

SCÉAL ÉILE

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

From the Chairman

A Chairde,

We are in the middle of very eventful times, and as a result I feel fortunate to be very connected to the Cooley-Keegan CCE community right now.

Some of this has been through special events, like the delightful weekend of music and dancing that our Seattle friends prepared for those of us who traveled to the West Region meeting in September; and the Annual Picnic which we just enjoyed out at Douglass Park last weekend (thanks to those who braved the fickle October weather!). As always, part of it has been the regular opportunities to dance, play tunes or just chat with people at classes, or at the Plough, or on Saturdays at the Center. One of the things I hear most often when talking with newcomers - whether they are visitors already involved in Irish culture, or totally new to the scene - is how friendly and welcoming our community is.

But of course all communities also go through harder times, and as you probably have heard, we lost a treasured member of this community with the passing of Florence Keighran earlier this month. Florence was among a handful of people who made me feel especially welcome when I first stumbled into the world of set dancing and Comhaltas a dozen or so years ago (maybe because we shared the same birthday!), and she also became a steadfast friend of Katie's, so we were both having a difficult time accepting the news. What helped the most was the chance to be around so many others who were missing her, to console each other, to share our thoughts. That sort of a community is a blessing in tough times as well...

I hope to see many of you for Oíche Shamhna, the Celtic New Year, which we are marking with a special ceili this year, on the 1st of November itself. In addition to our usual November Night festivities, we are looking forward to welcoming a substantial contingent of step dancers (of all ages), many of whom will be in town for the CRN Dance Championships that weekend from all over North America and Ireland. It's likely to be a lively time - and I've every expectation these visitors will feel welcome, too.

slán,
Micheál R.

Music Scholarships

The end of the year is the application deadline for the 2010 Mallen Music Scholarships! Thanks to Kevin Mallen's generous bequest, every year we are able to support aspiring young musicians who are learning to play traditional Irish music, whether they are taking the CCE music lessons, or private lessons elsewhere. The awards are based on motivation and interest, not proficiency, so beginners are encouraged to apply! The application form is available on line at [//sf.ccewest.org/pdf/MallenScholarshipApp_Rev3.pdf](http://sf.ccewest.org/pdf/MallenScholarshipApp_Rev3.pdf) or through officers of the branch.

General Meeting

The next General Meeting of the Membership will be held on November 17th starting at 7:30 at the UICC. This will be a November/December meeting. It is our AGM and will include election of officers for the coming year. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



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)



Membership Corner



For most of our members, this is renewal time. Your membership supports so many of our activities and events. It also enables us to keep you advised of these and other events in our Irish community. We are a little late in starting this membership renewal drive and since all the work is done by volunteers, we ask you to send in your renewal right away. The membership must be sent to Ireland in December so that you will receive your Treoir and Sceal Eile in a timely manner.

This year we are attaching your membership form with your name and renewal date. Please check to see that your address is correct and be sure to add your telephone number and email address.

Please indicate whether you wish to receive your bi-monthly Sceal Eile by email or in the US Mail. If there is a membership form enclosed here with your name on it **Your membership is due.** Please direct any questions to Joannie at 415 664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com.

For your convenience, if you wish to renew on-line, you may remit payment through PayPal, or send us a check (we don't send out bills).

Please help us out by renewing promptly. You can either give your check and renewal form to Josephine or Moe on Thursday nights. Sign-up online or mail to the P.O. Box # on the form. (If you do not find a renewal form attached, you have a renewal date other than Jan. 1st.) **Thank You!!!!!!**

Joannie



Song and Storytelling



The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Junay on November 6th.

131 Saratoga Ave #3107
Santa Clara,
408-296-4034, iama79r@yahoo.com

On December 4th Imelda White will host the seisiún

275 Lassen Avenue
Mountain View
650-964-7643
imelda.white@yahoo.com

On January 8th Patrick McEvoy will host the seisiún (Note: this is the second Friday)

251 Chestnut
Palo Alto, California 94306
650.493.3773/ 650.493.3625
swagman@swagman.com



CCE Classes



CCE sponsors many weekly classes at the UICC. Classes resume next year.

Adult Irish Language - Saturday mornings
Children's Tin Whistle - Tuesday nights
Children's Fiddle - Wednesday nights
Children & Adult Bodhran - Saturday mornings

Please contact Josephine Brogan for more information at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-681-4803. Payment must be made at the first class.



