

GREEN *pastures*

Summer Picnic Photos

What Are You Doing This Summer?

Massey Knakal Softball

Billy Simons and Brendan Gotch's
Fairwell Messages

Interview with Ed Givinski

2ND QUARTER 2010
VOLUME XXXV

**MASSEY
KNAKAL**

Realty Services



What are you up to this summer?

Exploring new places.

-- *Joe Sitt*

My annual Lake George Camping trip - A group of friends I grew up with rent a private Island in the middle of Lake George and rent two speed boats and camp out for 5 days.

-- *Landon McGaw*

Checking out the Met's rooftop scene.

-- *Jessica Painsiris*

Traveling with friends and spending time with my adult kids when they visit home.

-- *Nalini Chugh*

Sailing.

-- *Brendan Gotch*



Looking forward to Sienna's first voyage to España!

-- *Christy Moyle*

Walking our black labs down to the beach for an early morning swim.

-- *Paul Massey*

Cross country trip with my guitar.

-- *Billy Simons*

Playing so much golf that my farmers tan gets to be really awkward looking.

-- *Rob Shapiro*

The three S's...Sun. Skin. Salt Water. --

Mike Azarian

Shakespeare in the Park, especially with Al Pacino.

-- *Monica Ortiz*

Summer weekends, everyday!

-- *Jeff Jakob*

Learning how to swim, Dave Matthews Band concert, exploring Southern California!

-- *Shannon Krause*

My baby shower.

-- *Erin Mitchell*

The barbecues, day drinking, wave running, the beach, playing golf, the sun, the heat, the music, the bikinis, and of course, the fist pumping like a true Jersey Shore local.

-- *Craig Waggner*

Massey Knakal Softball

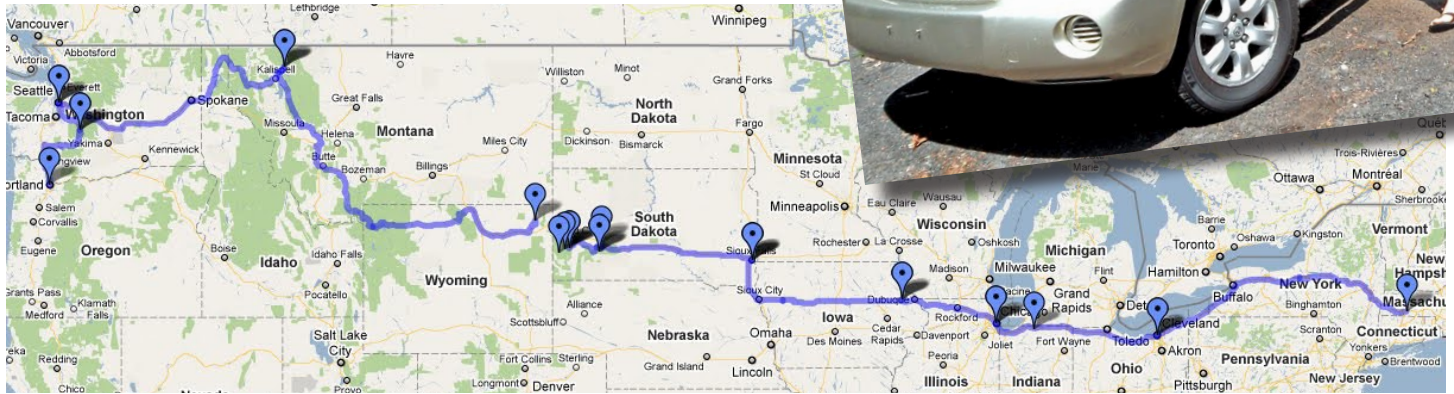


Congrats!

*For the second year in a row
our Massey Knakal softball team
won the Real Estate League Championship!
Great Job Coach Cameron and all our players!*



Billy Simons Hits the Road



Five years ago, right around this time of the year, I was on a plane coming back from Australia without a clue as to what I was going to do or what would happen after my next and final semester of college. After two weeks of sitting around the pool at my parents house and doing (effectively) nothing, I started going stir crazy, packed a backpack, took a bus to the city and started looking for a summer job. Having met Brendan in class the semester before, I emailed him and he put me in touch with Gia LaMarca. He reminded me in a few different emails to note that “we represent sellers only... that’s what makes us different.” This meant nothing to me as the closest thing I had to real estate experience prior was living in a house.

I came in for my interview with a resume boasting skills in Microsoft Word and Excel, met with Brendan and Brock before meeting with James, had my chops busted for being a Sox fan, and when James asked “Why real estate?”, I started talking, blacked out, and stopped talking only once James’ face indicated that I should be done talking. I can’t recollect a word of my response.

