



# SCÉAL ÉILE



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

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends and Members,

February and March are busy months for us every year, but this year brings even more activities and events than usual, so be sure to get out your calendar or planner and set aside a few dates as you go through this issue of the Sceal! In addition to looking forward to a February visit, workshop & dance with Patrick O'Dea, a Children's Céilí, and the festivities leading up to St. Patrick's Day, there are a few special events I'd like to draw your attention to:

- There will be a reception, meeting (and music seisiun) with current members of the Board of Comhaltas North America on Tuesday, February 3rd. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our organization and its other branches, to talk with them about our priorities and plans for the future as well – and to show your support of our branch without traveling across country to the Convention!
- We will also be hosting an evening of Irish language and harp music by Grainne Hambley as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2004, a week of Irish language events being held throughout Ireland (and now in the Bay Area, too!)

As always, details of these and other events are provided here in the Sceal, and on our website, so I'll take up a bit less space now than usual, to make sure it all can fit!

Slán,  
Michael Riemer

## SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The first Tuesday in February (Feb. 3rd) will mark a special occasion for our branch, as we will be hosting a visit of distinguished guests from the Board of the North American Province of Comhaltas: Frank Kennedy, the current Chairman, Larry Reynolds, the current Treasurer, and Jim Belcher, the Chair of the Western Region will be joining us for the evening as part of a "West Coast tour".

The evening will include a catered reception beginning at 7:00 PM, followed by the meeting itself at 8:00. All members are invited to join us for this rare opportunity to hear directly from the provincial level about the future directions and areas of focus within our organization, and to air our views on the role of our branch within the new Western Region. There will be a traditional music seisiun immediately after the meeting, so bring along your instruments and stay for the tunes!

All events are planned for the St. Francis room, in the United Irish Cultural Center. Because of the special nature of this meeting, and our need to plan appropriately for the food at the reception, please RSVP to either Michael Riemer, Michael Duffy, or Joannie O'Leary if you are planning on attending.

## GENERAL MEETINGS

Our *regular* General Membership Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 10th at 7:30p.m. at the UICC (2700 45th Ave. at Sloat) All members are welcome and encouraged to participate in the planning and discussion of our branch's activities.



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](http://SF.CCEWEST.ORG)!

IN MEMORY OF PADDY O'REGAN

Paddy O'Regan was a long-time member and supporter of the Cooley-Keegan Branch. He loved his fiddle and it was with him nearly everywhere he went. There was much more to Paddy than most of us knew. Before he "was called up to heaven", as his obituary reads, Paddy was born in Co. Cork in 1908, the second youngest of 11 children. Paddy immigrated to America in 1928, became a citizen, and began a lifetime career with AT&T in 1933. Paddy served in both the Army and Navy including duty under General Patton in Sicily. During his funeral mass, it was noted that Paddy would usher at the early morning mass at St. Ignatius, go off to Laguna Honda to play for mass and aid the Handicapped, head for the Irish Center for brunch, and then go back to S.I. for evening mass. How he had time to play golf and go on his many cruises and trips home to Ireland during these 95 years, one will never know! Paddy was known for his kindness and hospitality to many of the young ladies and his own family, who came to visit San Francisco.

We were honored to have had Paddy O'Regan as a member and friend. He was a gentle and rare man and we pray that he will rest in peace.

*Some words from some of his friends -*

*Frank Lynch -*  
Farewell to a Friend . . .

I met Paddy O' in the summer of 1948 and we have been friends ever since. Many the Sunday evening we played football and hurling at the Polo Grounds . . . and many the chit-chat we had over how the games in Ireland were won and lost. We did not agree on everything, but we always parted good friends.

I will miss you, Paddy O'

Slan leve a cara,

The Kerryman

*Moe Murphy -*

I cannot remember a time without Paddy O' Regan . . . from the early Comhaltas Ceili days, Laguna Honda, the many parades, dances, Novenas, he even visited Joannie and I in Ireland just in time to take us to the football final in Dublin . . . I think Cork lost that day. Paddy never actually said much, he just showed up, fiddle in tow, just as everyone knew he would . . .

Paddy's Mass last Friday was truly a tribute to his life from beautiful violin playing Irish tunes to military honors and everything in between. He may have been given a long life and he sure did pack a lot of living in each day. I believe there is a quote asking whatever happens to retired generals and the response was they just fade away. That never will be said about Paddy O. In so many ways, Paddy represented the best of all things Irish. He will be sadly missed.

May he be playing many a fiddle tune!!

*Katherine Scanlon -*

A Long-Time Friend, Paddy O'Regan

In my young days, I can remember Paddy coming to my parent's home and playing a few tunes on his violin with my father. He enjoyed his cup of tea and my mother's Irish bread. He always made sure that my sister and I had a way of getting home from the dances or parties that we all went to. Paddy was a very thoughtful Gentleman and he loved to play his violin at our CCE gatherings. Then at the end of the evening he was always looking for a piece of my mother's Irish bread to take home.

