

# SCÉAL ÉILE

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

## From the Chairman

A Chairde,

Well, here I am, once again in Boston, but I'll be back by the time you all get this. It's cold out, but the snow that was promised last night never did appear.

March is going to be a very busy time for us. We have many events planned - visits to local hospitals and homes, the St. Patricks Day Parade, CCE night, a Ceili, and of course our regular Thursday night dancing at the UICC and the Plough.

Apart from our own CCE events, Nikki Ragsdale is coordinating the San Francisco part of Seachtain na Gaeilge which will be going on in the first week of March. Our branch is sponsoring an 'Irish Film Festival' on Sunday, March 5th at the UICC. Please see the enclosed flyer for more details.

Also, from April 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, we have the North America CCE Convention happening in Chicago. If you plan on going, and have not yet book your flights, hotel, etc... You should do so very soon! See the Murphy-Roche Branch website [www.murphyroche.com](http://www.murphyroche.com) for details.

Well, that about wraps it up.  
Slán, Michael

## General Meetings

The next General Meetings of the Membership will be on Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the United Irish Cultural Center.

## Events this Month

March is full of events for your enjoyment. See the attached flyers for St. Patrick's Ceili, Seachtain na Gaeilge and CCE Night at the UICC for details of those events. The calendar page also lists many regularly scheduled and special events.

### *Irish Network Ceili*

March 4 at St. Athanasius Church Hall, 160 N. Rengstorff Ave. in Mountain View; Gathering at 8 p.m.; Music will begin approx. 8:30 p.m. A quick lesson will begin at 8:10 p.m. Admission is \$8 for Irish Network members; \$12 for non-members (2 complimentary drink tix included). LIVE MUSIC! Contact: Michael Murphy (415-786-1337 or [irishboogieman@yahoo.com](mailto:irishboogieman@yahoo.com))

### *Crossroads Irish-American Festival*

Crossroads is an annual event which celebrates and explores the Irish-American literary and musical experience. Events are from March 1<sup>st</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>. See [www.newcollege.edu/irishstudies/events\\_irishstudies.cfm](http://www.newcollege.edu/irishstudies/events_irishstudies.cfm)

The next Children's Ceili will be on April 9 at the UICC from 4-6pm.

## Member News

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Nikki Ragsdale's mom who is hospitalized in Nevada. Nikki has been a dedicated caregiver, all the while trying to organize the Seachtain na Gaeilge events for March. Our prayers are with you.

Thanks to all who participated in making the Petaluma Ceili a great success: Mary and Frank McDonagh and Family, Kasey & Brad MillerE and Family, Sean McGee Antiques, Finbarr Devine's Pub and Keenan School of Irish Dance.



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)

## Gaeilge - Irish Language

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2006 (Irish Week 2006) runs from March 5<sup>th</sup> to March 17<sup>th</sup>. See attached flyer for details.

Oíche Ghaeltachta, Dé Domhnaigh, 19 Márta 2006. Hayward, 6:30 i.n. (3ú Domhnach de mhí) - comhrá as Gaeilge, seisiún ceoil agus amhránaíocht ar an tsean-nós. “Ádh an phóta” don dhinnéar: 6:30; seisiún thart fá 8:00 i.n. An chéad ceann eile: 16 Aibreán 2006. Seoladh agus treoreacha le fáil: [gaeilge@ccewest.org](mailto:gaeilge@ccewest.org), (510) 881-5958

Gaeltacht Night, Sunday 19 March 2006, 6:30p.m. (3rd Sunday of the month) - conversation in Irish, music and sean-nós singing session. “Pot luck” dinner: 6:30; session: about 8:00 p.m. Next one: 16 April 2006. Address and directions: [gaeilge@ccewest.org](mailto:gaeilge@ccewest.org), (510) 881 5958.

## Condolences

Our sincere sympathy to Catherine (Brosnan) Dow on the passing of her “Granny Cassie Crossan” in Donegal on February 3rd. “Granny” was a wonderfully spirited lady who was loved and cared for by Catherine’s parents, “Mary Rose” and Brendan Brosnan these past two years. She always enjoyed the company of Catherine and the rest of her large family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Catherine and all the family in their loss.

