



SCÉAL ÉILE

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

From the Chairman

A Chairde,

With the beginning of the New Year, I would like to take a moment to look back over 2007. Our branch has a lot to be proud of. We have been able to keep set dancing lessons going at the Center. Along with dancing at the Plough and Stars, Michael Murphy has dancing at the Britannia Arms in the South Bay going strong. Thanks to John Slaymaker and Gretchen Holm, Berkeley can now enjoy set dancing too. Mary McDonagh and Connie Lynch are hanging in there up in Petaluma to get set dancing to take hold in the North Bay. Michael Jones has kept the flame alive with our singing and story telling sessions. Michael Riemer and Michael Duffy are the backbones to our slow/jr. sessions at Ireland's 32. Nikki Ragsdale hosted a very successful seachtain na Gaeilge in March. Thanks to the efforts of Maureen Murphy last summer, we had a wonderful picnic in a local park. Our C.C.E. nights at the Center are well attended. The children's music program has a good foothold with lots of room to grow. Let's not forget our family ceilis, children's ceilis, St. Patrick's Day parade and float, all the dancing we do at other St. Pat's celebrations in March and the all evening dancing all over the Sunset and Richmond districts at the Wren Boys celebration. Then there's the Emerald Extravaganza. What an event that was! All of the above is done with volunteer help, and we also manage to have volunteers to sit on our Board year after year.

WOW! That is a very impressive list! (and I'm sure that is not all of it). We have, as a community, accomplished a lot in one year.

So here's to 2008. May it be as grand or better. Thank you for your support!

Happy New year to all!!!!

Slan, Kasey

Wren Boys 2007

On behalf of CCE Cooley-Keegan Branch, the Captain of the Wren would like to express deep gratitude for the Keehan Family, Lundy Family, Katherine Scanlon, Rita and Maureen Murphy, Tommy Costello and 4 Deuces, Shannon Arms, and Plough and Stars for their gracious hospitality in having the Wren Boys come over to their houses and businesses to spread some good, holiday cheer to their guests and patrons as well as to themselves.

Many thanks also goes out to Joanne Hartnett, Oceanlight, Kenny, Lew and Jennifer Milligan, Susanna and Richard Lundy, and Bridget for offering their musical talents along the Wren tour. The Captain would also like to acknowledge the singers, dancers, reciter (Seamus Lundy) and musicians who very successfully added to the talent pool in providing first-class entertainment to all.

Although it was a little more low-key than in years past, we still all had a blast with new musicians, dancers, and guests joining us on the Wren this year! Next time around, we may see a few changes that will help facilitate our annual "burial of the Wren." New places to visit? More course changing? Different transportation arrangements? More songs? More regular dance practices at the beginning of the evening to help the first-timers out? The sky's the limit.

For the next three years, St. Stephen's Day will fall on a weekend, so there will be much more merrymaking to be had, and most likely, larger crowds of Wren Boys, house guests and pub patrons to witness this grand display of a dear Western Ireland tradition!

Slan,
The Captain of the Wren



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)



The Christmas Céili featured performances by children and adults

Events this Month

Children's Céili - On Sunday, January 20th CCE will host a Céili for children from 4PM to 6PM at the UICC. Free for CCE members; \$5 per child or \$10 for two or more children. See attached flyer for more details.

South Bay - The Britannia Arms in San Jose on January 9th and 23rd. 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. Contact: Michael Murphy (415-786-1337 or irishboogieman@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 Berkeley 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 John Hopkirk on Friday January 4th.

145 Highland Avenue
San Carlos, Ca. 94070
650-593-0843 or hopkirk@hopkirk.org

Mick & Mary will host in San Francisco on February 1st.

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.

General Meetings

The next General Meeting of the Membership will be Tuesday January 8th at 7:30pm at the United Irish Cultural Center.



CHAIRPERSON: KASEY MILLERÉ (CCE_CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG)
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 YOUTH OFFICER: MARTINE MILLERÉ

JANUARY 2008

| Dé Domhnaigh SUNDAY | Dé Luan MONDAY | Dé Mairt TUESDAY | Dé Céadaoin WEDNESDAY | Déardaoin THURSDAY | Dé h-Aoine FRIDAY | Dé Sathairn SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|-------------------------|
| Dec 30 Seisiún - Plough and Stars | 31 | Jan 1 Seisiún - Plough and Stars | 2 | 3 Set Dancing Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band | 4 Song Seisiún John Hopkirk San Carlos | 5 |
| 6 Seisiún - Plough and Stars | 7 | 8 CCÉ Meeting UICC 7:30PM Seisiún - Plough and Stars | 9 Set Dancing Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM | 10 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Seisiún - Plough and Stars | 14 | 15 Slow Seisiún Plough and Stars | 16 | 17 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Children's Céili UICC 4-6PM Seisiún - Plough and Stars | 21 | 22 | 23 Set Dancing Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM | 24 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Seisiún - Plough and Stars | 28 Junior Seisiún Ireland's 32 7:30 | 29 | 30 | 31 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Ceili Chicks | Feb 1 Song Seisiún Mick & Mary San Francisco | 2 |

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



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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