

SCÉAL ÉILE

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



From the Chairman



A chairde -

Every year, March is our busiest month in Comhaltas -- no big surprise, for an Irish cultural organization, of course. In addition to our many language, music and dance activities that are regularly distributed around the calendar year, there are many events coordinated by others in which we participate as part of the St. Patrick's Day season (special dinners, festivals - and the Parade naturally). It can make for a rather frantic fortnight, if one tries to get even slightly involved with just a fraction of so many things, and so of course we develop our personal favorites and traditions, leaving other events to other enthusiasts.

There is a bit of trap, though, in personally participating in the same certain events each March -- a sneaking tendency for such annual observances to blend together with those of the previous 5, 15, or 25 years, making it hard to appreciate them as distinct and special events. I would encourage everyone to perhaps forgo one of their "stalwarts" that are already well supported (and at which you know exactly what is going to happen before you even arrive) in favor of a new event, or a once-off opportunity. Check the Irish Center bulletin boards, or the Herald, or the appropriate web sites and consider experiencing something new this March.

One event that cannot possibly be "just like last years" - at least for Comhaltas members - will be the Parade itself, however. That is of course because we have lost our dear friend Patrick Joyce, who generously contributed so much of his time, expertise and good humor to the design and construction of the CCE floats over the years. We will miss these qualities throughout the year, in many different circumstances of course, but perhaps most keenly in the days and hours around the parade.

Slán, Michael R



St. Patrick's Events



March 15th - Float Construction 9AM., Cunningham's Moving & Storage, 1250 Van Dyke Ave, SF, 94124. You are all invited to help assemble the float. Come out and help construct a float we can all be proud of.

March 16th - Saint Patricks Day Parade - 11:30 a.m. 2nd & Market St. to Civic Center Come out and support the dancers and your organization. All are welcome to walk with the float in the parade. There is a dress code. Check with Kasey, Connie, Joannie, or Josephine

March 17th - Block Party - There will be a block party at the Irish Cultural Center in conjunction with Java Beach. This has become an annual event where we can all relax and enjoy the day and get in some dancing to the music.

March 24th Saint Patrick's Ceili - The annual Saint Patrick's Ceili will be held at the Irish Cultural Center on March 24th from 7-10PM. Admission \$10, children free. Music by the Shannon Ceili band. Contact Josephine Brogan at 415-681-4803 or josephinebrogan@yahoo.com. See attached flyer for more information.

Hope to see you at any or all of these events!



Find us on
Facebook



CCE 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/>



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)



Member News



Congratulations and Best Wishes to Cathy and Harold Jones who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on February 14th (Valentines Day is their actual anniversary) at the Patrick O'Dea Set Dancing Workshop held at the Irish Cultural Center. It was a great night of dancing and we had five sets

Our sincere condolences to Ralph and Mae Mihan and family on the recent passing of Mae's Mother, Eleanor Green. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



Song and Storytelling



The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Bill and Perry on April 5th
16345 Englewood Ave.
Los Gatos, CA 95032
408-356-8506
frantz@pwpconsult.com

The May Seisiun is on the 3rd
Marian and Greg McKenna
777 San Antonio Rd. #31
Palo Alto
650-776-6543
chabansky@yahoo.com



Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta



Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta 2013,
Irish Language Immersion Weekend!

Save the date: September 27-29



Events this Month



Ceilis at the UICC - On the third Saturday of the month, CCE normally hosts a night of dancing at the UICC. For March this event will not be held -- join us at the St. Patrick's parade on the 16th and the St. Patrick's Ceili on March 24th. For April we go back to the normal schedule on the 20th. 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.

San Francisco - On Thursdays, CCE 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.

Note: on March 14th the Plough and Stars is hosting a DVD/CD release party for Vincey Keehan -- limited dancing depending on the crowd.

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 ceili 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.



