

SCÉAL ÉILE

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



From the Chairman



A Chairde,

I have all kinds of news. There is old, new, great, and a bit of sad news.

This is a very exciting time for our branch with the continuation of our fiddle and tin whistle classes. We are happy to have Kristine Ben-Arab back teaching fiddle, and a warm welcome to Bruce Culbertson who is taking over for Conall O'Raghallaigh.

Conall O'Raghallaigh will be moving back home to Ireland. On behalf of the Cooley-Keegan Branch of CCE, the students, parents and myself, I would like to thank you for helping us to get the whistle classes started. Your dedication is what made the classes successful. But, it's what you gave of yourself, your patience, knowledge and talent that gave each child the opportunity to be successful. We all wish you the best for your future. Teachers are very special people, and we appreciate all of our teachers.

Now there are Irish language classes on Saturdays at the UICC thanks to Imelda White. Also, Cormac Gannon of The Gas Man has offered to teach a bodhran class that hopefully will start after the first of the year. So if there are any adults and/or children interested, let Josephine know.

Again, I would like to put the word out that we are looking for people to help make costumes. I would like to set up a meeting for this in January. Thank you to the people who have already come forward, but more people are needed.

There are a lot of classes going on and events coming up. So please take the time to read the rest of the news letter. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone, and I hope to see everyone at the November Night Ceili on Sunday, November 9, 2008.

Slán, Kasey



Events this Month



Oiche Shamhna at the UICC - We have our Oiche Shamhna (November Night Ceili) on Sunday, November 9th from 6:30 to 10PM. Live music by Anne Goess, John Ward and Michael Riemer. See attached flyer for more details.

CCE Night at the UICC - On Saturday, November 15th, CCE will host another 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). See attached flyer for more 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. Contacts: John Slaymaker or Gretchen Holm.

Santa Cruz - The Clifford-Hoban Branch of CCE hosts a Ceili on November 1st from 7 to 10PM in Santa Cruz. The ceili will be in the Upper Room at the First Congregational Church, 900 High Street, Santa Cruz. Admission is \$10 and refreshments will be served. Contact: Michael Duffy (cosgrach@tsoft.com) or visit www.folkplanet.com/cce

See calendar page for address, phone number



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)

Annual General Meeting

The annual General Meeting of the Membership will be held on November 11th starting at 7:30 at the UICC.

Election of officers for 2009 will be held at this meeting. Come out and support your branch.

CCE Neighbors

Our CCE neighbors, the Monterey/Santa Cruz Clifford-Hoban Branch has an excellent newsletter which is distributed quarterly. You can also visit their website: www.folkplanet.com/cce to find the activities if you are in their area.

Events include "Irish Christmas In America – December 3rd and "A Gaelic Christmas featuring Mary McLaughlin's Cor Aingli – December 19th – both in Santa Cruz. Their ceili is on Saturday, November 1st at First Congregational Church, 900 High Street, Santa Cruz. Instruction by Michael Murphy; Admission \$10.00.

A brand-new branch of Comhaltas has opened in Phoenix, AZ. Chair, Mary Hill-Connor from Co. Clare and her husband Tom Connor are most enthusiastic about joining our West Region of CCE. Some of our SF members will be heading to Phoenix for a Regional Meeting in early November. Our own Jim Belcher will be down from Washington, so we anticipate a few good dances and seisiun. Who knows, a traveling ceili could develop down the road!! We wish all the best to the Four Peaks Irish Arts. Visit their website at: www.FourPeaksIrishArts.org

T. Kevin Mallen Scholarship

Applications for the T. Kevin Mallen Scholarship Fund are now being accepted for the year 2009. Young people under age 18 who are serious about pursuing Traditional Irish Music and are members of the Cooley-Keegan Branch are welcome to apply. We especially encourage those who have not sought a scholarship previously. Deadline for applications is December 31, 2008. We are grateful to the late T. Kevin Mallen for his generosity in establishing this fund to "keep the traditions alive". Applications are available from Josephine Brogan on Thursday nights or contact Joannie (664-6579) or Maureen (661-0351).

S.F. Irish Pipers

Saturday, November 8th at the UICC. The Pipers entertain free of charge all year throughout the Bay Area. The evening includes a wonderful concert by the Pipers and aids in their efforts to teach new students and participate in local and international events. Tickets: \$75/person Please contact Joannie at 415 664-6579 if you are interested in attending.

Irish Language Classes

We are proud to announce classes in the Irish language for children and adults taught by Imelda White are held each Saturday at the United Irish Cultural Center. The current 8 week session is full. If you wish to sign up for classes beginning in January, or for details on these classes, please contact Josephine Brogan at 681-4803 or email her: josephinebrogan@yahoo.com. We are so pleased to work with Imelda who makes these classes possible.

