

SCÉAL ÉILE

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

From the Chairman

A Chairde,

The Emerald Extravaganza was a huge success! Money is still coming in and bills are being paid so there isn't a final tally yet. But that isn't why I say it was a success. It was successful because of the people. All the CCE volunteers who cleaned, sewed, and painted for long hours to prepare the building; all the volunteers who shopped, worked on the program, gathered items for auction, arrived at 7AM to hang up decorations, move tables and chairs, fix the center pieces, coordinate flowers, run a CCE slide show, worked during the event and much, much more; all the people who stayed and cleaned up afterwards and all those who bought tickets (five tables were sold to CCE members). I thank you all for coming forward and making the event as special as it was. Without your help, it couldn't have been all that it was.

This event brought many people from the Irish community together to support the importance of the Irish Cultural Center and the work that C.C.E. does. To top it all off everyone had a great time.

March is "All things Irish" so check for plenty of opportunities to get together and celebrate.

Slán,
Kasey

General Meetings

The next General Meeting of the Membership will be Tuesday April 3rd at 7:30pm at the United Irish Cultural Center (the March 6th meeting was held on February 27th).

Events this Month

Saint Patricks Day Parade - The Patricks Day Parade is on Saturday, March 17th.

Contact Kasey to see how you can help on the CCE float. We will be building the float on Friday March 16th starting at 8AM.

Seachtain na Gaeilge - Irish language and cultural festival with events from March 4th through 18th. March 4th events UICC include feature films and a traditional seisiún - see page two for details.

March Ceili - On Sunday March 25th at the UICC. This ceili features Clare accordion master Andrew MacNamara, with guitarist Rory McNamara. Adults \$10, children free. See attached flyer for more information.

South Bay - The Britannia Arms in Cupertino will be the scene of Set dancing on the 14th and 28th. Dancing to LIVE music begins at 8 PM and goes until 10PM. Donations: \$5.00; Proceeds go to the band and the dance leader. Contacts: Michael Murphy, 415-786-1337 or irishboogiemanager@yahoo.com (for dancing info., directions) and Britannia Arms, 408-252-7262.

North Bay - Finbar Devine's Irish Pub in downtown Petaluma is the scene for set dancing on Sunday March 4th in the North Bay. Set and Ceili dance lessons will be from 4-6PM. Contact Connie, Kasey, or Mary McD for more information.



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)

Music Lessons for Kids

Have friends asked you about how or where their kids can learn about Irish music? Nieces, nephews or others interested in playing music, but not sure how to start? This month marks the beginning of two separate sections of the new "Introduction to Irish Music through the Tin Whistle" class, which meets one evening each week for six weeks, and is geared toward children in 2nd through 6th grade at school.

One section will be meeting on Wednesdays in San Francisco (starting March 28th), while another will be running on Thursdays in Berkeley (starting the 22nd). Both are led by excellent musicians and teachers, and class sizes will be kept quite small to ensure individual attention -- so be sure to sign up early to reserve your spot! Please see the enclosed flyers for details on the locations, cost, and other aspects. Contact Michael Riemer (510-548-4727) with questions, or to enroll.

Song and Storytelling

The next Singing and Storytelling session will be hosted by Imelda White on Friday March 2nd at 8PM in Mountain View.

275 Lassen Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94043
(650) 964-7643

On April 6th Harold & Cathy will host in Santa Clara.

Special Events

March has many special Irish events including:

Irish Film Festival - March 1st to 4th -- The San Francisco Irish Film Festival features over 20 films, documentaries, shorts and TV programs. See www.sfirishfilm.com for info.

Crossroads - March 8th to 17th - The Crossroads Irish-American Festival is an annual event which celebrates and explores the Irish-American experience through literature, film and music. See www.newcollege.edu/irishstudies for info.

The Wind that Shakes the Barley This film about the Irish war for independence in 1920 won the Best Film at the Cannes Film Festival. It opens in San Francisco on April 6th. See www.ifcfilms.com/barley for info.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2007

Is í Seachtain na Gaeilge an fhéile chultúrtha agus teanga is mó in Éirinn gach bliain. Tá muid páirteach ann le 4 bliain anuas! (*Irish Week is the biggest Irish language and cultural festival in Ireland each year. We've been participating for 4 years now!*)

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

4 Márta: Feis Scannán Gaeilge & Ceoil Traidisiúinta na hÉireann, San Francisco. Curtha i láthair ag Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. Togha scannán agus gearrscannán as Gaeilge, agus seisiún ceoil traidisiúinta 's amhránaíochta. Fáilte roimh cách! (*Presented by CCE, Cooley-Keegan & Clifford-Hoban branches. Selection of feature films and film shorts in Irish, plus a traditional session of music and song. All are welcome!*) United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco. 3.00PM

6 Márta: Preab san Ól (ag ceiliúradh 10 mbliain ag fás, TG4) & Blas Fíona as Gaeilge. Bailigh cúpla cara le chéile chun roinnt buidéal fíona a bhlaiseadh agus ansin déan cur síos trí Ghaeilge. (*Bring friends for wine tasting in Irish, and to celebrate TG4, 10 years a growing.*) Grúpa: "An Chuallacht"; ionad: Beckett's Irish Pub, 2271 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. 7.00PM.