When Paddy visited Ireland, he used to bicycle up to Donoughmore and visit my husband, Mike's, home to have a chat with my brother-in-law. On his return to S.F. he would give us all the news of home.

I am going to miss Paddy very much, but was happy that he got a great send-off at his wake and funeral. Rest in Peace, dear Paddy.

☞ CHILDREN'S CÉILÍ ☞

Sunday, February 15th from 4-6pm. The Children's ceili will be at the United Irish Cultural Center in the St. Francis Room. Contact Michael Murphy if you have any questions ~ you can email him at: [irishboogieman@yahoo.com](mailto:irishboogieman@yahoo.com) or phone him at 415-548-4727.



☞ COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OFFICERS ☞

CHAIRMAN: MICHAEL RIEMER ([chair@ccewest.org](mailto:chair@ccewest.org)) 510-548-4727

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Fun with the Wren Boys!

## ☞ 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 Ave., San Francisco. February 5th is the first Thursday this month.



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 (Lawton St. at 28th Ave). Immediately following these classes, we head over to the Plough and Stars (around 9:30pm) 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 \$5 to help support this great opportunity.

## ☞ MUSIC SEISIÚNS ☞

Our Slow Seisiúns 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 Blvd, S.E., between 3rd and 4th Avenues). This month they will be on Monday, February 9th & 23rd at 7:30pm. 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! If you have questions, contact Michael Riemer or Michael Duffy.



Michael Duffy is hosting a slow seisiún at the Plough and Stars once a month, starting around 8:00pm. This month it will be on February 17th.

## ☞ SONG & STORYTELLING ☞

The next Song and Storytelling Session will be at 8pm, Friday, February 6th, at Michael Jones's home in Belmont. You can reach him via email at: mfj@ieee.org or, call Michael Murphy at 415-564-7188.

## ☞ MORE DANCING ☞

Set Dancing in San Mateo - For those who do not know - Josephine Moore leads set dancing *every* Tuesday night at 8:30pm at O'Neill's Pub on B Street in San Mateo . It's a nice pub with several local restaurants providing meals delivered to the pub. Attendance has been very low the last few months, and if *it does not pick up soon, this class may be canceled*. So come out and join the fun as it would be a shame to lose this class.

Josephine also teaches set dancing classes at the United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45th Avenue - across from the SF Zoo) on Wednesdays. Classes start at 8pm (American time!) Please try to arrive early! You can reach Josephine at 650-372-9659 for details on either of these classes.



Michael Murphy is teaching at Scruffy Murphy's - 187 S. Murphy Ave, in Sunnyvale on Wednesdays, February 11th & 25. Lessons start at 8pm and dancing to live music begins at 9pm. More information can be obtained by calling Michael at 415-564-7188.



### THE SAN JOSE CÉILÍ

Irish Céilí Dance with music by "Cooking with Turf." February 21st (every 3rd Saturday of the month) from 7:30--10:30pm at the Trinity Cathedral, 81 N 2nd Street at St. John Street, San Jose. Adults are \$10, students \$5, and kids are free. Email Jonathan at: ceili@doves.demon.co.uk or, www.doves.demon.co.uk/ceili, or call Lucy 408-885-0811 for more information.

## ☞ CLIFFORD-HOBAN BRANCH ☞

The Clifford-Hoban Branch in the Santa Cruz -Monterey will host a monthly céilí on Friday, February 13th, at the Felton Community Hall (6191 Hwy 9 in Felton). This will be the last céilí here, as we will be moving to Loudon Nelson Center in Santa Cruz beginning in April. Lessons begin at 7:30pm and the céilí begins at 8pm with a live band. \$10 for adults, children are free when accompanied by an adult.

The Santa Cruz-Monterey Branch is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day show with Irish dance performances followed by a céilí with live music. Friday, March 12th in Santa Cruz.

We also host slow seisiúns down here! So please contact Linda Preston at lindflan@yahoo.com or 831-688-5729 for more information on any of these events.

## IRISH LANGUAGE & CULTURAL EVENTS

### SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE - IRISH WEEK! MARCH 8-17

An annual event in Ireland and established 102 years ago by Conradh na Gaeilge, this event continues to grow in strength.

This year, the Cooley-Keegan Branch of Comhaltas is taking part in its first ever International Program! CCE will sponsor a music night (Oíche Cheoil) at the UICC, Friday, March 12th starting at 7pm--including a social hour, concert featuring harper Gráinne Hambly, and session with Gráinne and our local musicians & singers. Donation of \$10 is suggested for the evening. An internationally recognized exponent of the Irish harp, Gráinne may be remembered from the CCE North American Tour of 1996. See flyer insert for details & list of all the Seachtain na Gaeilge events in the Bay Area.

