

SCÉAL ÉILE

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



From the Chairman



A chairde -

Ahh, we have made it to May! While I am sure there are some of us for whom this might mark the beginning of a particularly challenging part of the year, for many it means the winding down of the school year, the end of tax season, and longer, warmer days for sports, travel and outings of all sorts. Certainly for Comhaltas it is the end of our busiest season: the wonderful Irish language events of Seachtain na Gaeilge, all the planning and effort (and joy!) of a very special St. Patrick's Day season, all culminating with a trip for many of our members to the North American Convention.

But don't think for a moment that everything grinds to a halt thereafter! If you are among those that enjoy a bit of extra free time in the late Spring and Summer, come out and join us for song or a dance, a story or a tune, a meal or a chat -- at one of our regular events that continue throughout the year. Wishing for some other type of event? Something you think others in CCE would enjoy? Bring your ideas to a membership meeting - many things are possible if you are willing to contribute some time and energy to making them happen.

Hope to see you soon!

Slán,
Michael ?



Events this Month



Comhaltas Night with Live Irish Music - CCE hosts a night of dancing at the UICC on the third Saturday of the month. May's event will be on the 17th; in June 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, CCE 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 and dancing at the Plough & Stars from 8-11pm. \$5 donation suggested. Contact: Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or (415)681-4803.

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. There is a \$5 donation suggested for this class. Tea and cakes or sweets will be served. Contact: Mary McDonagh at irishsetdancer@yahoo.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)



Grand Marshal Dinner - Congratulations Dan



Comhaltas members joined with the San Francisco Irish community in congratulating Dan and Margaret McAuliffe as the Grand Marshal team for the Saint Patrick's Day Parade



St. Patrick's Day Parade



TO ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE FLOAT

Congratulations on another successful year in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Thank you to all those involved in making it happen. We had a huge turnout of workers to build and put the float away and because of that, the float was built and put away in record time. Many hands really do make light work. Each and every one of you is vitally important in making this event a reality. Thank you to the driver, the musicians and sound people, the dancers, the flag and banner carriers, guests on the float, the walkers, the builders and those who put it away. Thank you to all the volunteers who brought refreshments. A special thank you goes to Charlie Cunningham for donating the truck and the storage box year after year. And to Bill & Steve Welch for their great hospitality each year at Duggan's Funeral Parlor on 17th Street.

So please mark your calendars for next year and we look forward to bringing this wonderful group of people together again. Here's to "Keeping the Tradition Alive."
Kasey and Connie



Song and Storytelling



The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Patrick McEvoy on May 2nd

251 Chestnut
Palo Alto
(650) 493 3773
swagman@swagman.com

The June Seisiún is on the 6th and will be hosted by Bill & Peri:

16345 Englewood Ave
Los Gatos
(408) 356 8506
frantz@pwpcconsult.com

There will be no seisiún in July. Back in August.



Member News



Congratulations to Cathy Jones on her 85th Birthday 4/5/14... Keep on dancing, Cathy!!!... from all at CCE...



Congratulations to Michael and Miriam



Congratulations to Michael Jones and Miriam Kaplan who were married on April 19th. We wish them many happy years ahead.



Visiting Ireland



For visitors to Ireland this spring/summer;

Fleadh nua, Ennis Co. Clare - May 18-25, 2014
www.fleadhnua.com

Seisiún - July & August 2014 - Stage show of Irish traditional music, song, dance and storytelling following by an informal session where audience participation is welcome. A total of 430 shows in 49 venues throughout Ireland.
www.comhaltas.ie/seisiun

Scoil ÉIGSE Sligo - CCE's international summer school - August 20-15, 2014
www.comhaltas.ie/scoileigse

Fleadh Scheoil NA hÉireann - Sligo - August 10-17, 2014 The biggest Irish cultural festival including concerts, céilithe, open-air music sessions and performances, singing sessions and much, much more. Must be seen to be believed!!!
www.fleadhcheoil.ie



CCÉ Classes



CCÉ sponsors the following classes at the UICC.

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

Irish Language class for children: We are interested in starting an Irish Language Class for children with Gráinne Ní Riain, a native Irish speaker, on Tuesday evenings from 6-7pm at the Irish Cultural Center. If your child is interested, please contact Josephine Brogan at (415)681-4803 or josephinebrogan@yahoo.com. We will need a minimum of 6 children, 5 years and older, in order to sponsor this class. Registration and payment are required in advance.

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.**



All Irish Language Concert on Saturday, March 8th at the UICC. Ceolchoirm Gaeilge den chéad scoth.

Aodh Óg Ó Tuama and Christy Martin of Four Shillings Short performed a brilliant two hour concert to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge at Imelda's Irish Language Class on March 8th.

Born in Cork, Ireland, Aodh Óg O'Tuama comes from a family of poets, writers, musicians & teachers. He studied music at University College Cork in Ireland and Stanford University in California. Aodh Óg plays Medieval and Renaissance woodwinds, tinwhistles, recorders, bowed psaltery, dumbek, spoons, and is a native Irish speaker.

Christy Martin grew up in San Diego in a family of musicians and dancers and began studying the Sitar at age 16 with a protégé of famed sitar maestro Ravi Shankar. She plays hammered dulcimer, Sitar, mandolin, mandola, bouzouki, banjo, guitar, charango, bowed psaltery, bodhran and bones.

