

# SCÉAL ÉILE

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

## From the Chairman

A Chairde,

Well, it is September already! Where did the Summer go? Hope everyone had some time to enjoy themselves. With the arrival of September we will be starting up our kids music program. See the notice later in the newsletter for more information.

Not to leave out the dancers, the news in that area is Mary McDonagh and myself are starting plans for a Ceili in Petaluma, hopefully in February of 2008. Also a big Thank-you goes out to the San Francisco dancers who came up to dance with us in Petaluma at Finbar Devine's Pub. Michael Murphy was great in leading us in a few sets. Afterward we all enjoyed a delicious dinner and conversation at Finbars. We dance there twice a month and love it when we have visitors.

There is talk about doing a Halloween dance party. If this sounds like something that you are interested in, please let your voice be heard you can let me or another board member know. If there is enough interest we will schedule the event.

KALW radio is having their annual pledge drive on September 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help answering phones contact Florence at 415 731 6790.

Slan, Kasey

## Song and Storytelling

The next Singing and Storytelling session will be hosted by Michael Murphy on Friday September 7<sup>th</sup> at 8PM in San Francisco.

1959 17th Avenue  
415-786-1337

irishboogiemanager@yahoo.com

Michael Jones will host in San Carlos on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

## General Meetings

The next General Meeting of the Membership will be Tuesday September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the United Irish Cultural Center.

## Events this Month

**CCE Night at the UICC** - On Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, CCE will host another night of dancing at the UICC. Dancing begins at 8:00PM to the music of Vinny Cronin and Barry O'Connell. Admission is free. Contact Michael Riemer (riemer@ce.berkeley.edu) or see attached flyer for more information.

**Children's Ceili** - On Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup> a children's ceili will be held at the UICC from 4-6PM. Comhaltas Members: Free. Non Comhaltas Members: \$5 per child or \$10 for two or more. Contact: Maureen Murphy: 415-661-0351.

**South Bay** - The Britannia Arms in San Jose (near Cupertino border) September 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Set dancing with a wee bit of ceili from 8-10:20PM 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 (415-786-1337 or irishboogiemanager@yahoo.com).

**North Bay** - Finbar Devine's Irish Pub in downtown Petaluma on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Set and Ceili dance lessons will be from 4-6PM. Contacts: Connie Lynch (707-823-7378; cerrydancer@juno.com), Kasey MillerE (707-769-8552), or Mary McD (707-765-0416)

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

## Berkeley Ceili

Enjoy Ceili dancing? Both lessons and dancing to live music happen every Monday! The Starry Plough in Berkeley (on Shattuck Ave., near Ashby) has been hosting ceili dancing every Monday for many years - but for some time had been a bit challenging for newcomers... Recent changes have made the scene there much more welcoming and supportive. There are separate classes from 7 pm to 9 pm for beginners and experienced dancers, followed by the live music from 9 pm to 11 pm. Suggested donation for class is \$5, while the dance itself is free. Curious? talk with organizers John Slaymaker or Gretchen Holm at our set dancing nights, or with Dan, Marlene or Michael (M. or R.), who've been attending lately ... or check out the web site at: [www.starryploughceili.com](http://www.starryploughceili.com).



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)

## Sean O'Donnell Fundraisers

Our UICC/CCE Night on July 21<sup>st</sup> turned out to be a very special fund raiser to help send Sean O'Donnell to Ireland to compete in the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil. We were treated to many lovely tunes on the harp by Suzanne Lundy during the dinner hour. Pat and Sean O'Donnell followed Suzanne with a fine repertoire of tunes. Noreen Cotter and her son, Dermot arrived in from Sonoma to provide us with a rare treat with their fiddles and were joined by Sean for a few tunes. Noreen and her late husband, Bill were faithful musicians in CCE for many years. We were delighted that Noreen and Der came along for the evening. The *Live Oak Ceili Band*, with Miliosa and Rich Lundy, Lew Milligan and Peter Persoff, took center stage for the remainder of the evening and delighted all those stepping out to ceili and set dances. Sean O'Donnell has been fortunate to be tutored by Miliosa these past few years, resulting in his trip to the Fleadh. Paddy Brogan was tapped for a song and Sean joined Miliosa in some lively tunes. Our hats are off to all of the musicians, who generously donated their time and talents to the cause. Many thanks also to the dancers and patrons of the UICC who were so generous in this effort.

