



SCÉAL ÉILE



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

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends and Members,

It's official! After several years of ideas, discussions, and planning, a "Western Region" of Comhaltas has been officially formed. In order to get the Region successfully under way, an Organizing Board has been appointed, under the leadership of Jim Belcher (from Seattle), with assistance from Michael Duffy and Aleta Hancock. The new region will represent Comhaltas activities and branches in 11 states ranging from Colorado and New Mexico across to the Pacific coast states. While there are currently only three founding branches in this geographic area (ourselves, the Clifford-Hoban branch in Santa Cruz, and the Vancouver Washington branch), one of the major focuses of the new region will be to encourage and support groups of people interested in Irish culture to develop new branches.

While some of you are already aware of this development, I suspect there are many within our group, especially newer members, who are unfamiliar with the larger structure of Comhaltas, and who may be thinking "what does the region do, and why does it matter which one we are part of?"

This is a very reasonable question, since from a day-to-day viewpoint, our activities as a branch are somewhat disconnected from other parts of Comhaltas around the world. We don't feel a strong influence of the larger organization at our local dances, sessions, children's events, or ceilis.

For those who attend the annual convention, though, it is very clear that the vast majority of members and branches of the North American Province are grouped in the East Coast, both in the US and in Canada. These branches often participate in more regionally coordinated activities, including music and dance competitions, and hosting of special visitors, tours and programs. Our branch here in San Francisco could not easily participate in such events as long as we were organizationally grouped with other "Mid-west" branches (our former affiliation).

As the Western Region grows, then, we look forward to greater coordination with other branches in a widening range of activities, as well as greater opportunities to host events such as the Concert Tour and, yes, a return of the North American Convention back here to San Francisco!

Slan,
Michael Riemer

GENERAL MEETINGS

The next General Meetings of the membership will be on Tuesday, November 4th and December 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.



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 OR VISIT US AT WWW.CCEWEST.ORG!

☞ SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ☞

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please remember that CCE Membership dues for 2004 are due by the November 4th membership meeting. You are welcome to bring renewal forms and fees to set dancing and give to either Joannie, Moe, or Josephine. Otherwise, please mail in ASAP. You can also pay electronically, by going to the CCE website at: http://sf.ccewest.org/misc/join_cceck.html If you need more information, contact Joannie O'Leary.

SPECIAL THANKS

Theresa Joyce would like to extend a special "thank you" to Mary McDonagh and crew, for the Petaluma Céilí held on October 4th. "I enjoyed the music, the dancing, and the hall. The whole atmosphere was lively and entertaining. It brought me back to 1965 and the céilí's I attended in Boston, when I first arrived in America. Thanks again for creating another great memory."

A NEW BABY

Many dancers may remember Dominique and Luke Trudeau. They have been in Washington, D.C. for a couple of years now, however, they still keep in touch with their friends in S.F. Well, their family is growing ~ September 28th, they were blessed with a baby girl, Aimee Rene, weighing 6lbs. 12oz. She was born with a full head of hair, and is the most intriguing "toy" yet, for her 2-year old big-brother, Louis-Michel. Congratulations to the Trudeau family!

☞ CLIFFORD-HOBAN BRANCH ☞

The Clifford-Hoban Branch in the Santa Cruz -Monterey will host a **monthly céilí** on Friday, **November 14th**, at the Felton Community Hall (6191 Hwy 9 in Felton). Lessons begin at 7:30pm and the céilí begins at 8pm with a live band. \$10 for adults, children are free when accompanied by an adult.

They have also been hosting **slow seisiúns**. Please contact Linda Preston (831-688-5729) for information on these events.

☞ IRISH LANGUAGE & CULTURAL EVENTS ☞

A Chairde!
Friends!

Beidh fáilte romhaibh anseo i Hayward don Oíche Ghaeltachta, Dé Domhnaigh an 16ú Samhain 2003 (an triú Domhnach de mhí, mar is gnáth), le haghaidh comhrá as Gaeilge agus seisiún ceoil agus amhránaíocht ar an tsean-nós. An chéad ceann eile: 21 Nollaig, 2003. Seoaldh agus treoreacha le fáil, ach téigh i dteagmháil liom: 510-881-5958, gaeilge-cce@OneSourceGraphics.com

You will be welcome here in Hayward for the next Gaeltacht Night, on Sunday, the 16th November (the third Sunday of the month, as usual), for conversation in Irish and a music and sean-nós singing session. The next one: 21 December 2003. Get in touch with me for directions: 510-881-5958, gaeilge-cce@OneSourceGraphics.com

"Ádh an phóta" don dhínnéar, agus seisiún sa gháirdín ina dhiaidh sin, más mian linn (cuirfidh muid tine síos má tá an aimsir fuair), nó beidh muid sa teach dá mbeadh sé ro-fhuar. Íosfaidh muid thart fá 6:30/7.00, agus cuirfidh muid tús ar an seisiún ag a 8:00pm nó mar sin.

