



SCÉAL ÉILE



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

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear friends and members,

A short note from me this month, as I'm headed out the door soon for a few weeks in Ireland, on summer holidays. This will be the first trip back there for me since 1998, so a good chance to catch up with college friends who moved back home there to be among family, or to raise their own. In the Comhaltas vein, it will also be the first time I'll have the chance to take in the music and dancing mania of Willie Clancy Festival in Milltown – many of the avid set dancers among us have been before, and highly recommend it, so I suppose my expectations are a bit high, but somehow I doubt I will be disappointed!

As some of you may have heard, there will be a celebration for a special new CD that is being released on July 4th, at the festival, that has particular meaning for many of the members of our local Irish music community: The CD comprises the best available recordings of Kevin Keegan, the renowned box player who formed the center of the Irish music scene in San Francisco for many years, and after whom our branch is named. What makes the release of these recordings truly remarkable is that although he was highly regarded as a master musician, he never sought to record albums of his music, and so there has been no easy way until now to hear his style and selection of tunes, for those of us who came to the music more recently.

As I understand it, the new CD has been carefully assembled from a variety of less formal recordings, but should provide a great window on his playing. I plan to pick up at least a few copies, so if you are curious to hear some, let me know...

While I'm away, of course, there will also be great dancing and music workshops here, led by Yutaka Usui and Timmy McCarthy, so don't forget to attend those on the first weekend of July (see inserted flyer). And in the longer term, you'll want to be setting aside the weekend of October 23 and 24th, as that will be the date of the first ever West Region mini-convention, hosted right here in S.F. by our branch, and featuring a concert, ceili, workshops, and other activities. So if you haven't been to one of the big North America Comhaltas conventions, this will be a convenient introduction to these events. Event details and schedule should be finalized shortly, but wanted to get the word out about the dates now!

Slan,
Michael R.

GENERAL MEETINGS

The next General Meetings of the Membership will be on **Tuesday July 6th and August 3^d at 7:30 p.m.** at the United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45th Ave. at Sloat).



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



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Remembering Nora Milligan

On May 15, 2004, Mrs. Nora Milligan, mother of Lew Milligan and great friend of the Cooley-Keegan Branch passed away. Born in Plymouth, England, Mrs. Milligan came to America at age 21. She and her sister traveled 32 days by ship and came through the Panama Canal. This voyage was followed by 25 ocean cruises that took Nora Milligan around the world. She loved her trips back to England and to her husband's family in Ireland. Always in service to others, Mrs. Milligan started her working life at age 15 as a cook in a nursing home in England and at age 51 went back to school and became an LVN. Mr. & Mrs. Milligan are survived by four generations of their family.

It was always a pleasure to meet Mrs. Milligan at our ceili's when she was a regular attendee. She was always interested in everyone and had fascinating stories to tell. She was extremely proud to watch her granddaughter, Jennifer stepdance to tunes played by Lew, during the ceili. Mrs. Milligan came to our November Night Ceili 2003 and so many were delighted to see her and have the chat. She was a lovely and energetic lady and we were fortunate to have known her. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Lew, Judi & Jennifer Milligan and all their family.

Singing Seisuin Hosts Needed

We need hosts for the singing seisuin for the balance of the year (August - December). If anyone is interested in hosting (Always the *First* Friday of the month), they should contact either Diedre McNamara (mcnamaradee@hotmail.com) or Micheal Duffy (cosgrach@tsoft.com)

Congratulations Pat & Kitty

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Pat & Kitty Dillon on celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary recently. Pat has been a long time member of Comhaltas.

Congratulations Fr. O'Reilly

We would also like to mention a long time supporter of CCE Fr Joseph P O'Reilly who celebrated his 65th year as a priest June 2004. Not enough can be said about Fr O. He attended our monthly ceilis for many years and always supported our many activities.

To Fr O'Reilly, our Congratulations and Very Best Wishes from all your friends at CCE.

Thursday Set Dancing

On July 1st we are at a new location - **Penny Reilly's Irish Pub**, 2407 Judah Street @ 29th Avenue, San Francisco.. In August we return to the **Plough and Stars** on Clement.

As this will be a new venue for us, it would be nice to have a large group attend. What better way to start off the 4th July weekend. NOTE: Penny Reilly's serves dinner daily from 4 to 10 pm. Tel: 415-664-4630.

Yutaka Usui Workshops

See enclosed flyers for information on these workshops on July 2nd and 3rd.

On Saturday July 3rd there is a break between the Workshop and Ceili. Josephine Brogan will make a dinner reservation at Park Chow for who ever is interested at 5.30 pm. This restaurant is located at 1240 9th Ave. Let her know if you are interested.

MUSIC SEISIÚNS

Our Slow Seisiuns 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, July 12th and 26th beginning at 7:30 pm. Starting at 9:00 pm, more experienced musicians are encouraged to join in on the faster paced, more Traditional Seisiun which follows. All are welcome to come listen as well! If you have questions, contact Michael Riemer or Michael Duffy.

Michael Duffy is also hosting a **slow seisiún** at the Plough and Stars one Tuesday each month. This month it will be on July 20th, and will start at about 8:30 pm.

