

June 2003

Scéal Eile

Meitheamh 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
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!

- FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

Dear Friends and Members,

Lots of "content" to the Scéal this month, so I'll try to keep my part a bit shorter! This includes an installment from our front lines correspondent at the Convention, and a special questionnaire for those who have attended a recent CCE Convention. The motivation? Well, it seems there is a growing movement (both amongst ourselves, and from some at other branches who REALLY enjoyed our party out here in 1998!), to consider hosting the Convention here in San Francisco again, perhaps as early as 2006!

Now, that may not sound very "early", but those deeply involved in planning and executing the event last time can attest that there is a huge amount of preparation and planning that would be required, and a substantial portion has to be done just to submit a bid, years ahead of the event itself. So, while a large number of our members are fresh from the Convention experience, it seems a good time to solicit your ideas and opinions about the key parts of these events, how we could improve them, and (of course!) who's interested in making it happen?

Closer on the horizon:

Although it seems that summer is often our quiet season, there are a number of special events coming up this summer.

Toward the beginning of August, our branch will be hosting a visit by the **Barefield Ceili Band** – delightful group of young musicians from Ireland. In my mind, this is exactly the sort of thing we should do to promote Irish culture around the Bay Area – please see the note inside for details.

Planning is nearly complete for a Ceili Mor up in the Petaluma area toward the end of June (likely the 28th). This will be a great chance to enjoy music and dancing in a new setting, and meet interested folks from all over the North Bay region. Mary McDonagh (707-765-0416) is working out details – we'll post them on our web site soon!

Slan,
Michael R.

GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting of the membership will be on **Tuesday, June 3rd 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.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Ceili

The summer Children's Ceili will be on **June 29th, from 4-6 PM** at the United Irish Cultural Center. Note the early start time – we hope to see families and kids of all ages.

San Francisco Free Folk Festival

This annual festival of folk music, dance and song will be June 21 & 22 at Roosevelt Middle School (Arguello at Geary, S.F.). All 80+ workshops, 12+ concerts and 3 dances are free! It is all run by volunteers - including our own Michael Murphy who will be teaching set dancing on the Saturday. See <http://sffolkfest.org> for more info.

The **Barefield Ceili Band** (from just north of Ennis, Co. Clare) will be performing in Concert at the United Irish Cultural Center on Thursday evening, **August 7th**. These young musicians (ages 12-18), many of whom are All-Ireland Champions, have performed extensively in the U.S., Canada and Europe, and have just recorded their 3rd CD. The Cooley-Keegan Branch is delighted to host them in San Francisco from August 6th -10th.

This is a big undertaking for our branch – we will need everyone's help and support. We are responsible for accommodations, meals, entertainment and performances of the Band. They are thrilled at the prospect of coming to San Francisco. In addition to the UICC Concert, they will play at local pubs, and we hope to have a few good seisiuns with local musicians and dancers. More details will be available soon.

PLEASE put the AUGUST 7th date on your calendar, and pass the word! If you are able to help in any capacity (concert, hosting, touring, etc.), please contact: Josephine Brogan: 415 681-4803; Joannie O'Leary: 415 664-6579 or Moe Murphy: 415 661-0351. Thanks.

SPECIAL REPORT

from Roving Reporter Moe Murphy:

Asked more than once..."How many SF people are here?!.. every other person I meet is from the SF Bay Area!" - almost true... 48 (yes, 48!) took the cross country flight to check out Boston for the CCE Convention this year... what a showing... some were 1st timers but most were athletes-in-training since last year's Convention... I know some, who have already booked for next years' challenge of human endurance (in Parsippany, N.J) of music, song, dancing, dancing, and more dancing and/or general mischief 'til the wee hours of perhaps the day after the next day!

The ceilis were led by Donnacha to music of the Boston Ceili band and Larry Cunningham's Ceili Band... the Banquet itself (also nearly into the wee hours!) had wonderful entertainment including 7-10 year olds doing the Kerry Set! – brilliant ...

