

SCÉAL ÉILE

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



From the Chairman



A Chairde,

Here we go, diving into the busy season! and with our new publication schedule for the Scéal, this issue covers all the events through April, so keep it for handy reference! As in most years, there is a flurry of activity, ranging from all the preparations and celebrations for St. Patrick's Day and the big parade, through a new block of music classes for the kids, the Irish language events during Seachtain na Gaeilge, and special dance events including the big St. Patrick's Ceili, and a workshop on both set dancing and footwork later in April, with the return of Maldon Meehan. Details of these plus many other "regular" events are included within this issue, and on the calendar.

I'd like to take a moment to delve a little deeper into two of these events. Nearly all of our members must be familiar with the fact that our branch has a long tradition of participating with a full-fledged float in each year's parade, and in fact has done very well in the competitions amongst the floats, often placing within the top few of our category. We are proud of this tradition, but those who are not involved may not realize the time and effort that goes into making this a reality each March. While many come together on the morning of the parade and participate in the excitement, more than half the work takes place before or after the parade itself, developing and assembling the float itself, planning the activities, improving the costumes, and even just coordinating the dancers, musicians and other personnel involved.

If you are a relatively new member of our group, or even a veteran with a bit more time to spare than in the past, please consider getting a bit more involved in this tradition with us, by

contacting Kasey at (707) 769 8552 to see how your skills and efforts can help us make it even better. The parade itself is on Saturday the 14th, but as I said - the preparations are long since in the works!

Then, after the work and fun of the 14th (and of course the 17th itself!) have settled down, come out and join us at the Irish Center on Sunday evening, March 22nd for the annual St. Patrick's Ceili! In addition to the live music and dancing featured at these events, we will be presenting the winners of this year's Mallen Scholarships, which support the musical education of youngsters in our branch who are learning to play traditional Irish music. We will look forward to seeing you there!

Slan,
Michael Riemer



Song and Storytelling



The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted on March 6th by Bill and Perry. Contact:

16345 Englewood Ave.
Los Gatos, CA 95032
408-356-8506

The April seisiún will be hosted by Vanessa & Alan on April 3rd in Redwood City. Contact:

1122 Hudson Street
Redwood City
CA 94061
650-365-2913

Michael and Miriam will host the May seisiún in San Carlos on May 1st.

If you would like to host a singing and storytelling seisiún contact Michael Jones at [mfj@iee.org](mailto:mjf@iee.org).



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



St. Patrick's Ceili - Celebrate the completion of St. Pat's week with a ceili at the UICC on March 22nd. Live music and dancing from 7-10PM. Admission \$10 children free. See attached flyer for details.

Set Dancing Workshop - Maldon Meehan will teach a Set Dancing Workshop on Thursday April 23rd from 7:30 to 9:30 in lieu of the Thursday class. Admission \$10 for CCE members \$12 for non-members.

CCE Night at the UICC - There will not be a CCE night in March. On Saturday, April 18th, CCE will host a night of dancing at the UICC. Music begins at 7:30 with dancing at 8PM to live music. Admission is free. Contact: Michael Riemer (riemer@ce.berkeley.edu).

Children's Ceili - Sunday April 26th is the next Children's Ceili at the UICC from 4-6PM (no ceili in March) See attached flyer for details.

South Bay - The Britannia Arms hosts dancing in San Jose every Wednesday. Set dancing with a wee bit of ceili from 8 to 10:30PM to live music. 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 at irishboogieman@yahoo.com.

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.

See calendar page for address, phone number and web page for all venues.



St. Patrick's Day Parade



It's a parade! Come one, come all. We need help building the float. This will take place on starting at 8:45 on March 13th, 2009, at

Cunningham's Moving and Storage:
1250 Van Dyke Ave (off Third Street)
San Francisco, CA 94124

For information about dancing on the float and other events around St. Patrick's day contact Connie Lynch (cell: 707 823-7378 or cerrydancer@juno.com)

Also we will be making ties the 1st weekend in March for the men to wear in the parade. The place is yet to be determined. You don't need to know how to sew (but that would help). There are other ways you can help by cutting, pinning, ironing etc. SO, let Josephine or me know if you would like to be a part of making this happen. Thank you. Kasey (707) 280-1235



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2009



Events for San Francisco Bay Area Gaeltacht
2-17 Márta...2-17 March

Is í Seachtain na Gaeilge an fhéile chultúrtha agus teanga is mó in Éirinn gach bliain. Tá muid anseo páirteach ann le 7 mbliain anuas! (Irish Week is the biggest Irish language celebration in Ireland each year. This is our 7th year participating!)

Clár (Program),
saor in aisce! (these events are free):

8 Márta: An 4ú Feis Scannán Gaeilge agus Ceoil Traidisiúnta na hÉireann. Curtha i láthair ag Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCE). Togha scannán (Rós & Kings san áireamh!) & rogha gearrscannán as Gaeilge, agus seisiún traidisiúnta ceoil & amhránaíochta, chomh maith. Fáilte roimh cách! (Presented by CCE, Cooley-Keegan & Clifford-Hoban branches. Top feature films (including Rós & Kings) and shorts in Irish, plus a traditional session of music and song. English subtitles, all are welcome!) United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco. 3.30-10.00PM.

