

SCÉAL ÉILE

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



Chair's Message



A Chairde,

Bliain Nua faoi mhaise dhaoibh go leir (Happy New Year to you all)

Heartfelt thanks to Michael Riemer and Joannie O'Leary who stepped down from the board last month. Michael served as chair and co-chair of our branch for the past 16 years. He "retired" last month but promises to remain active in other areas within our branch, teaching set dancing, organizing the music for our many events and playing at the sessions. Joannie has served as Secretary for many, many years and has handed over the reins to Maureen Callanan. Joannie also promises to remain active in our branch and will continue as Registrar and is also the Co-Chair of the 2020 Convention Committee. Thank you Joannie and Michael for all the work you have done for the Cooley-Keegan Branch.

At the AGM on November 14, 2017 the following officers were elected/re-elected: Chair: Josephine Brennan; Treasurer: Maureen Murphy; Secretary: Maureen Callanan; Public Relations: Josephine Brogan; Treorai na Gaeilge: Nikki Ragsdale; Youth Officer: Caoimhe Lyons.

We continue to plan for hosting the Convention in April 2020 and while we have some very enthusiastic volunteers we need many, many more. Everyone has talents that will be put to good use. You do not have to attend monthly meetings to be involved. Speak with any Board member to find out how you can share your talents and be a part of organizing what promises to be an amazing Convention.

"It takes a Village"

Thanks to everyone who has joined the Convention committee for the awesome work you have done so far.

Slán,
Josephine Brennan



Events each Month



Comhaltas Night with Live Irish Music - CCE typically hosts a night of set dancing at the UICC on the third Saturday of the month. For February the event will on the 17th. March is replaced by the Saint Patrick's Céilí on the 25th. Contact: Michael Riemer at riemer@ce.berkeley.edu.

San Francisco - On Thursdays, CCE 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 Miniñane 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 is on hold until May 2nd.** Contact: Mary McDonagh at cladaghdancer@gmail.com or Mícheál Miniñane 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 February 2nd by Mairtin Mac An Ghoill
200 Ravenswood Ave
Menlo Park, CA 94025
650-207-6971
mairtin@sbcglobal.net

The March Seisiún is on the 2nd, the hosts are John & Anne Hopkirk
145 Highland Ave
San Carlos
650-593-0843
hopkirk@earthlink.net

On April 6th the hosts are Bill & Peri Frantz
16345 Englewood Ave
Los Gatos, CA 95032
408-356-8506
frantz@pwpconsult.com

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



Monthly Meetings



The CCE Cooley-Keegan branch meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm at the UICC. Upcoming meetings: February 6th and March 6th. All members are encouraged to attend.

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



2020 SF Convention



Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 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.



Irish Language Class



Adult Class: Classes are held at the United Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco on Saturdays.

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



St. Patrick's Day Parade



March is quickly approaching which means it will soon be time to get together and be "constructive". We will build the float for the parade on Friday, March 16th, 2018, from 9am to 4pm. at Cunningham Moving & Storage, 1250 Van Dyke Avenue, San Francisco, 94124.

If you have helped in years past, you know what an enjoyable day it is working together. If you haven't helped before, please consider joining us. All are very welcome. We will "de-construct" the float on Saturday, March 17th, 2018, right after the parade and many workers are needed for that as well.

If you are interested in dancing in any of the performances during the St. Pat's season or in the parade, please CONTACT Connie Lynch at 707-318-9200 or cerrydancer@gmail.com.

You must let me know. For those dancing in the parade, there will be a parade practice on Thursday, March 15, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at the UICC.

Note: You must be a currently paid member of Comhaltas to dance in the parade, and those who work on the float have priority.



Saint Patrick's Céilí



The Saint Patrick's céilí will be held on Sunday, March 25th from 7-10pm at the UICC. See attachment for more details.



Big Draw



The Big Draw took place in Ireland on December 9th, 2017. Unfortunately, we did not have any winners from our branch. We sold 200 tickets and netted \$686 from the sale, which will go towards our local programs. Thanks again to everyone who bought and sold tickets.

