

SCÉAL ÉILE

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

From the Chairman

A Chairde,

I'd like to share a story with you about Valentine's Day. My youngest, Geli, was born in February. When she was young, about a year old, I started saying to her that she was a sweetheart baby. Well, one day, just before her third birthday, we were out shopping. Red, pink, and white colors dominated the decor with plenty of hearts. Geli got so excited because, as she put it, all the stores decorated for her birthday! Happy Valentine's Day to everyone (and Happy Birthday to Geli).

Well, February is more for us than just Valentine's Day. It is the month before March, and there is a lot of work to be done. So I'm putting out a call to people of all ages to help with: prep work for the float--painting, cleaning, and costume gathering; looking for an artist who can draw silhouettes, has fancy hand writing, and can paint on canvas; building the float on March 14; people to dance on the float and perform in the 2 minute performance in front of the grandstand; someone to call figures for dancers on the parade route; children who would like to be on the float and throw candy (this space is limited, but as many children that would like to are welcome to walk with their parents along the parade route with the float), walkers in the parade, walkers to help carry banners and flags; please check the dates in this newsletter for dance performances.

If you are interested in helping out, please get in touch with me, Josephine, Maureen, or Joannie. We need lots of help and look forward to hearing from you.

Slan, Kasey

General Meetings

The next General Meeting of the Membership will be Tuesday February 5th at 7:30pm at the United Irish Cultural Center.

Events this Month

Children's Céilí - On Sunday, February 17th CCE will host a Céilí for children from 4PM to 6PM at the UICC. Free for CCE members; \$5 per child or \$10 for two or more children. See attached flyer for more details.

Patrick O'Dea Set Dancing Workshop - On Thursday, February 21st Patrick O'Dea from Ireland will lead a Set Dancing workshop between 7:30 to 9:30 at the UICC. See attached flyer for more details.

CCE Night at the UICC - On Saturday, February 16th, CCE will host another night of dancing at the UICC. Dancing begins at 8:00PM to live music by 'Banish the Dogs'. Admission is free. Contact: Michael Riemer (riemer@ce.berkeley.edu).

South Bay - The Britannia Arms hosts dancing in San Jose on February 13th and 27th. Set dancing with a wee bit of ceili from 8-10:30PM to live music by 'Banish the Dogs'. No lessons but an instructor on-hand to assist and lead sets. Join us for free on the first visit; a \$5 donation suggested for returning dancers. Contact: Michael Murphy (415-786-1337 or irishboogieman@yahoo.com).

North Bay - Finbar Devine's Irish Pub in downtown Petaluma hosts Set and Ceili dance lessons on occasional Sundays. Contacts: Connie Lynch (707-823-7378; cerrydancer@juno.com), Kasey MillerE (707-769-8552).

East Bay - Starry Plough in Berkeley hosts ceili dancing on Mondays. Lessons from 7-9PM and dancing to live music from 9PM to 11PM. Contacts: John Slaymaker or Gretchen Holm.

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)



March Events



Here is a preview of events for March:

March 1	<i>Holy Name</i>
March 2	<i>St. Anne's home</i>
March 6	<i>Alma Via</i>
March 7	<i>Grand Marshall's dinner</i>
March 8	<i>St. Gabriels</i>
March 9	<i>Laguna Honda</i>
March 14	<i>Flag raising at City Hall</i>
March 15	<i>9 am Mass and Parade</i>
March 16 or 30	<i>Father Yorke Day</i>



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2008



Irish Week is the biggest Irish language and cultural festival in Ireland each year. This is our 6th year taking part. These events are free.

March 5th - Night Visiting, Imelda's place. Music, stories, singing, fun & chat. Your own "party piece" as Gaeilge welcome! Mountain View. 7.30PM. RSVP: 650.964.7643.

March 9th - Mass in Irish, with choir, dancers, musicians; reception follows. St. Joseph's Church, 582 Hope Street, Mountain View. 11.30AM.

March 11th - Wine tasting in Irish, plus Ernie O'Malley's story, from TG4. Beckett's Irish Pub, 2271 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. 7.00PM.

March 16th - Presented by CCE, Cooley-Keegan & Clifford-Hoban. Selection of feature films & film shorts in Irish, plus a traditional session of music and song. All are welcome! United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco. 3.30PM on.

Date TBA - 4th Monterey Bay Irish Film Festival. Films & shorts in Irish. Aptos.

For more info:
folkplanet.com/cce, www.snag.ie
cce_gaeilge@ccewest.org
510.881.5958



Membership Corner



Time to renew your membership if your address label shows "1/1/08". Dues remain \$35.00 for an individual membership; \$45.00 for two or more in household. Please mail your form and check in, or renew on-line, as soon as possible. Please consider a Gift Membership for a friend (call Joannie at 415 664-6579). We appreciate your support. Membership forms are available on Thursday nights from Josephine or Moe.



Whistle and Fiddle Lessons



Comhaltas sponsors Tin Whistle and Fiddle Classes at the United Irish Cultural Center for children in grades 2 through 6. For more information on the next six week session contact Josephine Brogan at: 415-681-4803 or Michael Riemer at: 510-642-7457.

We hope to have a new group of beginners starting up soon for the whistle, in time for St. Patrick's Day, so call to reserve a place.



