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Greetings

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The WineGeese Year

2008 to 2009

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Next Stop Chile & Argentina

The WineGeese Society is now organizing a trip to Chile and Argentina for late October—early November 2010 at the invitation of the Chilean Ambassador to Ireland (and honorary WineGeese member), HE Mme Cecilia Mackenna. The WineGeese tour of Chile will include Errázuriz, Seña, MontGras, Almaviva, and Santa Rita. At the invitation of HE Mme María Esther Bondanza, Argentine Ambassador to Ireland, the group will also spend three days in Mendoza (a one-hour flight from Santiago).

Check our website at www.irlfunds.org/winegeese for more details.

About WineGeese Society

The WineGeese Society is a social club of wine lovers and wine professionals based in Ireland with members in 30 countries worldwide. WineGeese events are held in major wine producing areas of the world, and the Society was founded to promote and support the wines and wineries of Ireland and the jurisdictions where the members live and work.

Executive Director: Christian Fournier
8 December 2009

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**Membership**

As of this writing we have 121 members and 54 honorary members. Honorary members are primarily the owners of vineyards we have visited, or dignitaries supporting our events.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Membership is by invitation only. The following criteria is to be considered when evaluating a prospective member.

**A. FOR EXISTING IRELAND FUNDS’ SUPPORTERS:**

A track record of involvement and commitment to the mission of The Ireland Funds, evidenced by:
- a significant gift
- a significant purchase of tables at events
- the provision of significant in-kind services to the Funds
- membership on a committee or the Board
- the raising of significant monies on behalf of the Funds

**B. FOR NEW SUPPORTERS:**

- a proven interest in, or connection with Ireland, personal or professional
- a qualified assessment of capacity to support, and demonstrated philanthropic activity

To recommend a candidate for consideration, please send his or her background information to Netta Blanchard in the Dallas office. New members will be inducted at a scheduled WineGeese event.

The mission of The Ireland Funds is to be the largest worldwide network of people of Irish ancestry and friends of Ireland dedicated to raising funds to support programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development throughout the island of Ireland.

The Ireland Funds are a unique philanthropic organization. For over 30 years, we have been driven by a passionate belief that philanthropy makes a profound difference in society while bringing satisfaction to donors and recipients alike. We are proud to have helped over 1,200 worthy groups across the island of Ireland preserve Irish culture, counter sectarianism, advance education, strengthen community development and assist those in need.

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**WineGeese Society Members**

We invite you to learn about giving back to the land that has given us so much. Please visit www.irifunds.org
The WineGeese were hosted on June 12 by HE Anne Anderson, then Irish Ambassador to France and now Irish Ambassador to the United Nations, at the Paris embassy. WineGeese Society leaders Ted Murphy, Ken Gorman, and John Sharkey inducted Ambassador Anderson, Countess Pamela Dillon-Cornew, Joan & Michael Houlihan, Professor Michael Scott, and wine luminaries Jean-Charles Cazes, Thierry Gardinier, Gay McGuinness, and Lochlann Quinn as honorary members of the worldwide organization. Wines were enjoyed from the French vineyards of Fieuzal, Lynch Bages, Phélan Ségur, La Ligne, and Domaine des Anges. California was represented by DuMOL with proprietor Kerry Murphy. Kingsley Aikins, the CEO of The Worldwide Ireland Funds, thanked the Ambassador for her hospitality and the vintners for their generous donations of the best of their cellars.

The Merrion Hotel Dublin June 18th saw The Ireland Funds’ WineGeese Society gather to honor new inductees HE Amb. Cecilia Mackenna, Chilean Ambassador to Ireland, Michael & Kathleen Barry, John Bowen, Peter Dunne, Peter MacCann, and Ged & Paula Pierse. Amb. Mackenna spoke proudly of her Irish heritage and of the contributions of the Irish over the centuries to Chile, particularly Bernardo O’Higgins who was in the forefront in Chile’s successful struggle for independence from Spain. Amb. Mackenna is a descendant of General John Mackenna of Clogher, Co Tyrone, who also played a part in the liberation of Chile. She invited the WineGeese to visit Chile in 2010. The leading Chilean wine families – the Undurragas and the Eyguéguires – are directly descended from John Mackenna.
After a spectacular Wine Geese dinner in Paris, the group headed to Normandy stopping first at Giverny to visit Monet’s magnificent gardens and house. After a delightful lunch, the group left for Château d’Audrieu.

