

SCÉAL ÉILE

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



Save the Dates



Sunday, November 6th for our November Night Céilí, dedicated to the memory of Miliosa Lundy; Sunday, December 18, 2016 for our Christmas Céilí. Both events are from 7-10pm at the UICC.

Save the date for the return of the Childrens Céilí. Email with exact date to follow. All ages welcome!!



Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta



Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta San Francisco, Uimhir a 18, 23-25 Meán Fómhair, 2016
18th San Francisco Irish Immersion Weekend, September 23-25, 2016

Bain sult as do chuid Gaeilge!
Intensive classes at 4 levels, beginner to advanced, Conversational Irish emphasized. Meals included. Seisiúin each evening. Venue: UICC

Special 1.5 hour workshops on Saturday afternoon:

An t-Agallamh Fileata: lúibíni agus agallaimh bheirte (the Poetic Interview), this class will be fully in Irish. múinteoir: Ray MacMánais

Damhsa ar an tSean-Nós trí Gaeilge (Sean-Nós Dancing in Irish) múinteoirí/teachers: Shirleigh Brannon & Bairbre Ní Chiardha (this class will be bilingual)

Foirm cláraithe anseo:

Registration form available here:

<http://onesourcegraphics.com/Gaeilge/DeireadhSeachtaine.html>



Events this Month



Comhaltas Night with Live Irish Music - CCÉ typically hosts a night of set dancing at the UICC on the third Saturday of the month. The next events will be on September 17th and October 15th. Contact: Michael Riemer at riemer@ce.berkeley.edu.

San Francisco - On Thursdays, CCÉ hosts set dancing 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.

South Bay/Peninsula - On Tuesdays (except for the third Tuesday of the month) we meet for set dancing 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 in San Anselmo from 7-9pm. There is a \$5 donation suggested for this class. Mary and Micheal also teach at the Redwood Cafe in Cotati on the first and third Wednesday nights from 7-9pm. 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 rinnce.mor@gmail.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 & Peri on September 2nd

Bill & Peri
16345 Englewood Ave
Los Gatos
(408) 356 8506
frantz@pwpconsult.com

The October seisiún will be on the 7th hosted by

VJ Mohan
261 Parkside Drive
Palo Alto
(650) 799 6004
vjmohan@comcast.net

The November seisiún is on the 4th

Michael & Miriam
412 Winding Way
San Carlos
(650) 622 9598
mfj@ieee.org

Contact Micheal Jones for info about seisiúns at mfj@ieee.org.

Song seisiúns start at 7:30pm



St. Patrick's Day 2017



The United Irish Societies (UIS) is making plans for the 2017 SF St. Patrick's Day Parade. Nominations are being solicited for the 2017 Grand Marshall. If CCÉ wishes to nominate anyone for this office, we need to write letters of support to the UIS now. Contact Joannie if you have any suggestions or questions. joannieoleary@msn.com



Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann



We are hoping to have a story or two for our November/December Scéal by some of our members who enjoyed and competed in the Fleadh. Stay tuned for the next issue!



Irish Language Class



Adult class: Classes are held at the United Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco. The next class will start on October 8th. Please contact Josephine Brogan: 415-681-4803 or josephinebrogan@yahoo.com for further information.



Monthly Meetings



These are held as often as possible and are open to all members. The CCÉ Board realizes the strain that traveling to these meetings puts on those who live out of the City. However, our bylaws require them and we need meetings to plan events and make decisions concerning the organization. You are welcome to attend the next meeting scheduled at the UICC at 7:30pm for Tuesday, October 4th (nomination of officers for 2017) and our Annual General Meeting at 7:30pm on Tuesday, November 22nd (election of officers for 2017). Please email Joannie with any suggestions or thoughts: joannieoleary@msn.com

Cooley-Keegan Board Members have been serving for several years. As in many organizations, people do not volunteer for offices due to time, travel or other constraints. Some current officers who have served faithfully and well over the years find the need to step down. We have discussed a mentoring system for anyone who might be interested in seeking an office during this transition. If you would be willing to volunteer your time and "learn the ropes", please contact any one of the officers listed at the bottom of the calendar page. We would love to talk to you about your particular interest. As always, volunteers in all aspects of our organization are always welcome.



Comhaltas BIG DRAW



We are very happy to announce that our long-time member and volunteer, Katherine Scanlon was the winner of an iPad!!! Congratulations, Katherine, and many thanks to all in our branch who purchased tickets.

