

SCÉAL ÉILE

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

From the Chairman

A Chairde,

2009 has now passed. It's been a difficult year for many of us but still we have come through it in generally good order.

This year's Christmas céilí was the best that I have seen in a long time - well attended and the music was great as always. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to make it happen, and thanks to all who attended. It was a great night for all!

CCE Night at the UICC is going strong and I have to give a hand to the Last Minute Céilí Band for providing the music for December. If you have not made it to one of these night, I urge you to make the effort to go. The music and dancing is always first-class.

By the time that you get this, the Wren will have been done. I was not able to attend, but I hope that everyone had a good time.

I'd also like to take the time to remind everyone that membership dues are now, well, due. If you have not renewed your membership, please do it soon.

This wraps it up for me. Until next time.

Slán,
Micheál D.

Events this Month

Children's Ceilis - Sunday, January 24th from 4 to 6 pm and Sunday, February 21st from 4 to 6 pm at the Irish Cultural Center. Comhaltas Members. Free. Non Comhaltas Members: \$5 per child or \$10 for two or more children. Contact: Josephine Brogan at 415-681-4803 or josephinebrogan@yahoo.com.

CCE Night at the UICC - CCE will host dancing at the UICC on January 30th and February 20th. (The January night is not the third Saturday due to a scheduling conflict). Music begins at 7:30 with dancing at 8PM to live music. Admission is free. Contact: Michael Riemer (riemer@ce.berkeley.edu).

South Bay - Due to lease issues with the landlord for the Britannia Arms, set dancing in the South Bay has been suspended for now. If you know of a suitable location or for more information 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.

North Bay - Mary McDonagh and Micheal Minihane teach Set Dancing on the second and fourth Friday of the month at Brosnan School of Irish Dance in San Rafael from 7 to 9 pm. 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)

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)

A Note from Brian Cleary

Dear Comhaltas Friends,

As most of you know, over the Halloween weekend Cumann Rince Náisiúnta (CRN) had its First Annual North American Irish Dance Championships, with almost 300 competitors and 300+ supporters and spectators. It was a huge success!!

This success would not have been possible without all the help we received from our tireless, generous, and faithful friends at Comhaltas! Thank you so much to everyone!

The help came over many weeks and months leading up to the event as well as the weekend itself. The help came in many forms. CCE volunteers raised money, CCE gave sponsorships from the Cooley-Keegan branch and the West Region of North America, individual CCE members gave donations and sponsorships, CCE members donated their own time and energy at all-hours-of-the-day to staff the registration tables, to sell programs and t-shirts, and to help in any way we needed.

We also wish to thank everyone who contributed to the very special, and very personal, tributes we received at this event.

Thank you very much,

Brian Cleary and Catherine Brosnan Dow

Editor's Note: Several of the dancers and organizers of the Celtic Dance Ensemble, including Brian and Catherine, are great supporters and long-time members of our CCE branch. We are delighted the Dance Championship weekend was such a success and congratulate everyone involved.

CCE Classes

CCE sponsors many weekly classes at the UICC. Classes resume next year.

Adult Irish Language - Saturday mornings
Children's Tin Whistle - Thursday nights
Children's Fiddle - Wednesday nights
Children & Adult Bodhran - Wednesday nights

Please contact Josephine Brogan for more information at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-681-4803. Payment must be made at the first class.

Song and Storytelling

The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Patrick McEnoy on January 8th (*note: not the first Friday*).

251 Chestnut
Palo Alto, California 94306
650 493-3773

On February 5th John Hopkirk & Anne Murphy will host the seisiún

145 Highland Ave.
San Carlos, 94070
650-593-0843

On March 5th Junay will host the seisiún

131 Saratoga Ave #3107
Santa Clara, CA 95051

Membership Corner

For most of our members, this is renewal time. Your membership supports so many of our activities and events. It also enables us to keep you advised of these and other events in our Irish community. We are a little late in starting this membership renewal drive and since all the work is done by volunteers, we ask you to send in your renewal right away. The membership must be sent to Ireland ASAP so that you will receive your Treoir and Sceal Eile in a timely manner.

