



◀ FROM THE CHAIRMAN ▶

*Dear Friends and Members,*

*My thanks to all who were able to attend our special meeting last month with Frank Kennedy, Larry Reynolds, and Jim Belcher. The meeting itself was very interesting, with our visitors providing information about many new materials and programs within Comhaltas that could be of use to us here in the newly formed West Region, both for expanding the ranks of members in other parts of the western U.S., and to keep the existing branches thriving. The rest of the evening was very enjoyable as well, as many local supporters of Irish culture (and of our guests!) came together to talk, catch up with old friends, and share a few tunes. I hope the enthusiasm carries forward in our efforts to make the West Region a strong link between us and the rest of Comhaltas.*

*One of the strong messages coming out of the meeting was a renewed commitment to reach out to the children in our community. A foundation for this is already set, through the successful establishment of the quarterly Children's Ceilis (which have recently been very well attended) but which we hope to make a centerpiece for a variety of ongoing programs introducing Irish music and perhaps singing to children.*

*An obvious starting point for such programs would be a regular class for children to learn to play the tin whistle, which for many traditional musicians has served as the first window to that world. We would hope to have these every week, or at least twice a month, at a regular time convenient for the school age students. In talking with parent's (and their kids) about the level of interest in such a class, we are convinced this could be very popular – but we are in need of a teacher! If you know of someone (including yourself) who might be capable and willing to lead such a class on a regular basis, please contact me so we can discuss how it might be arranged.*

*Before closing, I'll remind you that like every other March, there are a wide variety of Irish special events around the Bay Area – world class musicians, a broad array of Irish language activities, lectures, dances and so on. After a number of years, I've noticed its easy to slip into a sort of routine ("these are the things I always do"...). While some of the 'classic' activities are great fun, I'd also encourage you all to find something new and different to try out this St. Patrick's season!*

*Slan,  
Michael Riemer*



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](http://SF.CCEWEST.ORG)

## ☞ GENERAL MEETINGS ☞

The next General Meetings of the Membership will be on **Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** at the United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Sloat). As always, all members are encouraged to attend and participate in the planning and discussion of our branch's activities.

## ☞ SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ☞

Cooley-Keegan Branch members extend their sincere sympathy to Fr. Steve Donohue and the family of our long-time member, Margaret O'Grady, who passed away in February. Margaret, a native-Irish speaker, loved the traditional music and dance, and in our early years she gave the branch great encouragement and support. May her spirit and humor remain with us and may Margaret rest in peace.

If it's almost March, it must be time to build, paint and otherwise decorate our float for the St. Patrick's Day Parade! We've had some great input on the ideas and theme for this year's entry, but we could still use some assistance with the execution. If interested, contact Kasey Millere (707-769-8552), or Joannie O'Leary. The parade itself is on Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, down Market St as usual!

Don't forget the special concert/seisiun with Irish speaker Grainne Hambly, on **March 12<sup>th</sup>**, in the St. Francis Room of the UICC. It begins with an Irish language reception at 7:00pm, and is part of the **Seachtain na Gaeilge** (see flyer).

## ☞ 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues). This month they will be on MONDAY, March 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 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 March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and will start at about 8:30 pm.

The Clifford-Hoban Branch of Comhaltas, in the Santa Cruz/Monterey area, is taking a short hiatus from the usual **monthly ceili**, so there is no ceili at the Felton Town Hall this month. Instead, their branch is sponsoring a special St. Patrick's Day show on Friday, **March 12<sup>th</sup>**, in Santa Cruz. They have also been hosting **slow seisiuns** in that area. Please contact Linda Preston at lindflan@hyahoo.com, or 831-688-5729 for information on these events.

The **Song and Storytelling Sessions** are held on the **first Friday** each month. The March event will be on the **5<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of **Nikki Ragsdale**, in Hayward. For details, contact her at Nikki@grafxsource.com.



## ☞ COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OFFICERS ☞

CHAIRMAN: **MICHAEL RIEMER** (chair@ccwest.org) 510-548-4727  
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## ☪ 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 at 28<sup>th</sup> 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 March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup>. Lessons begin at 8:00 pm, with live music beginning at about 9:00. Call 415-564-7188 for further details.

## ☪ IRISH LANGUAGE & CULTURAL EVENTS ☪

A Chairde! *Friends!*

Beidh fáilte romhaibh anseo i Hayward don Oíche Ghaeltachta, Dé Domhnaigh an 21ú Márta 2004 (an triú Domhnach de mhí, mar is gnáth), le haghaidh comhrá as Gaeilge agus seisiún ceoil agus amhránaíochtá ar an tsean-nós. An chéad ceann eile: 18 Aibreán 2004! Seoaldh agus treoreacha seo thíos. Seoaldh agus treoreacha le fáil, ach téigh i dteagmháil liom: [gaeilg@ccwest.org](mailto:gaeilg@ccwest.org), 510 881 5958

*You will be very welcome here in Hayward for the next Gaeltacht Night, on Sunday the 21st March 2004 (the third Sunday of the month, as usual), for conversation in Irish and a music and sean-nós singing session. The next one: 18 April 2004. Get in touch with me for directions: [gaeilg@ccwest.org](mailto:gaeilg@ccwest.org), 510 881 5958.*

"Ádh an phóta" don dhínnéar, agus seisiún sa gháirdín ina dhiaidh sin, más mian linn (cuirfidh muid tine síos má tá an aimsir fuair), nó beidh muid sa teach dá mbeadh sé ro-fhuar Íosfaidh muid thart fá 6:30 nó 7.00, agus cuirfidh muid tús ar an seisiún ag a 8:00pm nó mar sin.

*Pot luck for the dinner, and a session in the garden after that, if we like (we'll have a fire if the weather is cold), or we'll be in the house if it should be too cold. We'll eat at around 6.30 or 7.00, and start the session at 8:00 or so.*

Nikki Ragsdale,  
Treóráí na Gaeilge, CCE



### **March 2004 EVENTS**

Tuesday	2	Membership meeting at UICC, 7:30
Thursday	4	Set dancing at the Plough, Shannon Ceili Band, 8:00PM
Monday	8 & 29	Cooley Keegan Session at Ireland's 32 (slow session, 7:30 pm)
Thursdays	11, 18, 25	Dancing at Sunset Rec., then at the Plough with Topsy House
Friday	12	Harp concert with Grainne Hambly, UICC, 7:00 pm
Sunday	14	<b><i>St. Patrick's Day Parade !</i></b>
Sunday	21	Gaeltacht night, in Hayward
Sunday	28	Family Ceili at the UICC

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

**Address Correction Requested**

March 2004 SCÉAL EILE