

# SCÉAL ÉILE

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

## From the Chairman

A Chairde,

Well, it's been a month full of news both good and bad, and that's no mistake. On the good side, Jonathan Coxhead and Jenny Valcov have announced their engagement.

January was also the month of passings; on the 9th, John "Jack" Culhane passed away and January 15th saw the passing of Francis "Frank" Lynch. They will be missed, and I extend my deepest sympathy to their families.

Kasey MillerE has taken up the St. Patricks Day Parade project again this year. Talk to Kasey if you want to help out or participate in the parade. There will be a planning meeting at the Plough on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30.

Slán, Michael

## General Meetings

The next General Meetings of the Membership will be on Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the United Irish Cultural Center.

## March Events

Start planning for events this March:

- March 4<sup>th</sup> -- Holy Name March 4
- March 5<sup>th</sup> -- Laguna Honda; St. Anne's Home;
- March 4<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>--Seachtain na Gaeilge(details page 2)
- March 10<sup>th</sup> -- Grand Marshall Dinner
- March 11<sup>th</sup> -- Star of the Sea; St. Gabriels Church
- March 12<sup>th</sup> -- Parade
- March 17<sup>th</sup> -- Shannon Ceili Band at UICC

## Ceili's this Month

### Petaluma Ceili

February 4th, Petaluma Ceili: Come for a fun time in the North Bay. See attached flyer for more information.

### CCE Night at UICC

February 18th, CCE night at UICC: Erin Shrader, Richard Mandel and Marla Fibish will be playing. Come early for dinner.

### House Concerts

Matt and Shannon Heaton on 2/4 and Greenbridge on 2/25 see [www.sbconcerts.com](http://www.sbconcerts.com) for information.

### Irish Network Ceili

March 4 at St. Athanasius Church Hall, 160 N. Rengstorff Ave. in Mountain View; Gathering at 8 p.m.; Music will begin approx. 8:30 p.m. A quick lesson will begin at 8:10 p.m. Admission is \$8 for Irish Network members; \$12 for non-members (2 complimentary drink tix included). LIVE MUSIC! All experience levels welcome. No partner necessary. These past few ceilis have been wonderful! Let's keep up the momentum! Contact: Michael Murphy (415-786-1337 or [irishboogieman@yahoo.com](mailto:irishboogieman@yahoo.com))

## Condolences

Sincere sympathy to Margaret Lynch on the recent passing of her husband, Frank Lynch. Frank was a long time member of Comhaltas. We will be paying special tribute to Frank in our March newsletter

We would like to extend our sincere sympathy to Katherine Scanlon on the recent passing of her son-in-law, Jack Culhane, and also brother-in-law to Joannie & Francie O'Leary.



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)

## Gaeilge - Irish Language

Oíche Ghaeltachta, Dé Domhnaigh, 19 Feabhra 2006. Hayward, 6:30 i.n. (3ú Domhnach de mhí) - comhrá as Gaeilge, seisiún ceoil agus amhránaíocht ar an tsean-nós. “Ádh an phóta” don dhinnéar: 6:30; seisiún thart fá 8:00 i.n. An chéad ceann eile: 19 Márta 2006. Seoladh agus treoreacha le fáil: [gaeilge@ccwest.org](mailto:gaeilge@ccwest.org), (510) 881-5958

Gaeltacht Night, Sunday 19 February 2006, 6:30p.m. (3rd Sunday of the month) - conversation in Irish, music and sean-nós singing session. “Pot luck” dinner: 6:30; session: about 8:00 p.m. Next one: 19 March 2006. Address and directions: [gaeilge@ccwest.org](mailto:gaeilge@ccwest.org), (510) 881 5958.

## Seachtain na Gaeilge 2006

(Irish Week 2006, 4 March - 17 March)

tuilleadh eolais: [gaeilge@ccwest.org](mailto:gaeilge@ccwest.org), (510) 881 5958.

— 5 Márta: Feis Scannáin Gaeilge & Ceoil Traidisiúnta na hÉireann. (Irish Language Film & Traditional Music Festival) 3pm UICC, San Francisco

— 11 Márta: An Dara Feis Scannáin Éireannach Bhá Monterey. (The Second Monterey Bay Irish Film Festival.) Eolas (info): [www.folkplanet.com/cce](http://www.folkplanet.com/cce).

