

# SCÉAL ÉILE

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



## From the Chairman



A Chairde,

A very Happy New Year to all in the Cooley-Keegan community! and what a community it is, as evidenced by our wonderful Christmas Ceili just a few weeks ago - not just the great attendance, but the lively music and dancing seemed to bring out everyone's best holiday sociability! So good that Patrick and Theresa Joyce were able to join us, and quite inspiring to have the young students in our music classes play us a few tunes. Special thanks to Martine and Geli MillerE for their fine job in decorating the hall for this festive event.

Katie and I are just back from our annual visit to Camp New Harmony over the New Year's holiday, where we enjoy a similar sense of community with folks from many different parts of the local folk music scene - and at which we are seeing more Irish music represented each year. It was great to see Comhaltas more broadly represented this year, including Cyndi, Tom, Joel, Samantha, Steve and the Lundy family -- and nice to have a chance to play tunes, contra dance, swing dance, sing pub songs, and generally carry on for a few days around the transition from the old year to the new!

Best wishes to you all as we dive into a new year of CCE events, with a return visit by Patrick O'Dea and the March events looming - come on out and join us in planning for this year's parade, and related festivities!

Slan,  
Micheál R



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)



## Events this Month



**Ceilis at the UICC** - On the third Saturday of the month, January 21<sup>st</sup>, and February 18<sup>th</sup> CCE hosts a night of dancing at the UICC . Music begins at 7:30 with dancing at 8PM to live traditional Irish Music. Admission is free. Contact: Michael Riemer at [riemer@ce.berkeley.edu](mailto:riemer@ce.berkeley.edu).

**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](mailto:irishsetdancer@yahoo.com)), Micheal Minihane ([michealminihane@yahoo.com](mailto:michealminihane@yahoo.com)).

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

**Children's Ceili** - The next Children's Ceili will be held at the Irish Cultural Center on January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4-6PM. Comhaltas Members. Free. Non Comhaltas Members: \$5 per child or \$10 for two or more children.. Contact Josephine Brogan at 415-681-4803 or [josephinebrogan@yahoo.com](mailto:josephinebrogan@yahoo.com).

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



## Wren Boys 2011



Many thanks goes out to all of you who graciously helped make December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 a Wren Boys night to remember for a very long time. As a veteran of the Wren since 1985, I can recall no other St. Stephen's Day that the "*burying of the Wren*" had such an energetic, joyful and successful start. This momentum carried us for five locations before we had a relaxing break (and informal song seisiun) at Katherine Scanlon's house, a Wren Boy institution.

Yours truly is especially grateful for the musicians and dancers agreeing to do the Wren verse followed by reel and polka figures for the very first time at the Murphy house where the "Queen of the Wren", Mrs. Rita Murphy was the long-deserved recipient of our heartfelt appreciation expressed through music and dance. Usually, the Murphy house is used as the gathering place, but it was about time my Ma enjoyed the entertainment that we provide the other houses and pubs for the past 26 years.

### Highlights

There were quite a few first-timers and participants who have not been on the Wren with us for awhile. Thanks for including your friends. We made our usual invasion to Seamus & Maureen Lundy's house. Not only are their children grown and ever talented, but the number of talented guests have ballooned nearly off the scale. Consider that there were 40 of us on the Wren we may need to rent out AT&T Park just to fit us all next year.

We had the good luck of Joanne Hartnett (with her faithful goose), Deirdre McNamara, and Michael Jones delighting us all with their vocal talents, especially at the cheerfully noisy and crowded Parkside Tavern, where we had to stake claim on whatever little space we can manage. Two couples discovered what "ramp dancing" was.

Thanks again goes out to Mrs. Murphy, the Lundy's, Tommy Costelloe, Larry Doyle, Blackthorn Tavern, Katherine Scanlon and the Plough and Stars for opening up their doors to us.

And what would the Wren Boys in San Francisco be without our generous musicians on the road: John Sweeney; Doug Lowder & Patricia; Art Friedman & Margaret Sloan; Richard and Lynn Ferry and the helpful musicians at the Lundy's house: the O'Donnell brothers and a nice fellow named Murphy on the guitar. And let's not forget that Jew's harp. Thanks Martin Howard.

Have a grand 2012, everybody and see ya's on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Your humble "Captain of the Wren"  
Michael Murphy



### St. Patrick's Day Planning



The dates for CCE's participation in the St. Patrick's Day 2012 events will be March 4, March 11, and March 17. Connie will be gathering names of dancers wishing to dance in the performances. We will assemble the float on March 16 at Cunningham Moving and Storage. Those who have worked on assembling the float in the past will have priority in dancing on the float in the parade.



### Kevin Mallen Scholarship



The deadline for submission of this scholarship application is January 30, 2012. Applications may be obtained by calling Josephine at 681-4803 or emailing her at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com; or Joannie at 415 664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com.

