

October 2002

Scéal Eile Deireadh Fómhair 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 our web site at www.ccewest.org!

☞ *FROM THE CHAIRMAN...*

Dear Friends and Members,

It's been two months since our last issue – I hope those late summer months included some time for travel and other outdoor enjoyment for many of you. I am just now completing my summer travels, as I write this from New Zealand, where it is just turning to Spring! I'm off this evening to a few Irish music sessions in Wellington, and will report back on the scene here....

For those who were unable to join us, I am very pleased to report that our first "Music Workshop" event on August 25th was a big success. There were over 70 people registered for the afternoon's events, which included 15 different workshops, ranging from beginning tin whistle through harp, uilleann pipes, and singing in Irish. It was a treat to see and hear so much music throughout the United Irish Cultural Center, including the impromptu sessions in whatever

corners were available! Much of the credit for the day's success was due to the quality teaching of the instructors, who volunteered to share their talent and insights into the music. As a group, we received numerous compliments from those who attended, and most were directed toward the excellent teaching.

Apart from the music and learning itself, the day was also successful in bringing together people from across the Bay Area (and beyond!) who share a keen interest in traditional Irish music. It was instructive – and rather surprising – to learn how many of these people have been active in Irish music for some years, but were entirely unaware of our Comhaltas branch and its activities. Certainly there is a broad community of people interested in Irish culture throughout northern California. Hopefully there will be many opportunities to collaborate with some of these "new friends" in the near future, especially as we look to build upon the

enthusiasm from these Workshops in developing our music program.

Looking ahead, we are approaching a busy fall season of music and dancing events, including a Children's Céilí later this month, and our holiday céilís in November and December. We look forward to seeing you at some of these events, as well as our regular sessions and dance evenings....

Slán, Michael Riemer (510-548-4727 or chair@ ccewest.org)

GENERAL MEETING

Our next General Meeting, which is open to ALL MEMBERS, will be on **Tuesday, October 1, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.** at United Irish Cultural Center (2700 – 45th Ave. at Sloat, S.F.). All members are invited and encouraged to attend!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Children's Céilí has been in the works, possibly for Sunday, October 13th. Please check with Maureen Murphy at 415-661-0351 for details!

CCÉ SESSIONS

Our **SLOW SESSIONS** are open to beginners who are learning to play traditional Irish tunes. These will now be held TWICE A MONTH. and our next sessions will be on **MONDAY, October 14th** and **October 28th** from 7:30 p.m. at Ireland's 32 pub (3920 Geary Boulevard, S.F., between 3rd and 4th avenues). Starting at 9:00, **more experienced musicians** are welcome to join in on a faster paced, more traditional

session. ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND LISTEN AS WELL! Interested? Contact either Michael Riemer(510-548-4727; chair@ccewest.org) or Michael Duffy (650-592-2602; cosgrach@ tsoft.com).

Where will our next **SONG AND STORYTELLING SESSION** be? Please contact Michael Murphy at 415-564-7188 or irishboogieman@yahoo.com for more information and directions!

The Clifford-Hoban Branch in the Santa Cruz/ Monterey area also hosts a number of **slow sessions**. Interested? Please contact Linda (831-688-5729).

CCÉ and Bay Area Dance Events

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 **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 **Tipsy House!!!**

Josephine Moore is back to teaching her **set dancing** classes at UICC on first and third Wednesdays 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 details.

NEED MORE SET DANCING? You can surely find it at **Scruffy Murphy's** (187 South Murphy Avenue, 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. Michael Murphy leads these popular evenings of set dancing, and more information can be obtained from him by calling 415-564-7188.

The Palo Alto céilís take place on the **3rd Saturday** of every month at 8 p.m. at the **Midpeninsula YWCA** (4161 Alma Street in Palo Alto). The cost is \$10 for adults and children are free. For information regarding the next one of these well-attended events, you may call Lynne at 650-325-6050.

Traditional Irish Step Dancing with Catherine Brosnan. Catherine Brosnan 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 Catherine at **650-615-9229** or e-mail: **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 triú 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: 16 Meitheamh. Fáilte roimh chách! Tuilleadh eolais:

Nikki Ragsdale, [Gaeilge-cce@](mailto:Gaeilge-cce@OneSourceGraphics.com)

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 (2700 – 45th Ave. at Sloat) 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. or so. Our next one will be on October 20th. Everyone is welcome (beginners, too)! For information, contact Nikki Ragsdale at Gaeilge-cce@OneSourceGraphics.com, or 510-881-5958.

OCTOBER 2002 EVENTS

Tues., 10/1 – **Cooley-Keegan Branch GENERAL MEETING**, UICC, 7:30 p.m.

Wed., 10/2, 10/16 -- **Set Dancing Lessons** at UICC, 8 p.m.

Thur., 10/3 – **Set Dancing** at The Plough and Stars, 8 p.m.

Wed., 10/9, 10/23 – **Set Dancing** at Scruffy Murphy's, 8 p.m.

Thur. 10/10, 10/17, 10/24 – **Set Dancing Lessons** at Sunset Rec. Center, 7/30 p.m.

Mon. 10/14, 10/28 – **Slow Session** at Ireland's 32, 7:30 p.m.

Sun. 10/20, **Irish Language Evening** at UICC, 6:30 p.m.111111111111111111

EDITOR'S NOTE: Need to contact me?
The best means is now

write2anichka@hotmail.com. -- Anne.

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Address Correction Requested

OCTOBER 2002 SCÉAL EILE