

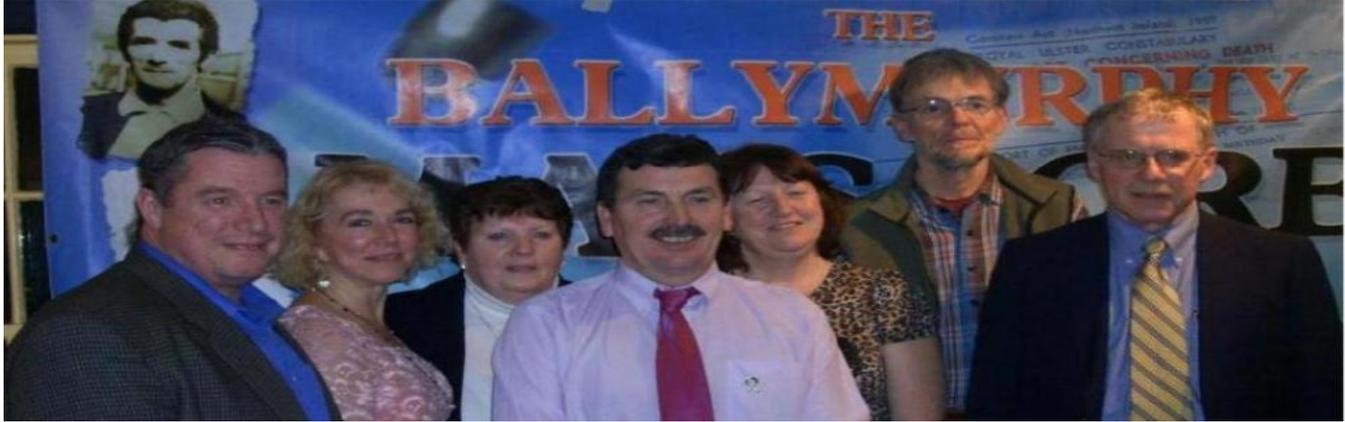


# Irish American Unity Conference National Newsletter

PO Box 55573 Washington, DC 20040 Web: [www.iauc.org](http://www.iauc.org)

Working for Justice and Peace in a United Ireland

January 2011



## IAUC SUPPORTS BALLYMURPHY FAMILIES CAMPAIGN

By Peter C Kissel

The DC Chapter hosted Ballymurphy family members during their December 2010 visit to Washington to press for a Congressional hearing and independent inquiry into the Ballymurphy Massacre. In August 1971 the British Parachute Regiment killed 28 unarmed civilians in Ballymurphy, West Belfast. Eleven were killed in a three-day period from August 9-11, including a priest, a mother of eight, and a father of fourteen. Over 50 children lost a parent in the Massacre. The cruelty and brutality of the soldiers' behavior, which included torturing the wounded, defies comprehension. The perpetrators were the same regiment that killed 14 more unarmed civilians in Derry less than six months later.

On December 7, the DC Chapter sponsored a forum in Washington for Ballymurphy family spokespersons Alice Harper, Briege Voyle, and John Teggart. Alice and John spoke of the devastation to their family when their father, Daniel, was shot 14 times by the British regiment. While searching for her father's remains during the event, Alice was ridiculed, taunted, humiliated, and misled by members of the regiment. Because she was the oldest child at 23, she assumed added responsibilities of caring for her younger siblings while raising her own growing family. Briege, a young girl at the time, was separated from her mother during the chaotic events, and later learned that she had also been shot dead by the soldiers. Her family

has been tormented ever since by the British authorities' lie that her mother was brandishing a pistol.

After the presentations, the packed audience engaged in earnest discussion with the families to learn more about the event and what we in the Irish American community can do to help. This led to a commitment among the various groups present – IAUC-DC, Baltimore AOH Divisions 4 & 5, Washington AOH Divisions 4 & 5, Catholic University AOH, Baltimore Ladies AOH Division 1, and Irish Northern Aid Baltimore – to jointly pursue a publicity campaign on behalf of the victimized families.

