

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley Branch

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Úrthír nuachtA • NEWSLETTER

Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley Branch • Boston, MA USA

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CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY

- ♦ To William Bulger, family and friends,
on the passing of his beloved wife Mary
- ♦ To Carol Lahiff and Ann Bulger, family
and friends, on the loss of their cherished
nephew Ryan Lahiff
- ♦ To Maureen Conway, family and friends,
on the loss of her dear brother Thomas
- ♦ To Tara Lynch, family and friends, on the
passing of her dear cousin Jerry Lynch

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A Chairroe,

Staying hopeful can seem challenging right now,
but life is so much brighter when we focus on what truly matters.
Life changes so quickly. We can be happy one day, empty and
broken the next. If we learn anything from the pandemic, I hope it
is to value the moments, treasure the memories and hold on to what
counts. Make time each day to realize how fleeting life is and to
thank God for each blessing. Maybe this pandemic will teach us to
slow down, appreciate what we have and how quickly it can be gone.
Life is a gift. A special shout out again to our "essential workers".
We thank you every day in our prayers, hearts and minds.

How do you support set dancer Donna Sheehan diagnosed
with ALS? If you are RHC member, Bill Black, you may compose
a tune to "cheer her up a bit as she goes through whatever she's
facing...I figured that, being a set dancer, a reel would do no harm.
And I think that's the title I'll use for it," he said. And so he did.
<https://cceboston.org/donna-sheehan-reel/> Donna, you are
in our thoughts and prayers.

Keep a watchful eye on our music school website.
Virtual music lessons will become available. We are working on
finalizing the details. **<https://bostonirishmusic.com/>**

I am pleased to see a few members shared sentiments
which remind us...We are all in this together. (*See next section
of newsletter.*)

God bless everyone . . . ***Tara Lynch, Chairperson***

Members who are paper mail newsletter subscribers but also
have emails, kindly notify Maureen Conway. She often emails
important notices to the membership. **mauconway@aol.com**

Memories... Some of the happiest years of my life were spent on the dance floor, set dancing with my friends to the incomparable music of the Comhaltas musicians. I met and came to love so many wonderful people. Due to the failing health of my mother, and then my own physical limitations, I haven't visited the dance floor now for many years – I miss it dearly. My memories of the many happy hours, however, warm my heart to this day. I wish all my dear Comhaltas friends good health and, hopefully, many happy hours of dancing to fine Irish music.

Valerie Caron

Managing our days... We greatly miss getting together with groups of musician friends and playing for dancers and audiences. We appreciate having extra time for improving our garden, building trellises, planting more edible plants, propagating flowers, etc. We both teach and have managed to stay employed by moving to online teaching using Zoom and FaceTime. Stay safe! **Ryan and Brennish Thomson**

Holding a good thought... It's now August and I am reluctant to look at the calendar. It seems like just yesterday when I drove home from the Céilí in Watertown. It was another pleasant afternoon, seeing and talking to many acquaintances. Now, I sit looking out the window and using my I-Pad. I fill with excitement when viewing postings of Irish dancers, musicians and videos of Ireland. Many fond memories surface of years past when trips and tours to fun-filled events also resulted in meeting new friends. So, with fingers crossed, I'm optimistically awaiting the calming of the pandemic and hopefully I'll retain my ability to resume the pleasures of old too.

Barbara Carbery

Seeing this through... We miss céilís the most – the coming together for music and dancing. The music is for dancing, and vice versa, two sides of the same coin. I greatly miss playing for the dancers and, of course, Sue misses the dancing terribly! I have been fortunate to have been able to play with some others in a few outdoor socially distanced sessions – which are OK but not exactly like the real thing where the dancers and the punters are there to make the craic a whole that is greater than just the sum of its parts. It will be quite some time and a long, cold, dark winter ahead before the dancing is restored, but we just have to be patient and stick together through the tough times knowing that we are all in the same boat. In the long run, twelve months is not all that long a time, and the more religiously we stick to the protocols now, the shorter that necessary time will be and we won't have to repeat it. Meanwhile, we can work on those tunes and footwork that we have kept putting off! We're all going to be rusty when we come out of this, but we'll all be scraping off the rust together! **Bob and Sue Dunlavy**

Best Wishes... The Pandemic didn't stop some of us from gathering at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton a few weeks ago. Social distancing and masks discouraged our usual hugs, kisses, songs and dances, but not the chatter and laughter. We were there to personally give our best wishes to dear friends, Mossie and Carmel Murphy, as they get ready to return to Ireland. They have been a delight in our circle of céilí dancers. Dinner in the huge tent was a treat amid a night of mixed emotions. As we left with the usual choruses of "SAFE HOME", I fully realized that the year 2020 added another layer of meaning to those words. Beannacht, **Christine Moriarty**

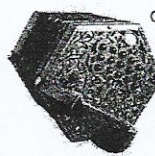
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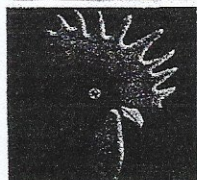
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