



SCÉAL ÉILE



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OF COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN

⌘ FROM THE CHAIRMAN ⌘

Dear friends and members,

I'm writing this month's column hard on the heels of our recent "West Region Convention", and I cannot skip off onto other topics without devoting at least a few lines to that special event.

For those of you unable to attend, I am happy to report that all of the weekend's activities were successful. The instructors at the Saturday workshops did a fine job by all accounts, and the ceili that evening was one of the most enjoyable in my experience – in no small part due to the talent, grace and good humor of our visitors for the weekend, John Whelan and Michael Breen. The rather unusual atmosphere of the dance hall may have also contributed! On Sunday, the children's workshop, session at the Plough, and of course the big concert featuring John at the UICC were also well done, in spite of our ambitious scheduling and some surprises with the facilities. A large number of our members (too long to list!) put substantial effort into planning and executing these two full days, and it clearly showed in the quality. My thanks to you all on behalf of the branch, for your commitment to making this convention such a good experience!

For those of you unable to attend, however, it would also be misleading if I didn't note that we missed you. While the quality of the events all weekend was strong, the only consistent detracting factor was the somewhat disappointing attendance. We were unable to attract many people from outside the Bay Area to this "West Regional" event, and did not see as many of the local musicians, dancers, and other fans of Irish music that I had expected

would turn out for at least some part of the festivities... on the other hand, we did meet some new people, make some new friends, and hopefully spread the awareness of Comhaltas and its cultural opportunities a bit more broadly through these new contacts.

Well, so much for "a few lines"! In the short space remaining, let me remind you of a few key upcoming dates: the membership meeting for November is on Tuesday the 2nd, and while the Cooley-Keegan elections that evening (for next year's officers) are clearly not as crucial as our nation's election on that day, just think – you actually CAN vote more than once that day. Also, mark your calendars for our annual November (Samhain) Ceili, to be held on Sunday the 14th!

Slán,
Michael R.

⌘ GENERAL MEETING ⌘

The next General Meetings of the Membership will be on **Tuesday, November 2nd and December 7th at 7:30 p.m.** at the United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45th Ave. at Sloat).

CCE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please remember to send in your renewal for 2005. We must send the membership list to Ireland by December so you will receive your Treoir Magazine in a timely manner. You will find the Membership Form on-line at http://sf.ccewest.org/misc/join_cceck.html or contact Joannie O'Leary at 415 664-6579 and we will mail you one. Your membership helps to support our branch. Please Renew Now!!!!

Many thanks,
Joannie



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

☘ Children's Ceili ☘ Special Report

Our numbers this year at the Children's Ceilis have skyrocketed to 30-35 kids on average with parents in tow. This surge began at our February 2004 Ceili and, ironically, it was not too well advertised, but that's OK. The power of the word-of-mouth is never to be underestimated, and a steady flow of supportive families and energetic youngsters have been gracing our Cooley-Keegan Branch ever since. Presently, we just experienced a double-feature of two October events designed for children

- October 10th – CCE Children's Ceili that happened at the United Irish Cultural Center. This regular event has been growing as fast as the Millere kids who have been attending since its inception. That's right, the very first Children's Ceili started way back in September of 1997! It's still going strong! On this second Sunday of October, we witnessed a population explosion of 43 kids (a grand new record), and as one delighted parent pointed out: most of these kids had new faces. Oh we had a few hearty regulars all right such as Emily, the Gannons, the Lyons (the list goes on), but the special, energetic nature of this afternoon owes much its success to the new families as well as the regulars filled with mostly 4-10 year olds. (Toddlers and tweens are also welcome.)
- October 24th – Children's Tin Whistle workshops led by Deirdre McKinney and Martine Millere and Accordion Demonstration and Workshop led by our featured weekend performer, John Whelan. It was quite a sight to see and treasure John intensely and supportively giving tips one-on-one to our bright, young accordionist, Sean O'Donnell, who was tenaciously and enthusiastically adapting some of Mr. Whelan's helpful hints about how to effectively manage the challenging notes pouring out of an accordion

Much deserved thanks goes out to:

- The Kids' Ceili Band, comprised of Michael Riemer and Anne Goess, who have generously brought live music back to the Children's Ceilis.
- Maureen Murphy, who is the caterer, sing-song leader, as well as the overall organizer of these fun, vital events for our community of kids and their families.
- Florence Keighran for helping organize these events.

These Children's sing-songs, musical demonstrations and workshops, and Ceili dances not only give life and a future for our Comhaltas-by-the-Bay and West Region, but more importantly, it provides a fun outlet for children to explore Irish culture rich in history, language, music, song, stories and dance. The Cooley-Keegan Children's Ceilis help our young attendees share and cherish memories that will last their whole lifetime.

Any families out there who have yet to experience these magical moments with the big Murphy kids and friends are just a phone call or mouse click away from getting information about when and where the Kids' Ceilis occur. Our next children's Ceili will be announced at our November Night Ceili (11/14).

☘ Special Performances ☘

Thursdays in November feature special guest performances at the Plough and Stars.

- Nov 4th – Shannon Ceili Band
- Nov. 11th - Barry O'Connor & Vinnie Cronin
- Nov 18th - Andrew MacNamara
- Nov 25th – Thanksgiving – no class or dancing

On Wednesday, November 10th, the Band "No Hiding Place" (www.nohidingplace.net) is performing at the Plough and Stars, featuring our own Judy Forrest on vocals and guitar. In addition to early country songs they play waltzes and reels that are great for dancing.

