

SCÉAL ÉILE

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



From the Chairman



A Chairde,

The hunting of the Wren signals the end of another year. With lots of changes for the good and not so good, 2008 was an interesting year for many of us. Overall I'd say that I had a good year and I hope that you all did as well. Highlights of the last year were the continuation of the music classes for fiddle, whistle and bodhran. We also got our Irish language classes off to a good start and hope to continue and expand in 2009 with classes being offered to adults.

I'd like to thank Kasey for chairing last year, she did a wonderful job and things progressed nicely under her direction. Kasey is taking time off from the board to concentrate on fund raising for the coming year, so for the next year Michael Riemer and myself will share the responsibilities of Chair.

Slan,
Michael (D.)

As my colleague indicated, we are going to "co-chair" the branch for the coming year, so feel free to contact either of us with questions or suggestions -- or especially with offers to volunteer to help out with the many tasks behind the scenes that go into the smooth operation of the Cooley-Keegan branch of Comhaltas! Newer members of our branch may be less aware of the efforts that are required to participate so successfully in the parade each March, or to run the ceilis, classes and special events we host each year.

One example: the branch could really use an enthusiastic member or two, who attend many of the dance events, and who would like to learn how to set up the sound equipment (microphones, speakers and such). If we get a couple of folks together, I will bring in a "pro" and we will all learn how to improve the use of our equipment. Contact me if you're interested!

On a final note - one of the tasks that keeps a number of folks busy much of the time is the monthly publication of this newsletter, the Sceil Eile. For years, the same group of people have been writing, editing, laying out, printing, copying, mailing and handing out this newsletter. While we certainly feel this is an important means of communicating with the membership, it has also been observed that much of the content from month to month is very similar, and that if we were proactive in our planning, we could convey all of this information on a less frequent basis. So this year we are trying a new approach: The Sceil Eile will be issued as a bi-monthly newsletter (6 issues instead of 12). We will find out how effectively this can be done, but we also look forward to feedback from members in terms of how successful this new schedule is - so let us hear from you!

Slan,
Michael (R.)



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)



Events this Month



Santa Cruz Ceili - The Clifford-Hoban branch of CCE is hosting a ceili in the Upper Room at the First Congregational Church, 900 High Street, Santa Cruz on January 31st. Lessons start at 6:30; dancing from 7-10PM. Admission \$10.

Set Dancing Workshop - Patrick O'Dea will teach a Set Dancing Workshop on Thursday February 12th from 7:30 to 9:30 in lieu of the Thursday class. Admission \$10.

CCE Night at the UICC - On Saturday, February 21st, CCE will host another night of dancing at the UICC. Music begins at 7:30 with dancing at 8PM to live music. Admission is free. Contact: Michael Riemer (riemer@ce.berkeley.edu).

Children's Ceili - Sunday February 22nd is the next Children's Ceili at the UICC. 4-6PM See attached flyer for details.

South Bay - The Britannia Arms hosts dancing in San Jose every Wednesday. Set dancing with a wee bit of ceili from 8 to 10:30PM to live music. 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 at irishboogieman@yahoo.com.

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

See calendar page for address, phone number and web page for all venues.



Membership Corner



Thank you to all those who have renewed your membership.

We truly appreciate the great response. We ask again that you check your mailing label for your renewal date. If it shows "1/1/09", it is time to renew. This will allow us to continue sending your monthly bulletin and quarterly Treoir magazine without interruption. It will also keep you on our notification list of all our activities throughout the year.

Josephine has membership forms on Thursday nights or please call Joannie at 415 664-6579 (or joannieoleary@msn.com) and I will send you a form to renew. You can also renew on-line and either send us a check or pay by PayPal. <http://sf.ccewest.org>



Wren Boys



Greetings from the Captain of the Wren!

Before we travel further into 2009 and make more precious memories with St. Patrick's Parade and the St. Louis Convention, let us take a brief look back at a most memorable Wren Boys in 2008. We kept alive this western Ireland tradition on our western coast of the USA since 1985! (I was a mere Wren private then!) Why ever so long? Here's why:

On December 26, we witnessed:

A grand Irish broom dance at Tommy Costello's pub; the ever-expanding cast of performers at the houses who should take their show on the road; the ever-so-lively Anne Marie Carr at the Blackthorn beguiling us with her step and set dancing capabilities right on the spot; and the eccentric, yet friendly and enthusiastic neighbor of Catherine Scanlon, who raced across the street suddenly and joined the band with her little toy accordion! Did this woman know the tunes? She didn't care! And neither did the merry troupe of musicians and dancers who thought this spontaneity added to the many bright spots of the evening.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg! The list goes on...

I would like to acknowledge the seven wonderful Wren Boy rookies who did not know what they were in for becoming heart-broken when the long, joyful evening ended. Suffice it to say that these first-timers are now officially multi-timers of the future!

Rolling credits:

Our hosts: Rita Murphy; Tommy Costello's and the 4 Deuces; Maureen and Seamus Lundy; Missy and Vincy Keehan; Shannon Arms; The Blackthorn Tavern; Catherine Scanlon; and our yearly final destination, The Plough and Stars.

Our musicians: Lynn and Richard Ferry; Steve Kenworthy; Dave Chadwick; and Lew Milligan.

