

December 2002

Scéal Eile

Mí na Nollag 2002

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

P. O. Box 16244 San Francisco, CA 94116

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

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 Secretary/Registrar for membership information. Visit us at www.ccewest.org!

From the Chairman...

Dear Friends and Members:

December already! As we catch our breath before submerging in the torrent of holiday events that seem to lie in wait in the weeks ahead, it's nice to take a brief look back over our shoulders, and appreciate some of the highlights of this rather unusual year. I say "unusual", because in addition to our regular céilís, the Parade, weekly dance classes and the North American convention, all of which we enjoy on a regular basis, there were a number of special events this year that really set it apart, including:

Back in March, our branch had the good fortune to work with Anne Hickey in the planning and co-sponsorship of a reunion of the Irish community at the Knights of the Red Branch hall, based on her book "The Ballroom of Romance". The evening was a great success, and I felt privileged to learn so much about the community in those earlier days.

The biggest news/event for many of us, the milestone which serves to literally mark an era in our branch, was the departure of Jim Belcher for points north. In fitting fashion, our send-off for Jim and his family was one of the finest céilís I can recall. We were fortunate that he was able to dance with us a few extra months, and we will soon find out just how well we've been paying attention to all his fine teaching

over the years! [Jim has generously contributed a short "letter" to our membership in this issue – please check the "year end" insert.]

By the end of August, we successfully held our first Music Workshop afternoon at the UICC, at which some 80 people participated in 15 different music and singing workshops. In addition to critical contributions from musicians in our group, it gave us a chance to meet many more people around the Bay Area interested in learning and playing traditional music. And we all learned a bit more about hosting such an event, too – the next one will be even better!

Which of course raises the obvious question: *what will the next year bring?*

At the beginning of this year, as I was just starting as Chairman, I raised a very similar question, and suggested that while we may be a group with strong traditions, there was a wide variety of activities we could take on. The level of energy and enthusiasm that our members brought to many of the successful events this year makes it even clearer to me that there are few limits to what we can undertake. Now we approach a new year, and I hope many of you will continue to support whichever activities you most appreciate, and will keep an eye out for new opportunities to share the culture.

Slán,
Michael R.

General Meetings

Our next **General Meetings**, which as always are open to *ALL MEMBERS*, will be on Tuesday, **December 3rd** and **January 7th** 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at United Irish Cultural Center (2700 – 45th Ave. at Sloat, S.F.).

Special Announcements

At the November General Meeting, the following officers were re-elected:

Chairman -	Michael Riemer
Vice Chairman -	Michael Duffy
Public Relations -	Josephine Brogan
Secretary/Registrar -	Joannie O'Leary
Treasurer -	Maureen Murphy
Treoraí na Gaeilge -	Nikki Ragsdale

Two Recent Weddings!!: The Cooley-Keegan branch of CCÉ would like to extend their congratulations and best wishes to PAT BEAUPRÉ and BILL BECKER, who were married on November 23rd, and to ANNE SCHAACK and MARTIN BRENNEIS, who were married on November 10th.

Our annual **Christmas Ceili** is scheduled for **Sunday, December 8**, at UICC from **7 to 10 p.m.** There will be **live traditional Irish music** and lots of **dancing** for all. Admission is \$5. As always, children are free.

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 3rd and 4th Avenues). This month they will be on **MONDAY, December 9th** and **December 30th** starting at 7:30 p.m.

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! Interested? Contact either Michael Riemer (510-548-4727; chair@ceewest.org) or Michael Duffy (650-592-2602; cosgrach@tsoft.com).

The next **Song and Storytelling Session** will be on **Saturday, December 7th** at 8 p.m. at **Charlotte MacDonald's** (1474 20th Ave., S.F.). Call 415-664-8560 for directions.

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

CCÉ 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 Avenues in San Francisco.

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 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!

*Ever have the nagging feeling that you've forgotten to do something? Maybe it's that you have forgotten to **renew your CCE membership** for 2003! Do so now to continue receiving the Treoir on time...*

Other Dance Activities

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 3rd Saturday of every month at 8 p.m. at the **Mid-peninsula YWCA** (4161 Alma Street in Palo Alto). For information regarding these events, call Lynne at 650-325-6050.

Traditional Irish Step Dancing with **Catherine Brosnan**. Catherine 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 her at 650-615-9229 or cbrosnan@netwiz.net for more information.

Irish Language Events

A Chairde!

Friends!

Beidh Oíche Ghaeltachta againn ar an 15 Nollaig (an triú Domhnach de mhí, mar is gnáth).

We'll have a Gaeltacht Night on the 15th of December (the third Sunday of the month, as usual).

Cruinníonn muid sa Chultúrlann (UICC). Dinnéar agus comhrá i nGaeilge ag a 6.30 pm sa bhialann. Agus ina dhiaidh sin (thart fá a 8.00 a chlog - 10.00 nó mar sin): seisiún ceoil traidisiúinta agus amhránaíochta sean-nóis na hÉireann, sa bheárr.

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): session for Irish traditional music and sean-nós singing, in the bar area.

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

**Beannachtaí,
Nikki**

Editor's Notes: Greetings, all! Many thanks to those of you who have wished me and Martin well in our new life together. Martin's knee has been better, so hopefully we will be able to join you for some set dancing soon. I certainly have missed it!

Please be sure to contact me by the 15th of each month for items that need to be included in the next month's issue of **Scéal Eile**. My new phone number is 415-485-4480, and my new email address is annebrenneis@yahoo.com, though you can still use my old email address for the next few months. -- **Anne**

Happy CHRISTMAS!
from Comhaltas

Comhaltas
DECEMBER 2002 EVENTS

Tues. 12/3	General meeting , at <u>UICC</u>
Thurs. 12/5	Set dancing , Shannon Ceili Band, @ <u>Plough</u> , 8:00
Sun. 12/8	Christmas Ceili , at UICC, 7:00 – 10:30
Mon. 12/9, 12/30	Music Sessions at <u>Ireland's 32</u> , 7:30 p.m.
Wed. 12/11	Set Dancing at <u>Scruffy Murphy's</u> , 8 p.m.
Thur. 11/12, 12/19	Set Dancing Lessons at <u>Sunset Rec. Center</u> , 7:30
Sun. 12/15	Irish Language Evening at <u>UICC</u> , 6:30 p.m.

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Address Correction Requested

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