The families' visit to Washington was coordinated by Rita O'Hare, Sinn Fein's representative to the United States. Ms. O'Hare stressed the need for a Congressional Hearing to raise awareness of the Ballymurphy Families plight and bring pressure for an independent international inquiry.

On December 8 and 9, the families' representatives met with members of Senator Chris Dodd's office and other senatorial offices, Irish National Caucus Director Sean McManus, the U.S. Department of State, and Congressman Richie Neal. They were given support and encouragement from all they met. The immediate goal is to convene a Congressional hearing by August 2011, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Massacre. During their visit, the family members stayed at the homes of IAUC members. Alice, John and Briege all conveyed their deep appreciation to the IAUC for assisting their efforts.

To learn more, go to <http://ballymurphy massacre.com/> or Google "Ballymurphy Families."

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From the Editor:

Welcome to the Winter Edition of the Irish American Unity Conference Newsletter. With one edition under our belt, we hope to produce a quarterly publication for you and as always welcome feedback, ideas, and submissions on Irish issues. A special thank you to Ann Thompson of the NJ 5<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter for her creative design and layout of our editions – she also does her chapter's newsletter as well.

A few things about this issue: we were lucky enough to have not one but two Morrison's author articles this quarter. Many of you know Matt Morrison, President of Thar Saile, husband of Francie, father and pediatric nurse in St Louis, Missouri. Matt's situation reflects the lack of response from our Government and their continuing commitment to the Good Friday Agreement. After you read his story, make a copy of it and send it to the White House, the State Department and your elected officials and tell them to resolve this issue on behalf of Matt and all former Republican POW's once and for all.

Danny Morrison should've have been over here in the U.S. this past fall on a speaking tour discussing politics and his writing. It all started out so ambitiously this past summer with the plan that Danny would hit several cities to speak, but his options grew more and more narrow till finally San Francisco was left and that was because his lawyer resided there - a good idea in case something unfortunate happened with ICE or another governmental entity. Unfortunately, the State Department turned Danny down flat. Part of the IAUC's mission is to help the Irish come to this country and tell their story. See the last sentence from the above paragraph and repeat – it should make you mad that 11 years after the GFA our government is prohibiting individuals who were involved in the peace process from entering the U.S.

Lastly, we have books for sale – lots and lots of books! The late John Fogarty left our webmaster, George Trainor a collection of books that every library should have on hand. As we approach the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hunger Strikes you will surely want a copy of a book that is now out of print - a biography of Bobby Sands. This book was written while Bobby Sands was still alive but wasn't published until after his death on hunger strike. These books are all new by the way.

A reminder that 2011 dues will now be owing to your chapter or directly to our National Office – the IAUC needs your help and support so please renew or join today.

Sarah McAuliffe-Bellin

## President's Column

By Thomas J Burke

For those of you unable to attend the October 23<sup>rd</sup> IAUC Convention in Newark, let me take the opportunity in this year-end column to express my appreciation and respect for the honor of being elected as IAUC's National President. In so doing, I want to express my own appreciation for the hard and imaginative work my predecessor, Kate McCabe, performed during her period as IAUC President. Kate's will be a hard act to follow.

The recent and rapid changes on the island of Ireland, while sometimes bewildering, ought to be tailor-made for IAUC's traditional expertise and accord with its long term goals. While carnage and official discrimination may hopefully be a thing of the past in the north of Ireland, while all stripes of Irish nationalism, including republicans, now have official representation in the Stormont Assembly, and while the new year may bring Sinn Féin into power in Stormont as the largest single political party in the north, many problems remain from the past.

First, of course, is the need for those who engaged in the conflict to lead normal lives. Finding employment, knitting together family relationships and coming to terms with the conflict's dead and wounded obviously need to be addressed as a first order of business. In this country, that goal includes redoubling IAUC's efforts to see that former volunteers who are in the United States under deferred immigration status continue to experience timely and reliable renewal of work permits. I expect that the plight of these men, many of whom belong to the Thar Saile organization, to loom large in an agenda IAUC will pursue with vigor in 2011. IAUC will also recharge its relationships with Congress and seek hearings to redress these nagging and serious problems from the past.

