

SCÉAL ÉILE

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



From the Chairman



A Chairde,

November seems to be the month when things really shift to a higher gear for Comhaltas, as you will see when you look through this issue!

The Samhain Ceili will kick things off, being our first big ceili in nearly eight months - and for the first time in many years, it will actually be on November night - Halloween Sunday! We are looking forward to a serious turnout of costumed revelers, including seasonal entertainment and a contest with prizes for best and most original costumes, so bring the family out for some fun.

After some scheduling difficulties last spring, we are also very happy to have Maldon Meehan coming to town on Thursday, Nov. 18th. (That will be in place of our regular set dancing class at the Center, but we will still be gathering at the Plough afterwards). Maldon is a great teacher of sean-nos dancing, in addition to set dancing, so hopefully we will get a workshop with both sets and footwork.

Our music classes for kids are still going strong, with a new group of beginning fiddlers. Now that we have more experienced young musicians, we are looking forward to working them into our Kid's Ceilis to bring the music and dance together.

All these events are possible, of course, because our branch of Comhaltas has worked hard to bring them about. Make sure you remain a part of it all by renewing your membership - or if by chance you are reading the Seal for the first time, and just learning about our activities -- join us! Or, if you know someone who might need a little nudge to try it out and get involved, consider getting them a Gift Membership for the holidays! Consider the advantages - 1) personalized, because it reflects your own cultural interests; 2) less caloric than fruitcake (in fact, those who start dancing will likely lose weight!); 3) its so green! nothing to clutter up their house, or ultimately occupy the landfill...

Happy Holidays! -- Michael R.



Events this Month



November Night Ceili - The annual November Night Ceili is on October 31st. See attached flyer for details.

CCE Night at the UICC - On the third Saturday of November, the 20th, CCE will host a night of dancing at the UICC. Music begins at 7:30 with dancing at 8PM to live traditional Irish Music. Admission is free. Contact: Michael Riemer (riemer@ce.berkeley.edu).

Christmas Ceili - CCE's annual Christmas Ceili will be held on Sunday, December 12th at the UICC. See attached flyer for details.

South Bay/ Peninsula - On Tuesdays we meet 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. *Note: We no longer meet at Angelica's Bistro in Redwood City.*

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 Minihane teach Set Dancing on the second and fourth Fridays 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 Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)

Children's Ceili - The next Children's Ceilis will be held at the Irish Cultural Center in the new year. 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.

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)

Song and Storytelling

The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Nancy Emro on November 5th
70 Franquette Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125
408-921-0971
njemro@sbcglobal.net

The December Seisiún, on the 3rd, will be hosted by Imelda White
275 Lassen Avenue
Mountain View
650-964-7643
imelda_white@yahoo.com

On January 7th Patrick McEvoy will host.
251 Chestnut
Palo Alto, California 94306
1.650.493.3773
swagman@swagman.com

CCE Classes

CCE sponsors the following classes at the UICC.

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

The music classes are intended for children in grades 2 through 6.

For more information, please contact Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-681-4803. Pre-registration and payment is required to secure a place for all classes.

Regional Meeting

The 2010 West Region Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 6th, at Aleta Hancock's house. After the meeting, there will be a workshop, potluck dinner and Ceili in Claremont. All are welcome to attend. If flying, Burbank airport would be the closest - stay away from LAX. Please contact Josephine Brogan for more details.

Irish Gaelic Choir

Mary McLaughlin and her *Cór Aingli* are presenting the fifth annual performances of **A Gaelic Christmas**. See attached flyer for details.

General Meeting

General Meetings of the Membership are normally held on the first Tuesday of the month. The next one will be on November 2nd starting at 7:30 at the UICC. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

CCE Membership 2011

It's that time of the year again for most of us... membership is due so we can report it to Ireland by the end of the year. If your Sceal Eile contains a membership form in this edition, your membership is now due. Those who receive their "Sceal" by email will receive an email from Connie Lynch to let you know your membership is due.

You may:

- Renew on-line through our website and remit payment through PayPal; <http://sf.ccewest.org>
- Renew on-line through our website and send your check to our PO Box. (we do not bill).
- Complete your membership form and mail it with your check to our PO Box.
- Complete your membership form and include either a check or cash – give to Josephine or Moe at dancing.
- Renew your membership at our Halloween Ceili on Sunday, October 31st at the UICC.

Please remember that membership renewal is done by volunteer labor. We need to have our accounting and reporting completed so it is recorded in Ireland and you will receive your Treoir magazine in a timely manner. PLEASE HELP US OUT BY RENEWING!

If you have any questions, please call Joannie at 415 664-6579; email me at olearyj@urology.ucsf.edu; or talk with Josephine or Moe at dancing. The membership form contains the information you need for your renewal.

Thank you for your support.