8 Márta: Oíche TG4, leis an gCiorcal Comhrá Mountain View. Beidh muid ag breathnú ar clár teleifís Gaeilge, agus ag plé leo as Gaeilge. (*TG4 programs and discussion in Irish*) Ionad: tí Imelda White, Mountain View. 7.30pm. RSVP: 650.964.7643.

11 Márta: Aifreann Gaeilge, le cór, rincooirí agus ceoltóirí (*Mass in Irish, with choir, dancers, musicians*). St. Joseph's Church, 582 Hope Street, Mountain View. 11.30AM.

18 Márta: An 3ú Feis Scannán Éireannacha Bhá Monterey. CCE, craobh Clifford-Hoban. Scannáin agus gearrscannáin as Gaeilge (*3rd Monterey Bay Irish Film Festival. Films & shorts in the Irish language*). Tuilleadh eolais (*more info*): folkplanet.com/cce

Tuilleadh Eolais (*more information*):
cce_gaeilge@ccwest.org --
510.881.5958
www.snag.ie



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MARCH 2007

Óé Domhnaigh SUNDAY	Óé Luan MONDAY	Óé Mairt TUESDAY	Óé Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Óéardaoin THURSDAY	Óé h-Aoine FRIDAY	Óé Sathairn SATURDAY
Feb 25 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	26	27	28	Mar 1 Set Dancing Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	2 Song Seisiún Imelda White Mountain View	3
4 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	5 EE Meeting Joannie's	6	7	8 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	9	10
11 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	12 Slow Seisiún Ireland's 32	13	14 Set Dancing Britannia Arms Cupertino 7PM	15 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	16	17
18 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	19	20 Slow Seisiún - Plough and Stars	21	22 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	23	24
25 March Ceili UICC Seisiún - Plough and Stars	26 Junior Seisiún Ireland's 32	27 Song Seisiún Plough and Stars	28 Set Dancing Britannia Arms Cupertino 7PM	29 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	30	31

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

I.O.O.F. Hall - 113 South B Street, San Mateo

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

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

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

Britannia Arms - 1087 South De Anza Blvd, Cupertino (South Bay), (408) 252-7262

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 Calendar - pweb.jps.net/~jgilder/plough.html

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

The Cooley Keegan Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

sponsors a new class in San Francisco:



“An Introduction to Irish Music through the Tin Whistle”

March 28th through May 2nd, 2007

This six-session class, intended for children in grades 2 through 6, will be held Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, at the United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45th Ave. at Sloat, in San Francisco).

The class will be taught by Conall O’Raghallaigh, a Dublin native who has been playing traditional Irish music on both the uilleann pipes and the whistle for over a decade, and is past president of the San Francisco Pipers Club.

Background: Traditional Irish music, like the folk music in most cultures, has been passed down through many generations primarily by ear, with children growing up immersed in the rhythms and melodies at people’s homes, dances and social occasions. This class will teach the fundamentals of traditional Irish music through the tin whistle, the simplest and most widespread of Irish instruments, and will provide a valuable foundation for learning Irish music on any instrument.

Each class will include some discussion/demonstration of different rhythms, learning the musical scales on the whistle, learning of simple tunes by ear, and perhaps playing of tunes on other instruments (flute, violin, possibly others) that students may be learning.

What will students know / be able to do after the 6 week class?

- Play one or two different tunes from memory
- Identify the beat and differentiate jigs from reels when listening to them
- Be able to “read” the sequence of notes in a tune from the “spots” diagram
- Know the “D” scale, and “G” scale on the whistle

Cost: \$ 95 for the six-week class (some scholarships available based on need)
(only \$ 85 each if you register with another student – bring along a friend or sibling!)
These include cost of a Clarke “Sweetone” whistle (key of “D”),
and all written and recorded materials distributed through class.

Enrollment: **To assure individual attention, enrollment will be limited to 8 students, so enroll early to reserve your space!** To register, or to ask questions about the class, please email Michael Riemer at: riemer@ce.berkeley.edu, or call him at 510-548-4727.