I know I share with many of you shock and disappointment at the parlous economic state the Irish republic seems to be in after three decades of continuous economic gains. Signs seem to point to dissolution of the Dáil and new elections in January. IAUC will monitor electoral developments there closely, make contacts in what will likely be a new government, and renew old ones, too. The IAUC will as of now also participate in the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hunger Strikes, and various Easter Rising Commemorations. This should be a big year for IAUC activity. I hope as many of IAUC's membership as possible can participate in the upcoming year's activities as possible. Best wishes to all for Christmas and a great 2011!  
Tom

## Cultural Chair Request

Marie Smith, National Board Cultural Chair for the IAUC, requests all chapters to be in touch with local churches to schedule a Mass in commemoration of the Great Hunger.

As of December there has been no word yet from Ireland as to where the 2011 famine commemoration will be held. During a meeting with Minister Carey and his staff, a mention was made of possibly Lurgan in the north of Ireland, but so far no confirmation. All chapters and members should organize a famine commemorative Mass to coincide with the Irish National Day of Commemoration when it becomes known.

If you know a Gaelic speaking priest or know a Gaelic speaker or Gaelic singers please ask them to participate. The Great Hunger was the death of the Gaelic language and the majority of the famine immigrants were Gaelic speakers.

Once a church is booked, then organize a "waking" at the local Irish bar or restaurant where participants can tell the stories of the famine handed down through their families with, of course, music. Please contact the local media for coverage so that the truth of the Great Hunger as genocide is emphasized: starvation in an island of plenty, the extermination of a surplus people by the British Empire. In those days there were no cameras, twitters, blogs, or video so it was easy to cover up and call it a "famine" however we now know bumper crops were transported out of Ireland during the period. In fact, the military was brought in to protect the trucking of the crops to the ports.



Matt Morrison speaking at Conference in New Jersey

## **An Introduction to the New National Vice President of the IAUC**

**Please welcome Joe Farrell as the new National Vice President of the IAUC. Joe has been actively involved in Irish activism for many years. Below, in Joe's words is his story and his goals for the IAUC:**

I am deeply honored that I was appointed National Vice President at our October National Meeting. As President Tom Burke likes to point out, there were no other nominees; but it is also true that I have distinguished predecessors, including not only Tom himself but IAIS founder Dan O'Kennedy, ex-H Block prisoner Pol Harkin, and my personal hero, Bob Linnon.

I'm a native of the Chicago area, a graduate of Notre Dame and the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, have a background as a community organizer and community developer, and currently manage rural development programs for a county in Southeastern Ohio.

I have been active in the IAUC since the mid-1980s and in 1985 joined with a group of like-minded friends notably including Mary Mannion, Jim Caldwell, the late Jim Curran and Jack Gavin to start a chapter in Pittsburgh, at first meeting informally in a downtown restaurant. We coalesced around the fight the IAUC led against the Supplemental Extradition Treaty and after that partial defeat, around the campaign for the MacBride Principles (anyone who thought adversity would discourage us never read any Irish history). In 1988 we organized a "welcoming" series of events for Prince Charles, when he came to Pittsburgh to lecture on the need to take the disadvantaged into account when planning urban redevelopment, and as his highness wouldn't deign to respond to our points about the failure to do so in the North of Ireland, we effectively controlled the high-profile discussion on it that followed. In 1994, after a five-year battle that eventually engaged Irish Americans all over the Commonwealth, Pennsylvania passed the MacBride Principles, and Governor Casey signed them into law, where they remain.

The following years brought visits by Gerry Adams, the Peace Process, and the Good Friday Agreement and its slow-motion implementation, all of which those of us in the IAUC have worked for from this side of the ocean. In 2005, Pittsburgh celebrated the national and local efforts of Irish Americans by hosting the IAUC National Convention, under the stern and highly capable chairmanship of our Chapter President, Sarah McAuliffe-Bellin.

