

June 2002

# Scéal Eile Meitheamh 2002

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 our web site at [www.ccewest.org](http://www.ccewest.org)!

## - FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

Dear Friends and Members,

Before launching into other matters, I'd like to note that our May Céilis (both kids' and adults'), really indicated to me what potential we have within our group for pulling together a great event. For those who weren't able to be there, Michael Murphy and Maureen Murphy did a wonderful job of leading the children in dancing and singing (and generally having fun!). Just after this, we held a short music session out on the main floor, and it was great to see some of our regulars from the Comhaltas sessions at Ireland's 32 come out and join the more established players for a few tunes. This was followed by a traditional céili, with great dance music from the band, and a sing-along hosted by the stalwart members of our Singing and Storytelling group during a break in the dancing. While the attendance was not particularly high, I thought the quality and the degree of participation was very heartening. If we put together good events that include activities for a wide spectrum of

people, I think word will spread – and more importantly we will enjoy them more!

On a more nostalgic note, most of you are probably aware by now that our good friend, set dance teacher, and former Chairman of the branch Jim Belcher will soon be moving away to Seattle. For many of us who are relatively new to Comhaltas, he is the person we associate with its leadership, and of course the resource we all rely on when we can't recall quickly enough "what's the 4<sup>th</sup> figure of the Cashel set, again?" His enthusiasm has been infectious, and we all appreciate the hospitality he and Erin have shown in hosting those great "dancing on the deck" parties at their home for a number of years now.

But before I make it sound too much like he's passed on, let me point out that he's NOT sailing off into the sunset, never to be heard from again – we hope he will be able to stay in close touch, visit us on occasion, and still find the time for conventions and such. As a branch, though, we will be showing our appreciation through a going away set dancing party, coming up quickly on June 1<sup>st</sup> (see details inside).

Thanks, Jim, for all you've brought to this organization, and best wishes to you and your family as you make this major change!

Slán,

Michael Riemer (510-548-4727 or chair@ccwest.org)

### **GENERAL MEETING**

Our next General Meeting, which is open to ALL MEMBERS, will be on **Tuesday, June 4, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.** at United Irish Cultural Center (2700 – 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Sloat, S.F.). All members are invited and encouraged to attend!

### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. at **Star of the Sea Church Auditorium** (4420 Geary Blvd., at 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., S.F.), there will be a special celebration in honor of **Jim Belcher**, who is moving to Seattle soon and has been instrumental in the cultivation of set dancing in the Bay Area! Be sure and check our web site, [www.ccwest.org](http://www.ccwest.org) for more information!

In case you do not yet have your copy, Ballroom of Romance: the KRB Revisited by our own **Anne O'Brien Hickey** is available from Anne herself (415-664-5676) or at the following locations in San Francisco: Irish Castle Imports, Irish Delights, and Irish Imports.

### **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, June 10th and June 24th** from 7:30 p.m. at **Ireland's 32** pub (3920 Geary Boulevard, S.F., between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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@ccwest.org) or Michael Duffy (650-592-2602; cosgrach@tsoft.com).

When and where will our next **SONG AND STORYTELLING SESSION** be held? Check our website ([www.ccwest.org](http://www.ccwest.org)) for updated information!!

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 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 **Sunset Recreation Center** (on Lawton Street between 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 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 taking a break from her set dancing classes at UICC. Please contact Josephine at 650-372-9659 regarding her classes at O'Neill's pub in San Mateo and the resumption of her UICC classes.

**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.

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 take place 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 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 further 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 ar siúl ar an trúú 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 (thart fá a 8.00 – 10.00 nó mar sin). An chéad ceann eile: 16 Meitheamh. Fáilte roimh chách! Tuilleadh eolais: Nikki Ragsdale, [Gaeilge-cce@OneSourceGraphics.com](mailto:Gaeilge-cce@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 – 45<sup>th</sup> 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 June 16<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome (beginners, too)! For information, contact Nikki Ragsdale at [Gaeilge-cce@OneSourceGraphics.com](mailto:Gaeilge-cce@OneSourceGraphics.com), or 510-881-5958.

#### ***EDITOR'S NOTES \* +***

Do you have any ideas or submissions for our newsletter? Please pass them on to me in writing, either by e-mail or clearly written on a piece of paper. My e-mail address is [nuntiiannae@hotmail.com](mailto:nuntiiannae@hotmail.com). ***Keep in mind that this newsletter is only as informative and accurate as our members make it, via submissions to its editor.*** Thanks! -- Anne

#### ***JUNE 2002 EVENTS***

**\*\*\*PARTY FOR JIM BELCHER AT STAR OF THE SEA AUDITORIUM, 6/1, 5:30 p.m.**

**SET DANCING AT THE PLOUGH AND STARS, Thursday 6/6, 8 p.m.**

**\*\*\*GENERAL MEETING, Tuesday 6/4, 7:30 p.m.**

**\*\*\*SET DANCING LESSONS AT SUNSET REC. CENTER, Thursday, 6/13, 6/20, and 6/27, 7:30 p.m.**

**\*\*\*SLOW SESSIONS AT IRELAND'S 32, Monday 6/10 and 6/24, 7 p.m.**

**\*\*\*GAELTACH EVENING AT UICC, Sunday, 6/16, 6 p.m.**

**\*\*\*SET DANCING AT SCRUFFY MURPHY'S, 6/12 and 6/26, 8 p.m.**

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**Address Correction Requested**

**JUNE 2002 SCÉAL EILE**