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



### Song and Storytelling



The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiun will be hosted by Michael Jones on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Bill & Perry  
16345 Englewood Ave.  
Los Gatos, CA 95032  
408-356-8506  
frantz@pwpconsult.com

The February Seisiun on the 3<sup>rd</sup> will be hosted by Amelia Hogan:

742 40th Ave  
San Francisco, CA 94121  
\*\*\* call to be let in: 831-331-3705  
ameliaisaverb@gmail.com

On March 1<sup>st</sup> Patrick McEnvoy will host:

251 Chestnut  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
650 493 3773  
swagman@swagman.com



*Congratulations and Best Wishes to Pat and Christine Costelloe on their recent wedding in Ireland. We wish you a long and happy life together.*

## Membership Renewal

Thanks to all who have renewed for 2012. Our deadline is Jan 15th. If you have not had a chance to renew, please do so now: <http://sf.ccewest.org> and click on "Join CCE". Payment can be made either through PayPal or by sending a check after you complete the on-line form (we don't bill). Need a membership form? Please see Josephine or contact her at: [josephinebrogan@yahoo.com](mailto:josephinebrogan@yahoo.com); or call Joannie at 415 664-6579.

Membership for 2012 is \$35/single membership; \$45/2 or more people in a household/or a family.

**PLEASE RENEW TODAY AND SUPPORT 2012 EVENTS.** We are grateful to Helen Fahy for her assistance in this membership project.

## Membership Corner

We were all so happy to see Pat and Theresa Joyce at our December Ceili. Both were looking well and sprightly. We are thankful for the wonderful recovery Pat has made and all the family have our prayers and good wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

## General Meeting

General Meetings of the Membership are held on the first Tuesday of the month. The next one will be on February 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30 at the UICC (no meeting in December).

***This is a members' meeting and all members are encouraged to attend in order to plan activities for 2012.***

## Patrick O'Dea Workshop

We will be having a set dancing workshop with Patrick O'Dea, direct from Ireland, on Thursday, February 16th from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, followed by a Ceili from 9.30pm to 11.00pm. Pat and Sean O'Donnell will be playing for the Ceili. Admission is \$15 for the evening. Don't miss this opportunity. It is not often we get a teacher direct from Ireland out here! See attached flyer.

## Condolences

We would like to offer our condolences to Sheila Walsh on the recent passing of her sister, Noreen Murphy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Sheila during this difficult time.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Bill and Jan Driscoll in the passing of Bill's brother, Fr. James Driscoll on October 29, 2011. "Ni fheicimid a leithéad arís" (We will not see the likes of him again.)

## CCE Classes

CCE sponsors the following classes at the UICC.

**Adult Irish Language  
Children's Tin Whistle  
Children's Fiddle  
Children & Adult Bodhran**

These classes will resume in mid January. 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.



## 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 Ceili 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: Ceili 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 Rafael: 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



**Slow Seisiún:**

- Junior Seisiun/slow seisiun is now held one hour prior to each Children's Ceili at the UICC. Please check the calendar for details and dates.

**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

# CANÁIR 2012

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MARI TUESDAY	DÉ CÉADAÍN WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAÍN THURSDAY	DÉ h-AOINE FRIDAY	DÉ SACHAIRN SATURDAY
Jan 1 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	2	3 <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> Bill & Perry Los Gatos	7
8 <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 Rafael	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/ Norton Ceili Band	20	21 <u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music
22 <u>Children's Ceili</u> UICC 4-6PM <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/ Shannon Ceili Band	27 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	28
29 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	30	31 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's Sunnyvale <u>Song Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	Feb 1	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	3 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Amelia Hogan San Francisco	4



CO-CHAIRPERSON: MICHAEL DUFFY (CCE\_CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG)  
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 YOUTH OFFICER: SEAN O'DONNELL

# Feabhra 2012

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAOIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ Sathairn SATURDAY
Jan 29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4
<u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	<u>Song Seisiún</u> Amelia Hogan San Francisco	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	<u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<b><u>Set Dancing Workshop</u></b> <b>Patrick O'Dea @ UICC</b> Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House		<u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	<u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	
26	27	28	29	29	Mar 1	2
<u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	<u>Song Seisiún</u> Patrick McEvoy Palo Alto	

**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)

**Brosnan School of Irish Dance** - 1879 2nd Street, San Rafael (415) 259-0992 [brosnanschool.com](http://brosnanschool.com)

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

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

**Santa Cruz CCE - Clifford-Hoban Branch** - [www.folkplanet.com/cce](http://www.folkplanet.com/cce)



**COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN  
THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH**

## ***CHILDREN'S CÉILÍ***

**(EVERYBODY IS WELCOME)**

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> 2012
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER  
2700 45<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 4.00 PM TO 6 PM
- MUSIC:** LIVE TRADITIONAL MUSIC
- ADMISSION:** Comhaltas Members: **FREE**  
Non-Comhaltas Member: **\$5 per child,**  
**\$10 for two or more children**

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

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



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN  
THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH

# IRISH SET DANCE WORKSHOP & CÉILÍ

WITH

## PATRICK O'DEA FROM IRELAND



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 2012

UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER  
2700 45<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO  
(Ballroom/stage side)

**TIME:** 7.30pm – 11.00pm

(workshop starts promptly at 7.30pm until 9.30pm, with Céilí from 9.30pm to 11pm)

**Live Music for Céilí with Sean and Pat O'Donnell**

**COST FOR EVENT:** \$15.00

For further information, contact Josephine Brogan at: (415) 681-4803  
or [josephinebrogan@yahoo.com](mailto:josephinebrogan@yahoo.com)

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