That's the past. Today we face the challenge of a battle that's only half-won, and a community that has become distracted, if not outright gone to sleep. Former combatants are harassed and unable to make a normal life for themselves and their families, years after their war has ended: justice remains elusive for many victims of official violence, collusion, murder; and Ireland remains divided – and to that extent, un-free.

I look forward to working with Tom, the Board, the Chapters, and all members to move towards a truly united and free Ireland. In the coming months I will specifically be working with chapters that have become inactive, to get them back involved, and with the Secretary and the Regional Chairs, to get our membership list up-to-date, and to get members with whom we have lost touch re-engaged. But don't wait to hear from me: contact me at the IAUC Google group or [jfarrell@quernseycounty.org](mailto:jfarrell@quernseycounty.org).

Slán,  
Joe Farrell

## NORTHERN IRELAND MINISTER FOR EDUCATION ADDRESSES IAUC SPEAKERS FORUM

By Peter C. Kissel

The DC Chapter sponsored a Speakers Forum at the Maryland Irish Festival on Saturday, November 13. Presentations were given by Caitríona Ruane, Sinn Féin MLA for South Down and Minister of Education for Northern Ireland, and Rita O'Hare, Sinn Féin's North American Representative. Also speaking were Mike Breen, Mary's Gift Executive Director, and Domhnall O'Cathain, Publicity Director of the Brehon Law Society. After their presentations, the speakers engaged in a lively discussion with the audience.

The themes of the day were education and the Irish Language. Education Minister Ms. Ruane described the progress now being made on a daily basis in educating the children of Northern Ireland by providing broad, practical and inclusive courses of study. She described the excitement of opening new schools for children of all traditions, despite the current economy and despite being told "it can't be done." Ms. Ruane explained that Sinn Fein's securing of the Education Ministry has been instrumental in allowing this progress in education to occur.

Ms. O'Hare emphasized the need for continued Irish American support for equality and justice in the North of Ireland. She described the tremendous progress that has been made across the entire spectrum of Northern Ireland life, including in particular justice and employment as well as education. She declared that the Orange Order has been permanently broken as a political force. Like Ms. Ruane, Ms. O'Hare expressed confidence that the tremendous change in Northern Ireland since the shared government convened is permanent, and there will be no turning back.

Mike Breen's remarks, entitled "The Irish Language in the North: From a Whisper to a VOICE," presented a history of the Irish language, and the inspiring story of its remarkable revival in the north of Ireland during the past 40 years. Leading the way are the *gaelscoilianna*: schools where all subjects are taught through the medium of the Irish language. Despite recent progress in garnering support from the government, these schools are privately-run and funded, and remain in particular need of support.

Domhnall O'Cathain also provided information on the Irish Language and the Brehon Law Society's role in supporting and advocating for its acceptance and expansion. Domhnall said that use of the language had fallen precipitously in the Republic as well as in the North, due to lack of emphasis and support from the governments. One of the principal goals is passage of the Irish Language Act, which would allow use of the Irish Language in the judicial system by any litigant who requested it.

DC Chapter President Peter Kissel welcomed the speakers on behalf of IAUC, and gave an overview of the mission of the Irish American Unity Conference and its efforts to achieve a united Ireland and obtain justice and peace in the North. The growth of the DC Chapter of IAUC was illustrated by its recent activities, which have included actively supporting a Congressional Hearing on Collusion convened by Congressman Delahunt; attending a Congressional reception in honor of murdered civil rights attorney Pat Finucane; co-hosting, with the Brehon Law Society, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Irish Democrats and Irish Northern Aid, a Congressional briefing on the Irish Language & the Irish Peace Process; and establishing an annual commemoration of Irish Patriot Robert Emmett at his statue in Sheridan Circle, Washington DC at the anniversary of his execution (Sept. 20, 1803). The DC Chapter has also joined several other IAUC chapters and other Irish American organizations across the United States in passing a resolution calling for a united Ireland, and IAUC members are now working with elected officials and politicians to ask for their sponsorship of this resolution by the City Council of Washington. All the visiting speakers were eagerly welcomed, applauded heartily by the crowd, and presented with tokens of appreciation by the IAUC.





