

# SCÉAL ÉILE

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



## From the Chairman



A Chairde,

'Tis the season of merriment and our Christmas Ceili will be on December 14, 2008. Let us all come out to make this our biggest and best ceili yet.

This will be my last letter as chair as my term is coming to a close. I would like to say that I have had many wonderful experiences and opportunities that are directly related to my being chair of Comhaltas. Of all the experiences I have had, it is the people that I got to meet and the Comhaltas members that I had the pleasure of working with that made it the most satisfying. So on that note, I am happy to welcome back the Michaels.

Michael Duffy and Michael Riemer will share the chair position for the upcoming term. These two men are not strangers to Comhaltas and over the years have put in countless hours to support and build many different programs that we still enjoy today. We are blessed to have people like them committed to our organization, and under their leadership our branch will continue to grow and "Keep the Traditions Alive".

I will be staying on the board and will move over to the position of Head of Development. That's just a fancy way of saying that I will head up fund raising. I look forward to your continuing support. I cannot be successful without it.

Thank you. Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to all. want to see everyone at the Christmas Ceili. Let's make it a night to remember!

Slán, Kasey



## Events this Month



**Christmas Ceili at the UICC** - Join us for the Christmas Ceili at 7 on December 14<sup>th</sup> at the UICC. See attached flyer for more details.

**CCE Night at the UICC** - On Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 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). See attached flyer for more 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 irishboogiemanager@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. Contacts: John Slaymaker.

*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 on December 5<sup>th</sup> by Michael & Miriam. Contact:

412 Winding Way  
San Carlos, 94070  
650-622-9598

Directions: <http://idonotlike.tv/map/>

The January seisiún will be hosted by John Hopkirk on the 2<sup>nd</sup> in San Carlos.

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



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



Tis time to "bury the wren" again! Join us on St. Stephen's Day, Friday, December 26, 2008;. Meeting time: 6 p.m. We start at the Murphy Residence, 1959 17th Avenue between Ortega and Pacheco Sts. in San Francisco. Please show up in Wren Boys outfit or some other festive wear.

We'll be on the road no later than 7PM.; sooner if we can. Places we'll hit will include the Keehan, Lundy, and Scanlon residences as well as a few of the famous-name pubs in the Sunset and Richmond districts. For more details, look for more online announcements from Josephine Brogan and Michael Murphy. Contact: Michael Murphy (irishboogieman@yahoo.com or 415-999-6062).

What is new this year for Wren Boys is that there will be an easy practice of the dances (set and ceili) being held at the Set Dancing Lessons at the UICC on Thursday, December 18 with Michael Murphy (the final lessons of the year). Up with the kettle, down with the pan, hope to see you out on the Wren!



## 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 Treior 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>



## General Meeting



The next General Meeting of the Membership will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30 at the UICC.



## T. Kevin Mallen Scholarship



Applications for the T. Kevin Mallen Scholarship Fund are now being accepted for the year 2009. Young people under age 18 who are serious about pursuing Traditional Irish Music and are members of the Cooley-Keegan Branch are welcome to apply. We especially encourage those who have not sought a scholarship previously.

We are grateful to the late T. Kevin Mallen for his generosity in establishing this fund to "keep the traditions alive".

Applications are available on-line at <http://sf.ccewest.org>; from Josephine Brogan on Thursday nights or contact Joannie (664-6579) or Maureen (661-0351). Postmark deadline for receipt of applications is December 31, 2008.



## 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 starting in January, 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](mailto:josephinebrogan@yahoo.com).



## Irish Choir



Clifford-Hoban CCE member Mary McLaughlin founded a Gaelic choir several years ago: Cór Aingli (Angel Choir). They will be performing in Oakland on December 13 and in Santa Cruz on December 19. Cór Aingli sings ancient Christmas songs, sung only in Irish Gaelic. Cór Aingli will be joined in performance by Libby McLaren and The Winterberry Carollers, who sing beautiful arrangements of Christmas songs, ancient and modern. Both choruses will be featured individually as well as joining forces in a wonderful Irish Gaelic Christmas concerts. Not to be missed!

"A Gaelic Christmas", Cór Aingli and the Winterberry Carollers, Tickets can be purchased at: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/48645>



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



***CHRISTMAS CÉILÍ***



**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF MUSIC, SINGING, DANCING  
AND SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT!**

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 2008
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER  
2700 45<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 7.00 PM TO 10 PM
- LIVE MUSIC:** Miliosa & Rich Lundy and friends
- ADMISSION:** Adults: \$10.00. Children: FREE

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

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

# DECEMBER 2008

De Domhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deáardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Nov 30 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	Dec 1	2 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	3 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	4 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	5 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Michael Jones San Carlos	6
7 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	8	9 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	10 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	12	13
14 <u>Chirstmas Ceili</u> UICC 8:00PM w/ Live Music <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	15	16 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	17 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	18 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	19	20 <u>CCE Night</u> UICC 8:00PM w/ Live Music
21 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	22 <u>Junior Seisiún</u> Ireland's 32 7:30	23 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	24 <i>Wait up late for Santa</i> <i>No Set Dancing</i>	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> <i>No Set Dancing</i>	26 <u>Wren Boys</u> Murphy Residence 7PM San Francisco	27
28 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	29	30 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	31 <i>Happy New Year's Eve</i> <i>No Set Dancing</i>	Jan 1 <i>Happy New Year</i> <i>No Set Dancing</i>	2 <u>Song Seisiún</u> John Hopkirk San Carlos	3

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

**Plough and Stars** - 116 Clement Ave. (Between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>), San Francisco, (415) 751-1122

**U.I.C.C.** - 2700 45<sup>th</sup> 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](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)

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)

**Plough and Stars** - [theploughandstars.com](http://theploughandstars.com)

**U.I.C.C.** - [www.irishcentersf.org](http://www.irishcentersf.org)

**Starry Plough** - [www.starryploughceili.com](http://www.starryploughceili.com)



## 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.



## 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 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  
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