Comhaltas in Ireland is sponsoring a BIG DRAW again this year. This is a fund raiser for individual branches. Our very able Kerrywoman, Josephine Brennan has tickets available for purchase - this year they are \$5.00 each. Prizes are €5000, €500, €250, Luxury weekend at Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann 2017, and other consolation prizes. Please see Josephine at CCÉ nights, or any other night at dancing.

Last date for ticket sales: CCÉ Night on Sat. Oct 15, 2016.

Please buy a ticket or two to help our branch. WE KEEP 80% OF WHAT WE SELL THIS YEAR FOR OUR BRANCH. (And you might win!)



Membership Corner



Birthday greetings to Harold Jones who celebrates his 89th birthday on September 21st. Harold has been part of the south bay Irish dance community since it began. Harold clearly wins any contest for the most winningest smile and twinkle in the eye... Wishing you many more birthday celebrations Harold!

For she is a jolly good fellow on her 85th birthday , Sept 19th ...none other than our Wren Boy Hostest with the Mostest, Katherine Scanlon. Happy Birthday Katherine!!!

Congratulations to Patty Hoyt and David Wimpfheimer who will be married in October. We wish them all the best on their very special day and for a lifetime of happiness.

All of us here at CCÉ wish to extend our deepest sympathies to Micheal Minihane on the passing of his dear mam, Crissy Menihane 94 years young. May she Rest in Peace Micheal.

The UICC held a "parking lot" sale on Saturday, August 27th. Thanks to generous donors and volunteers, Comhaltas had 2 tables of invaluable items. Proceeds benefit our branch. We sincerely appreciate the help of: Josephine Brennan, Moe Murphy, Dan McAuliffe, Janice Murphy, Katherine Scanlon, Kasey Curtin, Joannie O'Leary and Erin & John Denziger.



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:

[facebook.com/groups/316504905030686](https://www.facebook.com/groups/316504905030686)



CCÉ Membership



Renewal time for membership for 2017

Please renew your membership by October 15th, 2016 so we can send them to Ireland. If you received your Scéal Eile by mail, a membership form is attached here for your convenience. Josephine will email those who received the Scéal Eile by email during September. Please be sure your information is current.

Our Membership runs from January 1 to Dec 31st. Single Membership: \$40.00. Multi-membership (2 or more in household or a family): \$50.00. Here are the ways you can renew:

- Renew online through our website and remit payment through PayPal: sf.ccewest.org
- Renew online through our website and send your check to our PO Box (we do not bill);
- Complete your membership form and either give it with your check or cash to Josephine at set dancing or mail it with your check to our PO Box.

If you have any questions, please contact Joannie at 415-664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com; or talk with Josephine at dancing. Thank you for your support.

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 CCÉ! If you are receiving and enjoying the Scéal Eile you are already a member -- think how much these newer folks would appreciate if you mentioned to them a little about CCÉ membership? Many don't know that CCÉ 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 CCÉ to the new folks at dance as we're sure they'd appreciate knowing how to get their own Scéal Eile! They can obtain membership forms online, or at set dancing from Judy Forrest or Josephine. Thanks!



Another online group where events are planned is meetup.com at the following URL:

meetup.com/irishdance



Tribute to Milíosa Lundy, RIP



At nine years old, I truly did not know what lay ahead of me when I met Milíosa Lundy for my first lesson on the box. I knew I liked the sound of the accordion, but the buttons, bellows, and reeds were completely foreign to me. Fortunately, enough, I ended up under the guidance of the most incredible musician, mentor, and friend. Milíosa taught me not only the notes and ornamentation that make up the composition of a tune, she taught history, guided the formation of my style, and allowed me to experience the tradition from which they originated.

I cannot express the gratitude I have for the countless afternoons Milíosa spent writing out notes, repeating difficult phrases, stressing the importance of rhythm, and playing along as I tried to put it all together. I couldn't ask for a better mentor in facilitating the development of my style and learning how to create drive and emotion in instrumental music. She instilled in me a love of all things "Cooley" and guided me in building a repertoire and sound that reflected this. Above all, Milíosa's hospitality and passion led me to fall in love with traditional Irish music. During breaks from lessons for a cup of tea, Milíosa shared recordings, histories of tunes and stories musicians, which gave me unique insights into the tradition I have come to embrace. Milíosa was so much more than just a music teacher to me. She was the best mentor, teacher, and friend that I could've hoped for and I will never take the impact that she had on my life for granted.

Seán O'Donnell

I will always remember our first outing to Milíosa's house for a lesson. Milíosa wasn't quite sure how to approach the task of teaching Seán to play the accordion. She wondered aloud if she should teach him to read music first and/or if she should start with a simple tune, such as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"? When Seán responded that he would like to learn a jig or a reel, Milíosa replied, "How about a polka? They are a little easier." That is how the journey began.

