

August/ September 2002

Lúnasa/Meán Fomhair 2002

Scéal Eile

The newsletter of the **Cooley-Keegan Branch of
COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN**

P. O. Box 16244 San Francisco, CA 94116

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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. Please contact the Chairman or Membership Secretary for membership information. Visit our web site at www.ccewest.org!

☰ **FROM THE CHAIRMAN...**

Dear Members and Friends,

Before I forget: No, that's not a typo on the masthead – this is a joint issue for August AND September. Several of the folks who contribute to putting the Scéal Eile together will be away on vacations during the late summer, including our illustrious Editor, so we are combining events and notices for these two months into one issue. Have a safe and wonderful trip, Anne!

This doesn't mean that nothing is happening in the local Comhaltas world, though: note the announcements in the following pages for the dates and times of upcoming Singing and Storytelling nights, a variety of dancing events, and four more Cooley-Keegan music sessions at Ireland's 32 in August and September.

Near and dear to my heart, please also take note of the flyer enclosed with this newsletter, describing our inaugural day of Music Workshops to be held on Sunday, August 25th. Thanks to the efforts of a number of diligent and supportive folks,

plans have developed to bring together many of our experienced musician friends, who will be leading a series of workshops and demonstrations on a variety of traditional Irish instruments. The classes are intended both for beginners interested in learning to play, and those already at an intermediate level who would like a few pointers. There will be some singing workshops as well! So check out the details, and we hope to see you at the United Irish Cultural Center (to whom we are very grateful for the use of their facilities for this special event!). All who pre-register will receive a free tin whistle, to make sure instruments are handy for learning. The emphasis will be on good spirits and good tunes, so members who appreciate these are also encouraged to volunteer a bit that day to help get this event off to a strong start.

I will keep this column short, to accommodate the extra announcements and other news within – enjoy the heart of the summer, and look for your next Scéal Eile in late September.

Slán,
Michael Riemer

510-548-4727,
chair@ccewest.org

GENERAL MEETING

Our next General Meetings, which are open to ALL MEMBERS, will be on **Tuesday, August 6 and September 3, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.** at United Irish Cultural Center (2700 – 45th Ave. at Sloat, S.F.).

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was great to see **Jim Belcher** back on the dance floor on July 18th, even if the bad shoulder prevented a full night of sets at class and at the Plough. Best wishes for a quick and complete recovery, Jim, prior to your return in August.

Our thanks to **Anne Hickey**, who within two weeks of the July issue contacted us about donating an accordion to the branch, to support our efforts in establishing an “instrument library”, so that students can borrow an instrument to learn to play Irish music. We hope many new accordion players will benefit from Anne’s generosity over the next few years, as the music program grows. (Other instruments in search of an active new life can make their way to eager students by contacting **Michael Riemer**, or **Lew Milligan**).

IRISH MUSIC WORKSHOPS!!! Do you want to learn how to play the box? The flute? Accompany with a piano? Then Sunday, August 25th may be your ticket for a brand new Irish hobby! For details regarding Irish Music Workshops, contact Michael Riemer (510-548-4727).

CCÉ SESSIONS

Our **SLOW SESSIONS** are open to **beginners** who are learning to play traditional Irish tunes. These will now be held TWICE A MONTH. and our next sessions will be on **MONDAY, August 12th**

and **26th**, and **September 9th and 30th** from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at **Ireland’s 32** pub (3920 Geary Boulevard, S.F., between 3rd and 4th avenues). Starting at 9, **more experienced musicians** are welcome to join in on a faster paced, more traditional session. ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND LISTEN AS WELL! Interested? Contact either Michael Riemer (510-548-4727) or Michael Duffy (650-592-2602; cosgrach@tsoft.com).

