

April 2003

# Scéal Eile

Aibreán 2003

The newsletter of the **Cooley-Keegan Branch** of  
**COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN**  
**P. O. Box 16244 San Francisco, CA 94116**

**Chairman:** Michael Riemer ~ **Vice Chairman/Webmaster:** Michael Duffy  
**Public Relations:** Josephine Brogan ~ **Secretary/Registrar:** Joannie O'Leary  
**Newsletter Editor:** Anne Brenneis ~ **Treasurer:** Maureen Murphy  
**Treoraí na Gaeilge:** Nikki Ragsdale

**Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann is Ireland's première cultural movement, founded in 1951.**  
When you join Comhaltas, you join people from more than 400 branches worldwide in support of the traditional Irish arts of music, dance, and language. We welcome new members. Please contact the Chairman or Membership Secretary for membership information. Visit us at [www.ccewest.org](http://www.ccewest.org)!

## - FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

Dear Friends and Members,

Another March is fast winding down now that we've passed through the flurry of St. Patrick's Day dances, dinners – and of course the Parade! I know our members put a great deal of effort into the planning, construction and choreography for the float this year, with marvelous results. Joannie, Maureen and Josephine deserve a big hand for taking the lead in making it all happen. I walked along the route for about one-half of the parade, and while the crowd was a bit smaller than some years, thinned out by the morning rains, I overheard many appreciative comments about our float and lively music and dancing. Many thanks to those who helped prepare the float, and who braved the squall at Duggan's to enjoy the good spirits of the parade itself.

Despite the busy season, I've snuck away for a few days of intensive music and dancing in Friday Harbor, a small town on San Juan island, close to the Canada. It's a small group here, perhaps 60 students total for all of the classes, but with an amazing lineup of instructors (including Catherine McEvoy for flute, and Mick Mulkerrin for

dancing, both of whom have made San Francisco appearances in the past five years or so). There has been at least 4 hours of class for each instrument (or dancing) each day, so although there was no dancing at last year's camp, now I can highly recommend it for those looking to get away for a bit next March! While we don't have many dancers in the camp, and very few with much experience, there have been enough enthusiastic learners to get through about 6 sets thus far, many of which are new to me, plus a little sean nos dancing here and there.

Beyond all the classes, though, the highlights have to be the evening sessions, the big ceili with townsfolk joining in, and the chance to share such good times with like-minded people from around the country who enjoy the good music and dancing. In that regard, it's clear to me that I am extremely lucky to live in a place where such a group of people gathers year 'round!

Safe travels and best wishes for a joyful and exciting convention to all those headed for Boston!

Slán,  
Michael R.

**GENERAL MEETING**

The next General Meetings of the membership will be on **Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** at the United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Sloat). All members are encouraged to participate in the planning and discussion of our branch's activities.

**WEBSITE NEWS**

Well, you may have noticed that I have missed more than a few Thursday nights at the Plough lately. That's because I have been very busy getting the final updates made to the ccewest.org site. The task of reformatting the site is done and most of what is left are small items and regular updating. I'd like to extend my gratitude and thanks to **Cathy Shea** who had originally put the site together. Her schedule has taken its toll and she finds that she no longer has the time to keep the site up to date.

A number of things have been changed on the site, so if you have not visited the site recently I hope that you will soon. If you happen to find any broken links or other problems on the site, let me know about it. I'd also like to ask that if anyone has anything to contribute to the site please send it to me, ([cosgrach@tsoft.com](mailto:cosgrach@tsoft.com)) and I'll get it posted as quickly as I can. Well, I guess that's about it for now.

Slan,  
Michael Duffy

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Children's Ceili:** Sunday, April 13, 4:00 to – 6.00 PM at the United Irish Cultural Center. Live Music. Admission is free. Average age of children 4-10 years old. All kids are welcome. Contact: Michael Murphy at 415-564-7188.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**

Many thanks to all who helped and participated in the CCE Float for the 2003 St. Patrick's Day Parade. We would like to thank the following without whom our participation with this float would not be possible: Charlie Cunningham of Cunningham Moving and Storage who graciously provides us with the truck and facilities each year to construct and decorate our float.

Bill and Steve Welch, for the past 20 years, have given us the use of their facilities to put finishing touches on the float.

Our talented construction crew: Pat Joyce, Dan McAuliffe, Sean Griffin, Pat Nash, Frank Lynch, Lew Milligan, Tim Sullivan, Frank Rooney, Ralph Mihan and Brad Miller.

Our artistic team, led by talented Kevin Rutherford who drew all our "Ireland Scenes" for the float, included Kasey Millere, Cathy Mibach, Florence Keighran, Connie Lynch, Moe Murphy, Joannie O'Leary, Martine Millere, Coleman Millere and Gelsemina Millere, Tim Sullivan and Teresa Ford.

Our Flag and Banner bearers who led our float in the parade, braving the winds of Market Street were Kevin Roletto, Terry Ritts, Sean Griffin and Tim Sullivan.

Our enthusiastic dancers included Mary & Frank McDonagh, Moe Murphy, Bob Benjamin, Josephine Brogan, Ralph Mihan, Micheal Minihane, Kasey Millere, Frank Matulich, Cathy Mibach, Jonathan Coxhead, Connie Lynch, Michael Murphy, Patti Hoyt, Pat Nash and Florence Keighran.

Our musicians: Frank Rooney, Lew Milligan and Barbra Southworth, along with the sound man, George Shea.

Our float participants and bakers who fed us: Jenny Valcov, Oceanlight, Brad, Martine, Coleman and Gelsemina, Jonah

Nakagawa, Joannie O'Leary, Padraigh Buckley (from Cork, Ireland), Katherine Scanlon, Pat Beaupre-Becker, Theresa Joyce and Michael Riemer.

