

JULY 2006

IÚIL 2006

SCÉAL ÉILE

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



From the Chairman



A Chairde,

Summer is in full swing and there are a lot of things going on. Many are on vacation, so the dancing may be expected to be 'lighter' than normal. It may be that I'll be seen less at the Plough and more often at the classes.

On the horizon, we hope to see a start to more regular dancing in Petaluma, adding Finbar Devines to our list of venues. In the South bay, the Britannia Arms is starting in July on two Wednesdays a month. Contact Michael Murphy for more information. Further out in October, we see a general fund raiser party at the Plough.

Well, that's all for now.
Slán, Michael



Gaeilge - Irish Language



No Lá Ghaeltachta in July

Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta 2006 (San Francisco Bay Area Irish Language Immersion Weekend) September 22-24, 6pm Fri. - 4:30pm Sun. Venue: United Irish Cultural Center, San Francisco.

Increase your confidence and fluency in Irish, or make a good start on learning it! Four class levels again this year!!!

The Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta features intensive tutorials focusing on spoken language and increasing fluency. Teachers are native speakers of Irish. Bring instruments & voices for sessions each evening -- playing music, & sharing songs, poetry, stories & craic in Irish.

Info & registration form available at

OneSourceGraphics.com/Gaeilge/DeireadhSeachtaine.html
or 510 881 5958, cce_gaeilge@ccewest.org



General Meetings



The next General Meeting of the Membership will be on the *second* Tuesday of July, the 11th, at 7:30pm at the United Irish Cultural Center.

The August meeting will be on the first Tuesday of August, the 1st.



Song and Storytelling



The next Singing and Storytelling session will be hosted by John Hopkirk on Friday July 7th
145 Highland Ave.
San Carlos (650) 593-0843

Friday August 4th, Michael Duffy Kelle DeForrest will host in Belmont.



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 Convention Corner



In the June Seal, we endeavored to give you an idea of what a CCE Convention/Festival Weekend was like. This month, we will describe the more practical side...the work involved.

Various committees have been meeting on a weekly basis. Some have been planning workshops while others have been negotiating with hotels to accommodate our visitors. The Cooley-Keegan Branch is responsible for providing bands, workshop leaders, dance teachers, entertainment, meals and a hotel which can provide space for these activities. We are responsible for booking a certain number of guest rooms in the hotel in order to have the use of the workshop and dance areas. This is a huge commitment as we then depend on many visitors and "locals" alike, booking into the hotel for the weekend.

A goal of this weekend is to make it pay for itself and perhaps net a few dollars to help in our continuing programs. As you can imagine, the San Francisco Bay Area is an expensive area to visit, so our task is a daunting one.

Several fund-raisers to aid our branch and help with this Convention/Festival Weekend have been planned. However, the success of these events has yet to be determined.

The 2008 Convention/Festival Committee met after final negotiations were completed with the hotel. We examined all the financial details and came to the conclusion that, at this time, without adequate funds in our treasury, we would not be able to successfully host this weekend in 2008.

While we are disappointed, we are not discouraged. We are determined to proceed with our fund raising events as scheduled (House Party – September 3, 2006; Night at the Plough and Stars – October 28, 2006; and the Emerald Extravaganza – February 17, 2007).

It is our hope that the success of these events will ensure the funds necessary to seek and host the CCE North American Convention/Festival Weekend, perhaps as early as 2009. We have a head start on many phases of it, from the work done this year.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED. We will continue to hold "Convention Meetings" with our efforts directed towards fund raising. There is much to be done and there is work for all.

The next meeting will be held on July 17, 2006 at O'Leary's Home at 1475 34th Avenue, SF. You are all welcome to attend. Please feel free to contact Kasey Millere at 707 769-8552 or Joannie O'Leary at 415 664-6579 for further details.



Events this Month



Comhaltas Night - Saturday, July 15th at the United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco, from 8pm to midnight. Admission: Free. Live music.

Family Ceili - Sunday, July 23rd at the United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco, from 7 pm until 10 pm. Admisson: \$10.00. Children: Free. Music by: TBD -- Live Irish Music. See attached flyer for more info.

Children's Music Workshop - Sunday, August 13th at the United Irish Center. Details will be included next month.

South Bay - The Britannia Arms in Cupertino will the scene of Set dancing on the 12th and 26th. Lessons at 7:15 PM; 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 irishboogiemanager@yahoo.com (for dancing info., directions) and Britannia Arms, 408-252-7262 (for menu and restaurant/bar info.). Music by Birds in the Bush on the 12th and Gan Ainm Ceili Band on the 26th.

North Bay - Finbar Devines Irish Pub in downtown Petaluma is the location for Set dancing in the North Bay. Contact Connie, Kasey, or Mary McD. for more information. Pub info is at <http://www.finbarspetaluma.com/>.



