



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends and Members,

Another March is now nearly passed, teeming with an ever-increasing number of Irish cultural events that jockey for the attention (and attendance!) of those of us interested in the songs, tunes, language and literature of Ireland.

The biggest event, of course, is the St. Patrick's Day Parade itself – and for those who might not have heard yet, it was a very special day for our branch, as the Cooley-Keegan float took second place in the competition! As it has been a few years since we've placed at all, this was a wonderful confirmation of the efforts that had gone into developing an essentially entirely new design. Great credit goes to Kasey Millere and her creative team (photos and details inside).

I had the distinct pleasure of playing with the band for the dancing on the float this year, and from that vantage I must say it was one of the most enjoyable parades I can remember: the bright sunny weather (though perhaps lacking in authenticity!) had encouraged the turnout of a great crowd along much of the route, so there was great energy and interaction. I'm sure the enthusiasm of the many children on our float contributed to this interaction, too!

On a much smaller scale, I also had the good fortune to attend the harp concert and Irish language seisiun the previous Friday, featuring Grainne Hambly. While intended to be an intimate evening of music, it was a bit more sparsely attended than ideal – probably due to the two or three other “major” Irish events scheduled simultaneously around the city. The turnout did not prevent Grainne from providing two fine sets of music on both harp and concertina, however, including both the “classic” O'Carolan pieces one might expect, but also lively reels and jigs at dance tempos. It was also gratifying to see and hear perhaps one-half of those in attendance conversing at least in part in Irish during the earlier social hour and subsequent seisiun.

In all, it was enough to make one wish there were an extra week or two in March, to spread out this wealth of activity over a longer period, rather than forcing choices amongst them. Perhaps next year we can start our St. Patrick's season right after Valentine's Day?

Slan,
Michael Riemer

PS: If you missed Grainne's playing, we have a few CDs of hers for the raffle at our Ceili March 28th – hope we'll see you there!



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN IS IRELAND'S PREMIERE 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, OR VISIT US AT SF.CCEWEST.ORG

Cooley Keegan awarded 2nd Prize for Irish Float in St. Patrick's Day Parade



Congratulations and well done to all participants and helpers. It takes a great effort for such an endeavor. We would like to extend our grateful thanks to those who come to our aid *each year* to enable us to enter the Parade: Charlie & Karen Cunningham, Martin, Raymond and all the crew of Cunningham Moving and Storage; Driving Crew – Jim, Sherry, Theresa and Destiny. Bill and Steve Welch & staff (Duggans Funeral Parlor). Without their generosity, it wouldn't be possible.

Our Chairlady/Artistic Director, Kasey Millere and Resident Artist, Kevin Rutherford deserve immeasurable gratitude for their tremendous work in designing our float. They brought to life the theme “Building to the Future ...Generation to Generation”.

Their time and talents are a great gift to us all.

Construction engineers, painters, helpers, musicians and dancers complete the circle of our dedicated “Parade Gang”...Bill Becker, Bob Benjamin, Aoife Berrill, Josephine Brogan, Teresa Ford, Sean Griffin, Patty Hoyt, Patrick Joyce, Florence Keighran, Connie Lynch, Frank Lynch, Dan McAuliffe, Frank & Mary McDonagh, Cathy Mibach, Ralph and Greg Mihan, Lew Milligan, Brad, Martine, Coleman & Geli Millere, Moe Murphy, Michael Murphy, Jonah Nakagawa, Pat Nash, Sean, Peggy & Jim O'Donnell, Joannie & Francie O'Leary, Rebecca & Angela Quinlan, Michael Riemer, Terri Ritts, Kevin Roletto, Frank Rooney, Monique and Kaya Rutherford, Katherine Scanlon (who lovingly fed all the workers), Barb Southworth and Tim Sullivan

“Go raibh mile maith agat” to all!!



☞ GENERAL MEETINGS ☞

The next General Meetings of the Membership will be on **Tuesday, April 6th and May 4th at 7:30 p.m.** at the United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45th Ave. at Sloat).

☞ MUSIC SEISIÚNS ☞

Our Slow Seisiuns 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 3rd and 4th Avenues). This month they will be on MONDAY, April 5th and 26th beginning at 7:30 pm. Starting at 9:00 pm, more experienced musicians are encouraged to join in on the faster paced, more Traditional Seisiun which follows. All are welcome to come listen as well! If you have questions, contact Michael Riemer or Michael Duffy.

Michael Duffy is also hosting a **slow seisiún** at the Plough and Stars one Tuesday each month. This month it will be on April 20th, and will start at about 8:30 pm.

The **Song and Storytelling Sessions** are held on the **first Friday** each month. The April event will be on the 2nd, at the home of **Angeline LeLeux**, in Cupertino. For details, contact her at angeline@angeline-leleux.com.

☞ CCE DANCING ☞

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 2nd and 3rd 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 at 28th Ave). Immediately following these classes, we head over to the **Plough and Stars** 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.

☞ MORE DANCING ☞

Josephine Moore is teaching **set dancing** classes at the United Irish Cultural Center on **Wednesdays**. Classes will start at 8 p.m. Please try to arrive early!

Set dancing in San Mateo, at **O'Neill's Pub** is now being held just the **third Tuesday** of each month, beginning at 8:30 pm. This evening is also led by **Josephine Moore**, and you can contact her at 650-372-9659 for further details.

Michael Murphy is teaching at **Scruffy Murphy's** at 187 South Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale on April 14th and 28th. Lessons begin at 8:00 pm, with live music beginning at 9:00. Call 415-564-7188 for more details.

☞ IRISH LANGUAGE & CULTURAL EVENTS ☞

You will be very welcome in Hayward for the next Gaeltacht Night, on Sunday April 18th, for conversation in Irish and a music and sean-nós singing session. For information contact Nikki at gailg@ccwest.org or (510) 881 5958.

Nikki Ragsdale,
Treoraí na Gaeilge, CCE



☞ COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OFFICERS ☞

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March 2004 EVENTS

Sunday 28 Family Ceili at the UICC

April 2004 EVENTS

Thursday 1 Set dancing at the Plough, Shannon Ceili Band, 8:00PM

Tuesday 6 Membership meeting at UICC, 7:30

Monday 8 & 29 Cooley Keegan Session at Ireland's 32 (slow session, 7:30 pm)

Thursdays 8,15,22,29 Dancing at Sunset Rec., then at the Plough with Topsy House

Cooley-Keegan Branch of
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Address Correction Requested

April 2004 **SCÉAL FILE**