

SCÉAL ÉILE

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



From the Chairman



A Chairde,

Well, we made it through another St. Patrick's season, not just intact, but with flying colors! A host of special events were attended and brightened with a little extra dancing and music, while the success of our float - winning our category! - reflected the contributions of many people, both members and friends. And of course the die-hard members have just recently returned from than annual pilgrimage that is the CCE North American convention, which I hear is still in fine form. So now we can all breathe deeply and relax, right? What's that you say? you still have fourteen things to attend each week, and can't believe it is already May? of 2010?

I had an interesting conversation along these lines with a friend recently, who was stressed about "keeping up" with all the fun events that he was used to participating in, and who was disappointed that he couldn't attend a special event due to conflicts. It got me to thinking about how living in a place like the Bay Area, and being involved in a community (or multiple communities, often!) that are so active can actually be kind of stressful in that way. It can be hard not to feel like I "should" be doing all of these regular activities, and while each in their own right is enjoyable, the combined effect is one of a hectic routine! And if each week is much like the last, that's a sure recipe for time flying by -- no doubt enjoyed, but perhaps underappreciated.

So I will be trying to catch myself, next time there is a conflict between the "regular" event and something new that sounds interesting, to ask if perhaps I couldn't afford to miss a week, to explore more of the amazing variety around us. Maybe I will meet some new friendly people -- or maybe I will meet you there!

Slán, Michael R.



Events this Month



Children's Ceilis - Sunday, May 23rd from 4 to 6 pm at the Irish Cultural Center. 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.

CCE Night at the UICC - On the third Saturday of May and June (May 15th and June 19th) CCE will host a night of dancing at the UICC. Music begins at 7:30 with dancing at 8PM to live music. This month's band will be "Three Mile Shone" with Erin Shrader, Marla Fibish and Richard Mandel. Admission is free. Contact: Michael Riemer (riemer@ce.berkeley.edu).

South Bay/ Peninsula -: Two locations: On the first and third Wednesdays at Angelica's Bistro in Redwood City; On the second and fourth Tuesdays at Lily Mac's in Sunnyvale. Lessons: 7:30; Dance to live music 8-10. \$5 donation suggested. Info: Michael Murphy at irishboogieman@yahoo.com 415-999-6062.

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 Minihañe teach Set Dancing on the second and fourth Friday 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 Minihañe (michealminihane@yahoo.com)

SF Free Folk Festival - June 12 & 13, noon-11pm. Presidio Middle School, 450 30th Ave @ Geary. Music, dance and song workshops; Set dancing with Michael Murphy. Evening dances and concerts all day. All free. <http://sffolkfest.org>.

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



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 participants in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade gather together for celebratory photo after winning first place

In Gratitude

Each and every year we receive the brilliant support of sponsors without whom we could not participate as a float in the parade.

A very special thanks from all of us for the kind donation received from Patty Hester towards the construction of our float. It was a tremendous boost to us and greatly appreciated!

Long-time CCE members, Bill and Steve Welch of the Duggan Welch Funeral Home on 17th St., SF are most gracious hosts for all the parade mornings we descend on them. Richard takes care of all our needs for the day and fields all the obstacles we throw his way. This is our home away from home every Parade Day.

Charlie & Karen Cunningham and the whole crew at Cunningham Moving and Storage provide the rig for our float every year. We invade them the day before the parade to construct & decorate – and our every need is accommodated. Charlie is there from beginning to end to ensure “our float” will be ready. This year we are very grateful for the driving excellence of Antonio who so smoothly guided us through the parade route.

Special congratulations and many thanks to Kasey Curtin-MillerE, Parade Artistic Director; and Connie Lynch, Parade & Activities Dance Choreographer. You are both super!!

St. Patrick's Parade Float

To all the builders of the St. Patrick's Day Parade float: Congratulations to everybody who put in time to build the float. It was a great team effort.