## Song and Storytelling

The next Singing and Storytelling session will be hosted by Michael Timpanaro on Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Contact:

20064 John Dr.  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
Tel: (408) 446-3328, [mtimpana@yahoo.com](mailto:mtimpana@yahoo.com)

Michael Jones will host on April 7<sup>th</sup>:  
412 Winding Way, San Carlos, 94070  
Directions: <http://idonotlike.tv/map/>  
Email: [mfj@ieee.org](mailto:mjf@ieee.org)

## Tribute to Frank Lynch

Our March edition of Sceal Eile is dedicated to Frank Lynch, a man whose heart and soul were dedicated to Irish traditions of every kind. Frank passed away after a short illness on January 15, 2006. Our love and prayers go out to his dear wife, Margaret, and all their family. We have all lost a wonderful friend and mentor how fortunate we were to have “The Kerryman” in our lives.

The remainder of this newsletter contains special tributes to Frank from a few of his Comhaltas friends

**Cathy Mibach** -- Uncle Frank arrived in San Francisco when I was in grammar school. On weekends, he and his sister, Aunt Eileen, and my family would go to the park and kick a soccer ball around for hours. It was great fun and helped me to become one of the first chosen to play “kick the ball” at school. He taught us all to dance starting with the “Stack of Barley” and then the “Kerry Set”. Dancing with Uncle Frank was always a pleasure; I miss him terribly.

**Mary McDonough** -- My memory of Frank is how much he reminded me of my father....How he organized items in his garage....and wrapped things up the same way my father did ....how he loved to dance and how true to Ireland he was and yet felt honoured to be in America.....Frank was my first partner in my first St. Patricks Day Parade.....I treasure the memories....May God bless them both.

**Katherine Scanlon** -- In loving memory of a good friend, Frank Lynch, who for many years was a devoted member of CCE and always willing to help everyone that he came in contact with. Several years ago when Frank heard help was needed for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade Float for CCE that was being assembled in Scanlon’s basement on Cole Street, he was there without delay. He always had a lovely smile and handshake when we met. We would always have a great time at our house during the Wren Boys visit when Frank and Margaret were dressed for the occasion. I am going to miss him. My deepest sympathy to Margaret and family.



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## Tribute to Frank Lynch



**Connie Lynch** -- We all know that Uncle Frank loved to dance and that he was a great dancer. One night at a Ceili as we were whirling “around the house”, I asked him where he learned all this. He told me that while growing up in Ireland, his family was the only one with a gramophone. So all the young people would gather in their kitchen on Friday nights and his mother, my grandmother, would teach the dances. What fun they must have had! Dancing with my Uncle Frank is only one of so many wonderful memories that I have of him. I will miss him.



**From your loving niece, Florence** -- Mere words could never do justice to Uncle Frank’s delightful character! He was kind, caring, loving, considerate & the greatest waltzer that ever was ! Uncle Frank was born to dance & he loved passing this gift along to his many relatives & friends. He was a wonderful person & I really miss him. I just can’t wait till we’re all in Heaven doing the Kerry Set-together once again! God Bless you Uncle Frank. You’ll always be in my thoughts & prayers.

**Joannie O’Leary** -- Frank was passionate about his dancing...especially “The Kerry Set” and loved waltzing with Margaret, and all the other ladies who were delighted to take their turn. There was not an event in the Cooley-Keegan Branch, over the years, which did not have the support of Frank and Margaret Lynch as they lent their time, talents, support and even their home. The Ceili, St. Patrick’s Day Parade Float and The Wren Boys were special favorites of Frank’s and he worked tirelessly to ensure their success. Frank Lynch will be forever a part of us --especially as we dedicate our CCE St. Patrick’s Day Float to him this year.

