

# SCÉAL ÉILE

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



## From the Chairman



Greetings to all our members!

As we wind up the summer, with schools coming back into session and vacations safely behind us, it is time to start a new season at Comhaltas, too! With this in mind, we would love to see our whole community get together for our annual Fall picnic, currently scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd, during the day. Two possible locations are being considered, so we will be sending out further details in the near future. Our branch is now supporting such a range of dance, music, and language events, spread across the Bay Area, that we can get spread rather thin! The picnic is a special chance to bring us together, where we can all slow down and share some good food, company, and some fun outdoor activities - we hope you can set aside some time that day to join us...

On the music side of things: Our branch's music classes are resuming in the coming weeks, and I know Josephine has been in touch with many of our continuing students to inform them of the new classes. It has been a few years now, since we started the whistle and fiddle classes in particular, and we have noticed that our students have progressed out of the "beginner" ranks!

This is great for the students, of course, and we are very proud of their progress -- but it also means that it is time for us to reach out to the larger community and recruit a new group of students who are interested in learning about the fundamentals of Irish music through the whistle, or trying out the fiddle. Do you have neighbors, friends or relatives who might be interested? Please let them know about these weekly classes, and have them contact us for further information - remember that they don't necessarily need to have an instrument to start!

At the other end of the music spectrum, I am also very happy to pass along the early reports from the Fleadh Cheoil in Tullamore. You might recall that some of our newer members qualified by placing very highly at the Fleadh in St. Louis, and that we held a very successful (and very lively!) fundraising night at the UICC back in July.... As this issue of the Sceal goes to press, the lads are still over there, having competed just this past weekend -- but in addition to having a great time there, they are doing quite well. Special congratulations to Owen Meehan, who plays flute and whistle -- and who WON the 18-under All-Ireland title on the whistle! A great accomplishment, and we look forward to welcoming you all back here on your return...

slán,  
Micheál R.



## General Meeting



The next General Meeting of the Membership will be held on September 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30 at the UICC. This will be a Sept/Oct meeting.

All are encouraged to attend to discuss upcoming activities and plans.



## Member News



We would like to extend our sincere sympathy to Margaret and Dan McAuliffe and family on the death of Margaret's Mother, Bridget Spillane, in Co. Longford in Ireland. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



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)

## Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta

Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta 2009, uimhir a 11 ! (San Francisco Bay Area Irish Language Immersion Weekend, 11th annual!)

From Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup>. Venue: United Irish Cultural Center, San Francisco. Increase your confidence and fluency in Irish, or make a good start on learning it!

The Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta features intensive tutorials focusing on spoken language and increasing fluency. Four class levels, beginning to advanced. Teachers are native speakers of Irish. Bring instruments & voices for seisiúns each evening -- playing music, & sharing songs, poetry, stories & craic in Irish.

More info, pictures, and online registration at:

[OneSourceGraphics.com/Gaeilge/DeireadhSeachtaine.html](http://OneSourceGraphics.com/Gaeilge/DeireadhSeachtaine.html)

Contact: (510) 881 5958, or  
[cce\\_gaeilge@ccewest.org](mailto:cce_gaeilge@ccewest.org)

## CCE Classes

CCE sponsors many weekly classes at the UICC. Classes resume in mid-September.

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

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

## Membership Corner

The Treoir Magazine from Ireland is finally on its way, after a few technical difficulties. We apologize, but it is a volunteer effort and quite a large mailing list. It should be in your mailboxes within the next two weeks. If you do not receive it by September 12, please let Joannie know.

Memberships may be obtained at any time by contacting Joannie ([joannieoleary@msn.com](mailto:joannieoleary@msn.com) or 415 664-6579) or website <http://sf.ccewest.org>.

## Regional Meeting

The annual West Region meeting will be held in Seattle, WA on September 26-27, 2009.

This meeting will be hosted by our own Jim Belcher, with some of us going from the Cooley-Keegan Branch and the Four Peaks Phoenix Branch. If you are interested in joining us for this overnight trip which will include a ceili/seisiun and perhaps a short tour of Seattle and a meal, please contact Josephine or Joannie. The idea of moving this meeting/ceili each year is to meet folks in the other branches of the West Region and hopefully give the host branch a boost.

## Events this Month

**CCE Night at the UICC** - On the third Saturdays of September and October (September 19<sup>th</sup> and October 17<sup>th</sup>) CCE will host a 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](mailto:riemer@ce.berkeley.edu)).

**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](mailto: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** - Micheal Minihane and Mary McDonagh teach Set Dancing normally on the first and third Friday of the month at Brosnan School of Irish Dance from 7 to 9 pm. **In September the dates are the 11<sup>th</sup> (due to Labor Day Holiday) and 18<sup>th</sup>.** 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 Minihane ([michealminihane@yahoo.com](mailto:michealminihane@yahoo.com)).

**CCE Picnic** - On Saturday afternoon October 3<sup>rd</sup> CCE will hold our annual Fall Picnic. Details were not finalized before press time but save the date and stay tuned for details.

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

## Song and Storytelling

The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Ric Goldman on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Ric Goldman  
c/o Fools' Paradise  
2626 Waverley Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
Phone: 650-DAM-FOOL (326-3665)

On October 2<sup>nd</sup> Kelly Bartlett will host the seisiún

Kelly Bartlett  
350 E Taylor Street, #2112,  
San Jose, CA  
408-242-1977

If you would like to host a singing and storytelling seisiún contact Michael Jones at [mfj@ieee.org](mailto:mfj@ieee.org).



## 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. Topsy House typically plays on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and last Thursday; Shannon Ceili Band on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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.

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays:**

- Brosnan School of Irish Dance in San Farael: From 7 to 9 pm. There is a \$5 charge for this class. Contact: Mary McDonagh ([irishsetdancer@yahoo.com](mailto:irishsetdancer@yahoo.com)), Micheal Minihane ([michealminihane@yahoo.com](mailto:michealminihane@yahoo.com))



## 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 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

# SEPTEMBER 2009

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ CÉADAOIN WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAOIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
Aug 28 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	29	Sep 1 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	3 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	4 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Ric Goldman Palo Alto	5
6 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	7	8 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	9 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	10 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	12
13 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	14	15 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	16 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	17 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	18 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	19 <u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music
20 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	21	22 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	23 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	24 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	25	26
27 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	28	29 <u>Song Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	30 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	Oct 1 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	2 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Kelly Bartlett San Jose <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	3



CO-CHAIRPERSON: MICHAEL DUFFY (CCE\_CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG)  
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 YOUTH OFFICER: SEAN O'DONNELL

# OCTOBER 2009

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ CÉADAOIN WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAOIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
Sept 27 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	28	29 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	30 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	Oct 1 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	2 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Kelly Bartlett San Jose <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	3 <u>Fall CCE Picnic</u> Details TBA San Fransico
4 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	5	6 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	7 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	8 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	9	10
11 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	12	13 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	14 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	15 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	16 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	17 <u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music
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25 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	26	27 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	28 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	29 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	30	31

**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)

**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](http://starryploughpub.com)

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

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

**Bronsan School of Irish Dance** - 1879 2nd Street, San Rafael (415) 259-0992 [bronsanschool.com](http://bronsanschool.com)

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

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

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