Thank you to Dan McAuliffe, Pat and Theresa Joyce, Pat Nash, Bill Ngai, Joannie O'Leary, Moe Murphy, Jen Mahoney, Jim Ansboro, Tom Sleckman, Cathy & Don Mibach, Connie Lynch, Nora Matulich, Pari Livermore, Maire and Breandan O Tuairisg, Jim O'Donnell, Joyce Pennell, Paris Finlay, Ray O'Donnell.

Over the summer, I will be putting together a creative team to look at the float for 2011. I look forward to hearing from all of you that are interested in tapping into your creative side or who are just nutty enough to want to hang out.
- Kasey

St. Patrick's Musicians

A huge Thank You to the musicians on the St. Patrick's Day Parade float: Michael Riemer, Lew Milligan, Barbara Southworth, John Sherry, Sean O'Donnell, Linnea Forrest.

It is a lot of work to get all the equipment, set it up, and play all the way up Market Street. Live music is such an important part of the float and we all are so grateful to have you and the outstanding music you play.

St. Patrick's Season Dancers

A huge Thank You is in order for all of the performance dancers for the St. Patrick's Season of 2010. There were many performances (dinners, retirement homes, the parade) and many performers:

Michael Murphy, Jen Mahoney, Steve Jones, Loretta Wasacz, Joel Hollingsworth, Jill Barber, Dan McAuliffe, Elizabeth Jennings, Mick O'Donnell, Mary Stearns, Sean and Tracey Griffin, Bob Benjamin, Ina Brennan, Dave O'Mara, Moe Murphy, Pat Nash, Joannie O'Leary, Martin Giles, Lynn Lahout, Josephine Brogan, Bill Ngai, Aine Minihane, Micheal Minihane, Oceanlight, Martin Sirk, Patty Hoyt, Jonathan Coxhead, Jenny Valcov, Tim Sullivan, Susan Keith, Al Arnolfo, Judy Forrest, Sean Coffey, Connie Lynch.
Flag & Banner Bearers: Pat and Theresa Joyce, Linda Joyce, Philip Healy, Diane Joyce. Float helpers: Pari Livermore, Sharon, Sarah, Sophia & Quinn Alvarado, Abraham, Katherine Scanlon, Michael Jones (photographer extraordinaire);

You all came – rain or shine, sickness or health. A great time was had by all, and we won First Place in the parade.

Song and Storytelling

The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Michael and Miriam on May 7th
412 Winding Way
San Carlos, CA 94070
(650) 622 9598

On June 4th Bill & Perry will host the seisiún
16345 Englewood Ave.
Los Gatos, CA 95032
408-356-8506

On July 2nd Amelia Hogan will host in Oakland
715 Oakland Ave, apt 205
Oakland, CA 94611

CCE Classes

CCE sponsors the following classes at the UICC:

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

We are taking a break for the summer. For more information, please contact Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-681-4803. Pre-registration is required for all classes.

Eileen Moriarty

In this issue, we mark the passing of a wonderful lady and friend of Comhaltas. Eileen Moriarty, 95 years young passed away earlier this month after a lifetime full of family and friendships, dancing, laughter and a love of all things Irish... particularly regarding her beloved County Kerry. Eileen was a dedicated Irish football fan and a great supporter of the Gaelic football teams here in S.F.

During the last few years, Eileen faithfully came out to the Center for our Thursday dance lessons taking turns to chat with everyone who was delighted to see her. Her devoted chauffer and great friend, Dan McAuliffe recalls, "Eileen was a great lady, always on time, never late for anything. She was one lady you never had to wait for. I would come home from work and would have two or three messages from Eileen to make sure I would pick her up for dancing. She loved to go out. Her house was always open for a visit, a cup of tea, a chat."

From Mary and Frank McDonagh: "Oh....We remember a woman always eager to come, sit and watch us dance!! Always smiling, tapping her foot occasionally, always chatting to those beside her, always open to listening. Remembered my parents and told me bits of "history"A lovely, kind woman....."

