

SCÉAL ÉILE

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



From the Chairman



A chairde -

While in some ways we are very happy to be turning the page to a fresh new year, the last few months of 2012 were not just busy, but full of some positive events for our organization. I was especially pleased by the success of our annual West Region meeting, which was held in San Francisco again for the first time in about five years, after being hosted by other branches more recently. Many thanks to all those who joined us for at least a part of the Saturday - for those who didn't, we had a fine turnout for the meeting itself, with guests from Four Peaks Irish Arts branch in Phoenix, the Puget Sound branch (great as always to see Jim!), as well as local members who don't regularly attend meetings. Following the meeting itself we had a lively music session (kudos to John Sweeney & friends) and dinner down in the UICC restaurant, including some friends we don't often see around the Irish center, topped off with a great Ceili in the full ballroom upstairs! It included a little something for everyone, and was a great reminder of the broader Irish cultural community of which we are part. Special thanks to the United Irish Cultural Center, as it proved to be a great location for the event!

Let's plan some more fun for the year ahead -- looking forward to seeing you there!

Slán,
Michael R



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/>



Events this Month



Patrick O'Dea Workshop - Set Dancing Workshop with Patrick O'Dea from Ireland on Thursday, February 14th at the Irish Cultural Center from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. This will be in the Ballroom upstairs. There will be no class in the Bar area on this night. Cost for Workshop will be \$10.

Ceilis at the UICC - On the third Saturday of the month, January 19th and February 16th, CCE hosts a night of dancing at the UICC. 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.

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).

New address of Lisa Brosnan's Irish Dance Studio is: 11 Belle Avenue, Suite B, San Anselmo, Ca 94960.

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.



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)



Wren Boys 2012



Unlike the rather lengthy, yet still most adventurous and suspenseful “burying the Wren” in 2011, this past year’s Wren flew a different pattern ending 2012 with a smooth landing for your favorite Comhaltas branch. We ranged 25-30 dancers and supporters joining the journey with a merry ½ dozen musicians supplying potent polkas and rambunctious reels! Smaller numbers this year allowed us to pick up the pace and keep ourselves fresh and energetic throughout the evening, ensuring that we would still be able to breathe by the time we arrived at the Plough and Stars, our traditional last stop.

A high number of Wren Boy rookies joined us this year. Wren Boys 2012 was more environmentally friendly, as we walked to three places rather than drove for a change. Traveling on foot also gave “the Wren” a more fun, folksy feel.

Highlights include: the “Concertina Brothers” at the Lundy house, David Winter and Kenny Somerville giving an impromptu performance at the Keehan’s residence; Maureen Lundy sharing a lovely, easy-for-the-ears song; Martin Howard’s Jews’ harp playing, which is a mainstay; Therese Brien’s Wren Boy costume with a wren stuck in the holly bush on her whimsical hat. And, of course, how can we forget the unusual, yet popular style of hospitality offered by Larry Doyle at Parkside Tavern?

Many thanks go out to our gracious hosts and their guests for helping keep this Irish tradition alive for so many years; Seamus and Maureen Lundy; Vincy and Missy Keehan; and Katherine Scanlon (the Dame of Delicious Desserts). Much gratitude also is deserved by the staff and patrons at Costello’s 4 Deuces, Parkside Tavern and the Plough and Stars.

Finally, thanks to all the dancers who kept up the momentum, quickly filling the spots and negotiating the tight turns in some crowded, cramped areas, and still maintaining sunny smiles on their faces. And of course, it would be an awful quiet and boring evening without our resilient musicians: Dave Chadwick, Julie Horner, Doug Lowder, Art Friedman, Margaret Sloan and Richard Ferry; none of whom live in San Francisco. Now that’s dedication. I would also like to acknowledge the people who neither sing nor dance, but joined in on this most grand and honorable form of “pub hopping” and “house partying” anyway. They are as much a part of the tradition as the rest of us. I thank you all!!
Happy New Year!

See you on the next St. Stephen’s Day.
Captain of the Wren



Song and Storytelling



The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Imelda White on February 1st
275 Lassen Avenue,
Mountain View
650-964-7643
imelda_white@yahoo.com

The March Seisiun is also on the 1st
Michael Jones
412 winding way, San Carlos, 94070
650 622 9598
Mfj@ieee.org



Membership Corner



Please renewal 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.

PLEASE RENEW NOW!

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.



Kevin Mallen Scholarship



The deadline for submission of this scholarship application is January 30, 2013. Applications may be obtained by calling Josephine at 681-4803 or emailing her at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or Joannie at 415-664-6579. For some years now, thanks to the generosity of our good friend, Kevin Mallen, RIP, we offer music scholarships to children who are members of the SF Cooley-Keegan Branch of Comhaltas. Many have benefitted from this scholarship through fiddle, tin whistle and bodhran classes. 2012 Scholarship winners and their teachers gave us a few lively tunes at the Christmas Ceili.



Condolences



The progression of this life to the next gives us reason to pay our respects to three individuals who have made a huge difference in the life of our branch and in the community in which they lived.

Here at home...

Mrs. Anne Quilter, a native of Adrigole, County Cork, and faithful member of the SF Cooley-Keegan Branch of Comhaltas from its inception, passed away on September 6, 2012. Anne was a supporting force in the formation of our branch, having been a long-time leader in the "Gaelic League".

In younger years Anne always enjoyed the ceilis with her daughters Maura, Olive and Anne, who also danced with the Murphy School of Irish Dance. She was active in the United Irish Society and all its events. Her annual Columban Missionary Fathers fund-raiser is legendary. After many energetic years of work in UICC activities, she campaigned for the senior members of the Irish community and the "Silver Gaels" was born. Injecting new life in the senior community for the Irish and the surrounding neighbors through the Silver Gaels, Anne organized bus trips to various casinos and arranged lunches, card games and get-togethers for her contemporaries. She was an inspiration to her family, friends and community who are left to carry on the generous work she began.