Crossroads



The Crossroads Irish-American Festival promotes the discovery and understanding of the Irish experience in the Americas. This year the festival occurs between March 9th and April 26th at various San Francisco locations. Highlights include:

March 14th Nights In Shanaglish DVD/CD release party featuring producers Vincey Keehan and Paddy Egan at the Plough and Stars .

March 20th -- Live performance featuring Laurence Nugent, Paddy Egan at the Plough and Stars.

March 23rd - Irish-American Stories Workshop at the UICC.

March 24th Oral Histories of the SF Irish - UICC

April 7th and 18th - Writers and Poets readings and exploration at USF and Bookshop West Portal.

April 26th - Irish Traditional Music Legends: Kevin Burke and John Carty at Brick and Mortar Music.

Visit www.irishamericancrossroads.org for a complete schedule and more information.



Remembering Patrick Joyce



Pat was an enthusiastic dancer who kept pace with much younger dancers at Starry Plough for four years. I often saw him engage in conversation with all sorts of people off to the side of the floor, as he also did at the United Irish Cultural Center. One could easily see how he equally enjoyed talking and listening to people, no matter who they were. The insights and advice he imparted on people were done with kindness, humor and sincere interest. He was as humble as he was strong and forthright.

One last impression of Pat that will ever burn in my mind was when I was CCE chairman back in 2001 overseeing the preparation of the float for St. Pat's Parade. The men, who had extensive knowledge about construction, were nevertheless stymied by a problem while connecting two components together. Not being an expert, I did not know how to resolve the issue especially when the builders were not in agreement about the best course to take. Well, here came Pat in to help, and suggested an ingenious technique that took very little time and came from an angle that no one considered since it was not the usual option. We will miss your talents and pleasant nature Pat. Our hearts go out to Theresa and the rest of the Joyce family.

Michael Murphy

Thank you, Pat, for being lovely and friendly and kind. Cheers!

Charlotte MacDonald

I truly enjoyed sitting & talking -especially with Pat & Theresa Joyce during set dance class/Comhaltas nights. It wasn't small talk with them. He always truly listened to people. Pat and Theresa together really got to know individuals and cared so sincerely about people. I could always see how very close they were to each other. It was almost like one person, that's why I refer to them both. Theresa was always kind enough to "lend" Pat out if I didn't have a partner. He was always so willing to dance with anyone who needed a partner. He loved to dance so much and was a wonderful dancer. It makes me sad. He was so kind to everyone, never complained about anything. He reminded me of my own Dad.

Loretta Wasacz

We will miss Pat Joyce, a true gentleman. May he rest in peace.

Ina Brennan

They broke the mold after Pat was born. A true gentleman & loveable guy.

Patty Hoyt

Much love to Theresa and the family in this time of sadness.

Nellie Magee

I always respected Pat as great man who was so polite and kind, whose great skills one would never know because he always was much more interested in how we were doing. I enjoyed working on the float with him a few years, and our days dancing. His beautiful spouse Theresa was almost always at his side. He was indeed a quiet man whose greatness was unparalleled. My heart is broken that he was taken from his family and the rest of us too soon. We must always really be with our people, not take anything for granted.

George Shea

Pat Joyce was a wonderful man and he will be greatly missed in the Irish Community. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Theresa, and family.

Josephine Brogan

continued on next page...



Remembering Patrick Joyce...



The last time I saw Pat was at Bill Driscoll's funeral and Pat said he prayed the rosary in Irish for our Mom.... I can only say one for you Pat, Theresa & your family with much grá & gratitude....

Moe Murphy

Pat Joyce was a true gentleman, quiet, gentle, happy and laughing. His insights in construction were magical as he worked on our float each year with Kasey, Dan and all the crew. Pat was always so proud to carry the CCE banner with Theresa every year in the parade.

Between them, Pat and Theresa had a wonderful dignity and a pride in their family and Irish culture. They were always on the front lines together to help whenever it was needed. To borrow a line... "we will never see the likes of him again". Our love and sympathy to Theresa, Diane, Linda, Sarah, David & family.