Go ndéana Dia grásta ar t’anam, a chara dhíl  
(May God give your soul grace, dear friend)

**Catherine (Brosnan) Dow** -- I first met Frank, along with Margaret, when I joined CCE in April 1985. Our small branch was preparing for the very first CCE Convention in San Francisco. His enthusiasm was astonishing. He was always ready to get going on some project, attend a meeting, set up the parade float, drive us around in the Wren-mobile, you name it. Above all, he always ready to dance. I had been step dancing and participating in dance competition since 1971, but for me dancing had always been work. Satisfying, engaging, and deeply connecting me to my heritage, but work nonetheless. It was Frank who taught me to love dance. As a member of CCE, with Frank’s wonderful example, I found myself immersed in dance and music for the pure enjoyment of it, and so it remains for me today, and I owe that to Frank. He enriched my life more than I can possibly say. Around 1986 he taught us “The Kerry Set,” and to give you some idea of how green some of us were, we thought it was the only set that existed! For me, the best dance experience was dancing an Old Time Waltz with Frank. He was a beautiful and graceful partner, and it was all I could do to keep up with him. I love you Frank and I miss you everyday. Thanks for all you’ve taught me. Rest in peace.

**Moe Murphy** -- “Uncle Frank” -- My memories of Frank Lynch....the CCE paper drives of long ago, the St. Patrick’s Parade meetings & dance practices in Margaret & Frank’s house on 21st Avenue, the CCE meetings between their trips away; some to Hawaii where Frank was “studying” new methods of grass-skirt making for the “Straw Boys” costume, the original “Wrenmobile” driver for so many St. Stephens’ Nites; The Kerry Set....early morning Masses at St Cecilia’s...the Parade Float & my favorite...phone messages with dates & times of upcoming Mayo matches...cheering for Mayo in absentia for me (as long as Kerry wasn’t the other team); wherever & whatever needed to be done Frank was there. Memories sustain where words fail. I feel blessed to have shared so many good times in my life in such great company. He was simply the Best! My thoughts & prayers to you Margaret & all the Family. I miss you “Uncle Frank”

**Kasey MillerE** -- Paddy’s Float -- I was gonna write about how Frank Lynch would come around and see how we were doing with the float. I’d see him when we were building or I would see him in the morning the day of the parade. I was gonna write about all the little memories I have of how Frank would come up to me with his big smile and say “Kasey, don’t you think this would look better?” or “That could be” or “You gotta have” when it came to the float. And whatever it was that he was saying, he’d be right. But that’s not what I want to write about because Frank went much deeper than that. I believe he touched me and the rest of our community in our hearts. I think it’s fitting that we honor Frank by dedicating this year’s float to him. The theme for this year’s parade is “Irish for a Day” and Frank was a man who was Irish everyday. He embodied the best traits of the Irish community. He was a man that, through his example of living, touched me with the gifts of his generosity, his willingness to always give a helping hand, his kindness, and his ability to speak with you in a way that always made you feel good for having talked to him. So I invite anyone who wants to walk along side the float that honors the passing of a truly wonderful man to come out for this year’s parade. And I will be thinking of him.



## 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.



## 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. 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



# Seachtain na Gaeilge 2006

4-17 Márta ♦♦♦ 4-17 March

Imeachtaí Gaeltachta Cheantair Bhá Naomh Phroinsias.....

.....San Francisco Bay Area Gaeltacht Events

Is féile náisiúnta í Seachtain na Gaeilge a bhunaigh Conradh na Gaeilge 104 bliain ó shin chun teanga dúchais na hÉireann a cheiliúradh, agus bíonn sí ar siúl go hiondúil an tseachtain roimh Lá Fhéile Pádraig. Is í an fhéile chultúrtha agus teanga is mó in Éirinn í gach bliain. I mbliana tá an tSeachtain leathnaithe go hidirnáisiúnta arís don tríú uair! Tá na himeachtaí seo thíos ar fad saor in aisce.

## Clár:

**5 Márta: Feis Scannán Gaeilge agus Ceoil Traidisiúnta na Éireann, sa Ghaeltacht San Francisco.** Curtha i láthair ag Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, craobhacha Clifford-Hoban agus Cooley-Keegan. Togha scannán agus gearrscannán clúiteach as Gaeilge (fotheidil Béarla).