The winners are as follows:

- 1st Prize Euro 5,000: Pat Hennessy, Co. Limerick.
- 2nd Prize Euro 500: C & J Liddane, Co. Waterford.
- 3rd Prize Euro 250: Gerard Foy, Co. Donegal.
- 4th Prize Luxury Weekend at
Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann 2018:
Sham Hyland, Co. Waterford.
- 5th Prize (4) Tickets for the Bru Boru Show
and Dinner: Conor Arkins, Co. Clare.
(Sold by CCE St. Louis Irish Arts, USA)
- 6th Prize Gift card worth Euro 150:
Frank Quinn, Co. Down.
- 7th Prize A collection of (10) Traditional Music CD's
and DVD's: Mike Kennedy, Co. Limerick.



Happy Birthday Harold Jones



*The South Bay contingent celebrates Harold Jones' 90th Birthday!!
He is one Lucky Man!!*



CCÉ 2018 Membership Final Notice



If you have not already done so, please renew your membership immediately so we can send them to Ireland. If you are receiving this Seal by US Mail, a reminder is enclosed. Josephine Brogan will send a special email to those who receive the link electronically and have not renewed. **All Comhaltas administration is done by volunteer effort. WE NEED ALL MEMBERSHIPS UP TO DATE BY FEBRUARY 10.**

If you are attending the CCE Convention in Chicago you **MUST** be a current/paid member in order to purchase a convention package at the membership rate.

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:

Online through our website and remit payment through PayPal: sf.ccewest.org

Online through our website and send your check to our PO Box 16244, SF, CA 94122
(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.

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

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.



Bill Welch -- St. Patrick's Day Grand Marshal



Congratulations to Bill Welch – 2018 St. Patrick's Day Grand Marshal Join us for the Grand Marshal's Dinner to celebrate!

We are extremely proud of the United Irish Societies selection of Mr. William (Bill) Welch as 2018 San Francisco St. Patrick's Day Grand Marshal! Bill and the entire Welch family have been such an integral part of Comhaltas in San Francisco since its inception.

Bill was born and raised in the Mission District of San Francisco and grew up being tremendously proud of his Irish heritage. In his quiet, unassuming way, Bill is actively supportive of his alma mater Mission Dolores Grammar School and parish. He has been a member of the Mission Lions club and the Hibernia Newman Club for many years and serves on the board of directors for Centro Latino.

Bill and his wife, Betty appreciate the strengths, benefits and needs of the immigrant communities of San Francisco in which they live. They and their grown children have been instrumental in promoting the work of the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center. The family gives generously of their time and resources to many school and parish fundraisers throughout our City.

On a personal note, anyone who has helped with our St. Patrick's Day Parade Float would know that "Duggans 17th Street" is our second home on Parade Day. Since 1983, Bill and his son Steve (one of the founding members and officers of our Cooley-Keegan branch) have made their facilities available for us to finish constructing and dismantling the float before and after the parade. Every consideration is given to us by the Welch Family and their staff to enable us to continue this tradition. The Mantra each year on Parade Day is "*meet us at Duggan's 17th Street*". Our entourage, including many cars, descends on Duggans in the early hours to put the finishing touches on our float. In earlier years, when Comhaltas had nowhere to call home, the Welchs' stored the Irish cottage and all the materials for our float for a number of years. The Welch Family has always been active in and generously supportive of Comhaltas and we are very grateful for all they have given us in our 35 years in San Francisco.

Please join our Comhaltas Table at the Grand Marshal's Dinner honoring Bill Welch and the 2018 Honorary Grand Marshals on Friday, March 2, 2018 at the UICC. Tickets are \$80 per person (dinner is a Benefit for the Parade festivities) and the choice of meal is: Rolled Stuffed Pork Roast; Fillet of Sole; Vegetarian Lasagne. No-host cocktails at 6:30pm and dinner at 7:30pm.

Please contact Joannie at 415 279-7359 or joannieoleary@msn.com to make your reservation and payment. Deadline is Monday, February 19, 2018. Please make checks payable to the United Irish Societies.



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.



Lilly Mac's



We'll have only 1 Saturday workshop in February. It will be February 24th, 3-5pm, at Lilly Mac's Pub, 187 S. Murphy Avenue in Sunnyvale between Washington and Evelyn Aves. (Upstairs). Admission is \$10.00. This workshop is designed for beginners, but all are welcome.

