

# SCÉAL ÉILE

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

## From the Chairman

A Chairde,

October is nearly done, and I am even now getting ready for the Samhain Céilí at the Plough. With the debut of The Barbary Coast Shanghai Céilí Band, it should be a great evening.

During the November AGM, we will be electing our new Board for next year, and yes, I am still intent on stepping down. I have had an enjoyable two years as Chairman, and a good two years as Vice Chair under Michael Reimer before that. But, as all things go, it's time for someone else to take charge. Thanks to you all for your support during my time in office.

I urge you all to attend the meetings and lend your voice in steering our branch along it's way. There are a lot of people who are involved, but certainly there could be more. There is a lot of work to be done, and it is made just that much easier if there are more people helping out.

Slán, Michael

## General Meetings

The next General Meetings of the Membership will be Tuesdays October 3<sup>rd</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the United Irish Cultural Center.

## Song and Storytelling

The next Singing and Storytelling session will be hosted by Andrea Lehrer on Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8PM.

582 Swanton Road  
Davenport, CA. 95017  
831.427.0624

## The Convention Corner

The Fund Raising Committee wishes to thank all those who came out to support the Spooky Scary Halloween Party on October 28th. We especially appreciate Sean Heaney and the Plough and Stars Pub; the members of The Gasmen and the Barbary Coast Ceili Band who entertained us so well; Katherine Scanlon for her wonderful selection of homemade breads and Kelle DeForrest who so gracefully shares her artistic talents with us. We would also like to thank William Bajzek for his help with the sound system.

The Emerald Extravaganza is Saturday, February 17, 2007. A "Save the Date" flyer is enclosed. Once again, Kelle has designed a most beautiful logo to represent this event. The evening will be filled with music by The Irish Connection Band and the Michael Aragon and Friends Jazz Band, include a Silent Auction hosted by the Curator of the Legion of Honor, dish up a wonderful selection of "Light Fare", and much more. ***THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE AND WE NEED YOU.***

Do you have a favorite flower shop you do business with? We need to secure donations for the tables. The shop will receive signage at the event and their business card on the table. Can YOU approach one business in your neighborhood to help? Call Joannie.

We will be doing some much-needed cosmetic work at the Irish Center and need helping hands. All help will be appreciated.

We have prepared a packet with information on CCE to be distributed to businesses and organizations for donations. Tickets for the event will be on sale in November. PLEASE CONTACT KASEY (707-769-8552) OR JOANNIE (415 664-6579) AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO. This is your organization and our Irish Center...and they will only survive with your help. Thank you.



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



**Óiche Shamhna** -- November Night ceili -- Sunday Nov. 12th 7-10PM at the UICC.

**Children's Ceili** , Sunday the 19th at 4-6PM at he UICC featuring Live Irish Traditional Music, Singing and Céilí dancing.

**Comhaltas Night** - None this month.

**South Bay** - The Britannia Arms in Cupertino will be the scene of Set dancing on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> (instead of the 22<sup>nd</sup>). In December there will only be one date on the 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 .

**North Bay** - Finbar Devine's Irish Pub in downtown Petaluma on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> from 4-6PM. Contact Connie, Kasey, or Mary McD.



## Member News



Our sincere sympathy and prayers are extended to Nikki Ragsdale on the recent passing of her Mother, Dorothy I. W. Ragsdale.



## Teen Corner



Hello! My name is Martine MillerE and I am 14 years old. I am very interested in Irish culture. I have been a long time member of C.C.E. and I have been doing Irish step dancing for 10 years. My goal as teen officer is to get more teens programs running. I have already started forming a committee of teenagers that are interested in helping me organize the activities, like teen ceilis. And I have successfully started a teen volunteer program. I recruited ten teens to help with the gift wrapping fundraiser and have set up another teen volunteer day to help with the kid ceili November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Irish Cultural Center from 4pm-6pm. Volunteers will receive a community service letter at the end of the ceili. Anyone interested in getting involved with the C.C.E. Teen Club please contact me at (707) 769-8552 or email at suaru22@yahoo.com (please put in subject field "C.C.E.")



## CCE Membership



Our membership drive is on! Please see your address label. Dues are now payable for all those whose label shows 11/06, 12/06 and 01/07.

Please send your membership in now as they must be forwarded to Ireland in November. If you need a membership form, please contact Joannie at 415 664-6579 or go to the website: <http://sf.ccewest.org> Thank you.



## Kids Corner



The children's music program is really getting off the ground now! A monthly "junior session" has been started, occurring on the last Monday of each month, at which youngsters who are learning Irish music are invited to play along together. These take place at 7:30 pm at Ireland's 32 (on Geary near 3<sup>rd</sup>, in S.F.).

In addition, a new class for younger kids will be starting, an "Introduction to Irish Music through the Tin Whistle". These will take place once a week for six weeks, and are intended for kids in roughly the 2nd through 6th grade age group. The first of these will be in Berkeley in November/December (see enclosed flyer), but we hope to have a San Francisco location scheduled for early in the New Year.

Also, the final Children's Ceili of 2006 is coming up on November 19th, at 4:00 pm at the UICC. These can be a great event for a family outing, and many of the kids enjoy it even more if they attend with a friend from their school or neighborhood. Even if you're not a parent, consider coming out to support these ceilis -- as they become more popular, we need more adults who have a sense for the dances to help the kids get through them!