Together, they sang about 20 beautiful Irish songs, all accompanied by their array of usual and some very unusual instruments. And much humor! A first class musical treat. The Irish Language students were well able to sing along, having learned many of the songs in class.

Here is a sampling of the songs they sang and the accompanying instruments:

1. An Páistín Fionn - Mandola & Tinwhistles.
2. Bog Braon - Irish Bouzouki, Tinwhistles.
3. Mollaí na gCuach Ní Chuilleanáin - Sitar, Tinwhistle & Dumbek.
4. Planxty Hewlett by Turlough O'Carolan – played on 2 Bowed Psalteries.
5. Príosiún Chluain Meala - North Indian drone instrument, Shruti Box & Native American flute.
6. Beidh Aonach Amárach - Hammered Dulcimer & Low D Tinwhistle.

We hope to have Four Shillings Short back again next year. Tá said thar bharr.
For more information visit fourshillingsshort.com.

Saturday Set Dancing Workshops

May 2014 Saturday Set Dancing workshops

Michael Murphy will be giving set dancing workshops on Saturdays during the month of May. The workshops will be at Lilly Mac's Restaurant & Pub (upstairs) on May 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th between 2:30pm and 4:30pm to recorded music. Lilly Mac's is located at: 187 S. Murphy Ave in Sunnyvale.

Admission is \$45 for whole month or \$12 per workshop.

Dances covered will include Polkas, Slides, Jigs and Hornpipes with focus on Sliabh Luachra Set and Baile Bhuirne Jig Set (to slides).

An after Workshops Ceili will be held on May 31st from 2pm to 5pm; Admission for ceili \$12; \$6 for dancers who attended all four workshops. Live music provided by Birds in the Bush. Contact Michael Murphy (415-999-6062) or Yevgeny Binder on Meet-up at the Irish Dance - SF Bay Area group (<http://www.meetup.com/irishdance/>).

Membership Corner

Memberships are **PAST DUE** please renew now!

Single Membership is \$40. Multi-membership (2 or more in household) or family memberships is \$50.

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).
- Ask Josephine for a membership form at dancing and give her either a check or cash with a filled-in form.

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.

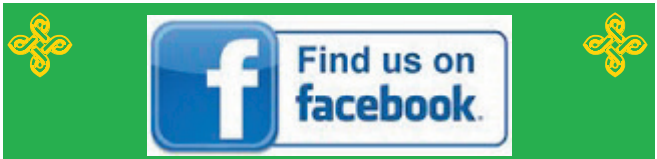
Thank you for your support.

Member News

"Our loving sympathy to our friend and member, Catherine Brosnan-Dow on the sudden passing of her father, Brendan Brosnan in Donegal. Catherine and her family have been great supporters of CCE over the years. "Mary Rose" (mom) and Catherine could be counted on to ensure our Cooley-Keegan events (especially for dancing) were a success and brother, Patrick danced in our St. Patrick's Day float and events. Brendan, born in Abbeydorney, Co. Kerry, was an accomplished carpenter who enjoyed golf with his many Irish friends in San Francisco. He built their home in Donegal, where family and friends were always welcomed. Sincere condolences to Catherine, Mary Rose, sons-Patrick & Brendan and grandson Jerred.

Best wishes to Frank Rooney for a full recuperation after his recent surgery. We missed you at the St. Patrick's Ceili and always appreciate the encouragement you give to us at parade time. From all your friends in Comhaltas - All the best for a complete recovery and hope to see you soon!

Our sincere sympathy to Marie Boylan on the recent passing of her Mother, Betty Kennedy Deitch. Our thoughts and prayers are with Marie and her family.



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/>

General Meeting

General Meetings of the Membership are typically held on the first Tuesday of the month. The next ones will be on May 6th and June 3rd.

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

Bhealtaine 2014

De Dómhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deáardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
CCÉ Convention Parsippany <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	<u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	<u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band		<u>Set Dancing Workshop</u> 2:30 -4:30pm Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale
<u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	<u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	CCÉ Meeting UICC 7:30pm <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton Céilí Band	<u>Song Seisiún</u>	<u>Set Dancing Workshop</u> 2:30 -4:30pm Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale
<u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	<u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	<u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ live music	<u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	<u>Comhaltas Night</u> UICC 7:30-10pm w/ live music <u>Set Dancing Workshop</u> 2:30 -4:30pm Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale
<u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	<u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	<u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly 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 Workshop</u> 2:30 -4:30pm Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale
<u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	<u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	<u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Crooked Road	<u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	<u>Set Dancing Ceili</u> 2-5pm Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale



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Meitheamh 2014

De Domhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deáardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Jun 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/ Topsy House	13 <u>Set Dancing</u> Brosnan 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/ Live music	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/ Topsy House	27 <u>Set Dancing</u> Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo	28
29 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	30 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	Jul 1 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	2	3 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	4 <u>Song Seisiún</u> TBD	5

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 - 118 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

Brosnan School of Irish Dance - 11 Belle Avenue, Suite B, San Anselmo, Ca 94960 brosnanschool.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 (irishsetdancer@yahoo.com), Micheal Minihaue (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
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