

February 2003

Scéal Eile

Feabhra 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:** Michael Duffy
Public Relations: Josephine Brogan ~ **Secretary/Registrar:** Joannie O'Leary
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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!

- FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

Dear Friends and Members,

While it is sometimes difficult to remember, considering the fine weather we've been enjoying here in the Bay Area of late, it is in fact the middle of Winter, and that means it is time to get busy with planning for the special events coming up in the Spring.

The one requiring the most time, creativity and hard work, of course, is our participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, which is scheduled for Sunday, March 16th. After experimenting with a new form of participation in last year's parade, we will be returning to designing and developing our own float again this year. While this gives us the freedom and control to present exactly what we would like, it requires a great deal of initiative, organization and follow-through from interested members to make it genuinely successful.

Fortunately, we have already located the source of the initiative: Joannie O'Leary, Josephine Brogan, and Maureen Murphy have enthusiastically taken on the task of getting the project started and scheduling meetings to get the project started. An initial

meeting has already been held, but I am sure there is plenty of planning left to do, not to mention the work necessary to execute whatever design is chosen.

While many of us may enjoy being ON the float, in the middle of a parade, that can't happen until we finish the work with hammers, nails, wood, fabric, paint and whatever other materials find their way into the final product! [*and yes, before we receive many helpful suggestions about "making sure the paint is waterproof" this year, that will definitely be kept in mind!*]

So if you are interested and able to lend a hand, contact Joannie (415-664-6579), Maureen (415-661-0351) or Josephine (415-681-4803). Our branch has a long and successful tradition of participating in this parade, and I'm looking forward to this year's entry!

Finally, in closing, a quick reminder for the set dancing fans among us: Patrick O'Dea will be leading a workshop and dance on Saturday, February 22nd – see details inside, and hope to see you there!

Slan,
Michael R.

GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meetings of the membership will be on **Tuesday, February 4th** and **March 4th at 7:30 p.m.** at the United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45th Ave. at Sloat). These meetings are held on the first Tuesday each month, and all members are encouraged to attend and take part in the planning and discussion of our activities.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Ceili – We are hosting a children's ceili on Sunday February 16th, at the UICC, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. As always, admission to this event is free, including the adults there for supervision, and we expect to have live music!

Set Dance Workshop, and Evening Dance Patrick O'Dea will be leading what has become our annual set dancing workshop on **Saturday, Feb. 22nd** from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Star of the Sea hall (4420 Geary Blvd.). After a dinner break, we will reconvene for a Dance from 6:00 to 10:00 PM (at the same location). Admission to each of these events will be \$10.

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, February 10th** and **February 24th** from 7:30 p.m., then **March 10th and March 24th**.

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 SESSION** will be on Monday, Feb 10 at Dan Clarke's House, 1625 Northpoint St. in San Francisco, 7:30 p.m. Need directions or details? Call Dan Clarke at 415-775-7773.

The Cooley-Keegan Branch of CCE would like to thank Imelda White for her gracious and generous hosting of the January 2003 Song and Storytelling Session. A rare and fun opportunity occurs when we get to share songs, stories and recitations with members of the Irish Network of Northern California. Imelda states that she had such a good time that she would love for us to stop by 365 days a year! Well, at least we would get one day off during the Leap Year. We share your sentiment, Imelda, and we would love to visit later in the year. Thanks!!!

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. Please 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 St. at 28th Ave.). These lessons form one of the core activities of our branch, and we thank

Michael Murphy for the fine job he's done in leading these classes since November! Beginning in February, we are developing a rotation of people to help lead the class, so that more of us will be capable of leading set dancing as our events grow.

Following the classes at the Recreation Center (above), 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! Dancers are encouraged to contribute about \$5 to help support this great opportunity.

Other Dancing Activities

Josephine Moore is teaching her **SET DANCING** classes at the UICC each Wednesday at 8 p.m., and at O'Neill's pub in San Mateo on Tuesdays at 8:30. Contact Josephine (650-372-9659) for 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**. Call 415-564-7188 for more info.

The **Palo Alto Céilís** are continuing on the **3rd Saturday** of every month at 8 p.m. at the **Midpeninsula YWCA** (4161 Alma Street in Palo Alto). The **NEW** contact person for this event is Lucy Geever, at (408) 885-0811, or lgeever@yahoo.com

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please be sure to contact me by the 15th of each month for items that need to be included in the next issue of **Scéal Eile**. This includes updated dates and times for regular monthly events! My phone number is 415-485-4480, and my new email address is annebrenneis@yahoo.com, -- **Anne**

Irish Language/Cultural Events

A Chairde!

Friends!

Beidh Oíche Ghaeltachta againn ar an 16 Feabhra (an triú Domhnach de mhí, mar is gnáth).

We'll have a Gaeltacht Night on 16 February (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 traidisiúnta 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

From our Treoraí Gaeilge:

Members, do you have any Irish language book/tape study sets, or any Irish or Irish/English children's books that you no longer need? Would you like to donate them to a good cause? We are thinking about a project to help set up a small language learning lab for children and adult learners. If you have any books to donate or would like more details, please give Nikki Ragsdale a call at 510 881 5958 or send email to nikki@onesourcegraphics.com. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

February/March 2003 EVENTS

Tues. 2/4, 3/4	General meeting at <u>UICC</u> , 7:30 p.m.
Thurs. 2/6, 3/6	Set dancing , Shannon Ceili Band, @ <u>Plough</u> , 8:00
Mon. 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24	Music Sessions at <u>Ireland's 32</u> , 7:30 p.m.
Wed. 2/12, 2/28, 3/12, 3/28	Set Dancing at <u>Scruffy Murphy's</u> , 8 p.m.
Thur. 2/13, 2/20, 2/27	Set Dancing Lessons at <u>Sunset Rec. Center</u> , 7:30
Sun. 2/16, 3/16	Irish Language Evening at <u>UICC</u> , 6:30 p.m.
Sun. 2/16	Children's Ceili , @ <u>UICC</u> , 4:00 PM
Sat. 2/22	Set Dance Workshop & Dance (details inside)
Sun 3/16	Saint Patrick's Day Parade

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