## **Irish Americans Denied Their Peace Dividend**

By Matt Morrison  
Thar Saile President

I was invited to attend the recent AGM of the Irish American Unity Conference in New Jersey.

Sarah McAuliffe and Tom Burke asked that I give an update on the status of Republican ex-prisoners here in the United States. Fresh from losing five weeks of employment because of an expired Work Authorization, I was not in a placatory frame of mind. I was puzzled and angry that so many years after the Good Friday Agreement, United States authorities were still giving us a rough time on the twin issues of work permits, and travel permits. The IRA has decommissioned, disbanded and former comrades wear suits and shirts and ties and are sitting MLAs "up the hill" at Stormont. Martin and Gerry not only come and go at their convenience, but are invited to attend White House soirees. Fair play to them! I can only wonder the rest of us are still grappling for status here in the United States while Pax Hibernica trundles onward.

The answer is very simple. While the Republican Movement has received its peace dividend, Irish America has been denied the same. The issue of our cases really is not about us individually. It is not about us as a group. It is about the denial, by successive US administrations, of a peace dividend to Irish America.

We can point to the Paddy bashers within Homeland Security. We can point to a more hostile and paranoid post 911 environment which has made our politicians fearful to speak on our behalf. We can point to an anachronistic State Department stance on resolving these relatively few cases. The reality is that it is the fault of Irish America. It is Irish America who has fallen asleep or become so confused that it has mistaken a Sinn Fein peace dividend as its own. Irish America who worked so hard and so long for the rights of the oppressed nationalist community in the North of Ireland, appears unable to recall whether it got payback or not on its single homegrown issue arising from the conflict in Ireland.

The AOH, the IAUC and a host of other organizations have been sympathetic and supportive about achieving resolution for "the cases". Certain politicians have also expended energy on our behalf. For all of the above, we are thankful.

The challenge remains however for Irish America. Demand your peace dividend by demanding resolution to these cases. Not for Matt Morrison or whomever, but for YOU.... and because it is the just thing to do.

## **San Francisco Chapter Round Up**

By George Trainor

The IAUC in San Francisco had a very busy 2010. We expect no less in 2011. We all still mourn the loss of John Fogarty, who passed away this past July. The San Francisco chapter is committed to carrying on John's work. The last project John was working on was the introduction of the An Gorta Mor (Irish Hunger) curriculum to California schools.

In 1997 former California State Senator Tom Hayden introduced the legislation to encourage all state and local professional development activities to provide teachers with content background and resources to assist in teaching about the Great Irish Famine. The legislation passed, but went nowhere from there. John Fogarty's wish was to reintroduce An Gorta Mor curriculum to California schools. Starting in January the San Francisco Chapter, with the help the California Irish Cultural Society and the Irish Hunger Committee, will begin contacting San Francisco school districts and legislators to try and fulfill John Fogarty's final wish.

In May, the San Francisco Chapter will hold its 2nd annual Commemoration Day to honor the victims of the Irish Hunger 1845-51. The Irish Government has established a Commemoration Day to honor the victims of the Irish Hunger. In 2010 the national event took place on May 16 in Murrisk, Co. Mayo.

The IAUC along with the California Irish Cultural Society will commemorate the victims of the Irish Hunger, by donating food to San Francisco's St. Anthony's Dining Hall. The dining hall feeds over 6,000 lbs of food a day every day of the week from 10:15 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. The food and donations will be collected from individuals and Irish organizations throughout San Francisco.

