

# SCÉAL ÉILE

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



## From the Chairman



A Chairde,

Hi, I'd like to introduce myself, my name is Kasey MillerE and I am your new chair. I've been with CCE for some time now along with my 3 children and my husband, Brad. I was introduced to CCE by a neighbor of mine who invited me to go in and dances on Thursday night. I fell in love with the dance within a figure, maybe two. My love affair with this organization started to grow and continues to this day. I have learned much about my Irish heritage and the rich culture that it embodies. At the heart of all of this are the Irish people. The generosity with which they share their prized traditions with all who come and partake. I feel fortunate that my children are growing up with this gift, So in this Christmas season, when we take time to share gifts with our friends and family, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to my Comhaltas community for all the gifts and wonderful people that I and my family enjoy.

Now as the incoming Chairperson I would like to give a friendly reminder that the 2007 convention is not that far off. As I experienced in 2006 convention (my first) this is a great opportunity to experience the Comhaltas community on a much more extended basis. What a great weekend when hundreds of CCE members (and friends) come together to take over a hotel for a weekend. If you have not experienced a convention you should truly consider attending. There is a lot of dancing, great seisiúns and plenty of impromptu sets late into the night (for those who can stay up) You can fill your day with workshops or take time out to see the local sights. So I urge everyone to reserve now for the 2007 convention in Atlanta.

Last bit of news before I close, let us not forget that the February 17th Extravaganza is just around the corner. On January 14th we are organizing a spring cleaning for the center. Please let Joannie, Dan or myself know if you are free to help out. Florence (415-731-6790) will also be organizing volunteers to do the much needed work the night of the event. I would love to say that all volunteers would come to the event free BUT I CANNOT, CCE can not afford this expense. So I am asking a lot for people to buy a ticket to this event and also give a few hours of volunteer time at the event, but ask I must. For I and the fund raising the committee cannot cover all the work alone. So come and have a great time and donate some of your time to make this event a great success. Thank-you

HAPPY CHRISTMAS! AND A JOYFUL NEW YEAR!

Slán,  
Kasey



## General Meetings



The next General Meetings of the Membership will be Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm at the United Irish Cultural Center (no January meeting).

The montly convention meeting will be on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at O'Learys.



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)



A motley crew prepares to set forth on a Wren Boys night lead by Captain of the Wren Michael Murphy

## Events this Month

**Comhaltas Night** - CCE night is on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. See attached flyer for details.

**South Bay** - The Britannia Arms in Cupertino will be the scene of Set dancing on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. 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 irishboogieman@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 Sundays in the North Bay. Set and Ceili dance lessons will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from 4-6PM. Contact Connie, Kasey, or Mary McD for more information.

## Events next Month

**Children's Ceili** - Another of the popular Childrens Ceilis will be held on February 4th from 4-6PM at the UICC

**Emerald Extravaganza** - On February 17th CCE will host the Emerald Extravaganza at the UICC. This fund raiser will help support our organization and our programs. See you there!!

## CCE Membership

Thanks to those who already renewed. For those who have not yet done so, please send in your renewal NOW as they must be forwarded to Ireland immediately. Your expiration date is shown on your mailing label. If you receive the Seal by e-mail and need to clarify, please contact Joannie at joannieoleary@msn.com. (\$35.00 individual membership; \$45.00, 2 or more persons)

We also have "Gift Memberships" available - a great idea for a friend who might be interested in our organization. Gift memberships are accompanied by colorful, personalized certificates notifying the recipients of your gift (as shown on our web site). Thank you. (415 664-6579)

## Song and Storytelling

The next Singing and Storytelling session will be hosted by Angeline LeLeux on Friday January 5<sup>th</sup> at 8PM in Cupertino.

21834 Granada Avenue,  
Cupertino CA 95014  
408 799 0314

In February Michael Jones will host in San Carlos.

## Youth Music Scholarship

Our branch sponsors the Kevin Mallen Irish Music Youth Scholarship. The extended entry deadline is January 15th. Visit our website home page for details (<http://sf.ccewest.org>) and an application, or contact Moe: 415 661-0351 or Josephine: 415 681-4803.



