

SCÉAL ÉILE

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

From the Chairman



Congratulations to Katie and Michael!

Crane William Riemer was born April 19th, at 4:52pm at Alta Bates after a joyful and adventurous labor and delivery. He weighed in at 7.14 lbs, 20.5 inches, looks so much like Michael!

We are all healthy and deliriously happy! Huge shouts out to Fruits of Labor Midwifery, Marian O'Dowd, the staff here at Alta Bates, all the love from everyone! So happy!

Events this Month

Comhaltas night at the UICC - On the third Saturday of month, May 19th and June 16th, CCE hosts a night of dancing at the UICC. Music begins at 7:30 with dancing at 8PM to live traditional Irish Music. Meet us in the bar area downstairs. 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. **On May 31st the Plough & Stars is closed for a private party so we will stay at the UICC after class.**

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.

General Meeting

General Meetings of the Membership are typically held on the first Tuesday of the month. The next ones will be on June 5th starting at 7:30 at the UICC.

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



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)



Youth Music Class -- Spring 2012



Back Row: Left to right - Molly O'Connell, Hannah O'Connell, Caoimhe Lyons, Eoin Lyons, Cormac Lyons, Ceri Garfield (Whistle Teacher), Pdraig Lyons, Joseph Howard, Sean O'Donnell, Declan Flaherty.
Front Row: Left to right - Caroline Cooper, Aidan Aherne, Mike O'Sullivan, Laura O'Sullivan, Claire Flaherty, Eleanor Brown, Kristina Ben Arab (Fiddle Teacher)
Not Pictured: Riley McKeon in fiddle class and Sinead McKeon and Kaitlan Conroy in Whistle Class



News from CCE - Ireland



We are delighted to have had members of the SF Cooley-Keegan Branch entering and winning in the annual Fleadh Cheoil the past few years. For those who might be traveling to Ireland in August- it is an event not to be missed! Best wishes to all our participants!! www.fleadhcheoil.ie

The 40th Annual Scoil Éigse organised by Comhaltas takes place in Cavan Town, August 12th to 17th, the week preceding Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.

At Scoil Éigse - CCÉ's annual international Summer School students of all ages register for the various instrumental music, singing, dancing and more.

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann - Fleadh Cheoil 2012 returns to Cavan for the third year from 10th - 20th August. The full Cavan Fleadh programme will be available in May 2012. Join our mailing list below or follow us on Facebook or Twitter to be informed once our the All Ireland Fleadh Cavan 2012 programme is available.

The Fleadh Cheoil six part series runs every Friday until June 4 on RTE 1 at 7:30pm. Presenters Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin and John Creedon introduce highlights of the 2011 All Ireland Fleadh in Cavan. Watch the series on the RTE player.

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2013 will be held in Derry for the very first time ever - mark your calendars for next year.



CCE Classes



CCE sponsors the following classes at the UICC.

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

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.**



Song and Storytelling



The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by John Hopkirk on June 1st.
 145 Highland Ave,
 San Carlos, CA 94070
 650-593-0843
hopkirk@earthlink.net



Lost and Found



Found: One small yellow umbrella left on the float after the parade.

Lost: One costume green shamrock and black vest worn in the parade. The vests are costly to make and must be kept together. Please check to see if you have the vest or tie or headband and return to any Board member



St. Patrick's Day Parade



Saint Patrick's Day Parade dancers gather to celebrate following our award winning performance

There is an old saying: "Many hands make light work". There were many "hands" that made our float in the St. Patrick's Day Parade a reality, though some of the work was not so light. Thank you to Kasey Curtin, Dan McAuliffe, John Bycoff, Victor Bycoff, Pat Gray, Frank McDonagh, Tracy and Sean Griffin who started work on the float several weeks ahead of time to get a head start on the construction and art work to be continued by others on the day before the parade at Cunningham's where more "hands" arrived. Saturday morning at Duggan Welch, there were "hands" for more assembly. Then Ta Da...off we go to the Parade.

St. Patrick answered our prayers and kept the rain from falling on us. The dancing and music along Market Street was great and the performance went very well. Then, after our very enjoyable lunch celebration, we rode back to Duggan Welch where more "hands" deconstructed. On Monday morning, a small group of "hands" (who were pretty tired by this time) showed up at Cunningham's to store away all parts of the float until next year when it becomes a reality again. There are so many "hands" to thank: float builders, dancers, musicians, flag and banner carriers, those who prepared and donated food.