Joannie & Francie O'Leary

Pat Joyce was a lovely man who always had time for a chat. He always had a smile on his face and so obviously enjoyed the dancing – especially with Theresa. He will be greatly missed by us all. My love and sympathy to Theresa, Diane and family. God Bless.

Katherine Scanlon

A quiet, friendly, smiling, gifted, gentleman from Aran. He shall be missed. We wish Theresa, and family strength, and our prayers through this most difficult time.

Frank and Mary.



CCE Classes



CCE sponsors the following classes at the UICC.

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

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



CCE Convention



North American Convention of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann

The O'Neill Malcom Branch will be hosting the Convention this year on Thursday, April 4th through April 7th, 2013. This is a wonderful weekend of dancing, music and language workshops, several Ceilis and a great banquet on Saturday night. Please see more information on their website at

<http://cceconvention2013.org/index.html>

Be sure to make your hotel reservations at the Convention Hotel - Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center as the branch needs to meet a certain quota of hotel rooms in order to get rooms for workshops, etc. free. Their number is: 1-877-212-5752 (ask for "CCE Convention" to get preferred rate / \$104 plus tax/night). Check out flights on Virgin Airlines or United Airlines.



Membership Corner



Please renew your membership **NOW**.

Thanks to those who have done so already. Single Membership is \$40. Multi-membership (2 or more in household) or family memberships is \$50. If you receive the Sceal by US Mail, a form was sent to you in the last Sceal Eile. If you receive the Sceal by email, Josephine emailed you about your renewal.

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.

If you have any questions, please call Joannie at 415 664-6579; email Joannie at 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 one will be on April 2nd

This is a members' meeting and all members are encouraged to attend in order to plan activities for 2013.



Set Dancing



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

2nd 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 1st and 2nd Thursday; Topsy House on the 3rd and 4th 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.

2nd and 4th 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

MÁRTA 2013

De Dómhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Máirt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deáardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Feb 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> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	Mar 1 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Michael Jones San Carlos	2
3 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	4	5 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	6	7 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	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 DVD/CD release party Limited dancing	15 <u>Float Construction</u> 9AM-3PM Cunningham's Storage	16 <u>St. Patricks Day Parade</u>
17 <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 w/ Topsy House	22 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	23
24 <u>St. Patrick's Ceili</u> UICC 7-10PM w/ Live Music <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> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	29	30



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AIBREÁN 2013

Dé Domhnaigh SUNDAY	Dé Luan MONDAY	Dé Mairt TUESDAY	Dé Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Déardaoin THURSDAY	Dé h-Aoine FRIDAY	Dé Sathairn SATURDAY
Mar 31 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	Apr 1	2 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	3	4 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	5 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Bill & Perry Los Gatos	6
7 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	8	9 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	10	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	12 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	13
14 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	15	16 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	17	18 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton	19	20 <u>CCE Ceili Night</u> UICC 7-10PM w/ Live Music
21 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	22	23 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	24	25 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	26 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	27
28 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	29	30 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	May 1	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	3 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Marian & Greg McKenna Palo Alto	4

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

U.I.C.C. - 2700 45th Ave. (At Sloat Blvd.), San Francisco, (415) 661-2700 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

Beckett's Irish Pub - 2271 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (510) 647-1790 www.beckettsirishpub.com

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

You can also visit the following websites for events:

San Francisco CCE - Cooley-Keegan Branch - sf.ccewest.org

Santa Cruz CCE - Clifford-Hoban Branch - www.folkplanet.com/cce



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH

ST. PATRICK'S CÉILÍ

Special Presentation of our 10th
*"T. Kevin Mallen & Michael Healy Music
Scholarship Awards"*

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH 2013
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- MUSIC:** Shannon Ceílí Band
- ADMISSION:** Adults: \$10.00 Children: Free

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

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

