

# SCÉAL ÉILE

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



## From the Chairman



A chairde -

It's very exciting to be spreading the word about our branch's latest music workshop, coming up on June 2nd at the United Irish Cultural Center (see details in other articles)! Targeted primarily at the younger generation, these workshops provide opportunities to learn about the traditional instruments, songs and dances of Irish culture, including chances to try them out first hand.

Looking back, it is hard to believe it has been over a decade since the inaugural workshop, held back in 2002! At that time we had very little in the way of music classes for kids, but during the eleven years since then, the music program has flourished, with a steadily growing list of weekly classes and the occasional special workshop. Many of the early students are no longer "kids" though of course -- and it is time to reach out to a new group of young people who may like to try out the whistle, or fiddle, or bodhran.

Special thanks to Ceri Garfield, who is leading the charge on this latest workshop: there is a great deal of work involved in making such an event successful, and the support of the broader membership would be greatly appreciated both in preparing for it, and in helping boost attendance by getting the word out to friends and neighbors!

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



**Ceilis at the UICC** - On the third Saturday of the month, CCE hosts a night of dancing at the UICC. The next events will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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 Minihaue 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](mailto:irishsetdancer@yahoo.com)), Micheal Minihaue ([michealminihane@yahoo.com](mailto:michealminihane@yahoo.com)) (no class in August)

**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.



## Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta



Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta 2013,  
Irish Language Immersion Weekend!

Save the date: September 27-29



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)



## "Bliain na Cruinne" -- CCE Service Award



A principal foundation of the Comhaltas movement was always and still is, volunteerism. CCE has spread throughout the world thanks to the volunteer effort of thousands who have in one way or another worked to keep the Irish traditions alive.

Comhaltas Head Office in Ireland commissioned a special medal this year as a celebration of those who keep Irish Cultural Traditions alive worldwide. This beautiful medal, detailing the countries of the world where Comhaltas thrives, was presented at the 2013 CCE North American Convention in Washington, D.C. Our own Kasey Curtin was the SF Cooley-Keegan recipient, in recognition of her tremendous efforts in enabling our branch to flourish. Kasey's leadership in our 2007 Emerald Extravaganza made it possible to remain financially solvent and continue the classes and events we sponsor. Kasey and her Team work tirelessly to provide us, year after year, with exceptional floats in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Her unfailing optimism encourages us all to contribute what we can in the spirit of friendship and community. And if we can do it through music and dance...so much the better!!!

Kasey was unable to attend the convention this year so Moe Murphy happily accepted the award on her behalf. Michael Duffy, branch co-chair, ceremoniously presented the "Bliain na Cruinne" medal and "Teastas" certificate to a very surprised Kasey on April 18th at our Thursday night dancing session and thanked her for her dedication to Irish culture. The party continued with everyone joining in a rousing chorus of "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow"!! Kasey, we are indebted to you for your work in the Cooley-Keegan Branch. Congratulations and well-deserved!



## CCE Convention 2013



*Attendees at the 2013 CCE Convention in Washington D.C.*



**Susan Keith performing a barrel dance at the convention.**

Go to <http://idonotlike.tv/2013/convention/index.html>  
for Michael Jone's fantastic convention slideshow.



## 2013 Youth Music Scholarship Awards



It has become a tradition over the last several years to feature our young music students at the March St. Patrick's Ceili. This year we were entertained by Eoin Lyons, Claire Flaherty, Padraig Lyons from our fiddle class and their friend, Eoin Costello.

It is a joy to present our annual T. Kevin Mallen Scholarship awards at this ceili. Recipients of the 2013 T. Kevin Mallen Scholarship Fund were:

**Joseph Howard, Claire Flaherty, Cormac Lyons,  
Caoimhe Lyons, Molly O'Connell, Hannah O'Connell,  
Laura O'Sullivan, Mikey O'Sullivan, Caitlin Conroy,  
Declan Flaherty, Cormac Lyons.**

Thanks to a recent generous donation, we were also able to fund the Michael Healy Music Scholarship this year. Mary Healy McDonagh awarded the scholarships honoring her father to the following:

**Eoin Lyons, Padraig Lyons, Eleanor Brown**

We are proud of the progress of these young musicians, and their enjoyment of Irish music. Their dedicated teachers, Kristina Groneman Ben-Arab, Ceri Garfield and Gavin Bruce are invaluable and have our grateful appreciation.



**The Story you are about to read is true.  
The names have been changed to protect the not-so-innocent!**

Once about a time there were 3 New CCE Conventioneers  
Their names were Wilkin, Blinkin & Nod  
Wilkin & Blinkin had been warned but Nod had no clue  
The word Initiation hung in the air... When will it happen? ... Where?

While the name BIG C reverberated everywhere

Wilkin was the first .. Some people catch fly balls, some buses, some colds  
but not unsuspecting Wilkin,  
He was told to "Catch" & followed by a scream.....  
Big C had leapt into his arms  
What do I do now looking helplessly

Awhile later was heard.....  
No! No! cried Blinkin "Not the Big C"  
There was no escape as Blinkin tried to hang onto me, (this Roving Reporter)  
While being dragged onto the floor... don't remember the Set but neither did he,  
His glasses were flung thru the air with the greatest of ease...  
Found tables away on some fellows knees .  
To give him his do he finished the Set  
Don't think he'll be doing another one soon, is my bet.....

The Search was on for Nod... Initiation... Initiation with the Big C ?  
No problem, been there , done that  
With him it agreed!!!!

The End!