— 12 Márta: Aifreann Gaeilge, le cór, rinceoirí agus ceoltóirí. (Mass in Irish, with choir, dancers, musicians.) 11:30 am. St. Joseph's Church, Mountain View

— 14 Márta: Oíche Airneál, sa bhreacGhaeltacht Berkeley. Ceol, scéalaíocht, amhránaíocht, spraoi & craic. (Night Visiting. Music, stories, singing, fun & chat) 7pm, Beckett's Pub, Berkeley

## Song and Storytelling

The next Singing and Storytelling session will be hosted by Imelda White on Friday February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Contact info:

275 Lassen Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94043.  
Tel: 650-964-7643. Mountain View.

The March event will be hosted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> by Michael Timpanaro-Perrotta in Cupertino

## Member News



Congratulations and best wishes to Jenny Valcov and Jonathan Coxhead who got engaged during a recent visit to the UK. Angeline LeLeux and William Bajzek also announced their engagement recently. Best of luck from all your friends in Comhaltas.

Congratulations to Martin Howard on winning \$95 at the Christmas Ceili Cash Drawing. Get Well Wishes for a speedy recovery to: Rosemary McMonagle with a broken leg and Maureen Bertoli with a broken arm.

Someone left a Pierre Cardin XL Black jacket at the Christmas Ceili (a 2001 Paris Metro schedule was in the pocket). Contact Moe Murphy if it is yours.

## Thank You from Mary

I wish to thank all who contributed to the music fund in my fathers memory. The plaque presented to me at the November Ceili is a beautiful memento and representation for the music fund. My father did sing at house parties. Everyone had a party piece and we all knew his song. He did love to dance and would tell me stories of going up to Clare to do the thrashing and he loved to go to the dances after the work was done. On a Friday or Saturday night he would bring out his accordion to play and sing for us at home. He was proud of his culture. He would have been embarrassed and deeply honoured to be remembered in this way.

A very special thank you to Kasey for organizing this and to Kelly for the beautiful artwork. I was deeply touched by this memorial more than words could ever say. I feel honoured and blessed to know such a great group of people. My family and I thank you from the bottom of hearts.  
Mary McDonagh



CHAIRMAN/WEBMASTER: MICHAEL DUFFY ([CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG](mailto:CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG) OR [WEBMASTER@CCEWEST.ORG](mailto:WEBMASTER@CCEWEST.ORG))

VICE CHAIRMAN: MICHAEL RIEMER ([VICECHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG](mailto:VICECHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG)) (510) 548-4727

PUBLIC RELATIONS: JOSEPHINE BROGAN ([PR@CCEWEST.ORG](mailto:PR@CCEWEST.ORG)) (415) 681-4803

SECRETARY/REGISTRAR: JOANNIE O'LEARY ([SECRETARY@CCEWEST.ORG](mailto:SECRETARY@CCEWEST.ORG)) (415) 664-6579

TREASURER: MAUREEN MURPHY ([TREASURER@CCEWEST.ORG](mailto:TREASURER@CCEWEST.ORG))

TREORAÍ NA GAEILGE: NIKKI RAGSDALE ([GAEILGE@CCEWEST.ORG](mailto:GAEILGE@CCEWEST.ORG))

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: TIM SULLIVAN ([SCEAL@CCEWEST.ORG](mailto:SCEAL@CCEWEST.ORG))

YOUTH OFFICER: MARTINE MILLERE



## Wren Boys 2005



It's been 20 years since the "burying" of our first Wren way back in 1985, and it's just as fun now as it was then! For a Monday this past December 26<sup>th</sup>, the packed pubs and houses, especially in the beginning, and the generous response from the patrons throughout, was astounding. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to Theresa, owner of Shannon Arms Pub, for offering her place as the initial meeting point this year for our yearly quest. Her generous donation to Cooley-Keegan Branch and hospitality will never be forgotten. We were welcomed with open arms at the Shannon Arms indeed. We were even allowed to partake in the pub grub usually reserved for the Monday Night Football watchers. How nice!

And speaking of hospitality, the whole population of Ireland (so it seemed) scrunched into the Keehan's house. Thanks to Missy and Vincy Keehan for offering their house (and yet more food) as the secondary meeting place. Among the festivities there, we were entertained with step dancing gracefulness and power of the "three-hand" from Stephanie, Ashlin and our resident Wren stepper, Jennifer Milligan. We also danced the Connemara Hornpipe for the first time in honor of host, Vincy, who hails from there.

And if we weren't gorged and spoiled enough, there's the Lundy's residence where previous attendance records was broken there as well. In about our seventh year there, one of Seamus Lundy's daughters gave a dramatically powerful recitation. Paddy Brogan, brogue and all, gave us his world famous medleys of country and Irish songs. Martin Howard, with his Jew's harp kept the rhythm of the evening hopping so far. And this was all happening with the steps provided by Jennifer Milligan and the Lundy clan. Thanks to Maureen and Seamus Lundy for being integral parts of the San Francisco Wren tradition.