Days were spent visiting the beaches of Utah and Omaha, sites etched in our memories by the films The Longest Day and A Band of Brothers. We visited Ste Mère Eglise, Dead Man’s Corner, Pointe du Hoc, and the D-Day Museum at Arromanches. The evenings lifted the spirits in the exploration of the cultural riches of Normandy.

We then departed for Ireland to a Wine Geese reception at the Merrion Hotel with Irish members of the Wine Geese. The Wine Geese visited Leinster House, the seat of both houses of the Irish parliament, where Dr Rory O’Hanlon, member of Parliament, condensed into 30 minutes a brilliant short course on the Irish Peace Process from 1916 to the present day. Joining us was a group of students from the University of St Thomas in Houston who were in Ireland to study the Peace Process. Of particular interest to the American audience was the story of Hazel Lavery, the Chicago-born wife of the famous Northern Irish painter John Lavery. Her participation altered the course of Irish history about which we learned more from the John Lavery paintings held in storage at the Hugh Lane Gallery. We owe great thanks to poet and musician Mr Terry Browne for organizing the Leinster House and Hugh Lane visits.

Our last day in Ireland saw us at historic Castle Howard in the beautiful Vale of Avoca. Hosts Ivor Fitzpatrick and Susan Stapleton gave us a true taste of Irish hospitality from the champagne greeting on arrival to the sumptuous high tea at the conclusion. In between, we enjoyed a rendering of Moore’s melodies by some of Ireland’s finest young singers joined by one of Ireland’s leading pianists Mary Scarlett. Tenor Dean Power sang “Sweet Vale of Avoca” as we gazed upon it from the windows of the Castle drawing room. As a small token of appreciation, Mike Corboy presented Ivor and Terry with Stetson hats and Susan with a pictorial book on Dallas with an invitation to Texas to sample some of Big D’s hospitality.
The WineGeese Society members returned for a now traditional dinner in San Francisco with AIF Board Director Bill Walsh at a private club followed by three days feasting on some of the great Irish-American wines of Napa. Visits on this trip included Jarvis Winery, Whitehall Lane, Twomey Cellars, and the Napa Valley Reserve where the group was introduced to the superb wines of Kary and David Duncan of Silver Oak and Twomey Cellars at a spectacular dinner.
The stellar reception and dinner at the Napa home of our hosts, Pepper & Michael Jackson, was further enlivened by the induction of seven honorary WineGeese Society members whose wines we enjoyed throughout this magical evening.

We were joined by James & Judy Barrett. In one of the defining moments of American wine history, his Chateau Montelena 1973 Chardonnay was judged "Best White" at the French – American wine tasting in Paris in 1976, subsequently dubbed by the press as the Judgment of Paris. Until then the supremacy of French wines had gone unchallenged throughout the world. Joanne DePuy, who helped facilitate the wine shipments, was also on hand to share her memories of this event. The evening was filled with great Irish-American winemakers: Jim Allen of Sequoia Grove, Molly Chappellet of Chappellet Winery, Sean Larkin of Larkin Wines, and Kathleen & Francis Mahoney of Mahoney Vineyards.
WineGeese Events

PALM BEACH 17 FEBRUARY 2008

The American Ireland Fund held its annual Palm Beach fundraiser on February 17, 2008 at the oceanfront estate of Michele & Howard Kessler. A unique and intimate occasion, the “Palm Beach Celebration” was sponsored by the Kesslers, Lesley & Bart Grenier, Jackie & Jim Higgins, and Loretta Brennan Glucksman. The heart of the evening was an exquisite gourmet wine-pairing dinner that honored Robert, 11th Marquis de Goulaine and Kerry Murphy of DuMOL Wines, both honorary members of The Ireland Funds’ WineGeese Society. On such a stellar evening, Desmond FitzGerald, Knight of Glin and Peggy & Mike McGrath were inducted into the Society.

PAINT & PALATE MARCH 2008

In the beautiful surroundings of the L&M Art Gallery, the New York chapter of the WineGeese gathered to celebrate art and wine. Kieran McLoughlin introduced Irish art historian, Elizabeth Martin, who took the guests on a visual tour of the Provence, Paris, Brittany, and Normandy regions of France through the medium of renowned Irish artists Lavery, Hone, O’Connor, Osborne, and Leech. Wine expert Mary Gorman explored the wines from these regions—a unique way to tie in Irish art to the WineGeese.

