

January 2003

# Scéal Eile

Eanáir 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:** Michael Duffy  
**Public Relations:** Josephine Brogan ~ **Secretary/Registrar:** Joannie O'Leary  
**Newsletter Editor:** Anne Schaack ~ **Webmaster:** Cathy Shea  
**Treasurer:** Maureen Murphy ~ **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](http://www.ccewest.org)!

## - FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

Dear Friends and Members,

*Happy New Year!*

I hope the holiday season was an enjoyable time for all in our community, despite the occasional rough weather and the more troubling (if less literal) dark clouds looming over the national horizon...

Within Comhaltas, we are already looking forward to some fine special events in the year ahead, including:

- A visit from Patrick O'Dea in late February, who we hope will be teaching us a bit more of the "sean nos" step dancing in addition to the wonderful set dance workshops he leads;
- Full participation in the St. Patrick's Day parade, including the production of our own float;
- Hosting the Barefield Ceili Band, a delightful group of young traditional musicians from Clare, for concerts, sessions and dances in early August;
- Expanded Irish language events, such as several full day workshops;

- Music workshops focused on specific instruments, following up on our big event last August, which will hopefully grow to become a regular program of traditional music instruction.

I won't go into detail on these now, as all are still in their planning stages, and you will be hearing more about the specifics as they approach.

Apart from these special events, of course, our "regular" Comhaltas activities will be going on every week, ranging from set and ceili dancing, to music, singing and Irish language. The times and locations of these are listed each month within this newsletter, along with the contact person. Occasionally, unavoidable changes are necessary for individual events, so it never hurts to check before you attend – we are working hard to make the Comhaltas web site ([www.ccewest.org](http://www.ccewest.org)) a timely and definitive source of information about our events, but you can also check with the contact person directly.

Slán,  
Michael R.

### GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting of the membership will be on **Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** at the United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Sloat). These meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday each month, and all members are encouraged to attend and participate in the planning and discussion of our branch's activities.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**St. Patrick's Day Parade - We need your help.** Plans are in progress to design our float for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. If you are interested in helping, please contact Joannie at 415-664-6579, Maureen at: 415-661-0351 or Josephine at 415-681-4803.

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues). This month they will be on **MONDAY, January 13th** and **January 27th** from 7:30 p.m.

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! Interested? Contact either Michael Riemer (510-548-4727; chair@ceewest.org) or Michael Duffy (650-592-2602; cosgrach@tsoft.com).

Our next **SONG AND STORYTELLING SESSION** will be at the home of Imelda White on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. Please contact Imelda at 650-964-7643 or Michael Murphy at 415-564-7188 for more information and directions.

The Clifford-Hoban Branch in the Santa Cruz/ Monterey area hosts a **monthly CEILI** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> avenues). These lessons form one of the core activities of our branch, and we thank **Michael Murphy** for the fine job he has been doing in leading these classes since November! Beginning in February, we will begin developing a rotation of people to help lead the class, so that more of us will be capable of leading set dancing as our events grow.

Don't forget – following the classes at the Recreation Center (above), 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 **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** of every month at 8 p.m. at the **Midpeninsula YWCA** (4161 Alma Street in Palo Alto). The **NEW** contact person for this event is Lucy Geever, at (408) 885-0811, or lgeever@yahoo.com

***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***

*A Chairde!*

**Friends!**

*Beidh Oíche Ghaeltachta againn ar an 19ú Eanáir (an triú Domhnach de mhí, mar is gnáth).*

**We'll have a Gaeltacht Night on the 19th January (the third Sunday of the month, as usual).**

*Cruinníonn muid sa Chultúrlann (UICC). Dinnéar agus comhrá i nGaeilge ag a 6.30 pm sa bhialann. Agus ina dhiaidh sin (thart fá a 8.00 a chlog - 10.00 nó mar sin): seisiún ceoil traidisiúnta agus amhránaíochta sean-nóis na hÉireann, sa bheárr.*

**We meet at the Irish Cultural Center (UICC). Dinner and conversation in Irish at 6:30 pm in the Restaurant. And following that (about 8:00 o'clock - 10 or so): session for Irish traditional music and sean-nós singing, in the bar area. Tá súil agam go mbeidh sibh uilig ann! I hope you will all be there!**

Beannachtaí,  
Nikki

### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Please be sure to contact me by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for items that need to be included in the next issue of **Scéal Eile**. This includes updated dates and times for regular monthly events! My new phone number is 415-485-4480, and my new email address is [annebrenneis@yahoo.com](mailto:annebrenneis@yahoo.com), -- **Anne**

**Comhaltas**  
**January 2003 EVENTS**

Tues. 1/7	<b>General meeting</b> , w/ Branch elections, at <u>UICC</u>
Thurs. 1/2	<b>Set dancing</b> , Shannon Ceili Band, @ <u>Plough</u> , 8:00
Mon. 1/13, 1/27	<b>Music Sessions</b> at <u>Ireland's 32</u> , 7:30 p.m.
Wed. 1/8, 11/22	<b>Set Dancing</b> at <u>Scruffy Murphy's</u> , 8 p.m.
Thur. 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30	<b>Set Dancing Lessons</b> at <u>Sunset Rec. Center</u> , 7:30
Sun. 1/19	<b>Irish Language Evening</b> at <u>UICC</u> , 6:30 p.m.

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**Address Correction Requested**

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