Thank You Volunteers

Thank you to all who volunteered for the recent KALW pledge drive in September. KALW was able to meet its pledge drive goal! Special thanks to Tim Sullivan, Sheila Walsh, Pat Nash, Jenny Valcov, Michael Jones, and Imelda White for giving up a sunny Saturday to take pledges. For those who were not able to make it out for this pledge drive, there will be another pledge drive in the spring and volunteers are always very welcome. For information contact our KALW coordinator Jen Mahoney at jenny.mahoney@gmail.com

Marin Ceili

Come join us for a Fall Recital and Family Ceili on November 6th in Larkspur. Recital between 5:40 and 6:30PM; Ceili from 7 to 9:30PM. For more information see attached flyer or contact Micheal Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)



Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta



The 12th annual Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta, which took place on October 1-2, 2010 was a great success and a wonderful time was had by all. Intensive class study was punctuated by a special workshop on sean-nós singing presented by Éamonn Ó Dónaill, a lively game of Tráth na gCeist (pub quiz), and some rousing Seisiúin in which many of the attendees participated.

Pictured to the left are the 2010 Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta attendees

Next year's Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta is planned for the weekend of September 30-October 2. Bígi linn! (join us!)

For more info or to be added to the mailing list:

<http://onesourcegraphics.com/Gaeilge/>
510-881-5958, or
cce_gaeilge@ccewest.org



Special Salutes



50th Wedding Anniversary Congratulations

The Cooley-Keegan Branch would like to extend Congratulations and very best wishes to long-time members, John and Sue Sweeney on the occasion of their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in November. As avid travelers around the world, Johnny (with fiddle in hand) and Sue (keeping him company till the wee hours) have enjoyed their many trips to Ireland. Their faithful support of our branch goes back to the time of our first SF CCE Convention and they have seldom missed one since. We enjoyed their company at our many ceilis and sessions throughout the years and regret that only distance prevents them from visiting us now.

As Sue and Johnny and their family reminisce and rejoice in their 50 years together, we wish them many more healthy and happy years together!

*Comhghairdeas libh agus cothrom an lae a phós sibh á cheiliúradh agaibh!
(Congratulations as you celebrate the day you were wed!)*

Florence Keighran

May we take a moment in our busy lives to remember Florence, whose one year anniversary we observe. How quickly the days go – and yet, inspired by Florence, we are grateful for those who have stepped forward to help with the work she started in our branch. As we dance and play our music, pause to remember her laughter, kindness and smile.

Terri Ritts

A giant thank you and bula bos is way overdue to our friend and member, Terri Ritts. Over the past several years, Terri has put her talent of flower arranging to work by volunteering for organizations at the Irish Center. She quietly donates her time and efforts on behalf of Comhaltas. Our Emerald Extravaganza in February 2007 truly "blossomed" through Terri's beautiful arrangements (which were enjoyed by many in the weeks following the EE). She is a familiar face at our parade float set-up and is always ready to help our branch when the call goes out! Terri also dances with the Celtic Dance Ensemble who have entertained at many Comhaltas events. She and her husband, Craig put many hours of service into the CRN Convention held in SF last year which was hosted by the Celtic Dance Ensemble. Now Terri and Craig happily and anxiously await the birth of their first grandchild. We wish them our very best. Thank you, Terri, for the thoughtfulness and generosity you have shared with us and we look forward to a new generation of Irish dancers!



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. Shannon Ceili Band typically plays on the 1st and 2nd Thursday; Topsy House on the 3rd and 4th and last Thursday;
- Dancers are encouraged to contribute \$5 to support the live music.

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 Rafael: 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:

- 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: - Sundays and Tuesdays starting at 8:30 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 2010

De Dómhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deáardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Oct 31 <u>November Night Ceili</u> UICC <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	Nov 1	2 <u>CCE Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale- <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	Sept 3	4 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	5 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Nancy Emro San Jose	6 <u>Marin Ceili</u> Fall Recital & Ceili Larkspur 5:30
7 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	8	9 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	10	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	12 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	13
14 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	15	16 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale- <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	17	18 <u>Set Dancing</u> Maldon Meehan Worshop at UICC Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	19	20 <u>CCE Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music
21 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	22	23 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	24	25 <u>Happy Thanksgiving</u>	26 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	27
28 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	29	30 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale- <u>Song Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	Dec 1	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	3 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Brennan and Meghan McKenzie Santa Clara	4



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
 TREORAÍ NA GAELIGE: NIKKI RAGSDALE (CCE_GAEILGE@CCEWEST.ORG)
 WEBMASTER: MICHAEL DUFFY (CCE_WEBMASTER@CCEWEST.ORG)
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR: TIM SULLIVAN (CCE_SCEAL@CCEWEST.ORG)
 YOUTH OFFICER: SEAN O'DONNELL

DECEMBER 2010

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
Nov 28 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	29	30 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	Dec 1	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	3 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Imelda White Mountain View	4
5 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	6	7 <u>CCE Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	8	9 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	10 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	11
12 <u>Christmas Ceili</u> UICC 8PM w/ Live Music <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	13	14 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	15	16 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	17	18
19 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	20	21 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	22	23 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	24 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Rafael	25
26 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	27	28 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	29	30 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	31 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Jeremy Friedenthal Campbell	Jan 1

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

Bronsan School of Irish Dance - 1879 2nd Street, San Rafael (415) 259-0992 bronsanschool.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



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH

OÍCHE SHAMHNA CÉILÍ

Prize for best costume !!!!!