SONG AND STORYTELLING SESSIONS!!! We will have a Song and Storytelling Session on Monday, **August 19th** at 7:30 p.m. at Dan Clark’s House (1625 Northpoint St., SF, phone 415-775-7773). There will be another one on Friday, **September 6th** at 8:00 p.m. at Mike Duffy’s House. Contact Mike Duffy (cosgrach@tsoft.com or 650-592-2602) or Michael Murphy, 415-564-7188. **Beginners welcome.**

The Clifford-Hoban Branch in the Santa Cruz/ Monterey area also hosts a number of **slow sessions**. Interested? Please contact Linda (831-688-5729).

CCÉ and Bay Area Dance Events

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. This month on August 1st starting at 8 p.m., we will be at **The Plough and Stars pub** (Clement Street between 2nd and 3rd avenues).

On the **other Thursdays**, we gather for SET DANCING LESSONS that are free to members, taught from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at **Sunset Recreation Center** (on Lawton Street between 28th and 29th avenues). Usually, this is followed by a trek out to the Plough and Stars for more set dancing to the inspiring sounds of **Tipsy House!!!**

PLOUGH AND STARS CEILI #2!: On Saturday, August 31st at 9 p.m. to about 1 a.m. Music will be provided by **TIPSY HOUSE**. There will be set dancing with a smidgeon of ceili dancing. Admission is \$10. All of the middle tables will be removed for more dance space. All dance levels are welcome. The Plough and Stars is on Clement Street in S.F. between 2nd and 3rd avenues. Please note that this is primarily a Plough and Stars event, although Comhaltas members will be attending, dancing, and volunteering!

NEED MORE SET DANCING? You can surely find it at **Scruffy Murphy's** (187 South Murphy Avenue, 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 take place on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 8 p.m. at the **Midpeninsula YWCA** (4161 Alma Street in Palo Alto). The cost is \$10 for adults and children are free. For information regarding the next one of these well-attended events, you may call Lynne at 650-325-6050.

Traditional Irish Step Dancing with Catherine Brosnan. Catherine Brosnan teaches step dancing on weekends in South San Francisco. These small, informal adult classes focus on traditional (old-style) dance steps, technique and form. Contact Catherine at **650-615-9229** or e-mail: cbrosnan@netwiz.net for more information.

Other Irish Language/Cultural Events

Gaeltacht Evening! Do you have Irish or are you learning it? Would you like to use this beautiful language? There's a great opportunity the third Sunday of the month, for Irish conversation, as well as a traditional session at the UICC (2700 – 45th Ave. at Sloat) in San Francisco! Dinner and conversation in Irish

begin at 6:30 p.m. in the restaurant, and the session follows in the bar at around 8 to 10 p.m. or so. The next ones will be September 15th and October 20th, (none in August, as UICC will be closed for vacation). Everyone is welcome (beginners, too)! For information, contact Nikki Ragsdale at 510-881-5958, or Gaeilge-cc@OneSourceGraphics.com.

EDITOR'S NOTES: This double issue of **Sceal Eile** had to be completed without my usual template (I left it at the office, silly me!), so there are some new regular articles that I had to leave out of this issue. Please also refer to your July issue to double-check some information.

As our dear Chairman stated, I am vacationing for a few weeks. Please keep in touch via e-mail, though (write2anichka@hotmail.com). Hope you are all having a wonderful summer!!! – Anne.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2002 **EVENTS**

*****GENERAL MEETINGS, Tuesday 8/6 and 9/3, UICC, 7:30 p.m.**

*****SET DANCING at the PLOUGH AND STARS, Thursday 8/1 and 9/5, 8 p.m.**

*****SLOW SESSIONS AT IRELAND'S 32, Monday 8/12, 8/26, 9/9 and 9/30, 7:30 p.m.**

*****SET DANCE LESSONS at SUNSET REC. CENTER, Thursday, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22, 8/29, 9/12, 9/19, and 9/26, 7:30 p.m.**

*****SET DANCING at SCRUFFY MURPHY'S, 8/14, 8/28, 9/11 and 9/25, 8 p.m.**

*****IRISH MUSIC WORKSHOP on 8/25.**

*****SONG and STORYTELLING SESSIONS, 8/19 and 9/6.**

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Address
Correction
Requested