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Sean O'Donnell plays in a session in the hotel lobby at the Fleadh Cheoil



2006 Midwest Regional Fleadh Cheoil



A report by Sean O'Donnell
(a Kevin Mallen music scholarship recipient)

On the weekend of May 11th and 12th I attended the Midwest Fleadh Cheoil in St. Louis. The Midwest Fleadh is one of two traditional Irish music competitions held in the United States each year. The other competition, the Mid-Atlantic Fleadh Cheoil, is held on the East coast in June. The Fleadh consists of solo competitions in all the various traditional Irish instruments, as well as competitions for duets, trios, Ceili Bands and Grupai Cheoil. First and second place winners in each competition qualify to compete in the All-Ireland Fleadh that is held in Ireland at the end of August.

At the Fleadh I had the opportunity to watch a number of competitions including: concertina, accordion (which I also competed in and won first place), fiddle and harp. I saw duets, trios, Grupai Cheoil and Ceili Bands compete as well. It was amazing to see so many kids playing traditional Irish music on so many different instruments. The youth Ceili Bands looked like they were having a blast!

My favorite part of the Fleadh was playing at sessions with other kids in the lobby of the hotel. I met many new friends at these sessions. The biggest and liveliest session was after the last competition, which was the Ceili band competition. The session started at midnight and at its height it had fifty or more kids playing instruments from Bodhran to fiddle to every Irish instrument you could imagine. I left at about 2 a.m. because our plane was leaving early the next day, but I wanted to stay until it ended.

We arrived in St. Louis a day early, so I also had time to do some sightseeing while we were there. I visited some of the historic sites in the downtown area. My favorite was riding the tram to the top of the Gateway Arch. We also enjoyed a steamboat ride on the Mississippi River, and we visited a really cool kid's museum called the City Museum. St. Louis was a really fun city to visit!

I had a great time at the Midwestern Fleadh Cheoil in St. Louis, Missouri. It was a great experience and a lot of fun. I can't wait until the Cooley-Keegan Branch can start a youth ceili band so that we will be able to give the Chicago and St. Louis ceili bands a bit of competition at a future Fleadh!



Member News



Aislin Roche (Kevin & Marina Roche's daughter) won the San Francisco Rose of Tralee at UICC on June 3rd. We wish her well in the competition in Ireland as well.

She's a very nice, talented, beautiful and genuinely lovely young woman. She danced at our last CCE Ceili.



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.



Seisiún



Slow Seisiún:

- Ireland's 32, starting at 7:30pm on the 2nd 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

FAMILY CÉILÍ



Traditional Irish Music, & Dancing

- WHEN:** **SUNDAY, JULY 23RD, 2006**
- WHERE:** **UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER**
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** **7:00 TO 10:00 PM**
- ADMISSION:** **Adults: \$10.00. Children: FREE**

Comhaltas (CCÉ) is a worldwide organization, based in Dublin, Ireland, dedicated to preserving and fostering the traditions of Ireland, through music, song, dance, storytelling & language. Founded in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, 50 years ago, CCÉ has over 400 branches throughout Ireland, Britain, the U.S., & many other countries. Visit our website at: <http://sf.ccewest.org>

*For Information, contact Josephine Brogan at (415) 681-4803 or email:
josephinebrogan@yahoo.com*

July 2006						
De Dómhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deáardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
2 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	3	4	5	6 Set Dancing Plough & Stars 8-11PM w/ Shannon Ceili Band	7 Song Seisiún John Hopkirk San Carlos	8
9 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	10 Slow Seisiún Ireland's 32	11 CCÉ Meeting UICC 7:30PM	12 Set Dancing Britannia Arms Cupertino 7PM w/ Birds in the Bush	13 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	14	15 Comhaltas Night UICC 8PM
16 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	17 Convention Planning See notice above	18 Slow Seisiún - Plough and Stars	19	20 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	21	22
23 Family Ceili UICC 7-10PM Seisiún - Plough and Stars	24	25 Song Seisiún Plough and Stars	26 Set Dancing Britannia Arms Cupertino 7PM w/ Gan Ainm Ceili Band	27 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Barry O'Connel & Vinnie Cronin	28	29
30 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	31 Slow Seisiún Ireland's 32	Aug 1 CCÉ Meeting UICC 7:30PM	2	3 Set Dancing Plough & Stars 8-11PM w/ Shannon Ceili Band	4 Song Seisiún Michael Duffy and Kelle DeForrest Belmont	5

Ireland's 32 - 3920 Geary Blvd. (Between 3rd and 4th), 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 2nd and 3rd), San Francisco, (415) 751-1122

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

Finbar Devines - 145 Kentucky St, Petaluma (North Bay), (707) 762-9800

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

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

Plough and Stars Calendar - pweb.jps.net/~jgilder/plough.html

U.I.C.C. - www.irishcentersf.org