Events this Month



November Ceili (Oíche Shamhna) - On Sunday November 1st CCE will hold the annual Oíche Shamhna celebration in the St. Patricks Room of the UICC. The Shannon Ceili Band will play from 7 to 10PM. Sean and Pat O'Donnell will playing as a special treat. *Costumes are optional.* Admission: Adults \$10; 12-18: \$5; 12 and under: free.

Santa Cruz Ceili - On Saturday November 7th the Santa Cruz CCE branch will host a Ceili at the at First Congregational Church (Upper Room) in Santa Cruz; 900 High Street; 6:30 p.m. for lessons. 7:15-10 p.m. main dancing. Beginner friendly. Live music to an open ceili band. Admission is \$10.00. Cookies, water, and other refreshments provided. We alternate between set and ceili dancing mixed with waltzes. Contact: Linda Preston (lindflan@yahoo.com).

CCE Christmas Ceili - Join us for the Christmas Ceili on December 13th at the UICC. See attached flyer for more details.

Wren Boys December 26th -- Tis time to "bury the wren" again! Join us on St. Stephen's Day, Saturday, December 26, 2009; More information to come later. Contact: Michael Murphy irishboogieman@yahoo.com or 415-999-6062.

CCE Night at the UICC - On the third Saturdays of November and December (November 21st and December 19th) 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).

South Bay - The Britannia Arms hosts dancing in San Jose on Wednesdays. There will not be set dancing on November 25th or December 23rd due to the holidays. 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.

North Bay - Micheal Minihane and Mary McDonagh teach Set Dancing normally on the first and third Friday of the month at Brosnan School of Irish Dance from 7 to 9 pm. There is a \$5 charge for this class. Tea and cakes or sweets will be served. Contact: Mary McDonagh (irishsetdancer@yahoo.com), Micheal Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)

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



Attendees & teachers at the 11th annual SF Irish Immersion Weekend (Oct. 2-4). It was one of the best yet! Great classes & company, music & craic. Everyone who attended was a Star!

D'éirigh go geal le Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta i mblíana! Bhí na ranganna & an comhlúadar ar dóigh. Neart Gaeilge, neart ceoil, neart craice, agus gach duine ina Réalt na Gaeilge ann!



Florence Lynch Keighran



Our family of Comhaltas/The Cooley-Keegan Branch mourns the loss of one of our own... Florence Lynch Keighran, who passed away on October 8th after a short illness. Shock and sadness reverberated through the Irish and Sunset community at the news. Florence was well known as she walked the length and breadth of the Sunset, whether it was to bring communion to the elderly of St. Cecelia's parish or canvas the various merchants for prizes for fund-raising events. Florence was a generous spirit who was the driving force behind CCE participation in the KALW-Public Radio pledge drives. Year after year she gathered the volunteers for a weekend of fund-raising and everyone enjoyed the party! Florence was an active member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division #2, Kerry Club and the United Irish Cultural Center. Her family was her pride and joy and the Lynch gang joined us at many a ceili. With camera in hand, Florence was at every event to help out and with a gentle smile, would distribute copies of the photos to everyone. Her love and passion was dancing! In tribute to Florence, last Thursday night's dance class at the UICC was dedicated to her, with such classics as "Shoe the Donkey" and other ceili dances that always kept Florence on the floor. Stories of her dancing, traveling to Ireland and visiting and caring for those around her were told during the services for Florence. Everyone has their own story about her and we encourage you to share it with us. We extend our prayers and sympathy to Florence's husband, Seamus, her sisters, Cathy and Connie and all her loving family.

I met Florence through set dancing over ten years ago. She loved to dance and performed in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and numerous other events. Often times when I would meet her, she would have a little slip of paper with a name and contact information on it for me to add to our dancing list or children's music program. She was great for making calls and putting up flyers for all our events. She volunteered her time at KALW when they were doing their pledge drive. She was a mighty woman for walking. I think she must have walked all over San Francisco! It is hard to believe she is no longer with us and we will miss her dearly.--- Josephine

On behalf of the Children Ceili group, we wish to thank all who came to enjoy another of our annual picnics here in SF... each year they get bigger... just a gathering of families & friends enjoying some goodies round the benches, a little toe tapping & young people playing some tunes together which is so great to see....there was an empty spot around the table this time round... Florence left us too soon... she had never missed a children's ceili since the inception more than 10 years ago...she believed in passing on the traditions & everyone knows how much she loved children....We will miss her presence & know her spirit will follow us thru our ceilis to come.... May God Bless & Keep Florence --- Moe Murphy