Go raimh mile maith agat,

Moe, Joannie and Josephine

### CCÉ SESSIONS

Our **SLOW SESSIONS** are intended for beginners who are learning to play traditional Irish tunes. These are usually held twice each month at **Ireland's 32** pub (3920 Geary Boulevard, S.F., between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues). This month they will be on **MONDAY, April 14th** and **April 28th** from 7:30 pm.

Those same evenings, starting at 9:00 PM, more experienced musicians are encouraged to join in on the faster paced, **more TRADITIONAL SESSION** which follows. All are welcome to come listen as well! Contacts: Michael Riemer (510-548-4727; chair@ceewest.org) or Michael Duffy (650-592-2602; cosgrach@tsoft.com).

Our next **SONG AND STORYTELLING SEISIUN** will be on Tuesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m at the United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Ave. (Sloat/Wawona), 3rd Floor Board Room. First-time listeners are also very welcome. Contacts: Michael Murphy (General Info.) 415-564-7188; Mike Duffy (e-mail distribution list), 650-592-2602

The Clifford-Hoban Branch in the Santa Cruz/Monterey area hosts a **monthly CEILI** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, at the Felton Town Hall. They are also hosting **slow sessions** now. Please contact Linda Preston (831-688-5729) for more information on these events.

### CCÉ Dancing

There is now regularly scheduled LIVE MUSIC and SET DANCING at Ireland's 32. This event takes place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Brief instruction will begin at 7 p.m., then live music will go from 7:30-10 p.m. Come by and enjoy the dancing and tunes as **Angeline Leleux**, **Oceanlight**, and **Michael Riemer**. There will be no cover charge. Just come and enjoy the music, dancing, and any surprises that may be in store!

On the first Thursday of every month from 8 to 11 p.m., we meet for SET DANCING to LIVE MUSIC provided by the Shannon Céilí Band at the **Plough and Stars** pub on Clement Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., SF.

On the other Thursdays, we gather for **SET DANCING LESSONS** that are free to members, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the **Sunset Recreation Center** (on Lawton Street between 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> avenues). Immediately following these classes, we head over to the **Plough and Stars** (at about 10:00 PM) for more set dancing to the inspiring sounds of Topsy House, who play especially for the sets we are calling! Dancers are encouraged to contribute about \$5 to help support this great opportunity.

### Other Dancing Activities

**PLOUGH & STARS CEILI #3:** Set Dancing with two Ceili Dances. Saturday, April 12, 9 p.m.; Plough and Stars Pub, 116 Clement Street/2nd Ave. Music by Topsy House. Admission: \$5 Sorry, no lessons, but dancers of all levels welcome. This event coincides with Topsy House's CD release party, featuring "SETS IN THE CITY." Contacts: Michael Murphy, 415-564-7188. Plough and Stars: 415-751-1122.

**Josephine Moore** is teaching her **SET DANCING** classes at the UICC each Wednesday at about 8 p.m., and at O'Neill's pub in San Mateo on Tuesdays at around 8:30. Please contact Josephine at 650-372-9659 for further details.

*NEED MORE SET DANCING?* You can find it at Scruffy Murphy's (187 South Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale) on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, with lessons starting at 8 p.m. and dancing to live music beginning at about 9. These popular evenings of set dancing are led by **Michael Murphy**, and more information can be obtained from him by calling 415-564-7188. The **Palo Alto Céilís** are continuing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month at 8 pm at the Midpeninsula YWCA (4161 Alma St., Palo Alto). Contact Lucy Geever (408-885-0811, or lgeever@yahoo.com) about this event.

#### *Other Irish Language/Cultural Events*

**Oíche Ghaeltachta:** We usually have a Gaeltacht Night on the third Sunday of the month, as usual. We meet at the Irish Cultural Center (UICC). Dinner and conversation in Irish at 6:30 pm in the Restaurant. And following that (about 8:00 o'clock - 10 or so): a session for Irish traditional music and sean-nós singing, in the bar area. Please contact Nikki at [nikki@onesourcegraphics.com](mailto:nikki@onesourcegraphics.com) to confirm the date for April!

*Tá súil agam go mbeidh sibh uilig ann!*  
I hope you will all be there!

#### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Please contact me by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for items to be included in the next issue of **Scéal Eile**. This includes updates for regular monthly events! My phone number is 415-485-4480, and my email address is [annebrenneis@yahoo.com](mailto:annebrenneis@yahoo.com),

-- *Anne*

**April/May 2003 EVENTS**

Tues.	4/1, 5/6	<b>General meeting</b> at <u>UICC</u> , 7:30 p.m.
Thurs.	4/3, 5/1	<b>Set dancing</b> , Shannon Ceili Band, @ <u>Plough</u> , 8:00
Sun.	4/13, 5/11, 5/25	<b>Set and Ceili Dancing</b> , Ireland's 32, 7 p.m.
Mon.	4/14, 4/28, 5/12, 5/26	<b>Music Sessions</b> at <u>Ireland's 32</u> , 7:30 p.m.
Wed.	4/9, 4/23, 5/14, 5/28	<b>Set Dancing</b> at <u>Scruffy Murphy's</u> , 8 p.m.
Thur.	4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29	<b>Set Dancing Lessons</b> at <u>Sunset Rec. Center</u> , 7:30
Sat.	4/12	<b>Tipsy House CD Release Party &amp; Ceili</b> @ Plough & Stars – 9 p.m.
Sun.	4/13	<b>Children's Ceili</b> @ UICC. 4.00 p.m.
Tue.	4/22	<b>Song &amp; Storytelling Seisiun</b> , UICC, 7.30 p.m.

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