We remember Eileen fondly and extend our sincere sympathy to Mike and Maureen Moriarty, Ann and Pat Ahern and their families.

Volunteers Needed

Please help support Celtic and folk music and public radio by taking pledges at the KALW pledge drive on Saturday May 15th. Volunteers are needed between 2pm and 8pm during the station's Celtic, folk and bluegrass programs. Food and training provided as well as on-air recognition for Comhaltas.

Please contact Jennifer Mahoney at jenny.mahoney@gmail.com or 415 216-5490 if you can help out.

General Meeting

The next General Meetings of the Membership will be held on May 4th and June 1st starting at 7:30 at the UICC. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Darsippany Convention 2010



If you have never attended a Comhaltas Convention, you have no idea what you are missing. You have got to experience it first hand to know what it is all about. There were 21 attendees from the Cooley-Keegan San Francisco branch at the Convention in New Jersey. The weekend started with a Thursday night Ceili from 8 to midnight. There are music sessions going on in every nook and cranny of the hotel to the wee hours of the morning. The rest of the weekend is taken up with dance and music workshops and ceilis and a fabulous banquet on Saturday night with brilliant entertainment. There is a great buzz all weekend and it is wonderful to meet so many people from all over the US and Ireland. The Convention is a huge undertaking and requires a tremendous amount of work. .. A lot of folks do not realize that the Convention Committee rely on people using the Convention Hotel for their accommodation as they have to guarantee so many room nights in order to get conference rooms for workshops and meetings free. If they do not meet their quota, they have to pay for those rooms. Next year, the Convention is scheduled to be held in San Antonio, Texas. Hopefully, we will have another large group from our Branch attending. – Josephine Brogan

The entertainment in the foyer by the young ones was fantastic and also the step dancing by the group from Baltimore and the St. Louis group. Session wise I would have to rate this convention as the best so far.

After the lovely, as always, banquet and entertainment I adjourned to the area next to the grand piano (about 10 pm). The music was mighty with the likes of John Whelan, Larry Reynolds, Tara Lynch, Tara's father Jerry Lynch, Siobhan O'Donoghue, Mary Molloy, Felix Dolan, our own Joe and Maureen Murtaugh, Kevin Finnegan and his friend Denis on the Banjo, Mike and Kelly Chole, John Sweeney, Barbara Southworth, Annmarie Acosta, and many more. Before we knew it, it was 9:30 am Sunday morning and there were about 15 of us left still going strong. I think we lost a couple at 9am who went to mass. I think the Murtaughs were quite surprised as to the level of music being played and the intensity of it all. I don't think it will be their last convention.

The hotel staff were their usual wonderful congenial selves and the level of music being played by all the young musicians is fantastic. All in all, a very great convention. The tunes are still in my head. The New York /New Jersey people are the best. - Lew Milligan

I can't dance. In fact I am not musical and have never been able to dance. Keeping my skill set in mind, especially as a beginner, I knew I had a lot of nerve registering for the Comhaltas Convention. Filled with encouragement, my Irish colleagues in San Francisco knowing of my enthusiasm for set dancing insisted I would have a marvelous time.

On the second day of the event, I held up my hand to signify I had no partner and an attractive, tiny woman with a big personality took her place beside me. She dragged me thru a couple of sets, and after the first few figures, I realized she was an incredible dancer. I was told later, she was a three time gold medal winner. When I stepped on her gold medal toes, she asked if this was my first time. When I explained my story, she laughed and said, "Your smile, your heart and your eyes all dance very well. When your feet catch up, you'll be a great dancer!" Her comments really lifted my spirits and it was at that moment I realized why I get so much pleasure out of set dancing.

