

November 2002

Scéal Eile

Samhain 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 us at www.ccewest.org!

- FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

Dear Friends and Members,

Another month come and gone, and we are truly into the "dark" seasons again - we've shifted the clocks, and the sun now sets before we finish our day's work and return home. While at times it may feel like a call to hibernate (!), it's also a fine time to gather with like-minded friends in the evenings, perhaps in a pub, home or community hall, and tell stories, sing songs, play tunes, or otherwise indulge in traditional fun. Although few of us may have a direct connection to the harvest itself, we still enjoy the spirit of Samhain and the season. We are looking forward to just this sort of spirit at the *"Oíche Shamhna"* (November night) Céilí, on November 9th.

I am also happy to observe that our branch itself is developing friendly "neighbors" in this part of the world. As we have noted in recent months within these pages, there are now growing Comhaltas branches in the Monterey-Santa Cruz area (Clifford-Hoban Branch) and in Los Angeles (Larry Bane Branch). While it is always nice to hear that interested people in a given area have

organized to become a CCE branch, it's especially important to me that these groups are "nearby" (relative to other branches, at least!), and that we are establishing some good connections with them.

Several of our members have been to the monthly céilís in Felton, and have been warmly welcomed at these fine events, which are held in a marvelous hall. Similarly, a stalwart contingent of our members just completed a trip to the special Halloween Céilí down near Los Angeles, and all reports suggest it was a fun and successful weekend. We look forward to hosting members from these branches at some of our future events, as well!

In addition to extending friendships, there is another benefit to having neighboring branches – as they thrive and grow, there will be better opportunities for us to partner with them in developing special events. When performing groups from Ireland can find audiences all along the West coast, it will be much easier to convince them to extend their tours out our way!

Slán,
Michael Riemer

GENERAL MEETING

As noted in last month's issue, the elections of branch officers will take place at the November General Meeting on **Tuesday, November 5th at 7:30 p.m.** at United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45th Ave. at Sloat).

Please consider contributing some of your time and energy in the coming year to participating actively in the direction of our group, or at least voice your opinions by attending and voting at the meeting. For your planning convenience, note that the General Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month - so the next meeting will be December 3rd, at 7:30 PM.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Coming up quickly, now -- the Annual "**Oíche Shamhna**" (**November night**) **Céili will be held on Saturday, November 9th**, at the Star of the Sea Hall (8th and Geary, S.F.) from 7:00 to 10:30 PM. It's been a good few months since we've had a Ceili Mor, so be sure to come out and join us! Its a great hall for a big dance, and we are preparing special entertainment treats in addition to the marvelous dancing and traditional music that make these evenings special.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A special fund raiser is being held by the Michael Coleman (NY) Branch of CCE to benefit Margie O'Driscoll, who has volunteered much time and effort to CCE North America in recent years, but who is still recovering from a major stroke. Raffle tickets (\$5 each, 1st prize trip to Ireland) are available through Joannie O'Leary (415-664-6579). Tickets will also be available at our November 9th Ceili, for those attending and wishing to support this excellent cause.

***Gentle Reminder:** Enclosed in the previous issue was the form for renewing your membership in CCE. If you've already returned it to us, thanks very much for your timely response! If, on the other hand, it has eluded your attention to this point, please take a few moments to fill it out and return it with your dues, so that we can count on you as continuing supporters of Comhaltas and all that it represents.*

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, October 14th** and **October 28th** from 7:30 p.m.

Those same evenings, starting at 9:00, more experienced musicians are encouraged to join in on the faster, **more TRADITIONAL SESSION** which follows. All are welcome to come listen as well! Interested? Contact either Michael Riemer (510-548-4727; chair@ceewest.org) or Michael Duffy (650-592-2602; cosgrach@tsoft.com).

The next **SONG AND STORYTELLING SESSION** will be held in the South Bay, on Friday, November 15th at the home of Michael Jones, in San Jose. The evening is scheduled to start around 8:00 PM. Contact Michael at (408) 247-7563 or mfj@iee.org for directions or additional information.

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

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 Avenues in San Francisco.

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). Usually, this is followed by a trek out to the **Plough and Stars** for more set dancing to the inspiring sounds of Topsy House!!!

Please note: there won't be any class on November 28th as it is Thanksgiving Day!

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.

Good news! Contrary to rumors of its possible demise, the **Palo Alto Céilís** will continue on the **3rd Saturday** of every month at 8 p.m. at the **Midpeninsula YWCA** (4161 Alma Street in Palo Alto). For information regarding the next one of these events, call Lynne at 650-325-6050.

Traditional Irish Step Dancing with Catherine Brosnan. Catherine 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 her at **650-615-9229** or cbrosnan@netwiz.net for more information.

Other Irish Language/Cultural Events

Oíche Ghaeltachta! *An bhfuil Gaeilge agat, nó an bhfuil tú á foghlaim? Ar mhaith leat feidhm a bhaint as an teanga álainn seo? Bíonn deis iontach le fail ar an trídú Domnach gach aon mhí, fá choinne comhrá Gaeilge, chomh maith le seisiún ceoil traidisiúnta agus amhránaíochta sean-nóis na hÉireann! Cruinnítear sa Chultúrlann (UICC) i San Francisco. Dinnéar agus comhrá i nGaeilge ag a 6.30 i.n. sa bhialann. Seisiún sa bheárr ina dhiaidh sin (thart fá 8.00 – 10.00 nó mar sin). An chéad ceann eile: 17 Samhain. Fáilte roimh chách! Tuilleadh eolais: Nikki Ragsdale, Gaeilge-cce@OneSourceGraphics.com, 510-881-5958.*

Gaeltacht Evening! Do you have Irish or are you learning it? Would you like to use this beautiful language? There's a great opportunity the third Sunday of each month, for Irish conversation, as well as a traditional session at the UICC in San Francisco! Dinner and conversation in Irish begin at 6:30 p.m. in the restaurant, and the session follows in the bar at around 8 to 10 p.m. Our next one will be November 17th. Everyone is welcome (beginners, too)! For information, contact [Nikki Ragsdale](mailto:Nikki Ragsdale@OneSourceGraphics.com) at Gaeilge-cce@OneSourceGraphics.com, or 510-881-5958.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Need to contact me? The best means is now write2anichka@hotmail.com. -- Anne.

Comhaltas
NOVEMBER 2002 EVENTS

Tues. 11/5	General meeting , w/ Branch elections, at <u>UICC</u>
Thurs. 11/7	Set dancing , Shannon Ceili Band, @ <u>Plough</u> , 8:00
Sat. 11/9	“Oíche Shamhna” Ceili , Star of the Sea, 7:00 – 10:30
Mon. 11/11, 11/25	Music Sessions at <u>Ireland’s 32</u> , 7:30 p.m.
Wed. 11/13, 11/27	Set Dancing at <u>Scruffy Murphy’s</u> , 8 p.m.
Thur. 11/14, 11/21	Set Dancing Lessons at <u>Sunset Rec. Center</u> , 7:30
Sun. 11/17	Irish Language Evening at <u>UICC</u> , 6:30 p.m.

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Address Correction Requested

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