Since then, it’s been a great ride of peaks and valleys with so many good memories, a lot of great people, and a mental library of countless euphemisms, proverbs, figures of speech, and other ridiculous sayings, all thanks to sitting sandwiched between James and Smaddy. “Well if you ask me, there’s a couple ways you can skin an egg without letting the goose out of the bag.” (These lingual gymnastics ended up inspiring a song that I recently released called “Not for Nothin” Ha!) Like so many have said before me, MK really has become a family and for that I am grateful.

So now I’m packing up and moving on to put a few miles on the odometer across these here United States. With a path heading through OH to IN, and IL, I’m then heading northwest through IA, SD, WY, MT, WA and then down through CA. Maybe I’ll drive back. Maybe I’ll fly. Maybe I’ll stay. Playing shows and seeing new places and old friends along the way should make for a memorable summer. I’ve heard it gets lonely, so if I don’t make it or decide to turn around, I’ll just alter the truth and start posting other people’s photos from their trips and make up stories from the road.

I can’t say this has been a lifelong dream (because the idea itself was born only a few months ago) or where the idea even came from. What I do know is that when I tell people I’m doing it, I get one of three responses:

Wow, I wish I had done that when I was younger. I have a family and mortgage now, but do you know how much I wish I could do it?

Wow, I did that a few years back and it was the most amazing experience of my life. You must be ecstatic!

Wow, are you out of your mind?!

And I can say that I answer all three responses with the same very anxious yet proud “Yes!”

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Bon Voyage Brendan Gotch

I remember interviewing with Gia in the old Queens office back in 2003, when she was 14 years old and I was 12. I clicked instantly with our young Director of HR and thought, “This place sounds great.” And boy I was right. Back then, I was a student at NYU, looking to beef up my resume. Because my parents own a 10 unit mixed-use building in Newport, RI, I thought it would be fun to give real estate a shot. I was lucky to start working for James and Clint, who was James’s associate at the time. Shortly after I started, Brock and Ivan came on board and we shared a cozy back office at 18 East 41st Street. It was a little tight, but we called it home.

The years wore on, working under James, I gained wrinkles and lost hair. Some business highlights for me included our sales at 102-08 West 57th Street – a \$57M development site sale – and 625 Broadway – a \$60M office building sale. My proudest deal though, was the first one that I dug up on my own: 270 Bleeker Street – a \$4M mixed use building for a woman based in New Mexico that decided gold was a better investment than real estate. We thought she was crazy, but it turns out she was right – gold’s up 50% from then and her building... isn’t. Now, while I love a building sale as much as the next guy, the best times I had with you folks weren’t just business. Some other highlights were Friday afternoons a few years ago when, before he had a family, Bob would take whoever was left in the office for impromptu margaritas at Rio Grande. James even took our team for a few ski weekends. Later, Gia and I instituted a tradition that came to involve our good friend Jonathan Hageman affectionately called “Scotch with Gotch.” Of course, I could never forget my annual sailing adventure at Larchmont Yacht Club, which has ranged from enthusiastically bobbing on a windless Long Island Sound with Chris Germaine to White Squall-like conditions that left the fearless Shannon Krause drenched, frigid, and half-convincingly asking for more.

I could reminisce more, but I think it’s clear that I’ve had a good run here. And of course, I should go fully on record as saying that I’ll miss this place and that I’m not leaving for any other reason than that I need to do something crazy at one point in my life and that’s now. For those who don’t realize it, I’m leaving MK for beautiful Fontainebleau, France. There’s a whole article on it on Wikipedia. More or less, I decided that I wanted to move to Europe come hell or high water. Initially I was going to bartend in Spain and just figure out how to make it work. Then I realized that I’d get kicked out after a few months without a visa. A better way



f o r

me to stay on a longer term

basis was to go to school there – business school, in fact – which will then help me ultimately get a job and live there and fulfill my dream. I had considered school in Spain, but when I got into INSEAD, I realized that it is the kind of place that’s too good to say no to, so I enrolled. And soon I’ll be off.

I’ll be working until July 30th, then I’ve got two weeks of vacation. On August 15th, I’m flying over, hanging out for a week, and starting school, which is supposedly going to be insane, in both the good way and the lots-of-work way. While I’m there (it’s a 10 month program), I’ll spend my first two periods (September to December) in France, then I’ll probably spend my third period (January and February) at INSEAD’s Singapore campus, and then I’m back to France until July, when I graduate. After that, who knows? My main goal is to stay in Europe. As a secondary goal, I’m trying to ultimately get a job in the business portion of the classical music industry (think management, labor relations, development, etc.). I’d go into more detail about that, but I don’t want anyone who’s made it this far to fall asleep. (Although, if you have any contacts in that field, I’m trying to start building a network, so I’d love to meet them.)

And that’s really it. Of course, I’d love to stay in touch, especially if you find any funny YouTube videos (Cameron, Billy) or if you plan to find yourself in Europe at any point. The best way to get me will probably be my gmail, which is brendan.gotch@gmail.com. Or you can mail me at my future home. I hope to hear from some of you and absolutely wish everyone the best. From August 15 on out, you can get me at...