**Na scannáin:** *An Charraig Stoite, Is Mise An Teanga, agus Tir Gan Anam.* **Na gearrscannáin:** *Fiorghael, Fluent Dysphasia, Yu Ming Is Ainm Dom, Lipservice, agus Clare sa Spéir* (féadtar athruithe a chur ar an gclár), Siamsaíocht beo fosta: seisiún ceoil agus amhránaíochta traidisiúnta. *Glacfar bronntanais in aghaidh costais.* United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Ave., San Francisco. 3.00 go 9.30IN, nó mar sin.

**12 Márta: Aifreann Gaeilge,** le cór (stiúrthóir Aodh Óg Ó Tuama), rinceoirí agus ceoltóirí. St. Joseph's Church, 582 Hope Street, Mountain View. 11.30RN

**14 Márta: Oíche Airneáil sa BhreacGhaeltacht, Berkeley.** Ceol, scéalaíocht, amhránaíocht, spraoi & craic. Abair do phíosa speisialta fhéin linn! Beidh Breandán Ó Tuairisg ina Fhear an Tí. Beckett's Pub, 2271 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. 7.00IN.

Tuilleadh Eolais:  
gaeilge@ccwest.org,  
nó tel. 510.881.5958

Seachtain na Gaeilge is a national festival that was founded by Conradh na Gaeilge 104 years ago to celebrate the native language of Ireland, and it usually takes place the week preceding St. Patrick's day. It is the biggest Irish language and cultural festival in Ireland each year. This year the Week has been extended internationally again for the third time! All the events below are free.

## Program:

**5 March: Festival of Irish Language Films and Irish traditional music, San Francisco Gaeltacht.** Presented by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Clifford-Hoban and Cooley-Keegan branches. Top selection of acclaimed films and film shorts in the Irish language (English subtitles).

**Feature films:** *An Charraig Stoite, Is Mise An Teanga, and Tir Gan Anam.* **Film Shorts:** *Fiorghael, Fluent Dysphasia, Yu Ming Is Ainm Dom, Lipservice and Clare sa Spéir* (program subject to change). Live entertainment too: seisiún of trad music and song. *Donations will be accepted to defray expenses.* United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco. 3.00 until around 9.30PM

**12 March: Mass in Irish,** with choir, (director Aodh Óg Ó Tuama), dancers, and musicians. St. Joseph's Church, 582 Hope Street, Mountain View. 11.30 AM

**14 March: BreacGhaeltacht Night Visiting, Berkeley.** Music, stories, singing, fun & chat. Your own "party piece" as Gaeilge welcome! Breandán Ó Tuairisg will be Man of the House. Beckett's Pub, 2271 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. 7.00PM.



More Information:  
gaeilge@ccwest.org  
or tel. 510.881.5958

# MARCH 2006

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
29 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	30	31	1	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars 8-11PM w/ Shannon Ceili Band	3 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Michael Timpanaro's Cupertino	4 <u>Irish Network Ceili</u> Mt. View
5 <u>Seachtain na Gaeilge</u> UICC <u>Set Dancing</u> Laguna Honda & Alma Via Seisiún - Plough and Stars	6	7 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> U.I.C.C. 7:30	8 <u>Music</u> No Hiding Place starring Judy Forrest Plough & Stars	9 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Andrew MacNamara	10	11 <u>Monterey Bay Irish Film</u> <u>Festival</u> Clifford Hoban Branch
12 <u>St. Paddy Day Parade</u> <u>Tipsy House</u> UICC w/ dinner <u>Frank Rooney Band</u> Molloy's Tavern Colma 3-6	13 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Ireland's 32	14 "Night Visiting" Becketts Pub, Berkeley Seachtain na Gaeilge	15	16 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class UICC post-class (No Plough and Stars)	17 <u>Shannon Ceili Band</u> UICC 8-12 <u>Frank Rooney Band</u> Molloy's Tavern Colma 3-6	18 <u>CCÉ Night</u> UICC Music by the Ceili Chicks
19 <u>Oíche Ghaeltachta</u> Nikki's House -- Hayward Seisiún - Plough and Stars	20	21 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	22	23 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Tipsy House	24	25
26 <u>Saint Patrick's Ceili</u> UICC w/ A. MacNamara Seisiún - Plough and Stars	27 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Ireland's 32	28	29	30 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	31	1

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](mailto: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

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/cc](http://www.folkplanet.com/cc)

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)