Florence was a kind and good person who shone wherever she went. She loved people, and she loved animals, too--she always asked after my animal "kids", which was very sweet, and I could see that my hound loved her back. I was always glad to see Florence's face whenever I attended any event or meeting. She always added something good, just by being there. I will miss her.
Ar lámh dheis Dé go raibh a hAnam uasal.
-Nikki Ragsdale



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



CHRISTMAS CÉILÍ



**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF MUSIC, SINGING, DANCING
AND SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT!**

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH 2009
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 7:00 PM TO 10:00 PM
- MUSIC:** LIVE TRADITIONAL MUSIC
- ADMISSION:** Adults: \$10.00. Children: FREE

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

Please visit our website at : <http://sf.ccewest.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:** 3rd Saturday of every month
- WHERE:** United Irish Cultural Center*
2700 45TH Avenue, San Francisco (Bar area)
- TIME:** 7.30 pm to 11.30 pm approx.
- MUSIC BY:** Live Irish 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 or email:
Josephinebrogan@yahoo.com*

COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH



NOVEMBER CÉILÍ
OÍCHE SHAMHNA

WHEN: Sunday, November 1st, 2009

WHERE: United Irish Cultural Center
2700 45th Avenue/Sloat, San Francisco (St. Patrick's Room)

TIME: 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

MUSIC: The Shannon Ceili Band

Special entertainment by: Sean and Pat O'Donnell

Admission: Children: under 12 Free: Youths 12-18, \$5:
18 and up: \$10

*For Information, contact Josephine Brogan at (415) 681-4803
Please visit our website at: <http://sf.ccewest.org>*



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.

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.

1st and 3rd Fridays:

- Brosnan School of Irish Dance in San Farael: From 7 to 9 pm. There is a \$5 charge for this class. Contact: Mary McDonagh (irishsetdancer@yahoo.com), Micheal Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)



Seisiún



Slow Seisiún:

- 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.
- 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

NOVEMBER 2009

De Dómhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deáardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Nov 1 <u>November Ceili</u> UICC 7-10PM <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	2	3 <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> Junay Santa Clara <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	7 <u>Santa Cruz Ceili</u> First Congregational Church Santa Cruz
8 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	9	10 <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/ Shannon Ceili Band	13	14
15 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	16	17 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM Election of 2010 Officers <u>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/ Topsy House	20 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	21 <u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music
22 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	23	24 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	25 <u>No Set Dancing</u>	26 <u>No Set Dancing</u> Happy Thanksgiving	27	28
29 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	30	Dec 1 <u>Song Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	3 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	4 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Imelda White Mountain View <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	5



CO-CHAIRPERSON: MICHAEL DUFFY (CCE_CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG)
 CO-CHAIRPERSON: MICHAEL RIEMER (CCE_CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG) (510) 548-4727
 PUBLIC RELATIONS: JOSEPHINE BROGAN (CCE_PR@CCEWEST.ORG) (415) 681-4803
 SECRETARY/REGISTRAR: JOANNIE O'LEARY (CCE_SECRETARY@CCEWEST.ORG) (415) 664-6579
 TREASURER: MAUREEN MURPHY (CCE_TREASURER@CCEWEST.ORG) (415) 661-0351
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 NEWSLETTER EDITOR: TIM SULLIVAN (CCE_SCEAL@CCEWEST.ORG)
 YOUTH OFFICER: SEAN O'DONNELL

DECEMBER 2009

DÉ DOMHAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ CÉADAOIN WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAOIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
Nov 29 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	30	Dec 1 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	3 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	4 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Imelda White Mountain View <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	5
6 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	7	8 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	9 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	10 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	11	12
13 <u>Christmas Ceili</u> UICC 7-10PM <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	14	15 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	16 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	17 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	18 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	19 <u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music
20 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	21	22 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	23 <u>No Set Dancing</u>	24 <u>No Set Dancing</u> Merry Christmas	25	26 <u>Wren Boys</u> Contact Michael Murply
27 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	28	29 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	30 <u>Set Dancing</u> Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	31 <u>No Set Dancing</u> Happy New Years Eve	Jan 1 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Postponed until Jan 8th Patrick McEvoy Palo Alto	2

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

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

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.ccwest.org

Santa Cruz CCE - Clifford-Hoban Branch - www.folkplanet.com/cce