

SCÉAL CEILÉ

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



From the Chairman



A Chairde,

Its been a strange few months to end this year for me, mostly because I seemed to be ill, or recovering, or coming down with something new for most of the time -- which is unusual for me, and certainly not recommended! I missed a number of Comhaltas activities that I had been looking forward to (starting with the dance workshop with Maldon Meehan back in November, which I heard was very good).

That's one reason I was especially pleased with our Christmas Ceili a few weeks ago, which was our largest and liveliest ceili in quite some time! It was so well attended, I probably don't need to describe it... Suffice it to say that it is wonderful when we nearly overflow the stage-side of the St. Patrick's room, with a very broad array of "regular" members, "rarely seen" members, guests, dancers, singers, and a load of holiday spirit. Special thanks are due to Michael Murphy and Rebecca Cisin, who helped guide a lot of new folks through new dances with smiles on their faces; and Linnea Sepe-Forrest who led a team of younger folks who showed up early to decorate the hall, adding to the festive nature.

A number of people commented to me about how good it was to have more young folks participating, and I think this is another good benefit of our continuing music classes. As we develop a core group of families with kids interested in the culture, they bring a lot of energy to the events -- and as they get older, we can adapt some events for them, as with the recent, first-ever "Teen Ceili" that was successfully held back in November - special congratulations to Sean O'Donnell and Maureen Murphy for making that happen, after years of discussion!

Now its a new year, with all the work and excitement of the St. Patrick's season just around the corner - we looking forward to seeing you soon!

Happy Holidays! -- Michael R.



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)



Events this Month



CCE Night at the UICC - On the third Saturday of the month, January 15th and February 19th, CCE will host a night of dancing at the UICC Music begins at 7:30 with dancing at 8PM to live traditional Irish Music. Admission is free. Contact: Michael Riemer (riemer@ce.berkeley.edu).

South Bay/ Peninsula - On Tuesdays we meet at Lily Mac's in Sunnyvale. *The first meeting in 2011 will be on January 11th.* Lessons: 7:30; Dance to live music 8-10. \$5 donation suggested. Info: Michael Murphy at irishboogieman@yahoo.com 415-999-6062. *Note: We no longer meet at Angelica's Bistro in Redwood City.*

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. Contact: John Slaymaker.

North Bay - Mary McDonagh and Micheal Minihane teach Set Dancing on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at Brosnan School of Irish Dance from 7 to 9PM. There is a \$5 charge for this class. Tea and cakes or sweets will be served. Contact: Mary McDonagh (irishsetdancer@yahoo.com), Micheal Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)

Children's Ceili - The next Children's Ceilis will be held at the Irish Cultural Center on January 16th and February 20th. Comhaltas Members. Free. Non Comhaltas Members: \$5 per child or \$10 for two or more children.. Contact Josephine Brogan at 415-681-4803 or josephinebrogan@yahoo.com.

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 Patrick McEvoy on January 7th

251 Chestnut
Palo Alto, California 94306
1.650.493.3773
swagman@swagman.com

The February Seisiún, on the 4th, will be hosted by Bill and Perry
16345 Englewood Ave.
Los Gatos, CA 95032
408-356-8506
frantz@pwpconsult.com

On March 4th Amelia Hogan will host.
715 Oakland Ave #205
Oakland
(831) 331 3705
amelia@lair.org

CCE Classes

CCE sponsors the following classes at the UICC. These classes will resume in mid-January.

Adult Irish Language
Children's Tin Whistle
Children's Fiddle
Children & Adult Bodhran

The music classes are intended for children in grades 2 through 6.

For more information, please contact Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-681-4803.

Pre-registration and payment is required to secure a place for all classes.

KEVIN MALLEN SCHOLARSHIP

The deadline for submission of this scholarship application is January 30, 2011. Applications may be obtained by calling Josephine at 681-4803 or emailing her at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com; or Joannie at 415 664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com.

For some years now, thanks to the generosity of our good friend, Kevin Mallen, RIP, we offer music scholarships to children who are members of the SF Cooley-Keegan Branch of Comhaltas. Many have benefited from this scholarship through fiddle, tin whistle and bodhran classes. We look forward to the day when we will have our own Youth Ceili Band.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2011, 5ú - 17ú Márta 2011 (5th - 17th March) -- our Irish language film festival will take place on March 6th! 3.30 - 9.30 pm. venue will be UICC. Save the date, it will be lots of fun!

Wedding Congratulations



Congratulations and best wishes to Bob Benjamin and Alyse Rall on their recent wedding. We wish them every happiness for the future.

Wren Boys

Wren day also known as Wren's day, Hunt the Wren Day or The Hunting of the Wrens (Irish: Lá an Dreoilín) celebrated on 26 December, St. Stephen's Day, on the Isle of Man, Ireland, Wales and Newfoundland. The tradition consists of "hunting" a fake wren, and putting it on top of a decorated pole. Then the crowds of mummers or strawboys celebrate the Wren by dressing up in masks, straw suits and colourful motley clothing and, accompanied by traditional céilí music bands, parade through the towns and villages in remembrance of a festival that was celebrated by the Druids. These crowds are sometimes called Wren Boys

The San Francisco Wren Boys celebration will be December 26th starting at the Murphy's home at 5:30 at 1959 17th Avenue, between Pacheco and Ortega in San Francisco.