☘ Irish Network Ceili ☘

IRISH NETWORK CEILI: Saturday, November 6, 8:30 p.m. until 11 p.m (People gather as early as 8 p.m.); St. Athanasius Parish Hall, 160 N. Rengstorff Ave, Mountain View; admission is \$8 that includes 2 complimentary drink tickets. LIVE MUSIC. Ceili instructor on hand to guide dancers through the Ceili dances. All levels welcome. Mostly ceili dances are done, but there is always at least one set dance to be done. Plenty of parking available in the lot behind St. Athanasius Church. Contact: Michael Murphy (415) 564-7188.



☘ COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OFFICERS ☘

CHAIRMAN: **MICHAEL RIEMER** (chair@ccwest.org) 510-548-4727
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Dé Domhnaigh Sunday	Dé Luan Monday	Dé Mairt Tuesday	Dé Céadaoin Wednesday	Déardaoin Thursday	Dé h-Aoine Friday	Dé Sathairn Saturday
October 31	November 1	2 <u>CCE Meeting</u> 7:30 UICC	3 <u>Set Dancing</u> 8PM Scruffy Murphy's Sunnyvale	4 <u>Set Dancing</u> 8:00 Plough and Stars	5 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Deirdre McNamara's San Jose	6 <u>November Ceili</u> 8:30PM St. Athanasius Parish Hall
7 <u>Seisiún</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars	8 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> 8PM Ireland's 32	9 <u>Set Dancing</u> 8:30 PM O'Neil's San Mateo	10 "No Hiding Place" Starring Judy Forest 9PM Plough and Stars	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> 7:30 Sunset Rec Center 9:30 Plough and Stars	12	13
14 <u>November Ceili</u> 7PM UICC <u>Seisiún</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars	15	16 <u>Set Dancing</u> 8:30 PM O'Neil's San Mateo	17	18 <u>Set Dancing</u> 7:30 Sunset Rec Center 9:30 Plough and Stars	19	20
21 <u>Oíche Ghaeltachta</u> Mountain View <u>Seisiún -</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars	22	23 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars	24	25 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> No Dancing	26	27
28 <u>Seisiún</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars	29 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> 8PM Ireland's 32	30 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	December 1 <u>Set Dancing</u> 8PM Scruffy Murphy's Sunnyvale	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> 8:00 Plough and Stars	3	4

⌘ Song and Storytelling ⌘

The next Song and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Deirdre McNamara in the South Bay (4400 The Woods Drive #521, San Jose, CA 95136) on Friday, November 5th; 7:30 p.m. until 11-ish. Admission is free. Beginners, intermediates, and veterans of Irish and other types of Celtic songs and stories are all welcome.

Contact: Deirdre McNamara 408 568-9280 Email: mcnamaradee@hotmail.com

⌘ November Céili (Oíche Shamhna) ⌘

Sunday November 14th, United Irish Cultural Center, St. Patrick's Room (upstairs); 7-10PM. Live Irish music, Sing-alongs. Admission Adults: \$10, Children: Free.

⌘ Gaeilge - Irish Language ⌘

Oíche Ghaeltachta, Hayward, Dé Domhnaigh an 21ú Samhain 2004, 6.30 i.n. (3ú Domhnach de mhí) --- comhrá as Gaeilge agus seisiún ceoil agus amhránaíocht ar an tsean-nós. "Ádh an phóta": 6.30 ; seisiún 8:00 i.n. An chéad ceann eile: 19 Nollaig 2004, i Hayward. Seoldh agus treoreacha le fáil: gaeilge@ccwest.org, 510 881 5958

Gaeltacht Night, Hayward, Sunday the 21st November 2004, 6.30 p.m. (3rd Sunday of the month) --- conversation in Irish and a music and sean-nós singing session. "Pot luck": 6.30; session: 8:00 p.m.. Next one: 19 December 2004, in Hayward. Directions: gaeilge@ccwest.org, 510 881 5958.

Set Dancing

1st Thursday - 8PM - Shannon Ceili Band at the Plough and Stars.

2nd through Last Thursday - 7:30 to 9:30 Lessons at the Sunset Recreation Center (on Lawton at 28th Ave.)

Following the lessons 9:30 - Topsy House performs at the Plough and Stars. Dancers are encouraged to contribute about \$5 to help support this great opportunity

2nd and 3rd Tuesday - 8:30 PM to 11:00 PM - Josephine Moore teaches at O'Neil's in San Mateo

(B Street, just up from 2nd. take the 3rd street exit from 101). Call 650-372-9659 for details.

1st Wednesday - Scruffy Murphy's in Sunnyvale. Michael Murphy teaches. Lessons begin at 8PM with live music beginning at 9:00. Call 415-564-7188 for details.

Music Seisiún

Slow Seisiún - 8PM Ireland's 32 Pub (3920 Geary Blvd. Between 3rd and 4th Ave.) two Mondays each month.

Intended for beginners learning to play traditional Irish tunes. Starting at 9PM more experienced musicians are encouraged to join in on the faster paced, more Traditional Seisiún which follows. All are welcome to come listen as well. Contact Michael Riemer or Michael Duffy for more information.

Slow Seisiún - 8:30 Plough and Stars -- Michael Duffy is also hosting a Slow Seisiún one Tuesday each month.

Seisiún - 8:30 Sundays at the Plough and Stars, various hosts.

Song and Storytelling Seisiún - held on the first Friday. See the calendar page for this month's location.

Cooley-Keegan Branch of
COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
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Address Correction Requested

November 2004 **SCÉAL FILE**