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Massey Knakal Summer Picnic

Larchmont Yacht Club • June 17, 2010





Paul Massey and Bob Knakal



Karl Brumback, John and Janet Barrett, Lev Kimyagarov



Shirley Martire and Family



Lev Kimyagarov and Family



Socializing!



Mindy, Gia, Christy, Shirley and Shannon



Moon Bounce!



Shimon and Ariel Shkury



Christy Moyle and Family



Brendan Maddigan, Brian Hanson and Megan Flanagan



Guthrie Garvin, Clint Olsen and Ed Gevinski



Horse Shoes!



Moon Bounce!



Ethan Vaisman, Tom Willoughby and Kevin Gleason



Brendan, Gia, Bryan, Mike, Agatha, Kyle



Kids love a clown!



Kobi Leifer and Family



Face Painting!



Tom Gammino and Family



Billy, Jackie, Craig, Bob, Shannon



Cynthia Knakal and Shirley Martire



Ken Krasnow, winner of the MK Tennis Tournament



Bob, Paul, Christy and Sienna



Shirley Martire and Paul Massey

Spotlight on Ed Gevinski

You come from a large family. How many brothers/sisters, nieces/nephews, cousins do you have? What was it like growing up with such a large family?

I am from a rather large family. I am the eighth of nine children, seven boys and two girls and twenty one nieces and nephews. It's tough to remember all these names at parties unless I think about it before I get there. This makes it a little more difficult to have a small family BBQ or dinner. If you invite everyone with their wives and kids, that's over 40 people.

You were a member of every club and sport possible in school. What was the most obscure club you participated in? How did you manage to juggle school, sports, clubs, and maintain a social life?

Growing up our house was very sport oriented so that's pretty much all I remember doing most days from morning until night. As soon as we ate breakfast my mom would send us outside for the day so she could finally get some peace and quiet for a couple minutes since there was so many of us. Video games and TV were not very big in our house so I was always keeping busy doing a number of different things. That's probably what drove me into teaching Physical Education out of college. The other clubs and activities I participated in were most likely to spend more time with the girls in school.

I am told that you have been working since you were six years old.

I have been working for a while. We never got allowance when I was a kid so if we wanted things we had to get them ourselves. My first job was when I was nine. During the summer I worked at a marina down the street from our home. I pumped gas and worked at the snack bar. I liked it because people were always nice and gave me tips seeing a kid so young working. My most interesting job was out on a lobster boat. I used to get sea sick so it was a struggle. I spent half the time baiting pots and the other half getting sick. Needless to say that job didn't last very long.

You grew up with Clint Olsen; care to share any childhood stories? Anything we don't know about Clint?

I've know Clint since little league and we've been friends as long as I can remember. I do recall a time in high school when he decided to test the waters with alcohol for the first time. We both had a couple too many, and he ended up "mistakenly" punching me in the face. I was really only mad at him for knocking out one of my contact lenses. He hits like a little girl.

While living in California, you worked in Compton and now you are working in Brownsville. What's the draw to these... um...exciting neighborhoods?



When I first started teaching I was broke and took the first teaching job opening available. I just happened to land where I did. After a few years there I was offered other teaching/coaching positions in much nicer areas like Palos Verdes and declined. When your teaching and coaching you are so involved with the kids, it's hard to just leave them after they've instilled so much trust in you. I'm not really sure how these college coaches move from place to place all the time.

Tell us about your experience teaching in Compton?

It wasn't Compton High School but pretty similar. They were in our league so when I coached football we played Compton along with a high school in Watts. Those are some pretty tough neighborhoods. Some of our players lived there and couldn't take public transportation home after dark because it wasn't safe enough so we took turns driving them. I was always in and out pretty fast. There are a few stories. My first experience playing an away game was having garbage thrown at us as we walked off the bus. My next was getting back on the bus and having the whole thing spray painted. There are others but it's kind of depressing really.

Do you miss living on the West coast? What is the major difference between East and West coast life?

I did love living out there. It was a great experience but its tough being away from your family for so long. I come from a big family and missed a lot of my nieces and nephews growing up, so the last three years back in New York have been fun getting reacquainted with them again. California is a great place to live. It's seems to be an easier more laid back way of living. New Yorkers have a different mindset when it comes to life and work. New Yorkers live to work and play. It took me a while when I moved back here to get back into that mindset. When I was teaching I referred a college friend who was looking for a teaching job to our HR department. The woman in HR told me she would hire any of my friends from New York because you get twice the work out of them for the same pay.

Clint tells me your nicknames are "Chops" and "Polish Wonder." Please elaborate.

Chops is my fathers nickname and since I'm Ed Jr. it was kind of inherited. I'm not sure if my dad got the nickname from his sideburns or because he liked teasing people and busting their "chops", maybe a combination of both. Polish wonder now I would like to believe that our old football coach made that one up after I made incredible plays, but I'm sure if you ask him or Clint they will have a very different take on the story.