In San Francisco and in New Jersey and probably everywhere within the Comhaltas web, people are warm and encouraging and make you feel so welcome. Golden toes may never remember me, but I will always remember her, and if she is willing to give it another try, I'll be looking for her again next year! – Pari Livermore



Festivals in Ireland



Fleadh Nua is a wonderful annual musical festival held in County Clare – this year – May 23rd to 31st. This year's festival will include the Kilfinora Ceili Band Concert and the Celebrity Concert is held at the close in May 29th. Please visit www.glor.ie

The Big Party of the Summer, the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann will be held this year in Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan from August 16-22. "The Fleadh" provides a meeting place for over 10,000 musicians who carry on the great tradition of playing and cherishing our music, songs and dances. When the competitions are over, many impromptu sessions take place which often last until the early hours. Dancers number in the hundred and visitors are treated to an abundant bouquet of Irish traditions. Please visit <http://www.Fleadh2010.ie>.



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.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays:

- Angelica's Bistro in Redwood City. Lessons: 7:30; Dance to live music 8-10. \$5 suggested to support the live music.

2nd & 4th 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 Farael: From 7 to 9 pm. There is a \$5 charge for this class.



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: - 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

May 2010

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ CEADAÓIN WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAÓIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
May 2 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	3	4 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	5 <u>Set Dancing</u> Angelica's Bistro Redwood City	6 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	7 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Michael & Miriam San Carlos	8
9 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	10	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	12	13 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	14 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	15 <u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music
16 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	17	18 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	19 <u>Set Dancing</u> Angelica's Bistro Redwood City	20 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	21	22
23 <u>Children's Ceili</u> UICC 4-6PM <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	24	25 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	26	27 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	28 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	29
30 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	31	Jun 1 <u>Song 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



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JUN € 2010

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
May 30 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	31	Jun 1 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> Angelica's Bistro Redwood City	3 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	4 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Bill & Perry Los Gatos	5
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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	29 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	30	Jul 1 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	2 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Amelia Hogan Oakland	3

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

Come Join us for an Irish Show & Family Ceili



Saturday, May 1st, 2010

Neil Cummins School Auditorium & Gym

58 Mohawk

Corte Madera, CA 94925

The Brosnan School of Irish Dance Presents

An Irish Show & Ceili

The Golden Anniversary

Please join us for a celebration of the Irish arts as seen through the eyes of the children of the Brosnan School of Irish Dance. A show full of Irish song, dance, music, recitations, and more!

Show Time: 5:00 - 6:30

Ceili

There will be a ceili following the show hosted by the Brosnan School and taught by the

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, the Cooley-Keegan Branch.

Irish Social Dancing will be taught by Mary McDonagh and Micheal Minihane.

All are welcome. Beginners encouraged. No partners needed.

Ceili Time: 7:00 - 9:30

ADULTS: \$10.00

CHILDREN: \$5.00

5 & Under Free

Tea & Treats will be served.



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
The Cooley-Keegan Branch

COMHALTAS NIGHT



WHEN: **Saturday, May 15th, 2010**

WHERE: **United Irish Cultural Center***
2700 45TH Avenue, San Francisco (Bar area)

TIME: **7.30 pm to 11.30 pm approx.**

MUSIC BY: **Three Mile Stone**
(Erin Shrader, Marla Fibish and Richard Mandel)
They have just released an album on CD, which will be available. For more information, check their website at: www.threemilestonemusic.com

ADMISSION: FREE

*The restaurant is open for dinner from 5 pm to 9.30 pm.
Reservations are appreciated: 415-661-2700, ext. 100

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

Visit the San Francisco Cooley-Keegan Branch at: <http://sf.ccewest.org>



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

CHILDREN'S CÉILÍ
(Everybody welcome)

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, MAY 23RD, 2010
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 4 TO 6 PM
- MUSIC:** Live Traditional Irish Music
- ADMISSION:** Comhaltas Members: FREE
Non Comhaltas Members: \$5 per child
or \$10 for two or more children

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

Please visit our website at: sf.ccwest.org