

March 2002

Scéal Eile

Márta 2002

The newsletter of the **Cooley-Keegan Branch** of
COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN

P. O. Box 16244 San Francisco, CA 94116

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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 our web site at www.ccewest.org!

- FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

Dear Members and Friends,

Its that time of year again! Early March is always a season rich with Irish cultural activities, and this year is no exception. While space precludes describing (or even listing) them all, there are some special events which I'd like to make sure we are all aware of:

The long-standing CCE tradition of providing music and dancing entertainment at Laguna Honda and St. Anne's home is continuing, with this year's date set for Sunday, March 10th. Please contact Cathy Mibach (415 753 0234) if you have questions or would like to participate – we would like to have a good turnout for this day.

For those with fond memories of dancing at the K.R.B. Hall, don't forget to confirm your reservations for the upcoming "Ballroom of Romance" Gala, which will be held at the K.R.B. Dance Hall on Friday, March 15th! Anne O'Brien Hickey (415 664 5676), whose updated account of the people and experiences of the K.R.B. community

will be released that night, is coordinating this event and can answer questions about it.

In light of the growing interest in Irish language and literature, both in the Bay Area and among our membership, the upcoming "Gates of Gold" Literary and Cultural Festival (March 9-17) will provide a wonderful opportunity to explore various aspects of the culture. This series of events, taking place around San Francisco and co-sponsored by the United Irish Societies, New College of California Irish Studies Program, and the Irish Arts Foundation, will include evening programs focusing on "Irish Histories: Local and Global," "The Living Language," and "Irish Music at the Crossroads," among others. For further information, check www.newcollege.edu/irishstudies/events.htm, or call (415) 826-0115.

Of course for many people, the season's events will culminate with the 150th Anniversary of the St. Patrick's Day Parade on the 17th of March. An enormous amount of time and energy is being directed to revitalizing the Parade this year, and it promises to have a livelier and more

professional appearance. Comhaltas members will be participating as musicians and dancers on one of the major floats sponsored by the UIS – come out and support them, and see the parade in its new incarnation!

Also, I would like to thank those of you who have spent the time to consider the questions on our survey in last month's newsletter. We received a significant number of responses relatively shortly after the mailing, and a brief reading of them shows that a number of our members have clear ideas and a strong interest in seeing Comhaltas pursue its mission in supporting local Irish culture. For those who have been thinking about these issues, but haven't yet returned the form, please do so by the end of March, if possible, so that we can take stock of our responses – though of course I will be interested in hearing suggestions throughout the year.

Slán,
Michael Riemer (510-548-4727 or chair@ccwest.org)

GENERAL MEETING

Our next General Meeting, which is open to ALL MEMBERS, will be on **Tuesday, March 5, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.** at United Irish Cultural Center (2700 – 45th Ave. at Sloat, S.F.).

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our heartfelt condolences to **Mick O'Donnell** upon the recent passing of his mother, **Margaret O'Donnell** in Ireland. Our prayers are with Mick and his family!

Do you plan to attend our 2002 Convention in Saint Louis, MO this April 4th-7th??? If so, see one of our board members, or access the convention web site, www.slia.org, or visit our web site for a link to their site.

CCÉ SESSIONS

Our **SLOW SESSIONS** are open to **beginners** who are learning to play traditional Irish tunes. These will now be held TWICE A MONTH, and our next sessions will be on **MONDAY, March 11th** and **March 25th** from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at **Ireland's 32** pub (3920 Geary Boulevard, S.F., between 3rd and 4th avenues). Starting at 8:30, **more experienced musicians** are welcome to join in on a faster paced, more traditional session. ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND LISTEN AS WELL! Interested? Contact either Michael Riemer(510-548-4727; riemer@cc.berkeley.edu) or Michael Duffy (650-592-2602; cosgrach@tsoft.com).

When will our next **SONG AND STORYTELLING SESSION** be? Please contact Michael Murphy at 415-564-7188 or irishboogie@yaho.com if you would like more information.

The Clifford-Hoban Branch in the Santa Cruz/ Monterey area also hosts a number of **slow sessions**. Interested? Please contact Linda (831-688-5729).

CCÉ and Bay Area Dance Events

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. This month on March 7th starting at 8 p.m., we will be at **Ireland's 32 pub** (3920 Geary Boulevard, S.F., between 3rd and 4th avenues).

On the *other Thursdays*, we gather for SET DANCING LESSONS that are free to members, taught by Jim Belcher from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at **Sunset Recreation Center** (on Lawton Street between 28th and 29th avenues). Usually, this is followed by a trek out to the Plough and Stars for more set dancing to the inspiring sounds of **Tipsy House!!!**

Josephine Moore teaches set dancing at UICC on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. Starting time is slated for 8 p.m.

NEED MORE SET DANCING? You can surely find it at Scruffy Murphy's (187 South Murphy Avenue, Sunnyvale) on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, with lessons starting at 8 p.m. and dancing to live music beginning at about 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 take place on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Midpeninsula YWCA (4161 Alma Street in Palo Alto). The cost is \$10 for adults and children are free. For information regarding the next one of these well-attended events, you may call Lynne at 650-325-6050.

Traditional Irish Step Dancing with Catherine Brosnan. Catherine Brosnan teaches step dancing on weekends in South San Francisco. These small, informal adult classes focus on traditional (old-style) dance steps, technique and form. Contact Catherine at **650-615-9229** or e-mail: **cbrosnan@netwiz.net** for more information.

Other Irish Language/Cultural Events

Oíche Ghaeltachta (Irish language evenings) are hosted by Nikki Ragsdale at **United Irish Cultural Center**, usually on the third Sunday of each month. These begin with **dinner and Irish conversation** at 6:30, followed by a **traditional session**. Whether or not you have any Irish to practice, these evenings are highly enjoyable. To find out about the next evening, please contact Nikki via e-mail at **nikki@GrafxSource.com**.

EDITOR'S NOTES * +

Do you have any ideas or submissions for our newsletter? Please pass them on to me in writing, either by e-mail or clearly written on a piece of paper. My e-mail address is **nuntianna@hotmail.com** and I can be reached at 415-386-1166. **Keep in mind that this newsletter is only as informative and accurate as our members make it, via submissions to its editor.** Thanks! -- Anne

MARCH 2002 EVENTS

*****GENERAL MEETING, Tuesday 3/5, 7:30 p.m.**

*****SET DANCING AT IRELAND'S 32 PUB, Thursday 3/7, 8 p.m.**

*****LAGUNA HONDA and SAINT ANNE'S HOME presentation, Sunday 3/10.**

*****SLOW SESSIONS AT IRELAND'S 32, Monday 3/11 and 3/25, 7 p.m.**

*****The KRB REVISITED GALA at the KRB Hall, Friday, 3/15, 8 p.m.**

*****SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!!!, complete with PARADE, Sunday 3/17.**

*****SET DANCING LESSONS AT SUNSET REC. CENTER, Thursday, 3/14, 3/21, and 3/28, 7:30 p.m.**

*****SET DANCING LESSONS at UICC, Wednesday 3/6 and 3/20, 8 p.m.**

*****SET DANCING AT SCRUFFY MURPHY'S, 3/13 and 3/27, 8 p.m.**

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Address Correction Requested

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