Special Entertainment: Sean Nós Dancers

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31ST, 2010
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45th Avenue/Sloat Blvd, San Francisco
- TIME:** 7.00 PM TO 10.00 PM
- LIVE MUSIC:** Shannon Céilí Band
- ADMISSION:** Adults: \$10.00. Children: FREE

For Information, contact Josephine Brogan (415) 681-4803 or josephinebrogan@yahoo.com

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



Come Join us for our Fall Recital & Family Ceili



Saturday, November 6th, 2010

Hall Middle School Auditorium & Gym

200 Doherty Drive

Larkspur, CA 94939

Brosnan Irish Dance Recital & Ceili

**Brosnan School of Irish Dance Fall Class Recital
Celebrating Halloween**

Recital Time: 5:30 - 6:30

Ceili

Please stay after the recital for live Irish music and dance!!!
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: Free

Tea & Treats will be served.



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH

SET DANCE WORKSHOP

with emphasis on battering for sets for Sean-nós dancing.

WITH
MALDON MEEHAN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH, 2010

UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
(Ballroom)

WORKSHOP: 7.30 – 9.30 PM
(plan to arrive at 7.15pm so we can start on time)

COST: \$10.00 for Comhaltas members
\$12.00 for non Comhaltas members

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



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



CHRISTMAS CÉILÍ



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

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH 2010
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 45TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 7.00 PM TO 10 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 San Francisco Cooley-Keegan Branch

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2011

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 52 years ago, CCÉ has over 400 branches throughout Ireland, Britain, the U.S., & many other countries. Information on CCÉ and its events are available on our Website at <http://sf.ccewest.org> by request in writing to the address below, or phone Joannie at (415) 664-6579.

The San Francisco Cooley-Keegan Branch proudly promotes these traditions of Irish Culture in the S.F. Bay Area. MEMBERS of the Branch enjoy the benefits of:

- Bi-Monthly Subscription to our “Scéal Eile” newsletter containing events and news of our branch, of Comhaltas in Ireland and Irish activities in the Bay Area. “Scéal Eile” gives notification of our Céilís, Music and Song Seisiúns, Children’s Céilís and Music and Language Lessons.
- Weekly Set Dance Classes (see website or “Scéal Eile”)
- *Quarterly issue of “Treoir”, the Comhaltas Magazine containing a wealth of information on traditional Irish programs & activities of CCÉ world-wide, stories of its members & branches and tunes, songs and their history, for readers of all ages.
- Access to our website: <http://sf.ccewest.org> and a chance to involve yourself in the growing movement to preserve and promote Irish traditional Music, Song, Dance, Storytelling and Language.

Our music/dance program for children, workshops & set dance for all members and our Annual Music Youth Scholarship Program are thriving. Your support through Membership is greatly appreciated and urgently needed to accomplish these goals. Comhaltas is a volunteer organization. Please complete the form below to join, or renew your membership **TODAY**, for the coming year. Keep the Tradition Alive! (*If you wish to subscribe/renew on-line, please visit our website under <http://sf.ccewest.org>, click on “Join CCÉ”. Payment by sending a check or utilizing Pay Pal is available for your convenience.*)

Go raibh maith agat. (Thank you)

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW, CUT HERE AND RETURN WITH YOUR PAYMENT

Comhaltas – S.F. Cooley-Keegan Membership Form 2011

*First Member of Household: \$35.00 or *Two or more in household: \$45.00

First & Second Member’s Names: _____

Children’s Names and Ages: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

**If you have E-Mail and wish to receive the “Scéal Eile” and other information electronically (you will be notified monthly of the link to our website), PLEASE INDICATE HERE: YES _____ NO _____

To Pay electronically, please visit our website at “http://sf.ccewest.org/misc/join_cceck.html”.

If returning this form with your check, please make check payable to “CCÉ”, and mail to:

CCÉ Attn: Joannie O’Leary
P O Box 16244
San Francisco, CA 94116

For Questions or information, please call:
Joannie at (415) 664-6579; or cce_membership@ccewest.org

Gift Membership also available ~ a great idea for a friend who might be interested in our organization!!