Saturday evening, August 4<sup>th</sup> found a lively crowd gathered at Miliosa and Rich Lundy's house in Oakland for another fund-raising evening for Sean's travel. Lundy hospitality abounded with plentiful food and libation, as brilliant music delighted dancers and listeners alike. John & Sue Sweeney, Frank Rooney (playing and singing lovely renditions) and John Sherry were present, to name but a few. Dancing was led by Catherine Dow and Dan McAuliffe treated us to a recitation. Some of the lovely ladies in attendance displayed their step-dancing skills. Sean had great inspiration from fellow-musicians for his send off.

With grateful thanks to all who participated, we were able to raise over a thousand dollars to send Sean on his merry way with our best wishes for the experience of a lifetime.

## Member News

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Pat Dillon who has been in hospital. Hope to see you out and about soon

The latest issue of Treior magazine is in the mail. If you believe you are a paid-up member and do not receive your copy, please contact Joannie at 415 664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com. (new members will receive their first copy next time).

## Children's Irish Music Classes

Music classes are starting up again in September: Lessons are once a week in the evenings and generally run six weeks. Contact Michael Riemer (riemer@ce.berkeley.edu) or Josephine Brogan (415 681-4803 or josephinebrogan@yahoo.com) for more information.

**Tin whistle** - Conall will be leading lessons for both beginner and intermediate musicians starting on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Fiddle** - Beginning fiddle lessons will be on Thursdays starting September 13<sup>th</sup> with Darcy. Intermediate lessons are on Wednesdays and start September 12<sup>th</sup> lead by Kristina.

Also don't forget the Junior Session on the last Monday of each month at Ireland's 32 at 7.30 pm.

## Gaeilge - Irish Language

Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta 2007 (San Francisco Bay Area Irish Language Immersion Weekend) September 28-30, 6pm Fri. - 4:30pm Sun. Venue: United Irish Cultural Center, San Francisco.

Increase your confidence and fluency in Irish, or make a good start on learning it! Four class levels again this year!!!

The Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta features intensive tutorials focusing on spoken language and increasing fluency. Teachers are native speakers of Irish. Bring instruments & voices for sessions each evening -- playing music, & sharing songs, poetry, stories & craic in Irish.

Info & registration form available at <http://www.OneSourceGraphics.com/Gaeilge/DeireadhSeachtaine.html> or contact 510 881 5958, or [Gaeilge@OneSourceGraphics.com](mailto:Gaeilge@OneSourceGraphics.com). Attached flyer contains more information.

## Children's Picnic

One Green Field was all that was needed for our first (of many?) CCE Childrens picnic which took place August 12, 2007 at West Portal Playground... never heard of it? neither did we but what a gem... fog turned to sunny afternoon as our families strolled in to gather... playground, frisbee, juggling... trading yummy eats & good chats... ending with a toe tapping mini seisiún with Eoin & Padraig Lyons & Cole MillerE on the tin whistle led by Michael Riemer attracting our share of passersby... a perfect ending to a lovely afternoon... thank you one & all for coming... lets do it again soon!