CROSS COMMUNITY HARVEST FOR CHÂTEAU DE LA LIGNE OCTOBER 2008

In October 2008, students from St Patrick’s College, “Bearnageeha” in North Belfast and Ashfield Boys High School in East Belfast made their way to Château de La Ligne Vineyard in Bordeaux, France to help create Cuvée Prestige 2010. A cross-community work experience with a difference, the 20 schoolboys were welcomed at Château de La Ligne to hand pick the grapes and discover the French culture. Terry Cross, Belfast business man and owner of the Château is delighted with the success of the project “The boys realized that they are all the same, no matter their religion. This year, they bonded extremely well and have even organized to see each other on other occasions. They have now created friends for life,” he said.

Château de La Ligne is now available in the U.S. and the distributor is USA Wine Imports-New York (Telephone: 212.941.7333).
The WineGeese gathered once again at famed ‘21’ Club to enjoy the superb wines of Leeuwin Estate. Margaret River Valley, Australia. Those lucky WineGeese who attended the Australia wine tour had the great fortune to meet Honorary WineGeese Tricia & Denis Horgan at their home in Margaret River. This time round Denis Horgan, proprietor, came to New York and led the group through a tasting of wines that rank among some of the world’s finest paired with the exceptional cuisine of the ‘21’ Club.

The WineGeese enjoyed a very special evening with famed Napa winemaker Bob Foley who showcased his exceptional Robert Foley Vineyards wines. For many, Foley is regarded as a wine idol and the evening at ‘21’ helped solidify his role in their minds.

Bordeaux Wine Ratings
Gary Thompson and Stephen Matkoski of Cornell University have examined ratings of Bordeaux wines for vintages from 1970 to 2005 using Robert Parker (The Wine Advocate), Stephen Tanzer (International Wine Cellar), and Wine Spectator to identify ratings differences and consistencies. The study sample represents over 3,200 ratings for classified growths. The authors used a regression model with rating scores as the depending variable and coding variables for raters, vintages, and châteaux. The upshot—Parker and Tanzer give statistically indistinguishable ratings, but Spectator’s ratings average about one point higher than the others, i.e. not all 90 point wines are equal. The 2005 was the highest rated vintage followed by 2000, 2003, and 1990. The highly lauded 1982 vintage came out tenth best. The poorest rated vintage was the 1973, followed by 1974, 1980, and 1971. There was no evidence that the rates were becoming more lenient or more conservative over time. The authors argue that the 2005 market prices support their findings. Using these results they argue that 33 of the 61 classified growths are misclassified. Some châteaux would move up to three levels up or down compared to the 1855 classification. • Ch Léoville–Las Cases (St Julien) would move to first growth from second growth • Ch Mouton–Rothschild (Pauillac) would move from first growth to second growth • Ch Lynch–Bages, Ch Pontet–Canet, Ch Clerc–Milon (all three Pauillac) from fifth growth to second growth

Some favorite wine blogs…
• www.billpoposki.com
• www.simonwoods.com
• www.simonowoods.com

To order, call 707.944.9105 or visit www.larkinwines.com and indicate you are a WineGeese Society member.

WINE DISCOUNTS
In 2005 the WineGeese had the pleasure of meeting Sean Larkin of Napa Valley’s Larkin Wines at the home of Pepper & Michael Jackson. Sean is offering all WineGeese members a 20% discount on his wines.

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WINEGEES MEMBER OFFERS

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WINE GEES DISCOUNTS

WINEGEES MEMBER OFFERS
Professor George Saintsbury writing in his famous work, Notes on a Cellar Book, says, “With decanters—those half-way houses between bottle and glass—one comes to the question of pure art.” Indeed how true—the limpid beauty and graceful art form of cut glass decanters have brought sparkling elegance to many a table and immense joy to many a discerning eye.

The charming Molly Chapelle of Chappellet Winery, Napa Valley, California, is celebrated for her unerring taste in art and wine, and recounts how she is “reminded each day of my Irish roots through the prisms of color that dart down a glass when the wine is swirled around.” The striking Chappellet Winery perched high above the “Cathedral window” streams that flow down a glass when the wine is swirled around aggregates a rich content of glycerine in the wine that comes from ripe grapes from which it is made.