10 Márta: Croí folláin, Gob fliuch: 'Sé sin, seal ar bhlaiseadh fíon, seal scléip: ceol, siamsa, scéalaíocht, amhránaíocht, spráoi & craic...abair do phársa speisialta fhéin linn más mian leat! (Wine tasting in Irish, plus: music, song, fun & craic.) Grúpa: "An Chuallacht"; ionad: Beckett's Irish Pub, 2271 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. 7.00PM.

15 Márta: Aifreann Gaeilge, le cór (stiúrthóir Aodh Og O Tuama), rincooirí & ceoltóirí, agus fáiltiú ina dhiaidh. (Mass in Irish, with choir, dancers, musicians; reception follows). St. Joseph's Church, 582 Hope Street, Mountain View. 11.30AM.

22 Márta: An 5ú Feis Scannán Éireannacha Bhá Monterey. CCE, craobh Clifford-Hoban. Scannáin agus gearrscannáin den chéad soth as Gaeilge (5th Monterey Bay Irish Film Festival. Feature films & shorts in Irish). 12.00-9.30PM. Forum 450, Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Dr, Aptos. Eolas (info): www.folkplanet.com/cce

Tuilleadh Eolais (more information):
cce_gaeilge@ccwest.org 510.881.5958



Membership Corner



Thank You to all who have renewed their membership. If you receive the Sceil Eile by US Post, your mailing label shows your membership expiration date. If you have it emailed to you, I am writing to let you know if you have not renewed.

The Treoir magazine from Ireland should be sent out around St. Patrick's Day. If you do not receive your copy by March 27th please let Joannie O'Leary know (415 664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com). We need to track the problem down at the time so you will receive your Treoir which is a benefit of your membership.

Please don't hesitate to write or call me if you have any other membership questions.

Thanks to everyone for your support.



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.

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 third Tuesday of each month. This Seisiún is an intermediate seisiun intended for those with more skill who want to polish tunes in a friendly, forgiving environment.

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
P.O. Box 16244
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116

MARCH 2009

De Dómhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deáardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Mar 1 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	2	3 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	4 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	5 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	6 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Bill and Perry Los Gatos	7
8 <u>Seachtain na Gaeilge</u> <i>see details above</i> <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	9	10 <u>Seachtain na Gaeilge</u> <i>see details above</i> <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	12 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	13 St. Patrick's Day Parade Float construction Cunningham's SF 8:45 to early afternoon	14 St. Patrick's Day Parade San Francisco
15 <u>Seachtain na Gaeilge</u> <i>see details above</i> <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	16	17 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	18 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	19 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	20	21
22 <u>St. Patrick's Ceili</u> UICC 7-10PM <u>Seachtain na Gaeilge</u> <i>see details above</i> <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	23	24 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	25 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	26 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	27	28
29 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	30 <u>Junior Seisiún</u> Ireland's 32 7:30	31 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	April 1 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	3 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Vanessa & Alan Redwood City	4



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April 2009

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ CÉADAOIN WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAOIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
Mar 29	30	31	April 1	2	3	4
<u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	<u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	<u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	<u>Song Seisiún</u> Vanessa & Alan Redwood City	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	<u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	<u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band		<u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Slow Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	<u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	<u>Set Dancing</u> Maldon Meehan Workshop UICC Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House		
26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
<u>Children's Ceili</u> UICC 4-6PM <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	<u>Junior Seisiún</u> Ireland's 32 7:30	<u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	<u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	<u>Song Seisiún</u> Michael and Miriam San Carlos	

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

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



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

ST. PATRICK'S CÉILÍ

**Special Presentation of our sixth annual
"Kevin Mallen Scholarship Awards"**

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND 2009
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
- MUSIC:** Live Traditional Irish Music
- TIME:** 7:00 TO 10:00 PM
- ADMISSION:** Adults: \$10.00. Children: Free

For Information, contact Josephine Brogan at (415) 681-4803

Please visit our website at: sf.ccewest.org



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH

IRISH SET DANCE WORKSHOP

WITH
MALDON MEEHAN

THURSDAY, APRIL 23RD, 2009

UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
(Ballroom)

WORKSHOP: 7.30 – 9.30 PM
(please come at 7.15pm so we can start on time)

COST: \$10.00 for Comhaltas members
\$12.00 for non Comhaltas members

For further information, contact Josephine Brogan at: (415) 681-4803
or Michael Riemer at (510) 548-4727, Riemer@ce.berkeley.edu
or visit our website at: <http://sf.ccewest.org>



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

CHILDREN'S CÉILÍ

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH 2009
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 4.00 PM TO 6 PM
- ADMISSION:** Comhaltas Members: **FREE**
- Non-Comhaltas Member: **\$5 per child,
\$10 for two or more children**
- Live Traditional Irish Music**

For Information, contact Josephine Brogan (415) 681-4803

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