CHAIRPERSON: KASEY MILLERÉ (CCE\_CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG)

VICE CHAIRMAN: MICHAEL RIEMER (CCE\_VICECHAIR@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)

TREORAÍ NA GAEILGE: NIKKI RAGSDALE (CCE\_GAEILGE@CCEWEST.ORG)

WEBMASTER: MICHAEL DUFFY (CCE\_WEBMASTER@CCEWEST.ORG)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: TIM SULLIVAN (CCE\_SCEAL@CCEWEST.ORG)

YOUTH OFFICER: MARTINE MILLERÉ

# SEPTEMBER 2007

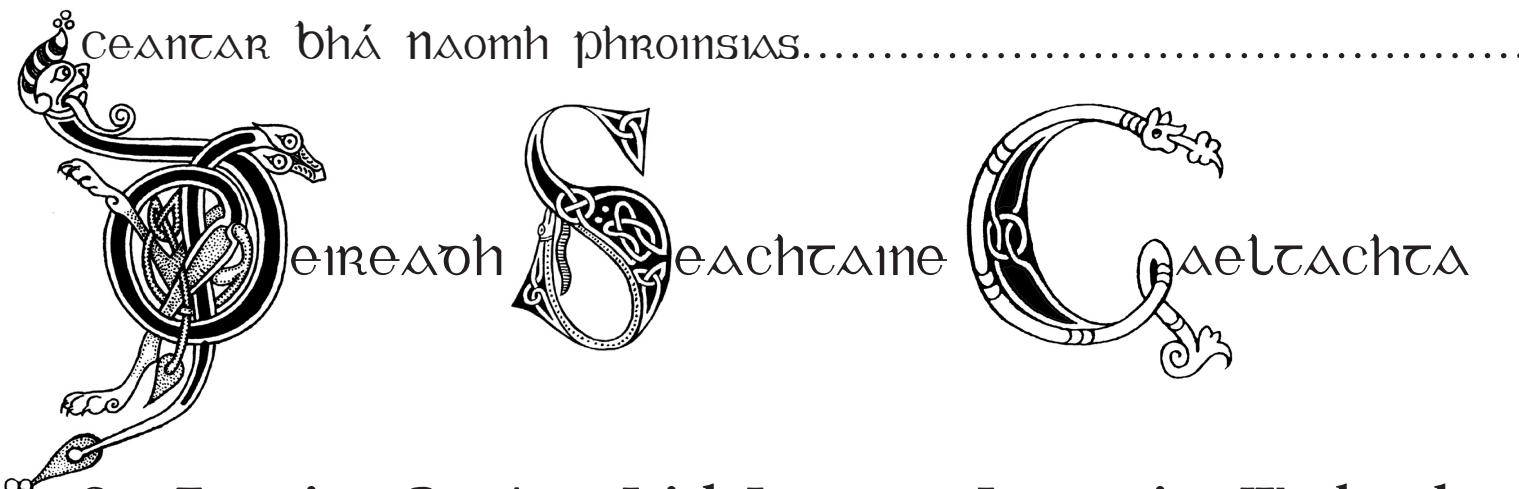
DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ CÉADAOIN WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAOIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
Sept 2 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	3	4 CCÉ Meeting UICC 7:30PM Seisiún - Plough and Stars	5	6 Set Dancing Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	7 Song Seisiún Michael Murphy San Francisco	8
9 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	10 Slow Seisiún Ireland's 32	11	12 Set Dancing Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	13 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Ceili Chicks	14	15 CCE Night UICC 8:00PM
16 Quin - Plough and Stars	17	18 Slow Seisiún Plough and Stars	19	20 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	21	22
23 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	24 Junior Seisiún Ireland's 32	25	26 Set Dancing Britannia Arms Cupertino 8PM	27 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	28	29 Paddy Keenan - Plough and Stars
30 Children's Ceili UICC 4-6PM Seisiún - Plough and Stars	Oct 1	2	3	4 Set Dancing Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	5 Song Seisiún Michael Jones San Carlos	6