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Our Members

THE IRELAND FUNDS’ WINEGEOSE SOCIETY MEMBERS

Ken Gorman, John Sharkey, John Tillotson; Co Chair

GARRY AND TED MURPHY; HONORARY CO CHAIRS

HONORARY MEMBERS

• Jim Allen, Sequoia Grove, Napa Valley, California
• HE Amb. Anne Anderson, Irish Ambassador to UN, Ireland and New York
• Jon Barrett, Château Montelena, Napa Valley, California
• Kathleen and Michael Barry, Barry Fitzwilliam Maxwell, Cork, Ireland
• Anthony Barton, Château Léoville Barton and Langoa Barton, Médoc, France
• Niall Burgess, Irish Consul-General, New York, New York
• Jean-Charles Caes, Château Lynch Bages, Médoc, France
• Molly Chappellet, Chappellet Winery, Napa Valley, California
• Michael Collins, Limerick Lane Gellers, Sooma, California
• Terry Cross, Château La Ligne, Bordeaux, France
• Charles Curran, Nassau Estate, NSW, Australia
• Brian Martin, Clairault Estate, Margaret River, Australia
• Ena Martin, Clairault Estate, Margaret River, Australia
• Doreen Murphy, Murphy-Goode Estate, Alexander Valley, California
• Kerry and Margie Murphy, DuMOL Winery, Russian River Valley, California
• Gavin Newsom, PlumpJack Winery, Napa Valley, California
• Lochlanna Quinn, Château de Fieuzal, Pessac-Leognan, France
• Brendan Roche, Roche Estate Winery, Sonoma, California
• Prof. Michael Scott, Bordeaux, France
• Patrick Sinclair, Irish Consul-General, Sydney, Australia
• Sheilaugh Sullivan, Senatosa Vineyards, Adelaide Hills, South Australia
• Mary Driscoll Tobom, Tobom Vineyards, Russian River Valley, California
• Bruce Tyrrell, Tyrell Vineyard, Alexander Valley, Australia
• Chris Tyrrell, Tyrell Vineyard, Hunter Valley, Australia
• AWR “Bill” Vinecent, Monaco

One of Margaret River’s wine pioneers and founder of Xanadu Wines, died suddenly in December 2007 at age 80: Dr Lagane, and his wife Dr Eileen Sheridan, arrived in Australia from Ireland to establish a medical practice but soon turned to winemaking planting the first vines in 1977. Over the years Château Yarara developed a reputation for producing some stunning wines. Dr Lagane joined the WineGeese during the 2007 visit to Australia for a dazzling and memorable dinner at Xanadu. We were truly privileged to meet this most gentle and charming of men.

MR. GERALD TSAI JR.

A financier who pioneered the creation of performance funds in the 1950s and 60s and later turned a cunning company into the financial services giant Pomerene, died in July 2008 at age 79. Gerald traveled for the first time with the WineGeose on their tour to southern Spain in June 2005 and returned a few months later in June 2006 and 2007. He was a thoughtful, generous heart. We took great pleasure in Gerald who wore his vast knowledge and observant nature with a light touch.

MRS. JANE WALSH

Passed away in January 2008. Wife of National Board Director, Bill Walsh and loyal supporter of The American Ireland Fund. Jane and Bill became WineGeose Society Members in 2004 when they joined the WineGeose on a tour of the great Irish-French châteaux. She was a thoughtful philanthropist, wonderful hostess, and mother of six. While traveling with her, the WineGeose also discovered her vibrant wit and generous heart.

DR. JOHN LAGAN

Kingsley Aikins
Linda Armstrong
Philip Armstrong
Theresa Bailey
Michael Bailey
June Bennet
Archie Bennett
Netta Blancard
Elizabeth Bortell
John Bowen
Susan Bradley
Vincent Bradley
Terry Browne
Mary Bush
Rick Bush
Sharon Bush
Anthony Callaghan
Karen Callaghan
Jerry Callaghan
Dorothy Campbell
Luther Campbell
Shelly Codd
Tom Codd
Margaret Condon
Kip Condon
Lou Ann Corboy
Mike Corboy
Rose Corcoran
Joseph Corcoran
Susan Morrice Cranberg
Alex Cranberg
Nancy Crossman
Barry Crossman
Brinda Curley
Kevin Curley
Connie Curran
John Curran
Susan Dickie
Bob Dunley
Caitriona Fottrell
Sarah Gallagher
Tom Gallagher
Diane Gamble
Lex Gamble
Bill Ganley
Carol Geary
Mike Geary
Mary Gilgan
Kevin Gilgan
Kerry Gorman
Ken Gorman
Jane Hanratty
Don Hanratty
Margaret Hayhurst
Joan Houghlan
Michael Houghlan
Pepper Jackson
Michael Jackson
Alayne Kane
John Kane
Margo Keys
Jim Keys

Nancy Crossman
Barry Crossman
Brinda Curley
Kevin Curley
Connie Curran
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Bill Ganley
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Mary Gilgan
Kevin Gilgan
Kerry Gorman
Ken Gorman
Jane Hanratty
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