicago from April 5th to the 8th. With our own 2020 convention planning in full swing, we're reminded of how powerful is the realization that we are part of a global community - thousands of people just like us: passionate about the music, dance and Irish language. There's something about the joy that the involvement brings to our lives, and the joy of the community it builds, not only amongst our own but within the larger community.

In the words of Seamus Heaney, "I feel myself part of something. Not only being part of a community but part of an actual moment and a movement of Irish writing and art. That sense of being part of the whole thing is the deepest joy." That art of which he speaks includes our dancing, our music and our language. Isn't it brilliant to be a part of it all??

Slán, Josephine Brennan

The Treoir Comhaltas Magazine from Ireland is in the mail and you should be receiving your copy within approximately 2 weeks.

SAVE the DATE : APRIL 16-19, 2020 for our SF CCÉ Convention- only 2 years away!!!!



Events each Month



Comhaltas Night with Live Irish Music - CCÉ typically hosts a night of set dancing at the UICC on the third Saturday of the month. For April the event will be on the 21st. In May we will meet on the 19th. Contact: Michael Riemer at riemer@ce.berkeley.edu.

San Francisco - On Thursdays, CCÉ hosts set dancing 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, just dancing at the Plough & Stars from 8-11pm. \$5 donation suggested. Contact: Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-264-8856.

South Bay/Peninsula - Tuesday night set dancing (with a smidgen of céilí style) at Lilly Mac's in Sunnyvale (upstairs); 187 S. Murphy Avenue between Evelyn and Washington Avenues. It is every Tuesday (except 3rd Tues. of the month); 8-10pm; Suggested donation is \$7. Mostly live band. Contact: Michael Murphy at 415-999-6062 or irishboogieman0@gmail.com.

North Bay - Mary McDonagh and Mícheál Miniáne teach set dancing on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at Brosnan School of Irish Dance in San Anselmo from 7-9pm. There is a \$5 donation suggested for this class. Mary and Mícheál also teach at the Redwood Cafe in Cotati. **This venue will resume in may on the 2nd 16th.** Contact: Mary McDonagh at cladaghdancer@gmail.com or Mícheál Miniáne michealminihane@yahoo.com.

East Bay - Starry Plough in Berkeley hosts céilí dancing on Mondays. Lessons from 7-9pm and dancing to live music from 9-11pm. Contact: John Slaymaker at rinnce.mor@gmail.com.

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



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)



Song and Storytelling



The next Song and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted on April 6th by Bill & Peri Frantz
 16345 Englewood Ave
 Los Gatos, CA 95032
 408-356-8506
 frantz@pwpconsult.com

The May Seisiún is on the 4th, the host is
 Mairtin Mac An Ghoill
 200 Ravenswood Ave
 Menlo Park, CA 94025
 650-207-6971
 mairtin1@gmail.com

On June 1st the host is
 Kemmeo Parr
 3393 Kiwanis Street
 Oakland, CA 94602
 510-306-7624
 kp@photographybykemmeo.com

Contact Michael Jones for info about seisiúns at
 mfj@ieee.org. Seisiúns start at 7:30pm.



Save the Date



In association with the United Irish Cultural Center and the San Francisco Cooley-Keegan Branch of Comhaltas, Irish storyteller and singer Helena Byrne brings her new show to the United Irish Cultural Center on Friday, May 18th, 2018. Show starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets: \$15.

For more information, contact Josephine Brogan at 415-264-8856 josephinebrogan@yahoo.com



Monthly Meetings



CCÉ Cooley-Keegan branch meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm at the UICC. Upcoming meeting: May 1st. All members are encouraged to attend.

For further information, contact Maureen Callanan mcallanan2354@gmail.com.



2020 Convention Meetings



The next planning meetings will be held on April 17th and May 15th, 7pm at the UICC. You need not attend these meetings in order to be part of the planning. Convention dates: April 16 - 19, 2020. Contact any one of the Cooley-Keegan board members if you'd like to be part of what will certainly be an incredible convention!

For more information contact Maureen Callanan: mcallanan2354@gmail.com.



