

March 2003

# Scéal Eile

Márta 2003

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 us at [www.ccewest.org](http://www.ccewest.org)!

## - FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

Dear Friends and Members,

While I must admit to being rather late (again!) in submitting this column to the editor, I want to take the opportunity here to note the wonderful day and night of set dancing many of us enjoyed on Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February.

As I was driving home that night, I realized what a wide array of people had contributed to the success of the day in such a variety of ways: Patrick O'Dea, of course, deserves top billing as our workshop instructor, and for his consummate leadership of many of the sets. The band was in fine form, and it was a great pleasure to have John Sweeney and Frank Rooney joining with Miliosa and Richard, Lew and Barb. Less prominent, but equally important, were the efforts of Josephine and Joannie in coordinating the details of Patrick's visit, and the use of the wonderful hall there at Star of the Sea... George did a fine job with the sound equipment ...and of course it wouldn't be half the fun if we didn't have such a fine turnout, both of our local dancers and our set dancing friends from Los

Angeles (and other distant regions). My thanks to you all.

Now that we're all warmed up, its time for March! I'm hearing good things about the float design, so I expect our part of the parade will be a big success this year. I'm sure we will have fun, and that people will enjoy the music and dancing, as they always seem to. I expect there will also be some heightened interest in the regular music and singing sessions this time of year, as well.

March also marks the beginning of a new feature at one of the newer events. Michael Murphy has been leading a small Ceili and Set dancing evening twice each month at Ireland's 32, on the second and fourth Sunday each month, and beginning on March 9<sup>th</sup> this will include live music, courtesy of a "new" band! Apart from being another good chance to dance the sets, I'm hoping it can also rekindle some interest in the less common, more challenging Ceili dances, which we don't seem to dance very often of late ....

Slan,  
Michael R.

**GENERAL MEETING**

The next General Meetings of the membership will be on **Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** and **April 1<sup>st</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.

**WE WILL MISS ANNE HICKEY**

The Cooley-Keegan family lost a valued member and good friend as Anne O'Brien Hickey passed away January 14, 2003. Anne and her husband, John, were active in the Cooley-Keegan Branch and especially loved the music and dancing. They were familiar faces at Ceilis and any occasion promoting Irish Culture in the Community.

Among Anne's many outstanding qualities were enthusiasm and optimism. These were evident in the daunting task Anne took on of compiling the stories of many couples who met at the "KRB" on Mission Street in San Francisco, which culminated in her book "Ballroom of Romance - The K.R.B. Revisited". Our branch had the pleasure of assisting when John and Anne Hickey presented a night at the actual KRB Hall where these stories had taken place. The night was an overwhelming success as they met and welcomed a capacity crowd of those who had come to celebrate friendships and reminisce about "where it all started".

We are most grateful for the friendship, generosity and talents Anne shared with us. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to her family. We were blessed to have Anne as part of our lives.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**St. Patrick's Day Parade** - Its time to be making final preparations for the parade on March 16<sup>th</sup>! If you help with float assembly, please contact Joannie at 415-664-6579.

Congratulations and best wishes to Cathy and Harold Jones, who recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary !

**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, March 10th** and **March 24th** 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).

Our next **SONG AND STORYTELLING SESSION** will be on **Friday March 7<sup>th</sup>** at **1560 - 5th Ave. in Belmont**. Starting time will be **8 p.m.** Please contact the host, Mike Jones at 650-622-9598 for information.

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. They are also hosting **slow sessions** now. Please contact Linda Preston (831-688-5729) for more information on these events.

**CCÉ Dancing**

LIVE MUSIC will be an added feature to the Ceili and Set Dancing at Ireland's 32, beginning Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. This event takes place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Brief instruction will begin at 7 p.m., then live music will go from 7:30-10 p.m. Come by and enjoy the dancing and tunes as **Angeline Leleux**, **Oceanlight**, and **Michael Riemer** "debut at

the 32." There will be no cover charge. Just come and enjoy the music, dancing, and any surprises that may be in store!

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 Street between 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 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** 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 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** are continuing on the **3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### ***Other Irish Language/Cultural Events***

A Chairde!  
*Friends!*

**Oíche Ghaeltachta:** An chéad ceann eile: an 16ú Márta, 2003 -- ach ní bheidh muid san UICC an uair sin! Tíocfaidh muid le chéile i Mountain View, i ndiaidh an Aifrinn Gaeilge. Tosnóigh an Aifreann ar a leath uair tar éis a h-aondéag ar maidin. Eaglais Noamh Seosaif, 582 Hope Street, Mountain View.

**Gaeltacht Night:** *The next one will be on the 16th March, 2003 -- but we won't be at the UICC that time! We'll get together in Mountain View, following the Irish Language Mass. The Mass will begin at 11:30 in the morning. St. Joseph's Church, 582 Hope Street, Mountain View.*

Beannachtaí,  
Nikki

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**From our Treoraí Gaeilge:** Members, do you have any Irish language book/tape study sets, or any Irish or Irish/English children's books that you no longer need? Would you like to donate them to a good cause? We are thinking about a project helping to set up a small language learning lab for children and adult learners to use. If you have any books to donate or would like more details, please give Nikki Ragsdale a call at 510 881 5958 (email [nikki@onesourcegraphics.com](mailto:nikki@onesourcegraphics.com)). Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Please contact me by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:annebrenneis@yahoo.com),

-- Anne

**March/April 2003 EVENTS**

Tues. 3/4, 4/1	<b>General meeting</b> at <u>UICC</u> , 7:30 p.m.
Thurs. 3/6, 4/3	<b>Set dancing</b> , Shannon Ceili Band, @ <u>Plough</u> , 8:00
Sun. 3/9, 3/23, 4/13, 4/27	<b>Set and Ceili Dancing</b> , Ireland's 32, 7 p.m.
Mon. 3/10, 3/24, 4/14, 4/28	<b>Music Sessions</b> at <u>Ireland's 32</u> , 7:30 p.m.
Wed. 3/12, 3/26, 4/13, 4/27	<b>Set Dancing</b> at <u>Scruffy Murphy's</u> , 8 p.m.
Thur. 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24	<b>Set Dancing Lessons</b> at <u>Sunset Rec. Center</u> , 7:30
Sun 3/16	<b>Saint Patrick's Day Parade</b>
Sun. 3/16	<b>Irish Mass at Saint Joseph's</b> , 11:30 a.m.

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