

August 2003

Scéal Eile

Lúnasa 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,

I hope this mid-summer finds you and your families out and about, enjoying the long hours of daylight and some well earned vacation time. Our "Comhaltas Family" hasn't really had a summer vacation this year, with all the special guests and events in the works, but now that its all arranged we get to enjoy them as they unfold!

I'm writing this on the heels of our Workshop and Ceili with Yutaka Usui and the Donncha Lynch Band. The afternoon workshop was a real treat for those of us who are looking to learn some of the footwork that can make each of the traditional sets a bit more distinctive. I also found it fun because of the extra emphasis on the rhythm – makes one feel more connected to the music, instead of just dancing along while tunes go by... Much of the workshop focused on the steps that accompany the Clare reels, but we also learned bits for a few Kerry sets, which were appropriate for the evening ahead!

The Donncha Lynch Band which played for the Ceili, is from the Sliabh Luachra area, and while the reels and jigs were great,

the lift which they brought to the slides and polkas was – “sublime”? Is that possible for polkas? After Saturday, I think it is! My thanks to Michael Duffy for coordinating Yutaka's visit, and even arranging a set of music workshops with the band members under difficult circumstances

So, while on the subject of Ceilis, what's next? Very important change of date: the North Bay Ceili that we've been putting together for a while now has been rescheduled to Saturday, **October 4th**. That will be a more traditional Ceili, with a mix of ceili dances, sets, perhaps a bit of entertainment, and of course great music. We hope the moving target date has not inconvenienced anyone. I'm off now for my vacation (week of Irish tunes and dancing at the Lark in the Morning camp), but I hope to see you at the Plough on August 9th...

Slan,
Michael R.

LAST MINUTE REMINDER !!!!

Come see and hear the talented youngsters from Clare that make up the

BAREFIELD CEILI BAND

Thursday, August 7th at the UICC

GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meetings of the membership will be on **Tuesday, August 5th and September 2nd 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

Don't forget – the **Barefield Ceili Band** Concert is coming up soon, on August 7th! If you haven't ordered tickets in advance, you can still get them at the door! The concert begins at 8:00, with doors opening at 7:00 – should be a great night!

There will be a special Ceili at the **Plough and Stars Pub on Saturday, August 23rd**. Topsy House will be providing the lively music, and based on the previous occasions, it should be a fine night of set and ceili dancing, and a good chance to bring along some friends who are wondering what this Irish dancing is all about...

Cuir snas ar do chuid Gaeilge!
Practice hearing and speaking Irish!

Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta!
. (Gaeltacht Weekend – SF Bay Area Irish Language Immersion Weekend), September 26-28, 2003. 6:00 pm Friday through 4:30 pm Sunday, at the UICC. For details contact Nikki at: 510-881-5958, or gaeilge@OneSourceGraphics.com.

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, August 11th and August 25th** beginning at 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) or Michael Duffy (cosgrach@tsoft.com).

The next **SONG AND STORYTELLING SESSION** will be hosted by Judy Forrest in El Cerrito, on Friday, August 8th. For directions or other information contact Judy at 510-235-5883 or call Michael Murphy at 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 – that's **August 8th**, this month. They have also been hosting **slow sessions**. Please contact Linda Preston (831-688-5729) for 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 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 St at 28th Ave). 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 (August 13 and 27), with lessons starting at 8:00 p.m. and dancing to live music beginning at about 9:00. These popular evenings of set dancing are led by **Michael Murphy**, and more information can be obtained by calling him at 415-564-7188.

Palo Alto Céilís have been discontinued due to closure of the **Midpeninsula YWCA**. For further details, or suggestions about possible alternate venues for this dance in the future, contact Lucy Geever (408-885-0811 or lgeever@yahoo.com).

Other Irish Language/Cultural Events

A Chairde!
Friends!

Beidh fáilte romhaibh anseo i Hayward aríst, don Oíche Ghaeltachta seo chugainn, ar an 20ú Iúil (an triú Domhnach de mhí, mar is gnáth). An chéad ceann eile: an 17ú Lúnasa 2003. Seoaldh agus treoreacha seo thíos.

You will be very welcome here in Hayward for the next Gaeltacht Night, on the 20th July (the third Sunday of the month, as usual). The next one will be: the 17th August 2003.

Ádh an Phóta a bheith i gceist don dhínnéar aríst (agus thiocfadh linn bia a ordú isteach fostá), agus seisiún sa gháirdín! Dinnéar thart fá 6:30pm, agus seisiún ina dhiaidh sin, ag a 8:00pm nó mar sin.

Pot luck for the dinner again (and we could also order food in), and a session for Irish traditional music and sean-nós singing in the garden. Dinner at around 6:30pm and session after that, at 8:00pm or so.

AGUS, ná déanagaí dearmad ar an Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta 2003 San Francisco, 26-28 Meán Fómhair! :-). Tá sonraí agus foirm iarratais le fáil ar an leathanach seo: <http://www.GrafxSource.com/Gaeilge/DeireadhSeachtaine.html>

AND, don't forget the San Francisco Irish Language Immersion Weekend, 26-28 September! Details and a registration form at the above URL.

Beannachtaí,
Nikki

Address and directions available: (510) 881 5059, gaeilge-cce@onesourcegraphics.com.

Anyone in the Comhaltas "family" interested in developing content and assisting with the layout and production of our newsletter? It's a good way to stay informed of all we are doing...

It's a big job to take on every month, and Anne Brenneis has contributed a great deal in putting these together for a good long while now – thanks Anne!

MR

August 2003 EVENTS

Thursday	7	Concert with the BAREFIELD CEILI BAND, & guest performers! 8:00 PM at the UICC
Friday	8	Singing session in El Cerrito, at Judy Forrest's
Saturday	9	Barefield at the Plough
Monday	11 & 25	Cooley Keegan Session at Ireland's 32 (slow session, 7:30 pm)
Thursdays	14, 21, 28	Set dancing lessons at Sunset Rec., dancing after at the Plough
Sunday	17	Oiche Gaeltachta, dinner and session with Irish language
Saturday	23	Ceili at the Plough and Stars

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