Potluck for the dinner, and a session in the garden after that, if we like (we'll have a fire if the weather is cold), or we'll be in the house if it should be too cold. We'll eat at around 6.30/7.00, and start the session at 8:00 or so.

Nikki Ragsdale,
Treóraí na Gaeilge, CCE

☞ EDITOR'S NOTE ☞

Please contact me no later than the 15th of each month for items to be included in the next issue of the Scéal Eile. This includes updates for regular monthly events! My email address is danalregan@hotmail.com (Dana L. Regan) or my work number is 415-665-4505. Thank you!



☞ COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OFFICERS ☞

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☞ CCÉ DANCING ☞

ANNUAL NOVEMBER NIGHT CÉILÍ

Sunday, November 2nd, will be the annual November Céilí at the United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco. 7-10pm Come celebrate the Celtic New Year, "Oíche Shamhna" with entertainment by Donegal Vocalist, Louise Crossan and additional "Surprise Guests." Adults are \$10, children are free!



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., 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** (Lawton St. at 28th Ave). Immediately following these classes, we head over to the **Plough and Stars** (at about 9:30 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.



A LIVELY NIGHT IN PETALUMA

For those who weren't able to attend, we're happy to report that our first Petaluma Ceili was a rousing success! Over 100 people gathered at the Hermann Sons Hall, including both familiar and new faces, to hear the great music of the Bridge Gap Ceili band, dance a few choice ceili and set dances, and enjoy the step dancing of the Keenan School of Irish Dance, which is based there in Petaluma. It's always a good sign when discussions about "When will the next one be?" crop up before the first one is even over! While we don't have a specific answer for that yet, we are encouraged that these Ceilis in Petaluma could become a major annual event in the years to come.

Many thanks are due to those who worked very hard to make the evening such a success, especially Mary and Frank McDonagh (for putting it all together, from inspiration to closing up the Hall), Michael Murphy (for leading the dancing through the evening) and Michael Duffy (for all the work with the sound system) – without their contributions (and those of many others, as well), there couldn't have been such a Ceili!

☞ MORE DANCING ☞

NEW SAN JOSE CÉILÍ

Irish Céilí Dance with music by "Cooking with Turf." **November 15th** (and every 3rd Saturday of the month) from 7:30--10:30pm at the **Trinity Cathedral**, 81 N 2nd Street at St. John Street, San Jose. Adults are \$10, students \$5, and kids are free. Call Lucy at 408-885-0811, or email Jonathan for more info: ceili@doves.demon.co.uk or <http://www.doves.demon.co.uk/ceili>



Josephine Moore is teaching her **set dancing classes** at the **United Irish Cultural Center** (2700 45th Avenue - across from the SF Zoo) on **Wednesdays**. Classes will start at 8pm. In the past, they have started later, but Josephine has asked to start earlier, or classes may have to be discontinued! So, please try to arrive earlier!

On Tuesdays, Josephine teaches at **O'Neill's** pub in San Mateo around 8:30 pm. Please contact Josephine at 650-372-9659 for further details.



Michael Murphy is teaching at **Scruffy Murphy's** - 187 S. Murphy Ave, in Sunnyvale on **Wednesdays, November 12th & December 10th**. Lessons start at 8:00 pm and dancing to live music begins at 9:00 pm. More information can be obtained by calling him at 415-564-7188.

☞ SONG & STORYTELLING ☞

The next Song and Storytelling Session will be at 8pm, **Friday, November 7th** at Richard Adrianowicz's. He can be reached at: radriano@consrv.ca.gov, or 415-664-2858. His address is 604 Irving Street, #1, San Francisco.

☞ MUSIC SEISIÚNS ☞

Our **Slow Seisiúns** 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 Blvd, S.F., between 3rd and 4th Avenues). This month they will be on Monday, **November 10th & 24th** beginning at 7:30pm. Starting at 9:00 pm, more experienced musicians are encouraged to join in on the faster paced, more **Traditional Seisiún** which follows. All are welcome to come listen as well! If you have questions, contact Michael Riemer or Michael Duffy.



Michael Duffy is hosting a **slow seisiún** at the **Plough and Stars** once a month (nominally on the third Tuesday of the month, starting about 8:00pm). This month it will be on **November 18th**.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Sunday	2nd	November Night Céilí at the UICC ~ 7-10pm
Tuesday	4th	General Membership meeting at UICC ~ 7:30pm
Thursday	6th	Set dancing at the Plough, with the Shannon Ceili Band ~ 8:00pm
Monday	10 & 24	Cooley Keegan Seisiún at Ireland's 32 (Slow Seisiún at 7:30 pm)
Thursdays	13, 20 & 27	Dancing at Sunset Rec. Center, 7:30pm, then on to the Plough with Topsy House
Friday	21st	Wolfe Tones concert at UICC ~ 8:30pm

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES



**Cooley-Keegan Branch of
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