The **Song and Storytelling Sessions** are normally held on the **first Friday** each month. **There will not be a session for July.** The August event will be on the 6th, at the home of **Michael Murphy** in San Francisco. For details, contact him at irishboogiemanager@yahoo.com

CCE 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. *For the first Thursday in July we are at a new location **Penny Reilly's Irish Pub**, 2407 Judah Street @ 29th Avenue, 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 at 28th Ave). Immediately following these classes, we head over to the **Plough and Stars** 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.

MORE DANCING

Josephine Moore's set dancing classes at the United Irish Cultural Center are on hiatus for the months of July and August. They will start up again in September. You can contact her at 650-372-9659 for further details.

Michael Murphy is teaching at **Scruffy Murphy's** at 187 South Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale on July 14th and 28rd. Lessons begin at 8:00 pm, with live music beginning at 9:00. Call 415-564-7188 for more details.

IRISH LANGUAGE & CULTURAL EVENTS

A Chairde!

Oíche Ghaeltachta, Hayward, Dé Domhnaigh an 18ú Iúil 2004, 6.30 i.n. (3ú Domhnach de mhí) --- comhrá as Gaeilge agus seisiún ceoil agus amhránaíochtá ar an tsean-nós. "Ádh an phóta": 6.30 ; seisiún 8:00 i.n. An chéad ceann eile: 15 Lúnasa 2004, i Hayward. Seoaladh agus treoreacha le fáil: gaeilge@ccwest.org, 510 881 5958

Gaeltacht Night, Hayward, Sunday the 18th July 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: 15 August 2004, in Hayward. Directions: gaeilge@ccwest.org, 510 881 5958.

Nikki Ragsdale,
Treóraí na Gaeilge, CCE

July 2004 EVENTS

Thursday	1	Set dancing at the <i>Penny Reilly's Irish Pub</i> , Shannon Ceili Band, 8:00PM
		<i>Yutaka Usui & Timmy Mc Carthy workshops</i>
Friday	2	Accordion and Bodhrán, San Carlos
Saturday	3	Set dancing and Ceili at St. John of God
Tuesday	6	Membership meeting at UICC, 7:30
Monday	12 & 26	Cooley Keegan Seisiún at Ireland's 32 (Slow Seisiún, 7:30 pm)
Thursdays	8,15,22,29	Dancing at Sunset Rec., then at the Plough with Topsy House
Wednesday	14,28	Dancing at Scruffy Murphy's, Sunnyvale
Sunday	18	Oíche Ghaeltachta (Gaeltacht Night), Hayward
Tuesday	20	Slow Seisiún, Plough and Stars, 8:30

Cooley-Keegan Branch of
COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
P. O. Box 16244
San Francisco, CA 94116

Address Correction Requested

July 2004 **SCÉAL EILE**



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN

THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH

SET DANCING WORKSHOP AND CEILI WITH Yutaka Usui & Timmy McCarthy

- WHEN:** Saturday, July 3, 2004
- WHERE:** St. John of God Church Hall
1290 5th Avenue (at Irving)
Street, San Francisco
- SET DANCING WORKSHOP:** 1:00 PM TO 5:00 PM
- CEILI (SET DANCING):** 7:00 PM TO 10:30 PM
- ADMISSION:** \$15 for workshop, \$10 for Ceili

At the evening Ceili, we will dance the sets we learn in the workshop, plus other sets we have learned in the past. It is recommended that you attend the workshop or have some set dancing experience to ensure you have an enjoyable night.

For information on Set Dancing, contact Josephine Brogan at (415) 681-4803

Yutaka and Timmy will also be teaching button accordion (C#/D) and bodhrán workshops on Friday evening in San Carlos and possibly on Saturday in San Francisco.

For information on music workshops, contact Michael Duffy at (650) 766-6491

Please leave a message if no answer!

Please visit our website at: <http://sf.ccewest.org>



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN THE COOLEY ~ KEEGAN BRANCH

- PRESENT -

BUTTON ACCORDION (C#/D) AND BODHRÁN WORKSHOPS

- WITH -

YUTAKA USUI & TIMMY MCCARTHY

WHEN: FRIDAY, JULY 2ND, STARTING AT 7:30PM

WHERE: GMW ASSOCIATES
955 INDUSTRIAL ROAD
SAN CARLOS, CA 94070

COST: \$15.00 PER WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

7:30PM TO 8:30PM -

BODHRÁNS FOR BEGINNERS - TIMMY MCCARTHY
BRING YOUR BODHRÁNS OR PIZZA BOXES. FUN FOR ALL!

BUTTON ACCORDION - INTRO 1A - YUTAKA USUI
NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. ACCORDIONS IN THE KEYS OF C#/D WILL BE PROVIDED, BUT IF YOU HAVE ONE BRING IT ALONG.

8:45PM TO 9:45PM -

BUTTON ACCORDION - INTRO 1B - YUTAKA USUI
NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. ACCORDIONS IN THE KEYS OF C#/D WILL BE PROVIDED. SHOULD TAKE 1A, ABOVE.

BUTTON ACCORDION (C#/D) - ADVANCED - TIMMY MCCARTHY
A MORE ADVANCE CLASS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO IMPROVE ON THEIR PLAYING, OR TO PICK UP NEW TRICKS.

SPACE IS LIMITED, SO PLEASE RSVP TODAY!!

CONTACT: MICHAEL DUFFY - COSGRACH@TSOFT.COM OR (650) 766-6491

Please visit our website at: <http://sf.ccewest.org>