This year we are attaching your membership form with your name and renewal date. Please check to see that your address is correct and be sure to add your telephone number and email address.

Please indicate whether you wish to receive your bi-monthly Sceal Eile by email or in the US Mail. If there is a membership form enclosed here with your name on it **Your membership is due**. Please direct any questions to Joannie at 415 664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com.

For your convenience, if you wish to renew online, you may remit payment through PayPal, or send us a check (we don't send out bills).

Please help us out by renewing promptly. You can either give your check and renewal form to Josephine or Moe on Thursday nights. Sign-up online or mail to the P.O. Box # on the form. (If you do not find a renewal form attached, you have a renewal date other than Jan. 1st.) **Thank You!!!!!!**

Joannie

General Meeting

The next General Meetings of the Membership will be held on January 5th and February 2nd starting at 7:30 at the UICC. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



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 last Thursday; Dancers are encouraged to contribute \$5 to support the live music.

2nd and 4th Fridays:

- Bronson Shool of Irish Dance in San Rafael from 7 to 9PM. There is a \$5 charge for this class.
Contact: Mary McDonagh (irishsetdancer@yahoo.com), Micheal Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)

Wednesdays:

- South bar set dancing suspended for now.

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.



Seisiún



Slow Seisiún:

- 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.
- Junior Seisiun/slow seisiun is now held one hour prior to each Children's Ceili at the UICC.
Please check the calendar for details and dates.

Seisiún: - 8:30 Sundays and Tuesdays 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

JANUARY 2010

DÉ DOMHNACH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MARI TUESDAY	DÉ CÉADAOIN WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAOIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-AOINE FRIDAY	DÉ SACHAIRN SATURDAY
Dec 27 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	28	29 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	30	31 <u>No Set Dancing</u> Happy New Year	Jan 1	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 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Patrick McEvoy Palo Alto <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	9
10 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	11	12 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	13	14 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	15	16
17 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	18	19 <u>Slow 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 Rafael	23
24 <u>Children's Ceili</u> UICC 4-6PM <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	25	26 <u>Song Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	27	28 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	29	30 <u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music



CO-CHAIRPERSON: MICHAEL DUFFY (CCE_CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG)
 CO-CHAIRPERSON: MICHAEL RIEMER (CCE_CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG) (510) 548-4727
 PUBLIC RELATIONS: JOSEPHINE BROGAN (CCE_PR@CCEWEST.ORG) (415) 681-4803
 SECRETARY/REGISTRAR: JOANNIE O'LEARY (CCE_SECRETARY@CCEWEST.ORG) (415) 664-6579
 TREASURER: MAUREEN MURPHY (CCE_TREASURER@CCEWEST.ORG) (415) 661-0351
 TREORAÍ NA GAELIGE: NIKKI RAGSDALE (CCE_GAEILGE@CCEWEST.ORG)
 WEBMASTER: MICHAEL DUFFY (CCE_WEBMASTER@CCEWEST.ORG)
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR: TIM SULLIVAN (CCE_SCEAL@CCEWEST.ORG)
 YOUTH OFFICER: SEAN O'DONNELL

FEBRUARY 2010

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ CÉADAOIN WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAOIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
Jan 31 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	Feb 1	2 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	3	4 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	5 <u>Song Seisiún</u> John Hopkirk San Carlos	6
7 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	8	9 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	10	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	12 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	13
14 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	15	16 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	17	18 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	19	20 <u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music
21 <u>Children's Ceili</u> UICC 4-6PM <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	22	23 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	24	25 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	26 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	27
28 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	Mar 1	2 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	3	4 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	5 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Junay Santa Clara	6

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

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 gaeilge@ccwest.org

Bronsan School of Irish Dance - 1879 2nd Street, San Rafael (415) 259-0992 bronsanschool.com

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/cc