



SCÉAL ÉILE



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

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear friends and members,

Almost the summer now, school is nearly out – and I'm very pleased to be able to report that within our branch, activities for the kids are looking brighter all the time! A very recent example (last Sunday, in fact!) was one of our most successful Children's Ceilis, at which we had over 30 "future members", across a relatively wide range of ages, participating in tin whistle workshops and singing, as well as the longest "Waves of Tory" line I can remember lately... Of special note was the number of first-time attendees, which is hopefully an indication that we are catching the attention of more parents interested in supporting these activities through their attendance, and encouragement of their children. Those who made it to the beginning had a special treat, as our guest musician Conall O'Raghallaigh demonstrated both the parts and playing of the uilleann pipes. Many thanks to Conall; to Paul Kostka, who played for much of the dancing; and of course to the dedicated half-dozen volunteers who have made it so successful. Judging from the responses to a short survey among those attending, there seems to be strong interest in holding another such Ceili in the Summer, and perhaps more frequently starting in the Fall...

In the flurry of spring events, I've also noticed that we hadn't reported at all on the big Family Ceili at the end of March – and while the 100 or more

attendees know very well what happened, I would be remiss not to fill the rest of you in! It was a different sort of event, in that we really managed to bring together both the adults and children onto the dance floor of the UICC, and the fun seemed contagious from the start. Apart from the dancing, however, it was also the occasion for a special presentation, as 10 year old Sean O'Donnell became the first-ever recipient of the Kevin Mallen Music Scholarship! Those who know Sean realize that the enthusiasm and diligence he shows for learning traditional Irish music will make him not only a marvelous accordion player, but will lead to many other accomplishments as well. The award includes a stipend of \$400 to support his continued study of the accordion under the expert tutelage of our branch's own Miliosa Lundy, who has generously been guiding Sean's progress to date. For those within our community who are (rightfully) concerned about how the musical tradition can be passed along to future generations, it's hard to imagine a more encouraging arrangement!

*Slan,
Michael Riemer*

GENERAL MEETINGS

The next General Meetings of the Membership will be on **Tuesday, June 1st, and July 6th at 7:30 p.m.** at the United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45th Ave. at Sloat).



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



A toast at the March Family Ceili, for Sean O'Donnell (front, center) receiving the Kevin Mallen Scholarship


SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS


“Old Ireland”

Rural Ireland in the late forties and fifties brings back memories of thatched cottages, going to the bog for turf (the only fuel for cooking and heating), and milking the cows by hand. Much of the farming was done by horse and plough. A video, set in South Roscommon and East Galway, is now available, reminiscing these times. Michael Lyons (Ballinasloe, Galway), a neighbor of our good friend Larry Reynolds (CCE Boston) has preserved the story of this era. It shows the transition from horse to tractor, the “Threshing”, saving the hay and the planting and digging of potatoes. The video relating this story is available in Part I and Part II at \$20.00 each. Please contact Kathy McDonagh, a neighbor of Larry Reynolds, who has volunteered to help make this available on the West Coast. The story is narrated by Liam Mac Con Iomaire, with music by Joe Burke. The story ends with a traditional music and song seisiun in the company of Joe Burke, Ann Conroy Burke, Eileen O’Brien and Tommy Devine. Please contact Kathy McDonagh at 415 239-0936 for further details.

Singing Seisuin Hosts Needed

We need hosts for the singing seisuin for the balance of the year (August - December). If anyone is interested in hosting (Always the *First* Friday of the month), they should contact either Diedre McNamara (mcnamaradee@hotmail.com) or Micheal Duffy (cosgrach@tsoft.com)

Yutaka Usui Workshops

Yutaka Usui & Timmy Mc Carthy will be presenting workshops in Set dancing, Ceili, accordion and Bodhrán in early July. See enclosed flyer for more information.

Irish Language Immersion Weekend

Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta, Irish Language Immersion Weekend September 17-19 2004 Venue: United Irish Cultural Center, San Francisco.

For more information visit <http://www.onesourcegraphics.com/Gaeilge/DeireadhSeachtaine.html>, contact 510 881 5958 or gaeilge@ccwest.org.

☞ MUSIC SEISIÚNS ☞

Our Slow Seisiuns 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, June 14th and 28th beginning at 7:30 pm. Starting at 9:00 pm, more experienced musicians are encouraged to join in on the faster paced, more Traditional Seisiun which follows. All are welcome to come listen as well! If you have questions, contact Michael Riemer or Michael Duffy.

