



SCÉAL ÉILE



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

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends and Members,

I'm writing this on the heels of our annual Christmas Céilí, which I am happy to report was one of the most successful in quite some time. It seemed to be an especially festive event, resplendent with bright holiday trees and lights (courtesy of the Irish Center) and numerous garlands, streamers and holiday delectables (courtesy of our diligent decorators and generous members). It was also lovely to see a table right near the entrance, covered with photographs which captured many of the memories from the passing year.

The evening was full of good dancing, great music, and a wide variety of entertainment during the intermission. Perhaps best of all, though, was the strong attendance, well beyond just being a gathering of the "usual suspects" that frequent other dance events. It was a wonderful opportunity to see, chat with, and generally catch up with so many good friends and acquaintances, some of whom I had not had the chance to see for a year or more. It even made for some difficult decisions, obliging people to choose between continuing conversations or getting out on the floor for the beginning of their favorite dance!

In combination with this, we also had a number of new folks at the Céilí, many of whom seemed to be attending after hearing about it by word of mouth. Personally, I think this was about the best introduction someone could have to our group – a fine blend of the culture with a strong sense of the community and friendships that make our branch such an enjoyable group to be a part of! Hopefully we will continue to see some of these new faces at future events, and welcome them into the community as well.

I'm off traveling now for Christmas and New Year's, but already feel I've received a wonderful gift, in being a part of such an evening...

Slan,
Michael Riemer

GENERAL MEETINGS

The next General Meetings of the membership will be on Tuesday, January 6th and February 4th at 7:30 p.m. at the United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45th Ave. at Sloat). All members are encouraged to participate in the planning and discussion of our branch's activities.



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 OR VISIT US AT SF.CCEWEST.ORG!

☞ SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ☞

SPECIAL THANKS

The past two céilís, have had great entertainment. We are very lucky to have such talented folks to entertain us and are most grateful! The CCE would like to thank Mary McDonagh and Yvonne Azzollini for their lovely dancing at the November céilí. Louise Crossan's wonderful singing, guitar and accordion playing brought reverend and appreciative silence to the room that night. At the December céilí, Brian Cleary and the Celtic Dance Ensemble were quite entertaining, as well as the lovely Christmas carol in Irish by Nikki Ragsdale and Laura Mann! Again, thank you to everyone.

PADDY O'REGAN

The Cooley Keegan Branch members send greetings to Paddy O'Regan for the New Year and hope this will be a more healthy one. Paddy says he is at home now and doing better, thanks to his wonderful caregivers. Everyone has been asking for Paddy, and we want to wish him the very best.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

One last pitch for membership, and may thanks to all those who are supporting us by already renewing their membership or by becoming new members for 2004. If you need more information, contact Joannie O'Leary. You are welcome to bring renewal forms and fees to set dancing and give to either Joannie, Moe, or Josephine, or please mail in ASAP. You can also pay electronically, on the CCE website at: http://sf.ccewest.org/misc/join_cceck.html

TIN WHISTLE TEACHER NEEDED!

The CCE is in search of a tin whistle teacher! If you are available, or know someone that is ~ please contact Michael Reimer (510-548-4727). We would like to start a regular children's program once a week, if possible.

TREIOR MAGAZINE

Back issues of Treior Magazine are available, if anyone is interested. Contact Frank Lynch at 415-731-6252.

☞ IRISH LANGUAGE & CULTURAL EVENTS ☞

A Chairde!

Friends!

Beidh fáilte romhaibh anseo i Hayward don Oíche Ghaeltachta, Dé Domhnaigh an 18ú lá Eanáir 2004 (an triú Domhnach de mhí, mar is gnáth), le haghaidh comhrá as Gaeilge agus seisiún ceoil agus amhránaíochta ar an tsean-nós. An chéad ceann eile: 15 Feabhra 2004! Seoaldh agus treoreacha seo thíos. Seoaldh agus treoreacha le fáil, ach téigh i dteagmháil liom: gaeilg@ccewest.org, 510 881 5958

You will be very welcome here in Hayward for the next Gaeltacht Night, on Sunday the 18th January 2004 (the third Sunday of the month, as usual), for conversation in Irish and a music and sean-nós singing session. The next one: 15 February 2004. Get in touch with me for directions: gaeilg@ccewest.org, 510 881 5958.

"Ádh an phóta" don dhínnéar, agus seisiún sa ghéirdín 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 7.00, agus cuirfidh muid tús ar an seisiún ag a 8:00pm 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 7.00, and start the session at 8:00 or so.

Nikki Ragsdale,
Treoraí na Gaeilge, CCE

☞ EDITOR'S NOTE ☞

Please contact me no later than the 15th of each month for items to be included in the next issue of the Scéal Eile. This includes updates for regular monthly events! My email address is danalregan@hotmail.com (Dana L. Regan) or my work number is 415-665-4505. Thank you!



☞ COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OFFICERS ☞

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

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: DANA REGAN (sceal@ccewest.org) • YOUTH OFFICER: Siobhan McDonagh

☞ CÉÉ 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. **January 8th** 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** (at about 9:30 pm) 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 about \$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, January 12th & 26th** beginning at 7:30pm. Starting at 9:00 pm, 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 about 8:00pm. This month it will be on **January 27th**.

☞ SONG & STORYTELLING ☞

The next Song and Storytelling Session will be at 8pm, **Friday, January 2nd** at Cathy and Harold Jones's home. Their address is 964 Capitola in Santa Clara. For questions, contact Michael Murphy at 415-564-7188.

☞ CLIFFORD-HOBAN BRANCH ☞

The Clifford-Hoban Branch in the Santa Cruz -Monterey will host a **monthly céilí** on Friday, **January 9th**, at the Felton Community Hall (6191 Hwy 9 in Felton). 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.

They have also been hosting **slow seisiúns**. Please contact Linda Preston (831-688-5729) for information on these events.

☞ MORE DANCING ☞

Josephine Moore is teaching **set dancing classes** at the **United Irish Cultural Center** (2700 45th Avenue - across from the SF Zoo) on **Wednesdays**. Classes will start at 8pm. Please try to arrive early! This class will resume on January 7th.



Set Dancing in San Mateo - For those who do not know - **Josephine Moore** leads set dancing Tuesday nights 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*. We are very lucky to have as much set dancing as we do in the bay area, let's not take it for granted. Please support Josephine if you can. This class resumes it's regular Tuesday schedule on **January 13th**. You can reach Josephine at 650-372-9659 for further details.



News for those who fondly remember the Palo Alto Céilí, started by Valery Deem, and continued until last year by Lynn Ferry. Unfortunately the YWCA, where it was held every month, has had to close its doors because of budget cuts. But the same event has sprung up again, now led by Lucy Geever and in a new location. So we announce ...

THE SAN JOSE CÉILÍ

Irish Céilí Dance with music by "Cooking with Turf." **January 17th** (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.



Michael Murphy is teaching at **Scruffy Murphy's** - 187 S. Murphy Ave, in Sunnyvale on **Wednesday, January 14th & 28th**. Lessons start at 8:00 pm and dancing to live music begins at 9:00 pm. More information can be obtained by calling him at 415-564-7188.



Dancing the "Waves of Tory" to music by the Shannon Ceili Band

☞ JANUARY EVENTS ☞

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|----------|----------------------|---|
| Sunday | 18th | Gaeltacht Night ~ Potluck dinner in Hayward |
| Monday | 12th & 26th | Cooley Keegan Seisiún at Ireland's 32 (Slow Seisiún at 7:30 pm) |
| Tuesday | 6th | General Membership meeting at UICC ~ 7:30pm |
| Thursday | 8th | Set dancing at the Plough, with the Shannon Céilí Band ~ 8:00pm |
| | 15th, 22nd & 29th | Dancing at Sunset Rec. Center, 7:30pm, then on to the Plough with Topsy House |

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES



**Cooley-Keegan Branch of
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
P. O. Box 16244
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