MARCH CEILI at Lilly Mac's in Sunnyvale, upstairs. Saturday, March 3rd; 7-10pm. Live music. Mostly set dancing with some ceili dances. Admission is \$12.00.

Dances for all levels.



Wren Boys



This past December 26 had some memorable moments such as Maureen Murphy acquiring a new nickname at the 4 Deuces. She is no longer Moe, but "Go-pro Moe!" I have never seen a dancer do "around the house" with a camera on her head. It must have gotten grand 1st person point-of-view shots!

Mentioning shots, Parkside Tavern is always generous with providing their shots of whiskey when we arrive there. It was very crowded. No room to dance, but many thanks goes to Jade Watts for her rendition of the Wassail Song. Hopefully, next year there will be an arrangement where we can get some dancing in at this well-patronized tavern.

Audience participation with the ceili dances, Siege of Ennis and Walls of Limerick, at the Lundy's and Keehan's houses respectively proved to be a lively success where some beginners had adventurous times. Hearing Michael Black and his daughter sing lovely songs at Keehan's was also a memory we will not soon forget.

And it's always fun ending our evening at Katherine Scanlon's abode dancing the Connemara Reel Set and enjoying the lovely goodies she has provided for over three decades.

We cannot thank the following hosts enough: Maureen Murphy; 4 Deuces Pub; Seamus and Maureen Lundy; Vincy and Missy Keehan; Larry Doyle and the Parkside Tavern staff; and Katherine Scanlon and her grandchildren.

Many thanks also goes to our traveling musicians: Doug Lowder, Chris Dillingham, Tom Sleckman and Yevgeny Binder. We are also grateful for the musicians at the houses, all the guests and patrons, and all the dancers and participants who joined along the route to "bury the wren" and helped make Wren Boys 2017 another huge success.

I hope to see you all and even more people out on the Wren on December 26, 2018. Save the date!

Captain of the Wren



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
The San Francisco Cooley-Keegan Branch

ST. PATRICK'S CÉILÍ

SUNDAY, MARCH 25TH, 2018

United Irish Cultural Center
2700 45TH Avenue, San Francisco

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Live Music

Adults: \$10.00 Children: Free

Everybody is welcome

*For Information, contact Josephine Brogan at (415) 264-8856 or
josephinebrogan@yahoo.com*

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



Feadhra 2018

De Domhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Jan 28 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	29 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	30 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnysvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	31	Feb 1 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	2 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Mairtin Mac An Ghoill, Menlo Park	3
4 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	5 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	6 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30pm <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnysvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	7	8 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Crooked Road	9 <u>Set Dancing</u> Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo	10
11 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	12 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	13 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnysvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	14	15 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	16	17 <u>Comhaltas Night</u> UICC 7.30-11pm w/ live music
18 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	19 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	20 <u>2020 Convention Meeting</u> UICC 7pm <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	21	22 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	23 <u>Set Dancing</u> Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo	24
25 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	26 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	27 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnysvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	28	Mar 1 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	2 <u>Song Seisiún</u> John & Anne Hopkirk San Carlos	3



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 YOUTH OFFICER: CAOIMHE LYONS

MÁRTA 2018

De Dómhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Feb 25 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	26 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	27 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	28	Mar 1 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	2 <u>Song Seisiún</u> John & Anne Hopkirk San Carlos	3
4 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	5 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	6 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30pm <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	7	8 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton Céilí Band	9 <u>Set Dancing</u> Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo	10
11 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	12 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	13 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	14	15 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton Céilí Band	16 Float Construction Cunningham's Van Dyke, SF	17 Saint Patrick's Day Parade Lá Fhéile Pádraig Sona Dhaoibh! Happy Saint Patrick's Day
18 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	19 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	20 <u>2020 Convention Meeting</u> UICC 7pm <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	21	22 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	23 <u>Set Dancing</u> Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo	24
25 <u>St. Patricks Ceili</u> UICC 7-10pm w/ live music <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	26 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	27 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyval <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	28	29 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	30	31

Almonte Clubhouse - 105 Wisteria, Mill Valley, CA 94941 415-601-7708 www.almonteclub.org

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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