Our trips to Milíosa's house for lessons were a delight. We didn't really go that often, but when we did make the trek to Oakland for a lesson, we'd spend the afternoon at the Lundy house. I usually made some Irish bread or scones for the outing, and once there, we would spend several hours...stopping for a tea break sometime mid-afternoon. Not only did Seán enjoy the music lessons - the conversations held over tea were also good fun.

Milíosa had such an incredible knack for working with Seán, and I thoroughly enjoyed watching how she interacted with him. Milíosa was patient, nurturing and creative in how she approached the task of sharing with Seán her love and expertise for playing traditional Irish music on the accordion. I especially recall situations when Seán might be struggling with a particular tune, and rather than getting irritated, Milíosa would tell Seán to just close his eyes and try again. Milíosa did not force Seán to memorize the tunes for perfect performance, but rather to relax and to feel the tune, which often led him to be able to play the tune without any difficulty at all.

Milíosa was a treasure, and Seán was truly blessed to have her as an instructor, mentor and friend. I miss her dearly, but I am so grateful that she shared her love and passion for traditional Irish music with Seán, and will think of her every time I hear Seán play his accordion.

Rest in Peace, Milíosa,
Peggy O'Donnell



Tribute to Milíosa Lundy, RIP



How ironic me sitting at a B+B in Ennis after a fabulous day yesterday at the fleadh!! Music everywhere!! Remembering Milíosa! We first met Milíosa in the late 1980's at her brother and his wife's house party in Petaluma. Great night. Various people doing their party piece! Our son was receiving his first Holy Communion with Vince and Brigid's son and we combined 3 parties into one at the Parish hall. Richard and Milíosa played. They added atmosphere and life to the party!! Great celebration!!

Then, I joined Comhaltas and realized Milíosa was known all over the place not just Petaluma! The Lundy family came to our yearly Easter parties towards evening they would bring out their instruments and Father John would join in with his flute. Memories treasured. Milíosa, her music and family are forever entwined in the fabric of our lives. Sister, musician, wife, mother, teacher. May she rest in peace.

Mary and Frank McDonagh

There was a lot of music in our house growing up. There were quite a few musicians who stopped by 18th Ave to play a few tunes and more often than not Milíosa was right in there playing along with them. There was an assortment of instruments at the house and she could play many.

We first met her in February of 1972. There were four of us for that first lesson. By the end of March that year there were seven. Seven of us trying to learn the tin whistle. So the composition book says. Milíosa McWeeney started what turned out to be one of her first teaching gigs to a group of young Irish American kids whose parents were eager for them to learn to play Irish music. Milíosa took the time each week and came over to my parent's house to listen to us practice and to teach us new tunes. She took the time and wrote the notes out for us, not on the music scale but note by note A,B,C style. That took a lot of patience on her part but she did it each week. 5 ½ years later was the last dated entry in that Composition book. Since then it had been used for Banjo lessons, fiddle notes, accordion lessons and even the words to different songs. The lessons on 18th Ave had tapered off by then, we were all going in different ways. Milíosa and Rich Lundy had gotten married and she was off to the next part of her life. Our paths continued to cross over the years and lucky for me I always enjoyed watching and listening to her play. That moment when she would look up from playing and catch you watching her and she would give you a smile, the music was just that good..

Slán abhaile
Sean Reilly

In the 1980's, I was lucky enough to meet one of the First Ladies of San Francisco Comhaltas, Mrs. Bridget Reilly. "Bridie" was a driving force in Irish traditional music here. It was through her I met Milíosa. When our Cooley-Keegan Branch was formed, we were small in numbers. Although we had many Irish musicians in the Bay Area, it takes a special kind of person to teach. Bridie sang the praises of Milíosa, who taught her children and their friends to enjoy and play traditional Irish music. As you will hear repeated in these tributes to Milíosa, all through the years it was the way she helped her students feel and understand the music that made them want to play. Once we started holding our modest ceilis, Milíosa, Rich and friends played for the dancers. It brought Irish traditional group dancing to the forefront and enticed young people who might have outgrown step dancing to "come to the ceili". As our branch grew and prospered, Milíosa, Rich and later their daughter, Suzanne played for numerous ceilis and events. It was through Milíosa that our Youth Music Scholarship Program got its start. She was generously tutoring a very promising young Seán O'Donnell. We received a grant which became the Kevin Mallen Youth Scholarship and was awarded to Seán so he could pursue his training with Milíosa. It was such a pleasure to see them playing together on our St. Patrick's Day Float during those times. Other young people were encouraged to join our music program. Milíosa was always selfless in imparting her love of the music. We lost her much too early in life but the gentle and lively strains of her music will be with us always.

