

## Ana's baby shower enjoyed by all

Friends and family assembled at the Hartman home on April 19<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the soon to arrival of Craig and Ana's first baby, who is due to arrive sometime in mid-May. Birdy sent us the following e-mail message.

Hi all, The invitation to Ana's shower got delivered to the wrong address. They went out in the mail yesterday but I wanted to give you a heads up...Her shower is next Sunday, a week from Easter....at my house at 1:00. We sent invitations to all the family but I did not have addresses on all of the cousins....so please know that you all are invited. I know this doesn't give you much time...I feel for Ana's sister because she opted to do ordered invitations, rather than homemade or an evite...and that kind of puts you at the mercy of their time schedule. Her heart was in the right place. We hope you can all come. It is a coed shower....so Craig is going to be there and he is hoping to have some male support! Ana hates to have the lime light just on her...so the more the merrier. Isn't it odd that as our oldest (Happy birthday, Kevin) turns 30....we begin a new era with a baby being born....wow...life is just starting for the cousins...and I can't wait to watch how it all unfolds. See you on Easter...love Birdy

Birdy's message saved the day, as a large crowd turned out to enjoy a delicious lunch followed by some clever games and the opening of the many shower gifts. In one game we each were given a string necklace with a tiny glass baby attached. In casual conversations each contestant tried to induce another person to say the word "baby". The one who says it has to give his necklace to the other person. The person ending up with the most "babies" is the winner, and sly Margaret was the run-away winner. In another game Craig and Ana stood together, back to back, and a tape measure was stretched around both stomachs. Each contestant was given a length of tape and asked to indicate his best guess of the combined girth of the soon to be new parents. Home builder Ed, with his good eye for dimensions, was the clear winner. Finally, Ana and Craig opened the many baby oriented gifts, with Ana's Mom keeping track of each item. The party then broke up, with everyone wishing Ana the best for the future.





## Family celebrates Mothers Day 2009

The celebration started on Saturday morning, when Carol and Jeff, along with Ed, arrived about 10:00. Carol had asked for help on her school project (see article in this issue) We enjoyed lunch at Applebees after which Carol took Mom shopping for a new watch. They finally found one she liked, and Carol dropped of Mom at St. Vincents' just in time for the five o'clock service. Richard joined us for a "happy Mothers Day" visit. The celebration continued on Sunday, when Carol and Jeff picked us up at 9:30 for brunch. This year we went to the Boat House restaurant on Harbor Island. We were joined by Margaret, Bud, Jason and ??????, and enjoyed a delicious brunch selected by each from the brunch menu. At 2:00 p.m. we met at Francie's home for a wide selection of desserts, including various ice creams, cookies and lots of other goodies. Mom got lots of flowers and also from Francie and Margaret an interesting device for viewing electronically family pictures. It was another great Mothers Day experience, and she thanks all who participated. Also, we all thank Francie for once again hosting another family celebration.



We all know that Francie is a skilled gardener, and admire all the flowers she is growing in her back yard. What is not well known is that she has a secret vegetable garden. The photo at the lower right shows her beside her sweet corn plants. As you can see they are almost as big as she is, and ears are beginning to set.

## News from Michelle

Birdy sent us the following, about

Michelle's plans.

Hi all, Michelle called with some great news and here is an update to this part of her blog...."For those of you who don't know much about the world of science, when I'm done with my PhD at U. Mass, I will then have to go and work as a Post-Doc. (This is the equivalent to a residency for medical doctors). It is still considered a "training" position and I will be poorly compensated for the hours that I will work... similar to being a grad student. I am really OK with this, it is part of the process, and it's a fun place to be".



She goes on to say that she wanted to do this abroad and was doing research on labs all around. Well, then on

Tuesday she got a job offer to do a fellowship at a university in Bonn, Germany with one of her professors at U. Mass! Apparently he is a well respected scientist and is doing cutting edge research in genetics. She feels so fortunate to have the opportunity to be working with him. He asked her to join him as soon as she graduates (approximately in 1 year). He is part of her thesis team. This will be a new lab that is filled with all the latest and greatest machines. a "state of the art" facility...with uberfunding! Next week, they will fly her to Germany to see the college and lab. She is going to extend her visit for an extra two weeks there because she also has friends in Germany. So this turned into a great opportunity to travel a bit. After she graduates, she expects to be there for three years but that depends on her visa. How cool is that?

Here is a link to the university. Check it out!  
<http://www1.unibonn.de/startseite/jsp/index.jsp?lang=en>

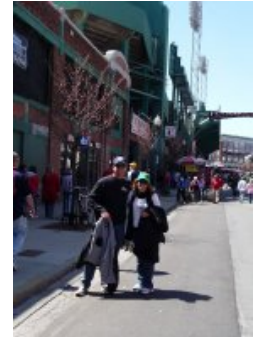
Needless to say....we are all excited and very proud of her, Go Michelle!

Love,Birdy

## Listy and Bob at the Boston marathon

As we reported in a recent RFNL, Listy recently qualified for the world famous Boston race, and she and Bob took off early to take in some sights. Birdy sent us some excerpts from Michelle's Blog describing the event.

This is so exciting... my aunt and uncle are in Boston all the way from San Diego because my Aunt Listy qualified for the Boston Marathon that will take place on Monday April 20th, Patriot's Day. MA is the only state that "celebrates" this day, so for all of my friends out in CA, I'm sorry you don't get it off!! Today, Saturday, we're doing touristy type things like the freedom trail. But it's going to be a balmy 60 degrees out so it will be great to walk around! On Sunday, we're



going to the Red Sox game at Fenway and then Monday is the marathon. We're staying loose and flexible because it's a



fairly large group that will be here, but it should be fun. I'll be back with pictures later!

Michelle provided captions for the above pictures, from top left to bottom right, as follows.

1. Aunt Listy and me being very cold at the Red Sox game.
2. Uncle Bob and Aunt Listy at Fenway.
3. Aunt Listy giving Uncle Bob a hug with 6/10 of a mile left to finish! We found her amongst about 28,000 runners!
4. Kim, Corey, and Aunt Listy – a post race picture...can you believe they are all smiling after 26.2 miles?!

Thanks, Michelle, for your comments on the Boston Marathon experience with Aunt Listy and Uncle Bob.



# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

MAY, 2009

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## Francie Expands

No, not Francie, Francies' business the FINAL CUT HAIR STUDIO. She is just about doubling her business size by expanding over to the adjacent office. In a heroic effort to reverse the sagging local economy France has persuaded private capital to surge into the starving market, taking advantage of months of free building rent, rock bottom construction contracts and, cut-rate, interest free, materials deals. In a few weeks, with the improvements completed, Francie will be increasing both the cities product inventory, and rented building space. Expectantly increasing the regions' sales and service industry thereby pulling our country out its' current depressing recession, and positively make us a more beautiful world, one head at a time.

In Francies' own words," it's time for the next final cut adventure!

FINAL CUT HAIR STUDIO  
7841 BALBOA AVE. STE. 101  
858-565-2015



Easter smiles

## Mingei International Museum

The Balboa Saturday afternoon party met with Bud and Margret, on the Prado, amidst a San Diego region, high school, Shakespearian competition.



Following the performances of the favored schools the group enjoyed a visit to the Mingei Museum.

The museums' calling, it seems, is to exhibition collections of worldwide craft art. The current displays include those from both India and Japan. Items displayed were everyday objects enhanced by a touch of art. Be it Japan kimonos or Indian candleholders one must add the art. But really, designer bull horn caps. (Worn by the stylish, as well as sacred bull) And the ornate coconut scraper. We humans!