## **Pittsburgh Chapter Round Up**

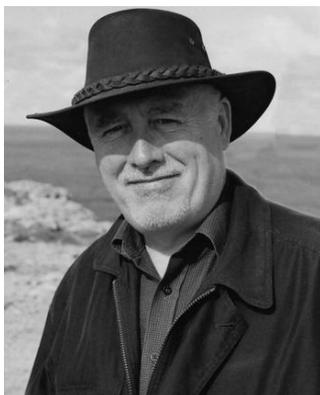
By Sarah McAuliffe-Bellin

The Pittsburgh Chapter had success this year in facilitating the passage of the United Ireland Resolution by both the Pittsburgh City Council and Allegheny County Council. Our chapter worked closely with representatives of the AOH and LAOH. Special thanks to Jim Caldwell, IAUC Political Action Chair for all his effort. Special thanks also to Doug Shields of Pittsburgh City Council and to Michael Finnerty and Rich Fitzgerald of Allegheny County Council for their sponsorship. The Resolution in both chambers of the Pennsylvania Legislature stalled at the end of the 2010 Legislative Term, unfortunately. 2011 will find the Pittsburgh Chapter pursuing the passage of the Resolution with the assistance of government officials from Western PA who already expressed willingness to sponsor the United Ireland Resolution.

In August, the IAUC held the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Mass in memory of the 10 Volunteers who died on hunger strike in 1981 at Old St Patrick's Church in the Strip District. AOH National Chaplain, Reverend Tom O'Donnell celebrated the Mass and as usual gave a forceful and evocative homily to those present. Representatives of the IAUC, Year of Remembrance Committee, AOH, LAOH, Knights of Equity, Ireland Institute, Echoes of Erin Radio Program and other organizations carried pictures of each Hunger Striker into the Church and placed each picture along the communion railing. We look forward to an 2011 and additional activism on behalf of a reunited Ireland.

## From Most Wanted to Not Wanted in Three Decades

By Danny Morrison



A long, long time ago, when I was a teenager and hadn't a clue about life, I applied for a job as a librarian. What a wonderful career, I thought, sitting behind a counter and reading all of one's favorite novels, in between stamping the return date on a few books.

I filled in the application form, posted it and was invited to do an interview in Academy Street, Belfast. Three men were on the panel.

"St Peter's? Britton's Parade?" said one of the panelists, as he drew on his cigarette and blew out magnificent plumes of smoke from the engine room of the unsinkable Titanic. "That's where the IRA gave its press conference, isn't it?" Back then, I was a pretty honest tout. "Yes, that's the school I went to and where Joe Cahill met the press," I said, too affirmatively, about the IRA's brazen appearance, days after the introduction of internment in 1971, when the Belfast Brigade confirmed that the arrests had not impacted on its capability. "Fine, Mr Morrison, we'll let you know if you got the job," said Captain Edward John Smith.

Thirty nine years later and I am still waiting to hear if an elderly Mr. Morrison starts on Monday as a junior librarian.

Don't wonder – this story is going somewhere.

In 1982, after a dozen times unsuccessfully applying for a US visa, it was decided that I and Owen Carron should illegally enter the USA on the percentage basis that at least one of us would get through to speak at the annual Nor-Aid dinner dance in New York. Owen, the previous August, had succeeded the late Bobby Sands as MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone. I flew from Dublin to Amsterdam to Toronto, where I was promptly arrested. They had found anti-Paisley leaflets in my suitcase (protesting against Paisley's tour of Canada was my pretext for being there). I was held in an immigration centre for the weekend, appeared in court, and, after promising that I was not using Canada as a jump-off to illegally enter the States, I was released.

A few days later, having used Canada as a jump-off to illegally enter the States, I was arrested by the FBI at the border using Polish papers. I, Petra Somebody, was from Cracow and my arrest coincided with US President Ronald Reagan's designation of 'Let Poland Be Poland Day', as part of his pro-Solidarity crusade. (The FBI had also caught Owen Carron at – the appropriately named – Peace Bridge, just outside of Buffalo.)

We and our drivers ended up in jail – Fort Erie Penitentiary, I think.

(Continued on next page)



About eighty per cent of the prisoners were black and were forced to wear uniforms, even when on remand. We refused to wear a criminal uniform and so as not to upset the clientele and provoke a riot we were moved to the women's wing, twenty nine out of thirty of whom were prostitutes. Boy, did they love Owen Carron! They kept calling him a leprechaun.

To cut a long story short we later got bail, were kicked out, and were brought back in 1983 to face trial, were found guilty and sentenced to a year's probation, but were expelled without further imprisonment. The irony was that we were given an open-ended visa to go to the USA to face a charge of entering the USA without a visa - to speak for five minutes at a Ra-Ra party!