Benefit Concert



Our Comhaltas community sends very best wishes for recovery to our good friend, Hillary Flynn, Co-Producer of the Irish-American Crossroads. Hillary has been instrumental in bringing a huge variety of Irish connections and entertainment to the Bay Area over its 15 year history. From writers to historians, Ambassadors, filmmakers, musicians, entertainers and much more, we have been treated to a wealth of information, education and enjoyment.

Friends of Hillary Flynn are joining forces to aid her in her journey to overcome cancer.

Enjoy a host of wonderful music and other entertainment at the Plough and Stars Pub, 116 Clement St. on Friday, April 6th at 7pm.

For further information:
<https://au.gofundme.com/hillaryflynn>



Lilly Mac's



20th Anniversary Ceili of Irish Set Dancing in the South Bay. Lilly Mac's Pub, 187 S. Murphy Avenue between Evelyn and Washington Aves. Upstairs. Music provided by the Tuesday night bands. Saturday, April 28; 7-10pm. \$12.00 admission. Hors d'oeuvres provided.



Calling all Grant Writers



Do you have any experience writing grants or would you like to help?

We have received notifications of grants that we may qualify for to benefit either branch activities or our upcoming 2020 convention. **WE NEED HELP APPLYING.**

This work is much easier when it is shared. Please contact Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-264-8856.



Irish Language Class



New 8 week Irish Language class starts on April 14th 2018 at the United Irish Cultural Center, San Francisco. Registration in advance is required.

Please contact Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-264-8856 for further information.



Membership Corner



Congratulations to Cathy and Harold Jones who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Valentines day. Wishing you many more years of good health and joy.

We would like to extend our condolences to our long time member and friend, Stephen McEntee and family on the recent passing of his sister, Kathleen Lapuyade. She was well known here in the city as well as down the peninsula for many years. Our heartfelt sympathies, Steve.

We extend our heartfelt prayers and sympathy to long-time member, Noreen Corry and her family on the untimely passing of her son, John, on January 14, 2018. While surrounded by an army of family here and in Ireland, John waged a battle against the cancer that attacked him at such a young age.

After spending his early years at St. Cecelia's and S.I., John went on to pursue a life as a gifted teacher. From Chico to Half Moon Bay, John also shared his natural talents as a strong, student-centered administrator. As Principal of Taylor Middle School, he and his staff earned a 4th CA Distinguished School Award. John had so many friends from his West Portal neighborhood in San Francisco and was known to spend much time there enjoying the "craic".

Borrowing a line from John's obituary, "He was an old school gentleman who devoted 30 years to children so they too could have the same options as he had for a better life". May God grant John eternal rest and bless and care for Noreen and his family.



CCÉ 2018 Membership



If you are not already a member, please consider joining CCÉ. Details below. We are a volunteer organization and welcome your participation.

Our Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st.

Single Membership: \$40.00

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

Here are ways you can renew:

- Renew online through our website and remit payment through PayPal: sf.ccewest.org
- Renew online through our website and send your check to our PO Box (We do NOT bill).
- Complete your membership form and either give it with your check or cash to Josephine Brogan at set 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.

CCÉ Membership, Attn: Joannie O'Leary, P O Box 16244, San Francisco, CA 94116



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:

facebook.com/groups/316504905030686



Another online group where events are planned is meetup.com at the following URL:

meetup.com/irishdance



Saint Patrick's Day Parade



First of all, thank you to the dancers who lent their time and talent to entertaining the residents of the retirement homes. They always look forward to our performances and it is a rewarding experience.

St. Patrick smiled on us on his day. Rain in the early morning in San Francisco, throughout the day around the Bay Area, but not on the parade. And we were a success as our float won second place!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to make this happen:

To Kasey who spends countless hours preparing and directing the construction and to Dan who does so much; to Martyn of Cunningham Moving & Storage who donates the flatbed storage of the float decorations for us and allows us to use his facility for building; to the men and women who showed up to construct the float on Friday and to those who brought refreshments. Thank you to Matt Shaw for the use of the cab to pull the flatbed and to Marty Mc Cullagh for his expert driving (even on flat tires!). Thank you to Bill and Steve Welch who continue year after year to let us use their parking lot and facilities before, during, and after the parade. Thank you to those who took the time to help with deconstructing and storing for another year.