A huge thank you goes to Cunningham Moving and Storage for the donation of the flat bed and cab-without which there would be no float, and for the use of their location for building the float and for storage all year. Another huge thank you to Duggan Welch Family for the use of their facility for preparing ourselves, the float, and for parking. Thanks also to our driver, Martin McCullough, who did a great job keeping the truck steady while we danced along the parade route.

Also, thank you to those faithful souls who shared their time and talent to perform at the many United Irish Societies events and other St. Patrick's season events. Here is a list (in alphabetical order) of the many "hands": Al Arnolfo, Josephine Brogan, John Bycoff, Victor Bycoff, Jonathan Coxhead, Kasey Curtin, Judy Forrest, Linnea Sepe Forrest, Pat Gray, Sean Giffin, Tracy Griffin, Martin Giles, Diane Joyce, Linda Joyce, Pat Joyce, Theresa Joyce, Morgan Kulla, Connie Lynch, Jen Mahoney, Dan McAuliffe, Frank McDonagh, Mary McDonagh, Cathy Mibach, Don Mibach, Lew Milligan, Aine Minihane, Micheal Minihane, Maureen Murphy, Michael Murphy, Bill Ngai, Pat Nash, Jim O'Donnell, Sean O'Donnell, Joannie O'Leary, Dave O'Mara, Michael Riemer, Craig Ritts, Terry Ritts, Kevin Roletto, Catherine Scanlon, Laurel Shehen, John Sherry, Tom Sleckman, Barbara Southworth, Tim Sullivan, Jenny Valcov.



2012 CCE Convention in Saint Louis



Attendees at the 2012 CCE Convention gather for a group photo. Their memories of the convention follow

What more could one ask for? Tornado warning on Saturday evening, followed by giant hailstorm, then great banquet dinner and show featuring the very talented local youth who not only played music brilliantly but also danced followed by a great session that ended at 5:15am Sunday morning, followed by going to a great Cardinals game with Ralph Mihan Sunday afternoon, followed by a great meal at an Irish pub with all the Cooley-Keegan bunch, the Toronto crowd and Siobhan O'Donoghue (County Clare) and Mary Molloy (isle of man), Margie Mulvahill, Margie's daughter, John Reynolds and last but not least Leo Griffin (Tralee) - great people all. I can't wait until the next one in Washington, D.C. **Lew Milligan**

There were several things that stand out to me about the convention:
The Thursday night Ceili was delightful! I enjoyed the workshops where you can get into the footwork and really get to know the sets. It is also wonderful to get some of the history of the dances and the regions they came from. I enjoyed seeing the young ones perform their dances and music, and in simple costumes that let the natural energy of the kids shine through. The impromptu sessions were fantastic - playing, singing and even dancing and a tea party in the lobby!

What I most remember, though, is the warmth and kinship of the group - wherever you go, there is friendship and home. There were a couple of gentlemen, from Cork I believe, who were checking in at the desk during the lobby festivities the last night and they were welcomed like old friends and introduced around - how special to have that kind of community. I am a fairly new dancer (not quite a year and a half) and the dancing is wonderful. But it wouldn't be half as much fun without the community spirit and the fun, welcoming attitude.

I was hesitant to go to the convention last year as a brand new dancer, but everyone encouraged me to go, and it was a fantastic learning experience. This year, I wouldn't have missed it, and I definitely plan to go next year as well. **Cyndie**

I would like to thank my friends in Comhaltas who put my name forward for a service award. I am not one for public speaking, so I was very nervous about standing up in front of a lot of people to accept the award. Lucky for me, the awards were presented at a small cocktail reception before the banquet. I prayed for a power outage, but got a tornado watch instead! The convention was a mighty weekend of dancing, workshops, meeting old and new friends. Next year, the Convention will be in Washington DC and I encourage you all to go. You will have the time of your life. **Josephine**

This year's Convention was simply a blast – the music was first class, the dancing was tremendous (we even danced in the hotel lobby at 3am to live music!), the late night singing session's were great, the room party was fun until security closed it down!, the tornado and hail storm that blew through the city on Saturday failed to put a damper on the banquet and celebrations, and without a doubt the craic was mighty all weekend long.

I also wish to add that there were many times over the weekend that I was very proud to be associated with all the fine folks who traveled from the SF branch as I had many people say very positive and wonderful things about my fellow branch members and what they bring to the conventions each year (and they weren't just talking about the soda bread and bottles of whiskey!) To top everything off we had Josephine taking home the Service Award and Sue and Johnny Sweeney winning the top prize of \$1000 in the banquet drawing.