The first stop will be at the Lundy's, 2174 33rd Avenue between Rivera and Quintara Streets. Subsequent stops include other homes the Shannon Arms and other popular Irish drinking establishments. The festivities conclude at the Plough and Stars around midnight.

For more details contact Michael Murphy at 415-999-6062 or irishboogiemanager@yahoo.com.

General Meeting

General Meetings of the Membership are held on the first Tuesday of the month. The next one will be on January 2nd starting at 7:30 at the UICC. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Furey Brothers Concert



Furey Brothers Concert at the Irish Center

Back Row: Luke Crowley, Eddie Furey, Eoin Lyons, George Furey, Cian Hennessy, Pat O'Donnell, Dominic Leech, Davey Arthur.

Front Row: Joseph Howard, Ethan Hennessy, Caoimhe Lyons, Padraig Lyons, Cormac Lyons



CCE Membership 2011



The final 2010 issue of the CCE magazine, TREOIR, will be on its way to you shortly. If you do not receive it by the end of December, please let Joannie know (415 664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com).

Thank you to everyone who renewed your membership so promptly. If you have not had a chance to do so yet, you may:

- Renew on-line through our website and remit payment through Paypal: <http://sf.ccewest.org>.
- Renew on-line through our website and send your check to our PO Box 16244, SF, CA 94116. (we do not bill)
- Complete your membership form and mail it with your check to our PO Box.
- Complete your membership form and include either a check or cash – give to Josephine or Moe at dancing.
- \$35/Individual membership; \$45/2 or more in household.

Please call or email Joannie with any questions you may have. Thank you.



Member News



We are remiss in sending get well wishes to Imelda White who is recuperating from a broken foot. Being the trooper that she is, Imelda, via a wheelchair and good friends, traveled from the South Bay to the UICC every Saturday so that the Irish Language Class could continue! We thank Imelda for her dedication, wish her a speedy recovery and hope she will be back on the dance floor soon!

Get well wishes are also sent to Pari Livermore who has been under the weather the past few weeks and missing her beloved set dancing. Hope you will be up and around soon, Pari!

Our own Teresa Ford seems to have recovered nicely from her broken arm and was seen enjoying herself at the Rebel Cork Dinner Dance in December. Happy New Year, Teresa!

An addendum to our last Sceal Eile – Terry and Craig Ritts are celebrating the arrival of their granddaughter, Annabelle! Congratulations to all the Ritts family and who knows, we might have a new little dancer in our midst!



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. Shannon Ceili Band typically plays on the 1st and 2nd Thursday; Topsy House on the 3rd and 4th and last Thursday;
- Dancers are encouraged to contribute \$5 to support the live music.

Tuesdays:

- Lily Mac's in Sunnyvale. Lessons: 7:30; Dance to live music 8-10. \$5 suggested to support the live music.

Mondays:

- Starry Plough in Berkeley: Ceili dancing on Mondays. Lessons from 7 to 9PM and dancing to live music from 9 to 11PM. Contact: John Slaymaker.

2nd and 4th Fridays:

- Brosnan School of Irish Dance in San Rafael: From 7 to 9 pm. There is a \$5 charge for this class. Contact: Mary McDonagh (irishsetdancer@yahoo.com), Micheal Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)



Seisiún



Slow Seisiún:

- Junior Seisiun/slow seisiun is now held one hour prior to each Children's Ceili at the UICC. Please check the calendar for details and dates.

Seisiún: - Sundays and Tuesdays starting at 8:30 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
P.O. Box 16244
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116

Eanáir 2011

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Déardaoin THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ Sathairn SATURDAY
Dec 26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1
<u>Wren Boys</u> Meet at 5:30PM Murphy's Residence <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars		<u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band		
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> Patrick McEvoy Palo Alto	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	<u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	<u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<u>Children's Ceili</u> UICC 4-6PM <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	<u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's Sunnyvale <u>Song Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	<u>Song Seisiún</u> Brennan and Meghan McKenzie Santa Clara	



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FEABHRA 2011

De Domhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Jan 30 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	31	Feb 1 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	2	3 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	4 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Bill & Perry Los Gatos	5
6 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	7	8 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	9	10 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	12
13 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	14	15 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	16	17 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	18	19 <u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music
20 <u>Children's Ceili</u> UICC 4-6PM <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	21	22 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	23	24 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	25 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	26
27 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	28	28 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	Mar 1	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	3 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Amelia Hogan Oakland	4

Plough and Stars - 116 Clement Ave. (Between 2nd and 3rd), San Francisco, (415) 751-1122 theploughandstars.com

U.I.C.C. - 2700 45th Ave. (At Sloat Blvd.), San Francisco, (415) 661-2700 www.irishcentersf.org

Lily Mac's - 118 S. Murphy St. Sunnyvale (between Washington and Evelyn Aves)

Starry Plough - 3101 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (510) 841-2082 starryploughpub.com

Beckett's Irish Pub - 2271 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (510) 647-1790 www.beckettsirishpub.com

Angelica's Bistro - 863 Main Street, Redwood City

Brosnan School of Irish Dance - 1879 2nd Street, San Rafael (415) 259-0992 brosnanschool.com

You can also visit the following websites for events:

San Francisco CCE - Cooley-Keegan Branch - sf.ccewest.org

Santa Cruz CCE - Clifford-Hoban Branch - www.folkplanet.com/cce