All those in the parade--Thank you to: the flag and banner carriers who lead our unit; to our talented musicians who play great music; to all the dancers who came to the practice to learn the performance and who performed; to those who danced down Market Street on a bumpy float and to those who walked with us; to Theresa for her Irish and to Geli for her talented step dancing. (Editor's note: Thanks to Connie, the choreographing of all the dancing during "the season" went beautifully!)

Every one of you is vitally important in making all of this happen. Without you, it wouldn't. And thank you for the fun in the process.

It has been pointed out that we are about the only float that demonstrates the theme of the parade each year. So thank you for all the costumes representing "Building Communities Together".



Saint Patrick's Day Parade



Moe Murphy, Tracey Tynan, Terry Ritts, Martin Giles, Micheal Minihane & Janice Murphy represent the SF Cooley-Keegan Branch in congratulating our wonderful float driver, Marty Mc Cullagh whom we proclaimed "Driver of the Year"! Thanks, Marty!



Heartiest congratulations to Aine Minihane and Abram Smith on their recent engagement. Both are veterans of our St. Patrick's Day float and parade. We wish them a lifetime of happiness.



Woman of Aran...Theresa Joyce



Our outstanding, faithful musicians on the float...John Sherry (left front), Alan Patterson (right front), Barb Southworth (left rear), Michael Riemer (right rear). Brilliant, lively tunes provided, as always, all along the parade route and at the Grandstand!!

Aibreán 2018

Dé Domhnaigh SUNDAY	Dé Luan MONDAY	Dé Mairt TUESDAY	Dé Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Déardaoin THURSDAY	Dé h-Aoine FRIDAY	Dé Sathairn SATURDAY
Apr 1 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	2 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	3 Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	4	5 Set Dancing Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	6 Song Seisiún Bill & Peri Frantz Los Gatos 408-356-8506	7
8 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	9 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	10 Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	11	12 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Crooked Road	13	14
15 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	16 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	17 2020 Convention Meeting UICC 7pm <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	18	19 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton Céilí Band	20	21 Comhaltas Night UICC 7-11pm w/ live music
22 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	23 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	24 Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	25	26 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	27	28 South Bay Céilí Lilly Mac's
29 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	30 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	May 1 CCÉ Meeting UICC 7:30pm Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	2	3 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	4 Song Seisiún Mairtin Mac An Ghoill Menlo Park 650-207-6971	5



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 YOUTH OFFICER: CAOIMHE LYONS

Bhealtaine 2018

De Domhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Apr 29 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	30 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	May 1 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30pm <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	2 Set Dancing Redwood Cafe Cotati	3 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	4 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Mairtin Mac An Ghoill Menlo Park 650-207-6971	5
6 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	7 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	8 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	9	10 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ The Crooked Road	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo	12
13 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	14 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	15 <u>2020 Convention Meeting</u> UICC 7pm <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	16 Set Dancing Redwood Cafe Cotati	17 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton Céilí Band	18 Singer/ Irish Storyteller Helena Byrne UICC 7:30	19 <u>Comhaltas Night</u> UICC 7-11pm w/ live music
20 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	21 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	22 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	23	24 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	25 <u>Set Dancing</u> Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo	26
27 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	28 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	29 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyval <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	30	31 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	Jun 1 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Kemmeo Parr Oakland 510-306-7624	2

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

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

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

Redwood Cafe - 8240 Old Redwood Hwy, Cotati CA 94931 707-795-7868 redwoodcafe.com

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

Starry Plough - 3101 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 510-841-2082 starryploughpub.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 and dancing to live music from 9-11pm. Contact: John Slaymaker (rinnce.mor@gmail.com)

Tuesdays:

- Lilly Mac's in Sunnyvale (except for the 3rd Tuesday). Lessons: 7:30pm; Dance to live music 8-10pm. \$7 suggested to support the live music. Contact: Michael Murphy (415-999-6062)

Special Events:

- Redwood Cafe in Cotati.
Contact: Mary McDonagh (cladaghdancer@gmail.com), Mícheál Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)

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 donation suggested for this class.
Contact: Mary McDonagh (cladaghdancer@gmail.com), Mícheál 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
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