Song and Storytelling



The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Mick & Mary's on Friday, February 1st.

1955 28th Ave
San Francisco
415-682-8540

Bill Frantz will host in Los Gatos on March 7th.
16345 Englewood Ave
Los Gatos
408-356-8506



Member's News



Congratulations are in order to Nancy Callahan & Stephen Goulding on their Holiday engagement! Good news travels fast...just want to extend our good wishes for all your happy plans.

Congratulations & very best wishes to Coleen Dowling & Mani Sheik on their recent marriage. So happy for you both.

Good news travels in three's...

How exciting to hear that Jennifer (AKA Wren Girl) Milligan & Howard West on their engagement. Jennifer along with her parents Judy & Lew Milligan are long time members of this ole branch of CCE & join us notably each year for the St Stephens Day pilgrimage to bury the WREN. Jennifer shares her joy & expertise of dancing as we go house to house & pub to pub preserving the tradition of "going on the Wren"..

Very best wishes to all of you..



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

CHILDREN'S CÉILÍ

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH, 2008
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 4 TO 6 PM
- MUSIC:** Live Traditional Irish Music
- ADMISSION:** Comhaltas Members: FREE
Non Comhaltas Members: \$5 per child
or \$10 for two or more children

For Information, contact Maureen Murphy (415) 661-0351

Please visit our website at: sf.ccewest.org



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
The Cooley-Keegan Branch

COMHALTAS NIGHT

Comhaltas (CCÉ) is a worldwide organization, based in Dublin, Ireland, dedicated to preserving and fostering the traditions of Ireland, through music, song, dance, storytelling & language. Founded in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, 50 years ago, CCÉ has over 400 branches throughout Ireland, Britain, the U.S., & many other countries. Visit the San Francisco Cooley-Keegan Branch at: <http://sf.ccewest.org>

WHEN: **Saturday, February 16th, 2008**

WHERE: **United Irish Cultural Center***
2700 45TH Avenue, San Francisco (Bar area)

TIME: **7.30 pm to 11.30 pm approx.**

MUSIC BY: **Banish the Dogs**

ADMISSION: **FREE**

*The restaurant is open for dinner from 5 pm to 9 pm.
Reservations are appreciated: 415-661-2700, ext. 100

*For Information, contact Josephine Brogan at (415) 681-4803 or email:
Josephinebrogan@yahoo.com*

FEBRUARY 2008						
De Dómhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Jan 27 <u>Seisiún -</u> Plough and Stars	28	29	30	31 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Ceili Chicks	Feb 1 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Mick & Mary San Francisco	2
3 <u>Seisiún -</u> Plough and Stars	4	5 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Seisiún -</u> Plough and Stars	6	7 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	8	9
10 <u>Seisiún -</u> Plough and Stars	11	12 <u>Seisiún -</u> Plough and Stars	13 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	14 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	15	16 <u>CCE Night</u> UICC 8:00PM
17 <u>Children's Céili</u> UICC 4-6PM <u>Seisiún -</u> Plough and Stars	18	19 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	20	21 <u>Set Dancing Workshop</u> UICC 7:30-9:30 w/ Patrick O'Dea <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	22	23
24 <u>Seisiún -</u> Plough and Stars	25 <u>Junior Seisiún</u> Ireland's 32 7:30	26 <u>Song Seisiún -</u> Plough and Stars	27 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	28 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	29	Mar 1

Ireland's 32 - 3920 Geary Blvd. (Between 3rd and 4th), San Francisco, (415) 386-6173

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

U.I.C.C. - 2700 45th Ave. (At Sloat Blvd.), San Francisco, (415) 661-2700

Britannia Arms - 1087 South De Anza Blvd, San Jose (near Cupertino border) (408) 252-7262

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

Finbar Devines - 145 Kentucky St, Petaluma (North Bay), (707) 762-9800 finbarspetaluma.com

Nikki's House - Call or e-mail for directions: (510) 881 5958 or gaeilge@ccwest.org

You can also visit the following websites for events:

San Francisco CCE - Cooley-Keegan Branch - sf.ccwest.org

Santa Cruz CCE - Clifford-Hoban Branch - www.folkplanet.com/cce

Plough and Stars - theploughandstars.com

U.I.C.C. - www.irishcentersf.org

Starry Plough - www.starryploughceili.com



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. Topsy House typically plays on the 2nd, 4th and last Thursday; Shannon Ceili Band on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Dancers are encouraged to contribute \$5 to support the live music.

2nd and 4th Wednesdays:

- Britannia Arms in Cupertino: Dancing to live music between 8-10PM. Dancers are encouraged to contribute \$5 to support the live music.



Seisiún



Slow Seisiún:

- Ireland's 32, starting at 7:30pm on the last Monday of each month. This is intended for beginners learning to play traditional Irish tunes, and the last Monday each month features the kids in our community. Starting at 9:00pm more experienced musicians are encouraged to join in on the faster paced, more Traditional Seisiún which follows. All are welcome to come listen as well. Contact Michael Riemer or Michael Duffy for more information.
- Plough and Stars, starting at 8:30 on the **second to last** Tuesday of each month. This Seisiún follows the same format as the Ireland's 32 Slow Seisiún.

Seisiún: - 8:30 Sundays 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
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