Across the Country...

Larry Reynolds, a native of Ballinasloe, County Galway was a fiddle player and gentleman extraordinaire. Larry, who passed away October 3, 2012, was (unwittingly) a hero in his adopted town of Boston (and indeed in the entire Comhaltas movement) for the major role he played in fostering Irish culture and traditional music. Our member, Kathy McDonagh who was a neighbor of Larry and his family at home often commented on what a selfless and giving family they were to so many, including herself, who came to America to make their new home.

At every CCE convention, except last year, Larry, both modest and enthusiastic, would be found in the middle of any session at any hour of the day or night.

In 1985 a newly formed San Francisco Cooley-Keegan Branch hosted one of the first CCE Conventions. Larry Reynolds, in his typically generous way, set aside his own obligations and came to San Francisco to acknowledge and give support to the fledgling branch, while encouraging other musicians in various parts of the country to do the same. He has been a great proponent of our branch ever since and came out with his lovely wife, Phyllis, in 1998 to our San Francisco CCE Convention.

"There was no more admired musician in any of the Comhaltas branches and the Hanafin Cooley Branch in Boston will surely miss his enthusiastic, generous and oh so friendly leadership. Larry's contribution to the growth and health of Comhaltas in North America and his support of so many musicians around the country and visiting from Ireland was second to none and he earned the respect and admiration of everyone he met. His legacy will endure for a very long time". – Paul Keating, NA CCE PRO

In 2006, he was named one of the Top 100 Irish-Americans by Irish America Magazine in New York, but despite being an affable and public figure, Reynolds has spent his career shunning the accolades that others try to bestow on him". - the Boston Irish Tourism Association"

Those of us who were privileged to know him can truly say that we will never see the like of him again. Our condolences to Phyllis and family. God give you eternal rest, Larry.

continued on next page...



Condolences



Our CCE Canadian neighbor...

Eamonn O'Loughlin, a legend in his own right, passed away suddenly in his adopted home of Toronto, Canada on January 4, 2013. It was with shock and disbelief that we received this sad news of Eamonn (61). A native of Ennistymon, County Clare, he was equally a wonderfully talented musician and incorrigible rogue who could make you laugh with story or comment.

In 1985, Eamonn and his comrade, Henry Gerarty traveled to the Comhaltas convention sponsored by the newly organized San Francisco Cooley-Keegan Branch. They were the life of the party and established a friendship with our branch that has continued over the years.

Eamonn and Henry were part of a delegation invited to the Mayor's office. On the steps of City Hall, Eamonn and Henry proceeded to entertain a gathering audience on their tin whistles. An especially delighted young Asian couple exiting City Hall were greeted by the "Here comes the Bride", followed by a rousing rendition of jigs and reels as Henry and Eamonn marched them down the steps – Irish style!!!

Clareman Eamonn was "...always ceol agus craic, but also contributing so much more to the Irish diaspora in Canada and the USA for his native land" - Paul Keating, CCE North American PRO

As described in his obituary, Eamonn O'Loughlin was larger than life, with a personality to match, which virtually filled any room he walked in to. His generosity to his fellow countrymen and women knew no bounds, as he helped hundreds of young people land their first jobs in Canada on their work visa, or in a more permanent way. His music and song with loving wife Madeleine, during their time together with the band Tip Splinter was magic. Eamonn published a national magazine, Irish Connections Canada, formerly the Toronto Irish News. He was honoured as Irish Person of the Year in 2009 for his work on Ceol Agus Craic, the weekly Irish-Canadian radio show he had founded in 1998.

Our sincere condolences to Madeline and family and to all Eamonn's friends, especially in Canada. He will be dearly missed.



Member News



Congratulations and Best Wishes to Ralph and Mai Mihan on the birth of their grandchild, Cole Eoin Mihan who was born on Friday, December 21st at 8.04am and weighed 8 lbs

We send our very best wishes to Judi Milligan who has been "under the weather" these past few months. Judy, please be assured of our prayers and good wishes. Hope Lew is taking good care of you!!!



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.**



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>



General Meeting



General Meetings of the Membership are typically held on the first Tuesday of the month. The next ones will be on February 5th March 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 2013.

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.



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

CANAIR 2012

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ Sathairn SATURDAY
Dec 30 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	31	Jan 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>	5
6 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	7	8 <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 Anselmo	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 w/ Emperor Norton	18	19 CCE Ceili Night UICC 7-10PM w/ Live Music
20 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	21	22 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Song 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 Anselmo	26
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> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	Feb 1 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Imelda White Mountain View	2



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 YOUTH OFFICER: ELEANOR BROWN

FEABHRA 2012

De Dómhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deáardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Jan 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> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	Feb 1 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Imelda White Mountain View	2
3 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	4	5 <u>CCÉ 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> 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> Patrick O'Dea Workshop at UICC Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	15	16 <u>CCE Ceili Night</u> UICC 7-10PM w/ Live Music
17 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	18	19 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>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>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	Mar 1 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Michael Jones San Carlos	2

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

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

IRISH SET DANCING WORKSHOP

WITH
PATRICK O'DEA
DIRECT FROM IRELAND

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 2013

UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
(Ballroom)

WORKSHOP: 7.30 – 9.30 PM
(please come at 7.15pm so we can start on time)

COST: \$10.00

For further information, contact Josephine Brogan at: josephinebrogan@yahoo.com
or (415) 681-4803
or visit our website at: <http://sf.ccewest.org>