Our featured dancer: Jennifer West (all the way from Boston!)

And to Moe, Josephine, Charlie, Marlene, Julie, the drivers, and to all the dancers and participants!

Thank you all for your hospitality, generosity and sharing of good spirits! See ya in December 2009 for more "pennies" to bury the Wren!

Song and Storytelling

The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted on February 6th by Junay. Contact:

131 Saratoga Ave #3107
Santa Clara, CA 95051
408-296-4034

The March seisiún will be hosted by Bill & Perry on the 6th in Los Gatos.

If you would like to host a singing and storytelling seisiún contact Michael Jones at mfj@ieee.org.

St. Patrick's Parade

St. Patrick's Day Parade is on Saturday, March 14th. Please Contact Kasey to see how you can help on the CCE float. We will be building the float on Friday March 13th starting at 8AM. Please if you can put time in to build, we can sure use your help.

We will have a sign up sheet in class for those who are interested in participating in the dancing on the float and at other events in March.

Irish Music and Language

Children's fiddle and tin whistle classes are held at the UICC under the sponsorship of Comhaltas. Beginner and advanced lessons are provided.

Irish Language Classes for Adults and Children are taught by Imelda White at the UICC on Saturday mornings, also under our sponsorship.

We are considering sponsoring Bodhran classes for children, if there is sufficient interest.

Please contact Josephine Brogan for enrollment in the January session of any of these lessons, or for any questions. You may also contact her at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com.

General Meeting

The next General Meeting of the Membership will be held on February 3rd starting at 7:30 at the UICC.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2009

Events for San Francisco Bay Area Gaeltacht
2-17 Márta...2-17 March

Is í Seachtain na Gaeilge an fhéile chultúrtha agus teanga is mó in Éirinn gach bliain. Tá muid anseo páirteach ann le 7 mbliain anuas ! (Irish Week is the biggest Irish language celebration in Ireland each year. This is our 7th year participating!)

Clár (Program),
saor in aisce ! (these events are free):

8 Márta: An 4ú Feis Scannán Gaeilge agus Ceoil Traidisiúnta na hÉireann. Curtha i láthair ag Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCÉ), Togha scannán (Rós & Kings san áireamh!) & rogha gearrscannán as Gaeilge, agus seisiún traidisiúnta ceoil & amhránaíochta, chomh maith. Fáilte roimh cách! (Presented by CCÉ, Cooley-Keegan & Clifford-Hoban branches. Top feature films (including Rós & Kings) and shorts in Irish, plus a traditional session of music and song. English subtitles, all are welcome!) United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco. 3.30-10.00PM.

10 Márta: Croí folláin, Gob fliuch: 'Sé sin, seal ar bhlaiseadh fion, seal scléip: ceol, siamsa, scéalaíocht, amhránaíocht, spraoi & craic...abair do phíosa speisialta fhéin linn más mian leat! (Wine tasting in Irish, plus: music, song, fun & craic.) Grúpa: "An Chuallacht"; ionad: Beckett's Irish Pub, 2271 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. 7.00PM.

15 Márta: Aifreann Gaeilge, le cór (stiúrthóir Aodh Óg O Tuama), rincooirí & ceoltóirí, agus fáiltiú ina dhiaidh. (Mass in Irish, with choir, dancers, musicians; reception follows). St. Joseph's Church, 582 Hope Street, Mountain View. 11.30AM.

22 Márta: An 5ú Feis Scannán Éireannacha Bhá Monterey. CCÉ, craobh Clifford-Hoban. Scannáin agus gearrscannáin den chéad scoth as Gaeilge (5th Monterey Bay Irish Film Festival. Feature films & shorts in Irish). 12.00-9.30PM. Forum 450, Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Dr, Aptos. Eolas (info): www.folkplanet.com/cce

Tuilleadh Eolais (more information):
cce_gaeilge@ccewest.org 510.881. 5958



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YOUTH OFFICER: MARTINE MILLERÉ

FEBRUARY 2009

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
Feb 1 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	2	3 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	4 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	5 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	6 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Michael Jones San Carlos	7
8 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	9	10 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	12 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC -- Patrick O'Dea Workshop Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	13	14
15 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	16	17 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	18 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	19 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	20	21 <u>CCE Night</u> UICC 8:00PM w/ Live Music
22 <u>Children's Ceili</u> UICC 4-6PM <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	23 <u>Junior Seisiún</u> Ireland's 32 7:30	24 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	25 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	26 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	27	28
Mar 1 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	2	3 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	4 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	5 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	6 <u>Song Seisiún</u> John Hopkirk San Carlos	7

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

Beckett's Irish Pub - 2271 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (510) 647-1790 www.beckettsirishpub.com

Nikki's House - Call or e-mail for directions: (510) 881 5958 or gaelige@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



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

CHILDREN'S CÉILÍ

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 2009
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 4.00 PM TO 6 PM
- MUSIC:** Live Traditional Music
- ADMISSION:** Comhaltas Members: **FREE**
Non-Comhaltas Member: \$5 per child,
\$10 for two or more children

For Information, contact Josephine Brogan (415) 681-4803

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



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.

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 third Tuesday of each month. This Seisiún is an intermediate seisiun intended for those with more skill who want to polish tunes in a friendly, forgiving environment.

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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