I asked Convention first timers, after their initial schedule shock, what their impressions were, for direct quotes such as: "the music workshops were fun," "Fantastic", "I have loved it...so much fun!" "wonderful", "People are nuts, but good nuts", "Very Nice", "I enjoyed the tin whistle workshop", "Late night partying, the later the better, until the security guard came" (That's for another Scéal Eile). Lastly, a comment that we in SF can have a comparable time in our very own Plough on a Thursday night!

This is your roving reporter signing out with a few riddles....Hope to see you at the CCE Convention in Parsippany in '04, or Ottawa, '05!

**What wild woman from the Kingdom was seen/heard dancing at the Ceili's 'til the final "house"?*

**Does the line "who has the wires?" mean anything to anyone who can remember?*

**Who made their grand debut at the Banquet wearing a tres chic ensemble?*

**Need your hotel lobby furniture rearranged?
Hours: 1-6 AM, beer/dancing payment
preferred, contact SF/Philly team of __ and __?
[Answers in next Sceal Eile...]*

CCÉ SESSIONS

Our **SLOW SESSIONS** are intended for beginners learning to play traditional Irish tunes. These are 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, June 14th** and **June 28th** from 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** is tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 20th. Contact Michael Duffy (cosgrach@tsoft.com) to confirm details.

The Clifford-Hoban Branch in the Santa Cruz/Monterey area hosts a **monthly CEILI** on the 2nd Friday each month, at the Felton Town Hall. They are also hosting **slow sessions** now. Contact Linda Preston (831-688-5729) for more info 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 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

Street between 28th and 29th Avenues). 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 teaches **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 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, with lessons starting at 8 p.m. and dancing to live music beginning at 9. These popular evenings of set dancing are led by **Michael Murphy**, and more information can be obtained from him by calling 415-564-7188.

The **Palo Alto Céilís** are continuing on the **3rd Saturday** each month at 8 pm at the **Midpeninsula YWCA** (4161 Alma St., Palo Alto). Contact Lucy Geever (408-885-0811, or lgeever@yahoo.com) about this event.

Irish Language/Cultural Events

The next Gaeltacht Night is on the 15th of June (the third Sunday), in Hayward. Contact Nikki for further details...

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

June/July 2003 EVENTS

Tues. 6/3, 7/1	General meeting at <u>UICC</u> , 7:30 p.m.
Thurs. 6/5, 7/3	Set dancing , Shannon Ceili Band, @ <u>Plough</u> , 8:00
Mon. 6/9, 6/30, 7/14, 7/28	Music Sessions at <u>Ireland's 32</u> , 7:30 p.m.
Wed. 6/11, 6/25	Set Dancing at <u>Scruffy Murphy's</u> , 8 p.m.
Thur. 6/12, 6/19, 6/26	Set Dancing Lessons at <u>Sunset Rec. Center</u> , 7:30
Sat. 6/28 ??	Ceili in Petaluma ? (check web site)
Sun. 6/29	Children's Ceili at <u>UICC</u> , 4:00 to 6:00 PM

Cooley-Keegan Branch of
COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
P. O. Box 16244
San Francisco, CA 94116



CCE Convention Survey

The CCE Convention will be held in Parsippany, NJ in 2004 and Ottawa, in 2005. Since it has been 5 years since it was held here in SF, our time to host the Convention is fast approaching. Please take a few moments to fill out the questionnaire to make our next Convention an even bigger success! You may fold and mail this in, or give it to an officer.

- 1) How many Conventions have you attended?
- 2) How did Boston compare with other Conventions?
- 3) If Boston was your first, what was your overall rating?
- 4) Did you attend the SF Convention in 1998?
- 5) If yes, how did SF compare with any other Convention you attended?
- 6) What were the highlights of some of the Conventions you have attended?
- 7) What were some of the minuses?
- 8) If you attended our last SF Convention, what did you consider the pluses and minuses?
- 9) If you did not attend our last Convention, what would like to see at our next SF Convention based on our unique city, talent, and previous Conventions attended?
- 10) Would you be willing to be on a committee or volunteer for one of the many jobs?
List some of your interests/talents in computer, sales, artistic qualities, advertising, marketing etc...

Thank you for your time.
SF Cooley-Keegan Branch of CCE