## Lost and Found



Contact Moe Murphy at 661-0351 for lost or found items. Currently she has the two found items:

- Ladies black sweater, no tag, medium with small white buttons found September 14 after lesson at the UICC.
- Childs windbreaker size 8, Maroon & blue found after the July 23rd ceili at the UICC..



CHAIRMAN/WEBMASTER: MICHAEL DUFFY (CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG OR WEBMASTER@CCEWEST.ORG)

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YOUTH OFFICER: MARTINE MILLERE

NOVEMBER 2006						
De Dombhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deáardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Oct 29 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	30	31	Nov 1	2 Set Dancing Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	3 Song Seisiún Andrea Lehrer Davenport	4
5 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	6	7 CCÉ Meeting UICC 7:30PM	8 Set Dancing Britannia Arms Cupertino 7PM w/ Birds in the Bush	9 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	10	11
12 Oíche Shamhna Nov Ceili - UICC 7-100M Set Dancing Finbar's 4-6PM Petaluma	13 Slow Seisiún Ireland's 32	14 Convention Planning Joannie's place	15	16 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	17	18
19 Childrens Ceili UICC 4-6PM Seisiún - Plough and Stars	20	21 Slow Seisiún - Plough and Stars	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving No Set Dancing	24	25
26 Set Dancing Finbar's 4-6PM Petaluma Seisiún - Plough and Stars	27 Slow Seisiún Ireland's 32	28 Song Seisiún Plough and Stars	29 Set Dancing Britannia Arms Cupertino 7PM w/ Gan Ainm Ceili Band	30 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	Dec 1	2 Song Seisiún Location TBA

**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

**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

**Finbar Devines** - 145 Kentucky St, Petaluma (North Bay), (707) 762-9800 [finbarspetaluma.com](http://finbarspetaluma.com)

**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](http://sf.ccwest.org)

**Santa Cruz CCE - Clifford-Hoban Branch** - [www.folkplanet.com/cce](http://www.folkplanet.com/cce)

**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)

*The Cooley Keegan Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann*

*sponsors a new class:*



## ***“An Introduction to Irish Music through the Tin Whistle”***

*November 8<sup>th</sup> through December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006*

This six-session class, intended for children in grades 2 through 6, will be held Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:00 pm, at The Crowden School (at the corner of Rose and Sacramento, in Berkeley).

The class will be taught by Kristan Willits, who is both an experienced teacher, and a highly regarded player of traditional Irish music on instruments including the Irish flute, whistle and bodhrán (Irish drum).

**Background:** Traditional Irish music, like the folk music in most cultures, has been passed down through many generations primarily by ear, with children growing up immersed in the rhythms and melodies at people’s homes, dances and social occasions. This class will teach the fundamentals of traditional Irish music through the tin whistle, the simplest and most widespread of Irish instruments, and will provide a valuable foundation for learning Irish music on any instrument.

Each class will include some discussion/demonstration of different rhythms, learning the musical scales on the whistle, learning of simple tunes by ear (including singing along), and perhaps playing of tunes on other instruments (flute, violin, possibly others) that students may be learning.

What will students know / be able to do after the 6 week class?

- Play one or two different tunes from memory
- Identify the beat and differentiate jigs from reels when listening to them
- Be able to “read” the sequence of notes in a tune from the “spots” diagram
- Know the “D” scale, and “G” scale on the whistle

**Cost:** \$ 95 for the six-week class (some scholarships available based on need)  
*(only \$ 85 each if you register with another student – bring along a friend or sibling!)*  
These include cost of a Clarke “Sweetone” whistle (key of “D”),  
and any written or recorded materials distributed through class.

**Enrollment:** To assure individual attention, enrollment will be limited to 8 students, so be sure to enroll early to reserve your space! To register, or to ask questions about the class, please email Kris at: [kwillits@earthlink.net](mailto:kwillits@earthlink.net), or call her (daytime) at 510-540-9562.

**About the Sponsor:** *Comhaltas is the Bay Area branch of a worldwide organization dedicated to celebrating traditional Irish culture. We organize many music and dancing events, including a growing program for children. For more information, see our web site at:* <http://sf.ccewest.org/>



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

***NOVEMBER CÉILÍ  
OÍCHE SHAMHNA***

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2006
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER  
2700 45<sup>TH</sup> AVE. @ SLOAT, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 7:00 TO 10:00 PM
- MUSIC:** LIVE TRADITIONAL MUSIC
- ADMISSION:** Adults: \$10.00. Children: Free

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

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





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

***CHILDREN'S CÉILÍ***

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 2006
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER  
2700 45<sup>TH</sup> AVE @SLOAT, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 4:00 TO 6:00 PM
- MUSIC:** Live Irish Traditional Music,  
Singing, and Céilí dancing
- ADMISSION:** Comhaltas Members: FREE
- Non - Comhaltas Members: \$5 per child,  
or \$10 for two or more children

*For Information, contact Maureen Murphy (415) 661-0351*

*Please visit our website at: [sf.ccewest.org](http://sf.ccewest.org)*



## 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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays:**

- Britania Arms in Cupertino: Lessons at 7:15; Dancing at 8PM: Live Music. 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, 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 **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