Michael Duffy is also hosting a **slow seisiún** at the Plough and Stars one Tuesday each month. This month it will be on June 22nd, and will start at about 8:30 pm.

The **Song and Storytelling Sessions** are held on the **first Friday** each month. The June event will be on the 4th, at the home of **Michael Jones**. For details, contact him at mfj@ieee.org

☞ 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., 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 at 28th Ave). Immediately following these classes, we head over to the **Plough and Stars** 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.

☞ MORE DANCING ☞

Josephine Moore is teaching **set dancing** classes at the United Irish Cultural Center on **Wednesdays**. Classes will start at 8 p.m. Please try to arrive early!

Set dancing in San Mateo, at **O'Neill's Pub** is now being held just the **third Tuesday** of each month, beginning at 8:30 pm. This evening is also led by **Josephine Moore**, and you can contact her at 650-372-9659 for further details.

Michael Murphy is teaching at **Scruffy Murphy's** at 187 South Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale on June 9th and 23rd. Lessons begin at 8:00 pm, with live music beginning at 9:00. Call 415-564-7188 for more details.

☞ IRISH LANGUAGE & CULTURAL EVENTS ☞

A Chairde!

Oíche Ghaeltachta, SANTA CRUZ, Dé Domhnaigh an 20ú Meitheamh 2004, 6.30 i.n. (3ú Domhnach de mhí) --- comhrá as Gaeilge agus seisiún ceoil agus amhránaíochtá ar an tsean-nós. "Ádh an phóta": 6.30 ; seisiún 8:00 i.n. An chéad ceann eile: 18 Iúil 2004, i Hayward. Seoaldh agus treoreacha le fáil: gaeilge@ccewest.org, 510 881 5958

Gaeltacht Night, SANTA CRUZ, Sunday the 20th June 2004, 6.30 p.m. (3rd Sunday of the month) --- conversation in Irish and a music and sean-nós singing session. "Pot luck": 6.30; session: 8:00 p.m.. Next one: 18 July 2004, in Hayward. For more information: gaeilge@ccewest.org, or 510 881 5958.

Nikki Ragsdale,
Treóraí na Gaeilge, CCE

☞ CLIFFORD-HOBAN BRANCH ☞

Sean Nós Workshop (Old Style Singing in Irish) with Éilís Kennedy of Dingle Sunday, June 20 2-4 pm. Call Janet for reservations 831-429-1691 or email her: fasola@cruzio.com

Also the same weekend:

Friday, June 18, 2004, 7:30pm
Éilís Kennedy and Friends
Kuumbwa Jazz Center, 320 Cedar St.,
Santa Cruz

June 2004 EVENTS

Tuesday	1	Membership meeting at UICC, 7:30
Thursday	3	Set dancing at the Plough, Shannon Ceili Band, 8:00PM
Monday	14 & 28	Cooley Keegan Session at Ireland's 32 (slow session, 7:30 pm)
Thursdays	10,17,24	Dancing at Sunset Rec., then at the Plough with Topsy House
Wednesday	9,23	Dancing at Scruffy Murphy's, Sunnyvale
Sunday	20	Oíche Ghaeltachta (Gaeltacht Night), Santa Cruz

July 2004 EVENTS

Yutaka Usui & Timmy Mc Carthy workshops

Friday	2	Accordion and Bodhrán, San Carlos
Saturday	3	Accordion and Bodhrán at St. John of God
Saturday	3	Set dancing and Ceili at St. John of God

Cooley-Keegan Branch of
COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
P. O. Box 16244
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COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN

THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH

SET DANCING WORKSHOP AND CEILI WITH Yutaka Usui & Timmy McCarthy

- WHEN:** Saturday, July 3, 2004
- WHERE:** St. John of God Church Hall
1290 5th Avenue (at Irving)
Street, San Francisco
- SET DANCING WORKSHOP:** 1:00 PM TO 5:00 PM
- CEILI (SET DANCING):** 7:00 PM TO 10:30 PM
- ADMISSION:** \$15 for workshop, \$10 for Ceili

At the evening Ceili, we will dance the sets we learn in the workshop, plus other sets we have learned in the past. It is recommended that you attend the workshop or have some set dancing experience to ensure you have an enjoyable night.

For information on Set Dancing, contact Josephine Brogan at (415) 681-4803

Yutaka and Timmy will also be teaching button accordion (C#/D) and bodhrán workshops on Friday evening in San Carlos and possibly on Saturday in San Francisco.

For information on music workshops, contact Michael Duffy at (650) 766-6491

Please leave a message if no answer!

Please visit our website at: <http://sf.ccewest.org>