

SCÉAL CILE

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



From the Chairman



A chairde -

The changing of the year is a special time for our branch of Comhaltas as a group, as it is for many of us in our own lives. We are coming out of one busy period, catching our breath for a bit over the holidays, then diving into another! For a second straight year, we hosted the West Region meeting in mid-November, which included a great music session featuring many musicians we rarely get to see, a festive dinner including members of other branches, and a very fun Ceili led by Regional Chairman, Jim Belcher. The Christmas Ceili was also very successful, with many familiar faces and some enthusiastic new dancers, and contributions leading the dances from a variety of long-time dancers.

I am also happy to report that we are looking to resume our Children's Ceilis, with an eye toward holding one in the latter part of January. These have been on hiatus for a bit, but have been a major factor in the past in making our branch truly a community for all ages, and a welcoming feature for families interested in passing along Irish culture. Keep an ear out for the date and time (yet to be determined) and pass it along to families that may be interested. After that, before you know it, will be time for all the detailed preparations for the St. Patrick's Day Parade...

But in the meantime, we hope you are all enjoying a festive, restful and rejuvenating Holiday Season.

Bliain Úr faoi mhaise daoibh go léir!
(Happy new year!)

Michael R.



Events this Month



Comhaltas Night with Live Irish Music - CCÉ hosts a night of dancing at the UICC on the third Saturday of the month. January's event will be on the 17th; in February it is the 21st. Music begins at 7:30pm with dancing at 8pm to live traditional Irish Music. Admission is free. Contact: Michael Riemer at riemer@ce.berkeley.edu.

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, just dancing at the Plough & Stars from 8-11pm. \$5 donation suggested. Contact: Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415 681-4803. **Holiday update: No dancing on Christmas or New Year's day and January 8th will be treated as the 'First Thursday'.**

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. **We are skipping the second Friday in January as the instructors will be in Ireland.** 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 - 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 john@starryploughceili.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 Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Bill & Perry on January 2nd

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

The February Seisiún is on the 6th and will be hosted by Amelia Hogan

742 40th Avenue, San Francisco
call to be let in: 831 331-3705
ameliaisaverb@gmail.com

For those that plan months ahead, on March 6th Ellen Auriti is hosting:

75 Vicente Road, Berkeley
510 981-0763
eauriti@gmail.com



CCE Membership



Last Call for 2015-16 CCE Membership

Our Membership runs from January 1st to Dec 31st. Single Membership: \$40. Multi-Membership (2 or more in household or a family): \$50.00

We have received membership renewal from most of those who receive the Sceal by US Mail. **However, many of you who receive the Sceal Eile by email have not yet renewed. This membership is due in Ireland in 2 weeks.**

Please visit our website: sf.ccewest.org/membership to renew on-line. You may pay using PayPal or send us a check after renewing. We do not bill.

You can also bring the membership form and your check to dancing and give it to Josephine Brogan or Judy Forrest. Questions? Please contact Joannie O'Leary at 415 664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com.

Share the Joy Please Help with Member Outreach!

It's great to have new folks joining the dancing, but a lot of them don't even know that they could join CCE! If you are receiving and enjoying the Sceal Eile you are already a member -- think how much these newer folks would appreciate if you mentioned to them a little about CCE membership? Many don't know that CCE organizes and sponsors the dance lessons, the various dances at the UICC, the roster of callers at Thursday night dancing, the newsletter, classes and scholarships for kids, and much more. Please take a moment to mention CCE to the new folks at dance as we're sure they'd appreciate knowing how to get their own Sceal Eile! They can obtain Membership Forms online, or from Judy Forrest at dancing. Thanks!



Winter Set Dance and Céilí



The First Annual Santa Cruz Mountains Winter Set Dance and Céilí will be held at the historic Trout Farm Inn in Felton, 8pm to midnight Saturday, January 31st.

You are invited to an Irish dance party featuring live traditional music by The Crooked Road Céilí Band. Set dancing and céilí will be called by San Francisco's Michael Murphy. An Irish seisiún follows the dancing.

\$5 at the door for the dancing and music. Bring the whole family for dinner and stay for a bit of the pure drop! Dinner reservations are recommended.

Felton Trout Farm Inn
7701 E Zayante Rd, Felton, CA 95018
831 335-4317
thetroutfarminn.net

Invitation on Facebook:

facebook.com/events/278491772275285/

The Trout Farm Inn is one of the most unique and special places in California. We value the history and charm of this, the jewel of the San Lorenzo Valley. Outstanding food and service and feet-moving live entertainment, there are still many more memories to be served. Please consider the Trout Farm Inn your home away from home.



CCE Classes



CCE sponsors the classes at the UICC based on interest from the CCE community. Planned classes are listed below, let us know of other music or language classes of interested.

Irish Language Class

The Irish Language Class will resume after the St. Patrick's Day festivities. Stay tuned for more information.

Tin Whistle Lessons

We are currently working on re-starting tin whistle lessons for adults and children. If you are interested, please contact Josephine Brogan: 415 681-4803 or josephinebrogan@yahoo.com



General Meetings



General Meetings of the Membership are typically held on the first Tuesday of the month. The next one will be on February 3rd.

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

St. Patrick's Day Parade

It's the New Year, so now is the time to start thinking about St. Patrick's Season activities. There are lots of different performances that take place in March. Also, there is dancing in the parade which is on March 14, 2015. If you are interested in dancing in United Irish Societies and Comhaltas events and/or in the parade, please contact Connie at cerrydancer@juno.com or 707 318-9200.

We also need your help with the float! Last year was marvelous in that there were enough people to build the float and then to put it away. Please consider saving the dates to come and help out. Construction date is Friday, March 13, 2015. Storing away date is to be announced. Hopefully, it will be the day of the parade. To help with the float, please contact Kasey at gwillhunt.7@gmail.com or (707)280-1235.

Member News

The Comhaltas family extend their sincere sympathy to Dan McAuliffe in the passing of his brother, Denis McAuliffe in London. We will be keeping Dan, Margaret, James and all their family in our thoughts and prayers.



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/>

North Bay Set Dancing



Mary McDonagh and Micheal Minihaue and their Set Dancing class at the Brosnan School of Irish Dance



The CCÉ West Regional Convention included a whirlwind of activities at the UICC including a seisiún in the bar, dinner and set dancing. A grand time was had by all.

Eanáir 2015

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ Sathairn SATURDAY
Dec 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 <u>No Set Dancing</u> Happy New Year	2 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Bill and Perry's Los Gatos	3
4 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	5 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	6 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	7	8 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton Céilí Band (no class at UICC)	9	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/ Topsy House	16	17 <u>Comhaltas Night</u> UICC 7:30-10pm w/ live music
18 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	19 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	20 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	21	22 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Crooked Road	23 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan 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, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	28	29 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	30	31



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)
 WEBMASTER: MICHAEL DUFFY (CCE_WEBMASTER@CCEWEST.ORG)
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR: TIM SULLIVAN (CCE_SCEAL@CCEWEST.ORG)
 YOUTH OFFICER: CERI GARFIELD

FEABHRAR 2015

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

Bronsan School of Irish Dance - 11 Belle Avenue, Suite B, San Anselmo, Ca 94960 bronsanschool.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.

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), 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

EANÁIR / FEABHRA 2015 SCÉAL EILE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED