

July 2003

# Scéal Eile

Iúil 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/Webmaster:** Michael Duffy  
**Public Relations:** Josephine Brogan ~ **Secretary/Registrar:** Joannie O'Leary  
**Assistant Newsletter Editor:** Anne Brenneis ~ **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](http://www.ccewest.org)!

## - FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

Dear Friends and Members,

Summer is here and the excitement is building as we quickly approach two of the special events of the current year:

For those of you who have been anxious for the next "big" chance to dance, I am happy to announce that on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of July, there will be a Ceili at the St. John of God Hall, with the Donncha Lynch Band and visiting Set dance instructor Yutaka Usui. Yutaka will also be leading a set dance workshop that afternoon, and from all I've heard, this will be a great chance to pick up some of the fancier footwork that adds a little spice to the sets. More details are available on the following pages. There may also be opportunities for music workshops that weekend, led by the band members, so if you might be interested, keep an eye on our web site for late-breaking information!

In early August (Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup>, to be precise), we will be hosting 10 of the young members of the Barefield Ceili Band for a major concert at the United Irish Cultural Center. They will be in town here for about

4 days, and are by all accounts eagerly looking forward to the trip here. I hope many of you will get the opportunity both to hear them play, and perhaps to meet them at one or another of their appearances.

Finally, for those of you who were looking forward to more details on our upcoming Ceili in the North Bay – you may have noticed we were not announcing any dates or locations in late June, as we were aiming for. Due to some scheduling conflicts we have scheduled the Petaluma Ceili (sort of a *Comhaltas Roadshow*?) for September 6<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing some many good friends there, and hopefully making some new ones!

Slán,  
Michael R.

## GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meetings of the membership will be on **Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** at the United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Sloat). All members are encouraged to participate in the planning and discussion of our branch's activities.

### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We are hosting a very special **Set Dancing Workshop and Summer Ceili** on **Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>**. Yutaka Usui, a popular instructor of the sets (and especially well-known for his teaching of footwork) will be conducting the workshops at the St. John of God Hall (1290 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., SF) from 1:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon, and we will host an evening ceili there beginning at 7:30 PM. Touring with Yutaka, and providing the music at the Ceili, will be the Donncha Lynch Band.

Don't forget – the **Barefield Ceili Band** Concert is coming up soon, on August 7<sup>th</sup>! See the enclosed flyer for details, order your tickets ahead, tell your friends and family – they are not to be missed!

**Walter and Lillian McGovern**, our members up in Portland, Oregon, celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 22, 2003. Walter and Lillian are faithful attendees at the Fleadh Nua in Ennis every year and send us a great report when they return. Thanks to Walter, we have a brochure on "Seisiun 2003" (an evening of native entertainment) throughout Ireland from July 1st - August 17, 2003. Congratulations to Walter and Lillian, and good health for many more years.

Congratulations to **Siobhan McDonagh** on winning this year's Rose of Tralee contest! Siobhan will be representing San Francisco at the International Rose of Tralee contest in August – best wishes to her there! – and of course congratulations to proud parents (and our good friends) Mary and Frank McDonagh.

Remembering Linda Block, as we send our sincere sympathy to Michael Block and Family on her recent passing ...

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues). This month they will be on **MONDAY, July 14th** and **July 28th** beginning at 7:30 pm.

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).

The next **SONG AND STORYTELLING SESSION** will be hosted by Dan Clarke in San Francisco, on Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. Call 415-775-7773 for more information, or send email to: cosgrach@tsoft.com

The **Clifford-Hoban Branch** in the Santa Cruz/Monterey area hosts a **monthly CEILI** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, at the Felton Town Hall – that's **July 11<sup>th</sup>**, this month. They have also been hosting **slow sessions**. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., SF.

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

28<sup>th</sup> Ave). Immediately following these classes, 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 we are calling! 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 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 8:00 p.m. and dancing to live music beginning at about 9:00. These popular evenings of set dancing are led by **Michael Murphy**, and more information can be obtained by calling him at 415-564-7188.

**Palo Alto Céilís** have been discontinued due to closure of the **Midpeninsula YWCA**. For further details, or suggestions about possible alternate venues for this dance in the future, contact Lucy Geever (408-885-0811 or lgeever@yahoo.com).

**Other Irish Language/Cultural Events**

**A Chairde! Friends!**

Tá fáilte is fiche romhaibh i Hayward don Oíche Ghaeltachta seo chugainn, ar an 20ú Mí Iúil (an triú Domhnach de mhí, mar is gnáth). An chéad ceann eile: an 17ú Lúnasa.

*You are very welcome in Hayward for the next Gaeltacht Night, on the 20th July (the third Sunday of the month, as usual). The next one will be: 17th August 2003.*

Beidh an Oíche seo rud beag dífriúil --- "Ádh an Phóta" don dhínnéar (agus thiocfadh linn bia a ordú isteach fostá), agus seisiún ceoil traidisiúnta agus amhránaíochta sean-nóis na hÉireann sa gháirdín! Dinnéar thart fá 6:30pm, agus seisiún ina dhiaidh sin, ag a 8:00pm nó mar sin. Tá súil againn go mbeidh sibh linn!.

*The evening will be a little bit different --- Pot luck for the dinner (and one can also order food in), and a session for Irish traditional music and sean-nós singing in the garden. Dinner at around 6:30pm and session after that, at 8:00pm or so. We hope you will join us!*

Beannachtaí,  
Nikki  
*Address and directions available: (510) 881 5059, gaeilge-cce@onesourcegraphics.com.*

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Cuir snas ar do chuid Gaeilge!  
*Practice hearing and speaking Irish!*

**Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta!**  
(Gaeltacht Weekend – SF Bay Area Irish Language Immersion Weekend), September 26-28, 2003. 6 pm Friday through 4:30 pm Sunday, at the UICC.

For details contact Nikki at: 510-881-5958 or gaeilge@OneSourceGraphics.com.

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**July/August 2003 EVENTS**

Thursday July 3	Dancing to Shannon Ceili Band at The Plough and Stars
Thursday July 10, 17, 24, 31	Set dancing class at 28 <sup>th</sup> and Lawton, 7:30 Dancing to Topsy House at 10:00
Monday July 14, 28	Comhaltas Session at Irelands 32, 7:30 & 9:00
Monday July 14	Song and Storytelling Session in San Francisco
Sunday July 20	Oiche Ghaeltachta, Hayward, 6:30
Saturday, July 26	Set Dance Workshop and Ceili at St. John of God, 1:00 and 7:30
Thursday, August 7	Barefield Ceili Band in Concert, at UICC, 8:00 PM

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