Fast forward twenty years. Frank Costello, a US ex-pat who lives in Belfast, gets me an invite to speak at the Harvard Kennedy School. I go for an interview at the US Consulate in Queen Street. I am asked if I am in Sinn Fein and I say I am not. I am then told that if I were in Sinn Fein I would have no problem getting a visa. I am refused a visa. In the 1970s and 1980s I was refused a visa because I was a member of Sinn Fein and I am now refused a visa because I am not a member of Sinn Fein!

Fast forward to 2010. Through a friend, Gretchen Bales, I receive about a dozen invitations, and the offer of handsome fees, to speak at universities across the USA on the subjects of Irish literature and conflict resolution. Okay, we are living in a post 9/11 world but my conviction for conspiring to kill the lovely Sandy Lynch has meantime been overturned and I am an innocent writer, hardly al Qaeda.

As a test case, we decide to apply for a visa to speak at just one venue – the University of California on October 20th. I apply to the PSNI for a Bill of Health. Their List of Offences and Proof of Acquittal costs £20 but the Consulate refuse to recognize the word of the good PSNI! I need a Metropolitan Police Report which costs me £70. In early September I go to the US Consulate for an interview (at which, incredibly, you have to stand) which is pretty perfunctory except the guy wants to know what dates I was in the RA and I disappoint him with no-noes. It is now the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and the US authorities have yet to inform me whether I will be speaking in California four weeks ago.

But I don't feel bad. Tomorrow I am expecting a letter from Academy Street to confirm that I can begin lending you books anytime soon.

## Talking Points: Toward a United Ireland

By Joe Farrell, IAUC National Vice President

United Ireland Resolutions are the current focus of the Irish American community. But like the MacBride Principles, they are not an end in themselves. They serve two purposes: as a rallying cry for Irish Americans and to move the discussion to the next level. With the war over, and a power-sharing, democratic system in place and working, the way is open for a peaceful, political movement towards a united Ireland. This is the context for the resolutions, and they are a first action in this movement.

1. Why The Resolutions Needed - Now that the war is resolved and a mechanism for achieving a united Ireland exists, regardless of what the GFA says, there will be major obstacles to actually voting in a united Ireland. These are:
  - Resistance in some segments of the British government. The British have thought of Ireland as theirs for centuries, by right of presumed religious superiority, cultural superiority, economic convenience, or raw power (among others). These atavistic attitudes remain, for instance among some in the military and “security” establishment.
  - Fear and uncertainty among many Loyalists. Prejudice too, of course, but Loyalists at least have a right to wonder how a united Ireland, with them in it, would work.
  - Institutional inertia. This might turn out to be the most important, and it will be encountered on both sides of the partition. For 90 years Ireland has operated as two separate entities, with the six counties connected to and maintained by Britain. Changing that will involve countless changes, small and large, including many in everyday affairs, and the accompanying uncertainty. And it will therefore affect many vested interests, large and small.
  
2. How the Resolutions and Campaign by Irish Americans for a United Ireland will Help Overcome the Obstacles
  - It will keep the issue in front of both the public and political leaders here and as it did with the MacBride Principles, in Ireland and Britain.
  - It will keep the focus on the right of the people of the six counties to vote to unite Ireland. If this is not done, we might see that downplayed, and any discussion being turned to what will be presumed to be the impracticality of uniting Ireland.
  - It will remind all parties of the continued interest and good offices of America in the process. American good offices were critical to starting the peace process and to its eventual success, results which have been good for everyone involved. Note that American involvement was in turn the result of years, in fact decades, of (mostly thankless) work by Irish Americans.
  - It will offer the best thing America can offer, encouragement and a sense that a united, free, democratic Ireland is O.K., it is consistent with how things work here, and American support for it comes from the good will Americans hold for Ireland, and for all the Irish, which U.S. involvement in the peace process demonstrated.
  
