

May 2003

Scéal Eile

Bealtaine 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
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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,

It's time again for the North American Comhaltas convention, being held this year in Boston, which I'm sure will be hosting a marvelous event. Even "as we speak" (or "as you read this", more accurately!) many of our members are probably dancing up a storm in a set dance workshop, or playing their favorite tunes in sessions throughout the hotel, or taking the opportunity to chat with friends from around the country. As usual, there will be a large and enthusiastic contingent representing the Cooley-Keegan branch, especially considering the travel required for these usually East Coast events.

Unfortunately I won't be attending this year, but I *will* be actively recruiting among this year's attendees for a short "report" for next month's Scéal, so we can all get a bit of the feeling of being there.... Hopefully there will be some good photos taken as well!

May also marks a milestone for our musical friends in the band *Tipsy House*: as you may know, they have been involved in recording, editing, mixing and otherwise perfecting their first CD, and it has now been released! In addition to providing great traditional Irish music for pure listening enjoyment, "*Sets in the City*" is arranged to accompany three of the more popular set dances: the Corofin, West Kerry, and Clare Plain sets. Additional waltzes round out the recording, and help give it the feeling of being at the Plough and Stars on a Thursday night. Such a project requires a tremendous amount of time and energy, and our heartiest congratulations go to Jack, Kevin and Richard on completing it!

Finally, I'd like to highlight an event which has developed into one of my personal favorites to be involved with – on April 13th our branch held the second Children's Ceili of the year. We had a fine turnout of both youngsters and their families and everyone seemed to enjoy the ceili dances, songs, and general

carousing! Michael and Maureen Murphy deserve most of the credit for making this all run so well, and I'd encourage anyone with young children who might enjoy an hour or two of fun and making friends to join us! There will be one in the summer, and a "special edition" with special guests and activities in October ... more details to follow!

Slan,
Michael R.

GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meetings of the membership will be on **Tuesday, May 6th and 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

We would like to extend our sincere sympathy to **Anne and Olive Quilter** and their family on the recent passing of **Tom Quilter.**

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 3rd and 4th Avenues). This month they will be on **MONDAY, May 12th and May 26th** 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 scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st at 7:30 p.m.. The location is **713 San Conrado, Apt. #8** in Sunnyvale. Please contact Deirdre McNamara (408-830-0230) or Michael Murphy (415-564-7188).

The Clifford-Hoban Branch in the Santa Cruz/Monterey area hosts a **monthly CEILI** on the 2nd 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

There is now regularly scheduled LIVE MUSIC and SET DANCING at Ireland's 32. 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**. 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 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 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 **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.

Other Irish Language/Cultural Events

Beidh Oíche Ghaeltachta againn ar an 18 Bealtaine (an triú Domhnach de mhí, mar is gnáth). An chéad ceann eile: 15 Meitheamh, 2003. Dinnéar agus comhrá i nGaeilge ag a 6.30 pm. Agus ina dhiaidh sin (thart fá a 8.00 a chlog - 10.00 nó mar sin): seisiún ceoil traidisiúinta agus amhránaíochta sean-

nóis na hÉireann. Ach is féidir go mbeidh muid in áit eile seachas an UICC an uair sin... gábh i dteagmháil liom fá dtaobh de, led'hoill, i gcás gur mhaith leat teacht.

We'll have a Gaeltacht Night on 18 May (the third Sunday of the month, as usual). The next one after it: 15 June, 2003. Dinner and conversation in Irish at 6:30 pm. And following that (about 8:00 o'clock - 10 or so): session for Irish traditional music and sean-nós singing. But it's possible that we'll be in a different place than the UICC that time... get in touch with me about it, please, if you'd like to come.

Gaeilge-cce@onesourcegraphics.com, 510 881 5958

Idir an dá linn, go dté sibh slán!
In the meantime, be well!

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*

May/June 2003 EVENTS

Tues. 5/6, 6/3	General meeting at <u>UICC</u> , 7:30 p.m.
Thurs. 5/1, 6/5	Set dancing , Shannon Ceili Band, @ <u>Plough</u> , 8:00
Sun. 5/11, 5/25, 6/8, 6/22	Set and Ceili Dancing , Ireland's 32, 7 p.m.
Mon. 5/12, 5/26	Music Sessions at <u>Ireland's 32</u> , 7:30 p.m.
Wed. 5/14, 5/28, 6/11, 6/25	Set Dancing at <u>Scruffy Murphy's</u> , 8 p.m.
Thur. 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29 6/12, 6/19, 6/26	Set Dancing Lessons at <u>Sunset Rec. Center</u> , 7:30

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