#### GAELTACHT NIGHT

A Chairde! *Friends!*

Beidh fáilte romhaibh anseo i Hayward don Oíche Ghaeltachta, Dé Domhnaigh an 15 Feabhra (an triú Domhnach de mhí, mar is gnáth), le haghaidh comhrá as Gaeilge agus seisiún ceoil agus amhránaíochtá ar an tsean-nós. An chéad ceann eile: 21 Márta! Seoaldh agus treoreacha seo thíos. Seoaldh agus treoreacha le fáil, ach téigh i dteagmháil liom: [gaeilg@ccewest.org](mailto:gaeilg@ccewest.org), 510 881 5958.

*You will be very welcome here in Hayward for the next Gaeltacht Night, on Sunday, the 15th February (the third Sunday of the month, as usual), for conversation in Irish and a music and sean-nós singing session. The next one: March 21st. Get in touch with me for directions: [gaeilg@ccewest.org](mailto:gaeilg@ccewest.org), 510 881 5958.*

"Ádh an phóta" don dhinnéar, agus seisiún sa gháirdín ina dhiaidh sin, más mian linn (cuirfidh muid tine síos má tá an aimsir fuair), nó beidh muid sa teach dá mbeadh sé ro-fhuar Íosfaidh muid thart fá 6:30 nó 7pm agus cuirfidh muid tús ar an seisiún ag a 8pm nó mar sin.

*Potluck for the dinner, and a session in the garden after that, if we like (we'll have a fire if the weather is cold), or we'll be in the house if it should be too cold. We'll eat at around 6.30 or 7pm and start the session at 8pm or so.*

Nikki Ragsdale,  
Treórái na Gaeilge, CCE

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

If you would like to help with the design or construction of our float for the St. Patrick's Day parade this year, please contact Kasey Millere at 707-769-8552. Thank you!

## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Many thanks to all who support us by renewing their membership. I apologize for the delay in depositing some of the checks. They have all been taken care of and I appreciate your patience.

If you are not certain if you have renewed or not, please feel free to contact me at [joannieoleary@msn.com](mailto:joannieoleary@msn.com) or 415-664-6579, and I will check for you. There is always time to renew!!!

We would like to acknowledge members who are a little further away in distance, but not in thought! We wish you a Happy New Year and hope to see you at the Convention in Parsippany. Thanks for your loyalty to our Cooley-Keegan Branch. Greetings to . . . Mary Casey in Limerick, Ireland; Walter & Lily McGovern in Portland, OR; Kelley Skehen, Albuquerque, NM; Bruce & Billie Wells in Winfield, KS; Aleta Hancock in Pasadena, CA; Luke, Dominique, Louis-Michel & Aimee Friloux in Washington D.C., and of course, our own Jim Belcher, Erin, Frances and Rory Kate in Seattle, WA.

## NORTH AMERICAN CONVENTION 2004

APRIL 15TH - 18TH

This year's North American Convention will be held at the Hilton Parsippany, in Parsippany, New Jersey. It is definitely time to think about booking your rooms and flights if you haven't done so already. The hotels traditionally sell out fast. Continental Airlines is offering a discounted fare - ask for rate code: UCPR3F.

Visit [www.ccenorthamerica.org/Sites/Convention2004/](http://www.ccenorthamerica.org/Sites/Convention2004/) for more information. Or, email [PaulKeating@aol.com](mailto:PaulKeating@aol.com) for any questions.

## EDITOR NEEDED

Well, I have definitely enjoyed my brief time as the editor for the Seal, but unfortunately, I will no longer be able to continue. If you are interested in taking over the reigns (it's really not a difficult job) - I'd be glad to give you the template (if you work on a Mac, and use Quark). We will need someone ASAP. Please feel free to contact me with questions at 415-701-7993, [danalregan@hotmail.com](mailto:danalregan@hotmail.com) (Dana L. Regan - not 1) or Michael Riemer at 510-548-4727, [chair@ccewest.org](mailto:chair@ccewest.org)  
Thank you & Slan,  
Dana

## ☞ FEBRUARY EVENTS ☞

Tuesday	3rd	Special Meeting w/ visitors and sesiun, UICC
Thursday	5th	Set dancing at the Plough, with the Shannon Céilí Band ~ 8:00pm
Friday	6th	Song and storytelling, Saratoga
Monday	9th & 23rd	Slow Seisiún at Ireland's 32 (Slow Seisiún at 7:30 pm)
Tuesday	10th	General Membership meeting at UICC ~ 7:30pm
Thursday	12h, 19nd & 26th	Dancing at Sunset Rec. Center, 7:30pm, then on to the Plough with Topsy House
Sunday	15th	Children's Ceili, UICC 4-6pm • Galeracht Night, Hayward
Saturday	28th	Set dancing workshop & Ceili w/ Patrick O'Dea

### TIN WHISTLE TEACHER NEEDED!

The CCE is in search of a tin whistle teacher! If you are available ~ please contact Michael Reimer.



**Cooley-Keegan Branch of  
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann  
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