3. Beyond the Resolutions – What must be Done
  - Lots, but the resolutions are a good start. The resolutions must be seen as the first step in the campaign to finally achieve a united Ireland.
  - Generally, Irish Americans, the IAUC and all other groups, need to develop information explaining and promoting a united Ireland. The IAUC, whose primary purpose is information and political action on human and civil rights in the north of Ireland, should play a major role here.
  - The membership of the IAUC, the AOH, and the constituencies of Irish media, events, communities, and other organizations need to be brought up to speed and activated.
  - Initiatives need to be made to help reconcile former enemies, and to reach out to Loyalists – to show that we will welcome them on board. The neutral and friendly to both sides environment of the United States may be the best place for this process. There was a remarkable discussion between Loyalists and former IRA and Sinn Fein members at the IAUC Convention in Boston in 2007. The IAUC, the Ireland Institute and others can and should facilitate this kind of exchange as part of the process.

Joe Roche said it best. When the ball is inside the ten yard line is not the time to quit. Let’s bring Ireland’s 800-year nightmare to an end.

## **Irish Unity Makes Progress in 2010**

By George Trainor

This year has been very exciting for the United Ireland Campaign. The states of California, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York passed resolutions supporting a United Ireland. The New Jersey State House and Assembly passed the resolution 75-0.

Organizations, such as the San Francisco Chapter of Veterans for Peace and unions across the country have adopted resolutions for Irish unity.

The coming year should be no exception. The United Ireland Campaign has pushed into the states of Oregon and Montana. Portland, Oregon representatives have pledged to work on passing Portland City Council and State legislation resolutions.

Tom Pahut, Montana State AOH President stated, "We think it's important to pursue this. A draft resolution has already been started and it should not be impossible to get someone to sponsor this within our Legislature and to get presented."

This has obviously been an important year, but more work remains to bring us to a United Ireland. The United Ireland Campaign committee, Irish American Unity Conference, Ancient Order of Hibernians and other organizations look forward to continue working to see this goal accomplished

## **The Irish American Unity Conference is Proud to Announce**

**Saint Patrick's Day Raffle**

**Round Trip Airfare for Two to Ireland**

**New York to Ireland**

**Drawing: March 31, 2011**

**3:00 P.M.**

**2900 Coolidge, Berkley, Michigan**

**\$5.00 donation per ticket**

**If 400 tickets are not sold, the drawing will  
revert to 50/50 raffle with a minimum prize of  
\$750.00**

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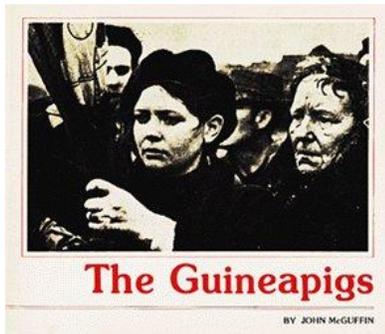
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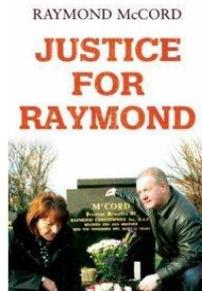
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George Trainor at: 209-858-8124 or by email:  
[Steeler059@aol.com](mailto:Steeler059@aol.com)**

## BOOKS FOR SALE

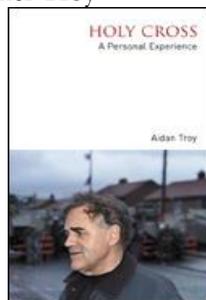
1. **The Guineapigs**, By John McGuffin - \$13.50 includes S&H



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3. **Holy Cross, A Personal Experience**, By Father Aidan Troy - \$13.50 (includes S&H)  
All proceeds go to Father Troy



4. **Tales from the Barricade** By John McGuffin - \$13.50 (includes S&H)
5. **Writings Of Bobby Sands** –This collection of his writings was published posthumously in May 1981. Introduction by fellow republican, Gerry Adams - \$22.50 (includes S&H)

**Membership in the IAUC**

To renew or become a member of the IAUC, please fill out the following and mail to:

**Irish American Unity Conference  
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Dues

Regular Member: \$30.00  
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The IAUC has some chapters in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, California, Michigan and Washington, DC. If you would like chapter information please let us know.

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