



SCÉAL ÉILE



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

⌘ FROM THE CHAIRMAN ⌘

Dear friends and members,

December is just around the corner, bringing with it the joy (and stress!) of holiday planning, the early darkness and occasional rains of winter, and of course the closure to another calendar year. For me, the sense of closure is more palpable than usual, as it also marks the completion of my third and final year as Chairman of our Cooley-Keegan branch of Comhaltas, a position that I have found both challenging and rewarding. I have been fortunate to serve in that capacity with a number of dedicated people who have been instrumental in the success of the branch much longer than I have been involved – Joannie O’Leary, Maureen Murphy and Josephine Brogan deserve special mention for their willingness to serve as officers over the “long haul”, while also handling the details that so many of us take for granted at many of our ceilis and special events.

Three years ago I included a questionnaire in one of the first “Seal Eile” issues of that year, asking the membership to identify the directions in which they would like to see the branch expand, and looking for people willing to invest some of their energy and enthusiasm into developing new events and activities. Looking at the progress over the intervening time, it is gratifying to note the growth of activities like the Song and Storytelling evenings, the Slow Session for music, the Irish language activities, and a growing focus on Children’s events – all the while sustaining a lively set dancing scene that has been the hallmark of the branch for some time. These events can all thrive simultaneously because they draw on the support of different groups in the Irish cultural community, but it is really up to those of us who are

interested to keep them viable, to bring interested new people along as members of Comhaltas, and to integrate these activities together at larger events like the ceilis, conventions, or concerts.

Whoa -- reading this over, perhaps it’s a bit too serious and somber! After all, its not like I’m moving away to New Zealand or anything (at least not yet...) I’m still looking forward to seeing you all at many of the same dances and sessions as before – just looking to spend a bit more of my time playing tunes and dancing, and less of it writing, planning and proof-reading!

My best wishes to Michael Duffy, as the newly elected Chairman for next year, for a successful year ahead; and to all of you for a safe and happy Holiday Season! Hopefully we will see many of you at the Christmas Ceili on December 12th to celebrate

Slán, agus Nollaig shona daoibh go léir,
Michael R.

⌘ GENERAL MEETING ⌘

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

CCE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please remember to send in your renewal for 2005. We must send the membership list to Ireland by December so you will receive your Treoir Magazine in a timely manner. You will find the Membership Form on-line at http://sf.ccewest.org/misc/join_cceck.html or contact Joannie O’Leary at 415 664-6579 and we will mail you one. Your membership helps to support our branch. Please Renew Now!!!!



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



John Whelan teaches a Box Workshop at the West Regional Mini-Convention

☘ Rest in Peace ☘

In this issue, we recall members and friends of CCE who have recently passed away. We extend our prayers and sympathy to their families, who have shared this “fine stock” of folks with us over the years. It is because of their generosity in sharing their talents with us that we are able to carry on and “keep the tradition alive”.

Bill Cotter

William "Bill" Cotter, a long-time Cooley Keegan member, fiddler, storyteller, and "gentleman of the old school" passed away a few months ago.

For many years, Bill and his wife Noreen were regulars at the CCE monthly ceilis. Bill and Noreen were accomplished fiddle players, and in addition, Bill was a storyteller, writer, and singer. When asked how he happened to take up the fiddle, Bill mentioned that many years ago he met a lovely young lady named Noreen, who happened to be a fiddle player. Bill decided that he would do whatever it took – including learning the fiddle - to catch her eye.

Bill - along with the other old time musicians like Tim Reidy, Jim Hurley, and Paddy O'Regan - kept the music going, back in the days when it was not nearly as popular as it is now.

Thank you, Bill. We are honored by your friendship, and grateful for your dedication to the tradition.

Jim McDonagh

A lovely gentleman from Co. Galway, Jim and his wife, Kathleen, were great supporters of our branch in our early garage sales. They were faithful attendees' at most Irish events and enjoyed the ceili and concerts.

Rose Ann McCarthy

Rose came from Co. Leitrim and her generous, witty nature and lovely smile served her well in her nursing and family careers. Rose's husband, Chris was a founding member of our branch and together they enjoyed many a seisiun, ceili and party. After Chris' passing, Rose moved to Sonoma where old friends and new were always welcome. Rose still kept in touch and wanted to know “all the news” and she came out to the UICC in 2003 to watch the All Ireland with her daughter, Marian. Her gifts of laughter and generosity remain with us and along with her loving family, we shall miss her.

Simon Corry

A native of Mullagh, Co. Clare, Simon had a deep love of Irish tradition. To borrow from the memorial from Simon's mass, “Simon's love of Irish culture and history were evident via his passion for gaelic football & hurling, music, dancing and his superb storytelling.” Simon was raised in the heartland of traditional Irish music and enjoyed supporting its growth in America. Simon touched so many lives as a family man, carpenter, golfer and friend in the Irish Community. Noreen and family have made a wonderful contribution to the our branch to help ensure the preservation of the traditions he loved so well.