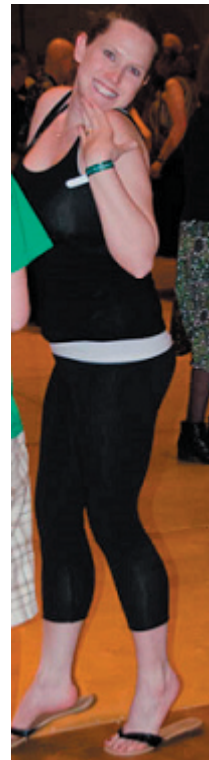
I could not finish my report with out the following rules for newbies:

- 1) Never, Never plan a work meeting the Monday morning after CCE weekend
- 2) If you want to mix little glasses of "milk" into big pints of "chocolate" use a spoon!!!

Any takers for next Year!!!

Roving Reporter

PS. The Big C is none other than that shy, demure, discreet, low energy, flip-flopping dancer  
Coleen O'Leary from our sister crowd in Toronto.....



**Three (random) New CCE Conventioneers celebrate 'last call' at the hotel bar on Sunday night.**

Go to [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search for "car bombs at CCE 2013" for round two -- it's a photo finish!

## Music Session at UICC

Ceri Garfield, our energetic tin whistle instructor, organized a session at the UICC on Sunday afternoon, April 14th. This drop-in session for our young musicians gives them the opportunity to listen to tunes and learn session etiquette. They played tunes they are learning in class with seasoned musicians, Ceri, Pat O'Donnell, Steve Agacinski and fiddle teacher, Gavin Bruce. A nice crowd of parents and friends around the restaurant-bar area were well-entertained.

Another session will be held this Sunday, Mother's Day, May 12 from 3pm in the main bar area at the Irish Center. Come along and enjoy the craic.

## CCE Classes

CCE sponsors the following classes at the UICC.

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

We are plan on starting a children's Irish Language Class in September if there is enough interest. 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.**

## 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.ccwest.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 [joannieolearyj@msn.com](mailto:joannieolearyj@msn.com); or talk with Josephine at dancing.

Thank you for your support.

## Music Workshop

A music workshop for anybody interested in learning traditional Irish music will be held in the bar area of the United Irish Cultural Center from 2 pm - 6 pm on Sunday June 2nd.

Local musicians will showcase their instruments, answer questions and lead a learner's session. There will also be an introduction to set dancing for children.

## Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann is a ten-day long event open to all embracing all aspects of the Irish Cultural traditions, music, song, dance agus an Ghaeilge, in Derry, Northern Ireland, from August 12-18, 2013.

It is estimated that this national/international celebration of Irish culture will be attended by in the region of 300,000 people including a sizeable number of overseas visitors with upwards of 70% of the attendees comprising young people. The Fleadh is being held for the very first time, north of the border and all the stops have been pulled out to guarantee a brilliant time.

## Song and Storytelling

The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by John Hopkirk on June 7<sup>th</sup>

145 Highland Ave,  
San Carlos, CA 94070  
650-593-0843  
[hopkirk@earthlink.net](mailto:hopkirk@earthlink.net)

The July 5<sup>th</sup> host is yet to be announced.

## General Meeting

General Meetings of the Membership are typically held on the first Tuesday of the month. The next ones will be on May 7<sup>th</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

*Also, we would like everyone to know that the Cooley-Keegan Branch will NOT have monthly meetings in July and August and the Sceal Eile will not be published during the summer this year to give the Editor and contributors a well-deserved rest.*



## Set Dancing



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

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday; Topsy House on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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

# BHEALTAINÉ 2013

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



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 YOUTH OFFICER: ELEANOR BROWN

# Meitheamh 2013

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

**Plough and Stars** - 116 Clement Ave. (Between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>), San Francisco, (415) 751-1122 [theploughandstars.com](http://theploughandstars.com)

**U.I.C.C.** - 2700 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. (At Sloat Blvd.), San Francisco, (415) 661-2700 [www.irishcentersf.org](http://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](http://starryploughpub.com)

**Beckett's Irish Pub** - 2271 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (510) 647-1790 [www.beckettsirishpub.com](http://www.beckettsirishpub.com)

**Bronsan School of Irish Dance** - 11 Belle Avenue, Suite B, San Anselmo, Ca 94960 [bronsanschool.com](http://bronsanschool.com)

*You can also visit the following websites for events:*

**San Francisco CCE - Cooley-Keegan Branch** - [sf.ccewest.org](http://sf.ccewest.org)

**Santa Cruz CCE - Clifford-Hoban Branch** - [www.folkplanet.com/cce](http://www.folkplanet.com/cce)



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN  
THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH

## ***MUSIC WORKSHOP***

A Music Workshop will be held at the United Irish Cultural Center (bar area), 2700 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue (at Sloat Blvd), San Francisco, on **Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2 pm - 6 pm** for anybody interested in learning traditional Irish music

Local musicians will showcase their instruments, answer questions and lead a learner's session.

There will also be an introduction to set dancing for children.

There is no cover charge.

*For Information, contact Ceri Garfield at [cerigarfield@yahoo.com](mailto:cerigarfield@yahoo.com)*

*or*

*Josephine Brogan at (415) 681-4803 or [josephinebrogan@yahoo.com](mailto:josephinebrogan@yahoo.com)*

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



**COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN  
THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH**

**COMHALTAS NIGHT**  
(Traditional Irish Music, Ceili and Set Dancing)

- WHEN:** SATURDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2013
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER  
2700 45<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 8.00 PM TO 11.00 PM
- MUSIC:** LIVE OAK CEÍLI BAND  
(Miliosa & Richard Lundy and Friends)
- ADMISSION:** FREE

The restaurant is open for dinner from 5 pm to 9.30 pm.  
Reservations are appreciated: 415-661-2700, ext. 100

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

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