I have limited space to write here, but I would be remiss to not offer much deserved gratitude to the remaining Pubs on our list as well: Costello's and 4 Deuces; Penny Reilly's; Durty Nelly's; Blarney Stone; Ireland's 32; and out traditional final stop, The Plough and Stars. Of course, the dynamic support of the dancers and supporters over these 20 years will always be cherished. The same goes for grand job of Maureen Murphy and Josephine Brogan of minding the "pennies" this time round and previous years.

And what is the Wren Boys without the Roving Wren Boys Orchestra?!

This year we had Oceanlight, Angeline LeLeux, William Bajzek, Lew and Jennifer Milligan, impressive rookie wren, Mike Knapp, and Miliosa and Richard Lundy for sharing their talents and enduring a whopping 5 and 1/2 hours worth of music.

Hope to see you all at the next Wren where there may be some exciting changes in order to help us increase the already fun experience even more. Stay tuned...

Note: We Wrens missed visiting Katherine Scanlon's place this year very much. But due to a family emergency during the Holidays, it wasn't to be. For the past 20 years, the humble abode on Cole street has been a grand staple in our SF Wrens tradition. We are truly grateful to Katherine's (and Joannie's) contributions to the success of the Wren and everybody's enjoyment over the years. We are very much looking forward to visiting the Scanlon's residence in the future.

One of our esteemed Wrens and Wrenmobile drivers, Frank Lynch, has passed away. Our condolences, love and gratitude, goes out to Frank, Margaret and family.

See y'all next year,  
The Captain of the Wren (aka Michael Murphy)



## Childrens Ceili



January's Children's Ceili witnessed a spike in attendance again. What decorum, support, and exemplary behavior shown by the lovely kids. I tell you, they do their parents proud. Alas, I, Michael Murphy, will be stepping down as coordinator after 8 1/2 years, and the scheduling and administrative duties now goes to key volunteers, Maureen Murphy and music coordinator, Michael Riemer. I am very delighted to announce that Bernadette Flynn will take over the dancing. Let's continue to support a worthy activity that Cooley-Keegan promotes and produces and welcome Bernie in her new role.

Thanks goes out to Michael Spaid for demonstrating his concertina for the kids, and 11-year old, Sean O'Donnell for sharing his talent on the accordion with his peers on Jan. 15; and Kids' Ceili Band musicians, Darcy and Will with their generous contributions and tremendous talent, and keeping Michael company. Hey, we're setting great examples for the kids, as well as learning from them with their gleeful, respectful and infectiously enthusiastic approach to Irish culture.

I'll keep in touch and visit from time to time, but with the volunteers, parents and children's overwhelming and much appreciated support since 1997, we're in great shape. May this valuable event thrive for many years to come!

Michael Murphy



## 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.



## Seisiún



Slow Seisiún:

- Ireland's 32, starting at 7:30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Mondays of each month. This is intended for beginners learning to play traditional Irish tunes. 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





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

**PRESENTS THE 2<sup>ND</sup>**

***PETALUMA CÉILÍ  
IRISH DANCE, MUSIC, SONG***

***4TH FEBRUARY 2006, SATURDAY***

***6PM TO 10:30PM***

***PETALUMA MASONIC CENTER***

***9 WESTERN AVE. 94952***

**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF SET AND CÉILÍ DANCING  
NO PARTNER NEEDED! NO DANCE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**

**LIVE MUSIC  
7:00PM - 10:30PM**

**MUSIC SEISIUN  
6:00PM - 6:45PM**

**ENTERTAINMENT BY KEENAN IRISH DANCE SCHOOL**

**ADMISSION: ADULTS: \$10 CHILDREN UNDER 12: FREE**

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS:**

Finbar Devine's Irish Pub, 145 Kentucky St. Downtown Petaluma 707-762-9800  
Sean's Antiques 18 Western Ave. (across from dance hall) 707-766-9300 or 415-731-0758

*FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT*

*MARY MCDONAGH*

*(707) 765-0416*

*EMAIL: irishsetdancer@yahoo.com*

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

# FEBRUARY 2006

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
29 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	30	31	1	2 <u>Set Dancing &amp; Parade Planning Mtg</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	3 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Imelda White's Mountain View	4 Petaluma Ceili
5 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	6	7 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> U.I.C.C.	8 <u>Music</u> No Hiding Place starring Judy Forrest at Plough & Stars	9 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	10	11
12 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	13 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Ireland's 32	14	15	16 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	17	18 <u>CCÉ Night</u> U.I.C.C.
19 <u>Oíche Ghaeltachta</u> Nikki's House -- Hayward Seisiún - Plough and Stars	20	21 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	22	23 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	24	25
26 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	27 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Ireland's 32	28	1	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	3 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Michael Timpanaro's Cupertino	4

Ireland's 32 - 3920 Geary Blvd. (Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>), 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](mailto:gaeilge@ccwest.org)

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