CHAIRPERSON: KASEY MILLER (CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG)  
 VICE CHAIRMAN: MICHAEL RIEMER (VICECHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG) (510) 548-4727  
 PUBLIC RELATIONS: JOSEPHINE BROGAN (PR@CCEWEST.ORG) (415) 681-4803  
 SECRETARY/REGISTRAR: JOANNIE O'LEARY (SECRETARY@CCEWEST.ORG) (415) 664-6579  
 TREASURER: MAUREEN MURPHY (TREASURER@CCEWEST.ORG)  
 TREORAÍ NA GAELIGE: NIKKI RAGSDALE (GAEILGE@CCEWEST.ORG)  
 WEBMASTER: MICHAEL DUFFY (WEBMASTER@CCEWEST.ORG)  
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR: TIM SULLIVAN (SCEAL@CCEWEST.ORG)  
 YOUTH OFFICER: MARTINE MILLER



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

## ***CHILDREN'S CÉILÍ***

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, FEBRUARY, 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2007
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER  
2700 45<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 4 TO 6 PM
- MUSIC:** Live Irish Traditional Music, Singing,  
and Céilí dancing
- ADMISSION:** Comhaltas Members: FREE
- Non Comhaltas Members: \$5 per child  
or \$10 for two or more children

*For Information, contact Maureen Murphy (415) 661-0351*

*Please visit our website at: [sf.ccewest.org](http://sf.ccewest.org)*



## COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN

San Francisco Cooley-Keegan Branch

Presents

# Emerald Extravaganza

Saturday, February 17, 2007

United Irish Cultural Center

Benefiting the programs of Comhaltas and the UICC.

Come out for an evening of great fun, music, dancing, silent auction, great food, no host bar, and much more.....

**Dancing to: The Irish Connection Band &  
Michael Aragon and Friends Jazz Band**

**Special Entertainment: Celtic Dance Ensemble**

**\$60 per person**

**Reservations: Joannie O'Leary - 415/664-6579 or Josephine Brogan - 415/681-4803**

The Emerald Extravaganza celebrates the 30th Anniversary of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in the S.F. Bay Area. This gala evening, set for Saturday February 17, 2007, will take place at the United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco. The entire 'Irish Center' will be buzzing...come and see all it has to offer!!

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCE) (pronounced Koltis Koltori Erin) was founded in Ireland in 1951 to promote and foster traditional Irish music, song, language, and dance.

Current programs by San Francisco's Cooley-Keegan Branch of CCE include weekly set dance lessons, bi-monthly adult and children's céilís, music and dance workshops, song and storytelling evenings, Irish language nights, and special events throughout the year — all of which are open to the community.

The UICC, built by volunteer labor and donations in 1974, sought as one of its primary goals to provide a facility where Irish culture would be preserved and nourished. CCE wishes to acknowledge with grateful thanks, the support the UICC has been, over the years, to our branch, as well as all the other organizations in the Irish Community.

*Come celebrate* the rich history of Comhaltas and the U.I.C.C. by attending the Emerald Extravaganza. The night will begin at 7pm with no-host cocktails in the Grand Ballroom, and entertainment by Comhaltas adult and youth musicians. Guests will be treated to a "light supper" from 7-9pm. Exciting horse race wagering will commence at 7:30-9p.m. in the ballroom, while the silent auction takes place in the Member's Room downstairs.

At 9p.m. The Celtic Dance Ensemble will present special entertainment in the ballroom, followed by dancing from 9:30-midnight to everyone's favorite, **the Irish Connection Band**. Simultaneously, The Michael Aragon Jazz Band will perform on the restaurant stage. Meanwhile, a traditional Irish music seisiún will continue in the St. Francis Room for those who might fancy a set or céilí dance. Come join in celebrating Irish heritage and culture. **The Emerald Extravaganza is a benefit for the programs of Comhaltas and the United Irish Cultural Center.** Your support is deeply appreciated. Tickets: \$60.00 per person. Chairpersons are Kasey MillereE (707-769-8552) and Joannie O'Leary (415-664-6579). For further information, please contact Josephine Brogan: 415-681-4803 or visit our website at <http://sf.ccewest.org>. (Reserve early...the number of tickets is limited.)

# JANUARY 2007

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
Dec 31 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	Jan 1	2	3	4 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	5 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Angeline LeLeux Cupertino	6
7 <u>Set Dancing</u> Finbar's 4-6PM Petaluma Seisiún - Plough and Stars	8 <u>Convention Meeting</u> O'Leary's 7:30PM <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Ireland's 32	9	10 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 7PM w/ Birds in the Bush	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	12	13
14 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	15	16	17	18 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	19	20 <u>CCE Night</u> UICC 8-12
21 <u>Set Dancing</u> Finbar's 4-6PM Petaluma Seisiún - Plough and Stars	22	23 Slow Seisiún - Plough and Stars	24 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 7PM w/ Birds in the Bush	25 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	26	27
28 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	29 <u>Junior Seisiún</u> Ireland's 32	30 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	31	Feb 1 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	2 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Michael Jones San Carlos	3

**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

**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

**Finbar Devines** - 145 Kentucky St, Petaluma (North Bay), (707) 762-9800 [finbarspetaluma.com](http://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](http://sf.ccwest.org)

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

**Plough and Stars Calendar** - [pweb.jps.net/~jgilder/plough.html](http://pweb.jps.net/~jgilder/plough.html)

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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