About the Sponsor: *Comhaltas is the Bay Area branch of a worldwide organization dedicated to celebrating traditional Irish culture. We organize many music and dancing events, including a growing program for children. For more information, visit our web site at: <http://sf.ccewest.org/>*

The Cooley Keegan Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

sponsors a new class in the East Bay:



“An Introduction to Irish Music through the Tin Whistle”

March 22nd through April 26th, 2007

This six-session class, intended for children in grades 2 through 6, will be held Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, at The Crowden School (at the corner of Rose and Sacramento, in Berkeley, near the “North Berkeley” BART station).

The class will be taught by Kristan Willits, who is both an experienced teacher, and a highly regarded player of traditional Irish music on instruments including the Irish flute, whistle and bodhrán (Irish drum).

Background: Traditional Irish music, like the folk music in most cultures, has been passed down through many generations primarily by ear, with children growing up immersed in the rhythms and melodies at people’s homes, dances and social occasions. This class will teach the fundamentals of traditional Irish music through the tin whistle, the simplest and most widespread of Irish instruments, and will provide a valuable foundation for learning Irish music on any instrument.

Each class will include some discussion/demonstration of different rhythms, learning the musical scales on the whistle, learning of simple tunes by ear (including singing along), and perhaps playing of tunes on other instruments (flute, violin, possibly others) that students may be learning.

What will students know / be able to do after the 6 week class?

- Play one or two different tunes from memory
- Identify the beat and differentiate jigs from reels when listening to them
- Be able to “read” the sequence of notes in a tune from the “spots” diagram
- Know the “D” scale, and “G” scale on the whistle

Cost: \$ 95 for the six-week class (some scholarships available based on need)
(only \$ 85 each if you register with another student – bring along a friend or sibling!)
These include cost of a Clarke “Sweetone” whistle (key of “D”),
and any written or recorded materials distributed through class.

Enrollment: To assure individual attention, enrollment will be limited to 8 students, so be sure to enroll early to reserve your space! To register, or to ask questions about the class, please email Kris at: kwillits@earthlink.net, or call her (daytime) at 510-540-9562.

About the Sponsor: *Comhaltas is the Bay Area branch of a worldwide organization dedicated to celebrating traditional Irish culture. We organize many music and dancing events, including a growing program for children. For more information, see our web site at:* [http://sf.ccewest.org/](http://sf.ccewest.org)



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH

ST. PATRICK'S CÉILÍ

*Direct from Ireland,
Clare accordion master Andrew MacNamara,
with guitarist Rory McNamara*

Special Presentation of our fourth "Kevin Mallen Scholarship Award"

WHEN: SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2007

WHERE: UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO

TIME: 7:00 to 10:00 PM

ADMISSION: Adults: \$10.00 Children: Free

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

Please visit our website at: sf.ccewest.org



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH

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>

Events include:

Irish Set Dancing Classes: *Every Thursday night from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at the United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45th Ave, S.F.), except the 1st Thursday each month. Contact: Josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-681-4803.*

Set Dancing *Every Thursday at The Plough & Stars (2nd and Clement St., S.F.) from roughly 9:30 until midnight. Contact: Josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-681-4803.*

Céili's and Set Dancing Workshops: *We host regular Children's Ceili's, and special Ceili's on Sundays during the year, all with live music. When Set dance teachers visit town, they often hold special workshops with us.*

Children's Music Workshops and Classes: *Following several music workshops, we are now sponsoring weekly Irish music classes for children, both in S.F. and the East Bay! Contact: riemer@ce.berkeley.edu; 510-548-4727*

Comhaltas Night at the Irish Cultural Center: *3rd Saturday of every month, live music and dancing from 8:00 pm to midnight. Contact: riemer@ce.berkeley.edu.*

Slow Seisiun: *Learn to play Irish tunes with others at a relaxed pace, in a supportive environment! Held the 2nd and last Monday each month at Ireland's 32 (Geary Ave near 3rd), from 7:30 until 10pm. Contact: cosgrach@tsoft.com*

Song Session: *Singing and storytelling, held at various homes throughout the Bay Area, typically the 1st Friday evening each month. Contact: MFJ@IEEE.org*

Oiche Ghaeltachta *Irish language night, typically the 3rd Sunday each month. Contact: Nikki Ragsdale at: gaeilge@ccewest.org or call:(510) 881-5958*

Irish Language Immersion Weekend: *Intensive language workshop held each September. Contact: Nikki Ragsdale at: gaeilge@ccewest.org or (510) 881-5958*

For more information, including CCE membership:

<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.

2nd and 4th Wednesdays:

- Britania Arms in Cupertino: Lessons at 7:15; Dancing at 8PM: Live Music. Dancers are encouraged to contribute \$5 to support the live music.



Seisiún



Slow Seisiún:

- Ireland's 32, starting at 7:30pm on the 2nd and last Mondays 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 the calendar for exact details.

COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OF
COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
P.O. Box 16244
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116