Tin Whistle, Fiddle Classes

Kristina G. Ben-Arab and Bruce Culbertson continue with our most successful children's fiddle and tin whistle classes, respectively. We are indebted to them for their dedication and applaud the progress of all the children who are enrolled.

Some of the fiddles used by the children were made available through the generosity of John Hallahan, a great supporter of Comhaltas. John's father, Paddy Hallahan was a fine fiddler and member of our branch in our earlier days. Paddy lovingly hand-made many fiddles over his lifetime and played at many of our seisiuns and ceilis. Some fiddles were donated to us by John in memory of his father. We are most grateful the generosity of the Hallahan Family is helping to "keep the tradition alive".

For January 2009 enrollment in these classes, please contact Josephine Brogan at 415 681-4803 or josephinebrogan@yahoo.com.

Ireland's 32 Junior Seisiun

A seisiun is held on the last Monday of each month at Ireland's 32 Pub on Geary. This is meant to give an opportunity to those young people learning Irish music to play with one another and learn tunes in common. Seisiun leaders Michael Riemer and Mike Duffy would like to invite young musicians to come for the first hour (7:30-8:30) to share tunes.

The more experienced musicians are welcome to join in for the rest of the evening (8:30 - ?). Hopefully there will be a "field trip" to this seisiun for the tin whistle and fiddle students before the year's end. Please contact Michael Riemer for details of this evening:

Bodhran Lessons

We are delighted that plans are underway to have Cormac Gannon give instruction on the bodhran under the sponsorship of the Cooley-Keegan Branch. Plans are now being made for classes to start in January 2009. For information, contact: Josephine Brogan at 415 681-4803 or josephinebrogan@yahoo.com.



CCE Night was the scene of a celebration of Sean and Tracey's recent marriage. Congratulations to the happy couple!!

Membership Corner

Thank you to all those who have renewed your membership.

We truly appreciate the great response. We ask again that you check your mailing label for your renewal date. If it shows "1/1/09", it is time to renew. This will allow us to continue sending your monthly bulletin and quarterly Treior magazine without interruption. It will also keep you on our notification list of all our activities throughout the year.

Josephine has membership forms on Thursday nights or please call Joannie at 415 664-6579 (or joannieoleary@msn.com) and I will send you a form to renew. You can also renew on-line and either send us a check or pay by PayPal. <http://sf.ccewest.org>

Song and Storytelling

The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted on November 7th by Imelda White. Contact:

275 Lassen Avenue
Mountain View
650-964-7643

The December seisiún will be hosted by Michael Jones on the 5th in San Carlos.

If you would like to host a singing and storytelling seisiún contact Michael Jones at mfj@ieee.org.

Volunteers Needed

The UICC is looking for a few good volunteers to help with a clean-up/paint day on November 28th or 29th – in preparation for the visit of the President of Ireland, Mary McAlesse in December. Can you spare a few hours? The UICC has been very good in accommodating us with space, etc. Call Josephine (681-4803) or Joannie (664-6579). Thanks.



CHAIRPERSON: KASEY MILLER (CCE_CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG)
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**COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH**



**NOVEMBER CÉILÍ
OÍCHE SHAMHNA**

WHEN: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 2008

**WHERE: UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45TH AVE. @ SLOAT, SAN FRANCISCO**

TIME: 6.30 pm 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.ccwest.org>*



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
The Cooley-Keegan Branch

COMHALTAS NIGHT

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

WHEN: **Saturday, November 15, 2008**

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

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

MUSIC BY: **Live Traditional Music**

ADMISSION: **FREE**

*The restaurant is open for dinner from 5 pm to 9 pm.
Reservations are appreciated: 415-661-2700, ext. 100

*For Information, contact Josephine Brogan at (415) 681-4803
Josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or Michael Riemer at Riemer@ce.berkeley.edu*

NOVEMBER 2008

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Déardaoin THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ Sathairn SATURDAY
Nov 2 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	3	4 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	5 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	6 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Eion O'Riabhaigh and Hammy Hamilton	7 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Imelda White Mountain View	8
9 Oiche Shamhna (November Night Ceili) UICC 6:30 - 10 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	10	11 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	12 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	13 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	14	15 <u>CCE Night</u> UICC 8:00PM w/ Live Music
16 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	17	18 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	19 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	20 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	21	22
23 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	24 <u>Junior Seisiún</u> Ireland's 32 7:30	25 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	26 <i>Happy Thanksgiving Eve</i> <i>No Set Dancing</i>	27 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> <i>No Set Dancing</i>	28	29
30 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	Dec 1	2 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	3 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	4 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	5 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Michael Jones San Carlos	6

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



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 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 above for details.

COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OF
COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
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