Joannie O'Leary

My first memories of Milíosa were at the Plough 1977... playing with Kevin Keegan and Max Parsley and others...what a magical groupthat old time waltz beat lead us around the dance floor, playing extra tunes so new and old couples alike could create and relive memories. Milíosa has been such a part of all the good times through the years at the Ceilis, Jim Belchers' Set Dance parties and the memorials as well. We will never forget Milíosa and Richard playing for our Mom's wake.

Mom was a fan too. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Richard, Sarah, Suzanne and Fiona.

Moe Murphy



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 (rinnce.mor@gmail.com)

Tuesdays:

- Lilly Mac's in Sunnyvale (except for the 3rd Tuesday). Lessons: 7:30pm; Dance to live music 8-10pm. \$5 suggested to support the live music. Contact: Michael Murphy (415-999-6062)

1st and 3rd Wednesdays:

- Redwood Cafe in Cotati.
Contact: Mary McDonagh (cladaghdancer@gmail.com), Micheal Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)

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 donation suggested 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

Meán Fómhair 2016

Oé Domhnaigh SUNDAY	Oé Luan MONDAY	Oé Mairt TUESDAY	Oé Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Oéardaoin THURSDAY	Oé h-Aoine FRIDAY	Oé Sathairn SATURDAY
Aug 28 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	29 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	30 Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnysvale w/ Fox on the Town Seisiún Plough and Stars	31	Sept 1 Set Dancing Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	2 Song Seisiún Bill & Peri 16345 Englewood Ave Los Gatos (408) 356 8506	3
4 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	5 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	6 Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnysvale w/ Birds in the Bush Seisiún Plough and Stars	7 Set Dancing Redwood Cafe Cotati	8 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Crooked Road	9 Set Dancing Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	10
11 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	12 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	13 Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnysvale w/ Birds in the Bush Seisiún Plough and Stars	14	15 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	16	17 Comhaltas Night UICC 7:30-11pm w/ live music
18 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	19 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	20 Seisiún Plough and Stars	21 Set Dancing Redwood Cafe Cotati	22 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton Ceili Band	23 Set Dancing Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	24
25 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	26 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	27 Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnysvale w/ Fox on the Town Seisiún - Plough and Stars	28	29 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	30	Oct 1



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Oireadh Fómhair 2016

Dé Domhnaigh SUNDAY	Dé LUAN MONDAY	Dé Mairt TUESDAY	Dé Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Déardaoin THURSDAY	Dé h-Aoine FRIDAY	Dé Sathairn SATURDAY
Seisiún - Plough and Stars Oct 2	Céilí dancing Starry Plough 3	Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale w/ Fox on the Town Seisiún Plough and Stars 4	Set Dancing Redwood Cafe Cotati 5	Set Dancing Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band 6	Song Seisiún VJ Mohan 261 Parkside Drive Palo Alto (650) 799 6004 7	8
Seisiún - Plough and Stars 9	Céilí dancing Starry Plough 10	Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale w/ Banish the Dog Seisiún Plough and Stars 11	12	Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House 13	Set Dancing Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo 14	Comhaltas Night UICC 7:30-11pm w/ live music 15
Seisiún - Plough and Stars 16	Céilí dancing Starry Plough 17	Seisiún Plough and Stars 18	Set Dancing Redwood Cafe Cotati 19	Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House 20	21	22
Seisiún - Plough and Stars 23	Céilí dancing Starry Plough 24	Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale w/ Birds in the Bush Seisiún Plough and Stars 25	26	Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton Ceili Band 27	Set Dancing Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo 28	29
Seisiún - Plough and Stars 30	Céilí dancing Starry Plough 31	Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale w/ Birds in the Bush Seisiún - Plough and Stars Nov 1	2	Set Dancing Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band 3	Song Seisiún Michael & Miriam 412 Winding Way San Carlos (650) 622 9598 4	5

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

Lilly Mac's - 187 S. Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale (between Washington and Evelyn Avenues) 1-408-732-0200 lillymacs.com

Plough and Stars - 116 Clement Ave. (Between 2nd and 3rd), San Francisco, 1-415-751-1122 theploughandstars.com

Redwood Cafe - 8240 Old Redwood Hwy, Cotati CA 94931 1-707-795-7868 redwoodcafe.com

UICC - United Irish Cultural Center - 2700 45th Ave. (At Sloat Blvd.), San Francisco, 1-415-661-2700 irishcentersf.org

Starry Plough - 3101 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 1-510-841-2082 starryploughpub.com

You can also visit the following website for events:

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