☘ COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OFFICERS ☘

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Dé Domhnaigh Sunday	Dé Luan Monday	Dé Mairt Tuesday	Dé Céadaoin Wednesday	Déardaoin Thursday	Dé h-Aoine Friday	Dé Sathairn Saturday
November 28	29	30	December 1 <u>Set Dancing</u> 8PM Scruffy Murphy's Sunnyvale	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> 8:00 Plough and Stars	3 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Imelda White's Mountain View	4
5 <u>Seisiún</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars	6	7 <u>CCE Meeting</u> 7:30 UICC	8 "No Hiding Place" Starring Judy Forest 9PM Plough and Stars	9 <u>Set Dancing</u> 7:30 Sunset Rec Center 9:30 Plough and Stars	10	11
12 <u>Christmas Ceili</u> 7PM UICC <u>Seisiún</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars	13 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> 8PM Ireland's 32	14 <u>Set Dancing</u> 8:30 PM O'Neil's San Mateo	15	16 <u>Set Dancing</u> 7:30 Sunset Rec Center 9:30 Plough and Stars	17	18
19 <u>Oíche Ghaeltachta</u> 6:30 Hayward <u>Seisiún -</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars	20	21 <u>Set Dancing</u> 8:30 PM O'Neil's San Mateo <u>Slow Seisiún</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars	22	23 <u>Set Dancing</u> ** No class tonight ** 9:30 Plough and Stars	24	25 Merry Christmas!
26 <u>Seisiún</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars	27 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> 8PM Ireland's 32	28 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	29 <u>Set Dancing</u> 8PM Scruffy Murphy's Sunnyvale	30 <u>Set Dancing</u> 8:00 Plough and Stars	31	January 1 Happy New Year!

⌘ Song and Storytelling ⌘

The next Song and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Imelda White at 275 Lassen Avenue in Mountain View, on Friday, December 3rd; 7:30 p.m. until 11-ish. Admission is free. Beginners, intermediates, and veterans of Irish and other types of Celtic songs and stories are all welcome.

Contact: 650-964-7643 Email: iwhite@stanford.edu

⌘ Christmas Céilí ⌘

Sunday December 12th, United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco, St. Patrick's Room (upstairs); 7-10PM. Live Irish music with the Shannon Ceili Band, Sing-alongs. Admission Adults: \$10, Children: Free.

⌘ Gaeilge - Irish Language ⌘

Oíche Ghaeltachta, Hayward, Dé Domhnaigh an 19ú Nollaig 2004, 6.30 i.n. (3ú Domhnach de mhí) --- comhrá as Gaeilge agus seisiún ceoil agus amhránaíocht ar an tsean-nós. "Ádh an phóta": 6.30 ; seisiún 8:00 i.n. An chéad ceann eile: 16 Eanáir 2004, in Hayward.
Seoaldh agus treoreacha le fáil: gaeilge@ccwest.org, 510 881 5958

Gaeltacht Night, Hayward, Sunday the 19 December 2004, 6.30 p.m. (3rd Sunday of the month) --- conversation in Irish and a music and sean-nós singing session. "Pot luck": 6.30; session: 8:00 p.m.. Next one: 16 January 2005, in Hayward.

Address and directions: gaeilge@ccwest.org, 510 881 5958.

Set Dancing

1st Thursday - 8PM - Shannon Ceili Band at the Plough and Stars.

2nd through Last Thursday - 7:30 to 9:30 Lessons at the Sunset Recreation Center (on Lawton at 28th Ave.)

Following the lessons 9:30 - Topsy House performs at the Plough and Stars. Dancers are encouraged to contribute about \$5 to help support this great opportunity

2nd and 3rd Tuesday - 8:30 PM to 11:00 PM - Josephine Moore teaches at O'Neil's in San Mateo

(B Street, just up from 2nd. take the 3rd street exit from 101). Call 650-372-9659 for details.

1st Wednesday - Scruffy Murphy's in Sunnyvale. Michael Murphy teaches. Lessons begin at 8PM with live music beginning at 9:00. Call 415-564-7188 for details.

Music Seisiún

Slow Seisiún - 8PM Ireland's 32 Pub (3920 Geary Blvd. Between 3rd and 4th Ave.) two Mondays each month.

Intended for beginners learning to play traditional Irish tunes. Starting at 9PM more experienced musicians are encouraged to join in on the faster paced, more Traditional Seisiún which follows. All are welcome to come listen as well. Contact Michael Riemer or Michael Duffy for more information.

Slow Seisiún - 8:30 Plough and Stars -- Michael Duffy is also hosting a Slow Seisiún one Tuesday each month.

Seisiún - 8:30 Sundays at the Plough and Stars, various hosts.

Song and Storytelling Seisiún - held on the first Friday. See the calendar page for this month's location.

Cooley-Keegan Branch of
COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
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