I am told that next year's Convention in Washington, DC from 4/4-4/7 will be even better than this year's so it will be one not to be missed! **Deirdre**

The 2012 CCE Convention in St. Louis was a trip down memory lane for me: St. Louis was my sixth, but also my first convention. So much was the same as that first time -- terrific workshops, the exhilaration of meeting people from all over the country who share our same delight in music and dance, hanging out with our own Cooley-Keegan branch in a strange city (about 25 came! way to go SF!), and the fun of seeing how other CCE branches foster their own local talent -- in St. Louis there is a great deal of focus on youth musicianship, and it was a joy to see and hear the accomplishments of a terrific flock of kids.

What was different? Well, that first time I was overwhelmed by the hundreds of strangers who all seemed to know each other, and I was scared I would not be able to keep up with the dances, and I was utterly flattened by the lack of sleep. Now I know how to pace myself to get just enough sleep to enjoy everything, but not so much that Josephine gives me a hard time for sleeping too much. Now there are still lots of strangers, but there is the fun of seeing the friends made in previous years, and making new ones. One moment that for me epitomizes the convention experience came about when a few of us SF folks ended up at a mostly empty banquet table this year, because we couldn't reserve banquet tables this time. Jim Belcher came to join us, and suggested we invite a husband and wife couple none of us knew, to join our table, because he noticed they had ended up all alone at a banquet table. He thought they'd be happier sitting with other folks -- and I know Jim well enough to be sure that he didn't just do it to get the wine bottles from their table! That for me was what the Convention is about: open-heartedness, kindness, hospitality. Can't wait to get to D.C. - **Judy**

The Convention was smaller than usual this year, but I danced more than ever! Ultan taught interesting dances at the workshops, the ceili dances and bands were wonderful, and the company was great fun! My favorite line came from the dance instructor, Ultan. At one of the ceilis he announced, "To fill this set we need just one more man here...one more man, or a good woman...!" **Susan Keith**

It was fitting that when the tornado warnings went off in the Hotel Saturday night the Irish Comhaltas guests were herded into the Hotel tornado cellar, the bar. If the tornado did a direct hit to the Hotel, the Irish would have already been in heaven. Don't know where the other Hotel guests were sequestered. **Ralph**

***"2, 4, 6, 8 who do we appreciate!!!! Josephine, Josephine yeah..... Josephine...!"
That was the call heard around the Convention this weekend past for our own PRO Josephine Brogan.
Josephine was awarded the Service award for 2012 for CCE presented at the Convention this year...
JB keeps everyone here on their toes (literally)... she has been so involved in all aspects of CCE SF-
Cooley-Keegan Branch. Although we all got an earful for our efforts, it was worth it... Please join us in
congratulating Josephine. - Moe***

There was a lovely jovial atmosphere at the St. Louis Convention this year. I don't remember dancing so much in a long time and Ultan, our set dance teacher from Limerick, made the workshops and ceilis great fun. The ceili band from Chicago were brilliant! Our Toronto friends keep everyone hopping and there was great craic and friendship in our Sunday night dinner. To me, the convention is about rekindling old friendships and meeting new folks – whether on the dance floor, at dinner or at a session in the hotel lobby at 2 in the morning! I missed Larry and Phyllis Reynolds and the rest of the Boston crowd this year, and others who kept the convention going for so many years and passed the torch on to us. I add my congratulations to Josephine Brogan, recipient of the Comhaltas Service Award for 2012, presented by Labhras O'Murchu and the North American CCE Provincial Board. - **Joannie**



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 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

BHEALTAINÉ 2012

De Dómhnaigh 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	May 1 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	2	3 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	4 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Patrick McEvoy Palo Alto	5
6 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	7	8 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	9	10 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	12
13 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	14	15 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	16	17 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars Norton Ceili Band	18	19 <u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music
20 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	21	22 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily 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> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	26
27 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	28	29 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Song Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	30	31 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class & dancing Plough & Stars <i>closed for private party</i>	Jun 1 <u>Song Seisiún</u> John Hopkirk San Carlos	2



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Meitheamh 2012

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAOIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ Sathairn SATURDAY
May 27 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	28	29 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	30	31 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	Jun 1 <u>Song Seisiún</u> John Hopkirk San Carlos	2
3 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	4	5 <u>CCE Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	6	7 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	8 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	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 w/ Topsy House	15	16 <u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music
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 Rafael	23
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> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	29	30

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 - 1879 2nd Street, San Rafael (415) 259-0992 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