**Ireland's 32** - 3920 Geary Blvd. (Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>), San Francisco, (415) 386-6173  
**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  
**Britannia Arms** - 1087 South De Anza Blvd, Cupertino (South Bay), (408) 252-7262  
**Starry Plough** - 3101 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (510) 841-2082 [starryploughpub.com](http://starryploughpub.com)  
**Finbar Devines** - 145 Kentucky St, Petaluma (North Bay), (707) 762-9800 [finbarspetaluma.com](http://finbarspetaluma.com)  
**Nikki's House** - Call or e-mail for directions: (510) 881 5958 or [gaeilge@ccwest.org](mailto:gaeilge@ccwest.org)

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** - [theploughandstars.com](http://theploughandstars.com)  
**U.I.C.C.** - [www.irishcentersf.org](http://www.irishcentersf.org)  
**Starry Plough** - [www.starryploughceili.com](http://www.starryploughceili.com)





## San Francisco Bay Area Irish Language Immersion Weekend

**September 28–30, 2007**

(6 PM Friday through 4:30 PM Sunday)

**Intensive tutorials focusing on spoken language and increasing fluency.**

Teachers are native speakers of Irish.

**Four levels again this year!**

**Meals and snacks provided** — continue practicing Irish over lunch and dinner!

**Seisiúin!** Bring instruments and your voices for sessions each evening, when we'll enjoy playing Irish music and sharing songs, poetry, stories, and other craic, *as Gaeilge*.

- ☉ **Leibhéal 1**, (no Irish, or a smidgin), for absolute beginners, and those who may have made a start already, but are still learning beginner basics.
- ☉ **Leibhéal 2**, (lag), for intermediate learners, who've studied Irish enough to know the basics reasonably well, can participate in a very simple conversation, and want to increase their skills.
- ☉ **Leibhéal 3**, (sásúil), for higher intermediate students who may understand or read a good bit of Irish, yet lack practice with hearing or speaking Irish, and seek more confidence for more conversation.
- ☉ **Leibhéal 4**, (maith) do dhaoine ar mhaith leo snas a chur ar a gcuid Gaeilge. Déanfar staidéar ar fhoclóir nua-aimseartha, saibhreas na teanga, litríocht, filíocht, béaloideas agus an saol chomh-aimseartha.

This language course is geared to accommodate adults at all learning stages, from those just starting to those who are more advanced but in need of practice. There will be four levels — advanced, high intermediate, intermediate, and beginner. Class tuition will be by specialist teachers who use proven methods of language teaching and are themselves native speakers. Teachers are coordinated by Oideas Gael, and most travel to San Francisco especially for this course. Each day's study consists of intensive morning and afternoon tutorials with attention directed toward spoken Irish and aimed at correct pronunciation, proper idiom, and development of contemporary vocabulary. The intention is to foster conversational ability and fluency. Between classes, over meals, and during our seisiún each evening, you will be encouraged to keep practicing your Irish with people from all levels, while enjoying the craic! *(There will be the opportunity for an extra seisiún Sunday evening after the course ends, for those who want to stay.)*

Course fee: \$315.00, includes tuition and food (sandwiches & fruit for supper Friday evening, cheese & Irish bread & coffee/tea available each morning, coffee/tea breaks, and full meals for lunch and dinner Saturday and lunch on Sunday). Out-of-town attendees to make their own accommodation arrangements. We can provide suggestions if needed. The course will be held at the United Irish Cultural Center, in S.F.

For more information, call 510-881-5958 or e-mail [Gaeilge@OneSourceGraphics.com](mailto:Gaeilge@OneSourceGraphics.com)

**Space is limited — please register early!**

To register by post, fill in this coupon and send it, together with your check or money order for \$315.00, made out to N. L. Ragsdale (for Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta). *Because space is limited, we must ask for payment in advance to secure your place on the course.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 tel. \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have knowledge of the Irish language? yes  no  a bit

		maith	sásúil	lag
<i>Inis dúinn faoi do</i>	Comhrá	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>leibbéal Gaeilge:</i>	Scríobh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Léamh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Send to: N.L. Ragsdale, re: Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta, 22661 Linden Street, Hayward, CA 94541-3121



## 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:**

- 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 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