

SCÉAL ÉILE

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

From the Chairman

A Chairde,

Well, we had a nice turnout for our Ceili in November. The young musicians did a great job of entertaining us, and the band had us all on the dance floor kicking up our heels. A special thanks to all the people behind the scenes that helped make this event happen. Also, thanks to all those who brought goodies to share.

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. This year, I was very thankful that my children are all old enough to help cook. Martine, Coleman, and Geli each, for the first time, made a dish to share at our feast. Geli also made her first pumpkin pie. All the dishes were incredibly delicious.

Now we look forward to December and the activities that go with it, including the December Family Ceili, CCE night at the UICC, and St. Stephen's Wren Boys evening. We will have Christmas Caroling at the Ceili and as always all children are encouraged to join in. Let's all wear our festive attire (Christmas hats, scarves, gloves, etc.) and get into the Spirit.

May you all have a safe and happy holiday, and to all a good night.

Slan, Kasey

General Meetings

The next General Meeting of the Membership will be Tuesday December 4th at 7:30pm at the United Irish Cultural Center.

Events this Month

Christmas Céili - The annual Christmas Céili is on December 9th from 7PM to 10PM at the UICC. See attached flyer for more details.

South Bay - The Britannia Arms in San Jose on December 12th. 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.

To get more folks to join in the fun a carpool will depart from the Murphy residence at 1959 17th Ave. San Francisco (between Ortega and Pacheco) at 6:45PM. If anyone else would like to organize another carpool contact Michael Murphy. Feel free to bring holiday dessert goodies to share (Britannia Arms has a restaurant if you want to have dinner).

Contact: Michael Murphy (415-786-1337 or irishboogiemanager@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 Berkely 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.

Song and Storytelling

The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Imélda on Friday December 7th.

275 Lassen Avenue,
Mountain View
650-964-7643

John Hopkirk will host in San Carlos on Jan. 4th.



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)

Wren Boys Dec 26th 2007

Tis time to "bury the wren" again! This year, we may change the route a wee bit, but our favorite places to "crash" will still be on the map. The Lundys; the Keehans; Tommy Costello's; Shannon Arms; The Black Thorn; Katherine Scanlon's; Blarney Stone; Ireland's 32; and our local, the Plough and Stars will see our bright, cheery and sooty faces, and our stompin' feet will be stormin' in to entertain with a few sets and gather some coins for a worthy cause: the local Cooley-Keegan Branch of Comhaltas.

Meeting place will be the Murphy's residence, 1959 17th Avenue, between Pacheco and Ortega Sts. in San Francisco. Please meet us there by 6:30 p.m. We'll make an extra effort to get the gracious musicians and dancers on the road close to 7 p.m. The sooner we can get to the Plough, our last stop (between 11:30 and Midnight is optimal), the better!

This is a rain-or-shine event. For more info. about costumes and our special night itself, please contact Michael Murphy (irishboogiemanager@yahoo.com or 415-786-1337). We will also be sending out, via Internet, the Wren Verse and a more detailed, but preliminary list of the places we visit just to give you a flavor of the evening to come. UP WITH THE KETTLE AND DOWN WITH THE PAN; GIVE US A PENNY TO BURY THE WREN!

Irish Pipers Band

"Keeping the Tradition Alive" through Irish music is an aim of Comhaltas. We support the Irish Pipers Band of San Francisco who have been active in our community since 1932. They are forming a youth band (8-14 years) and will be holding a fund-raiser on Saturday, December 8th at the UICC. For information, contact John Flynn: 650-355-0346.

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 will be available at the Christmas Ceili.

Member News

Kevin Mallen Scholarship

This is open to all children who are CCE members and provides scholarships for traditional Irish music lessons. Applications are available on the website or by calling Josephine (415 681-4803) or Joannie (415 664-6579). Entry deadline is December 31st, 2007. Scholarships will be awarded at March Ceili 2008.

Happy Birthday

A Belated Happy 80th Birthday to Harold Jones, a much beloved member and devoted set dancer from Santa Clara.

Condolences

CCE wishes to extend our condolences to John Sherry on the recent passing of his Dad, Jack Sherry, RIP. Our thoughts and prayers are with you John.

We extend our sincere sympathy and prayerful thoughts to Kristina Ben Arab on the passing of her dear mother, Doris Mary Groneman on October 21st. Mrs. Groneman was a gifted musician and throughout most of her adult life, taught piano to students of all ages. In the 1930's she was employed in the WPA Music Program, accompanying many singers and musicians. She was an avid Foster Grandparent volunteer at Sonoma Development Center. Mrs. Groneman had a remarkable positive spirit and wisdom, influencing those she came in contact with, and instilled a love of music in her children.

May all rest in peace

UICC Events this Month

Rowan Brothers - The Rowan Brothers will be playing at the United Irish Cultural Center on Saturday, December 1, at 7:30PM. Contact: Dean Wilson (415 661-2700)

Folk Music - Jim Nunally and Judy Forrest will perform at the UICC on December 15th. They perform American roots music including traditional country, bluegrass and folk, featuring two guitars, two voices, and occasional mandolin. Jim is a two-time Western Open Flatpicking and Master Guitar Picking Champion. Judy, who is a long standing Comhaltas member and set dancer, performs in the Bay Area's old-time/early country trio No Hiding Place.



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YOUTH OFFICER: MARTINE MILLER

DECEMBER 2007

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MARI TUESDAY	DÉ CÉADAOIN WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAOIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
Dec 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<u>Seisiún -</u> Plough and Stars		<u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Seisiún -</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	<u>Song Seisiún</u> Imelda Mountain View	<u>Irish Pipers Band</u> UICC
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<u>Christmas Céili</u> UICC 7-10PM <u>Seisiún -</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Seisiún -</u> Plough and Stars	<u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band		<u>Jim Nunally / Judy Forrest</u> UICC
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<u>Seisiún -</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Slow Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<u>Seisiún -</u> Plough and Stars			<u>Wren Boys</u> Murphy's Residence 6:45			
30	31	Jan 1	2	3	4	5
				<u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	<u>Song Seisiún</u> John Hopkirk San Carlos	

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



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH

CHRISTMAS CÉILÍ

**Join us for an evening of Music, Song and Dance
Special Entertainment by our young musicians and
Carol Singing**

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2007
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45TH AVE @ SLOAT, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 7PM TO 10 PM
- MUSIC:** THE SHANNON CÉILÍ BAND
- COST:** Adults: \$10.00
Children: Free when accompanied by an adult

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>

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



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
The Cooley-Keegan Branch

COMHALTAS NIGHT

Jim Nunally and Judy Forrest



When: Saturday, December 15th, 2007

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

Time: 7.30 pm to 11.30 pm

Jim Nunally and Judy Forrest perform American roots music including traditional country, bluegrass and folk, featuring two guitars, two voices, and occasional mandolin. Jim is a two-time Western Open Flatpicking and Master Guitar Picking Champion. He regularly tours with Canada's John Reischman and the Jaybirds, and California's David Grisman Bluegrass Experience. Judy performs in the Bay Area's old-time/early country trio No Hiding Place and with Jim.

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*



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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