

Jessica and Miguel announce their engagement

Dad,
 This is from Jessica and I'm sending you one as well with a picture. Carol

Dear Grandpa, Grandma, and family,
 We're Engaged! That's right, Miguel popped the big question. Now two members of the Benesch clan are off the market. I'm sure it goes without saying, but Miguel and I are both very happy and excited to be tying the knot. We are hoping to have the wedding next summer in San Diego but no plans have been finalized yet. Of course, you will be the first to know when we know. The big proposal was very romantic. Miguel came with me on a trip to Rome and took me to our favorite restaurant. His decision to come along with me while I was working



was *very* last minute (or so he had me believe) so I was not expecting a thing. After dinner we went to the Trevi Fountain which is another favorite spot of ours, and then we decided to just wander the little cobblestone back streets the same way we did when we first visited



the eternal city over two years ago. It was on one of these little streets that he stopped suddenly and asked the all important question to which I happily replied, "of course yes"! A lot of jumping up and down ensued and then a very long distance phone call to my parents (they were vacationing with Francie in Hawaii at the time) all followed by a

very well deserved, sound night of sleep. The next day we made a quick stop at the Vatican (just for you Grandma) and then sadly had to return to New Jersey -I was working, after all. Not only did Miguel get to enjoy the ride home the next day, but, when the other crew members found out what happened the night before, you can rest assured that he was treated very well indeed. As Miguel recently pointed out to a friend, the wedding planning commission is in full swing. Any ideas can be happily received by either me or an equally excited mother of the bride. We look forward to celebrating with everyone soon! Love, Jessica and Miguel

Some anniversary news Margaret and Bud celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary a bit early by combining a conference to be held in the Haag with a vacation in Amsterdam You can see them in the M (maybe for Mehan and Margaret) in the many plaza in front of the Riech and Van Gogh Museums. They strolled along the canals and used the trolleys and buses to get to the many museums that make Amsterdam such a great destination.

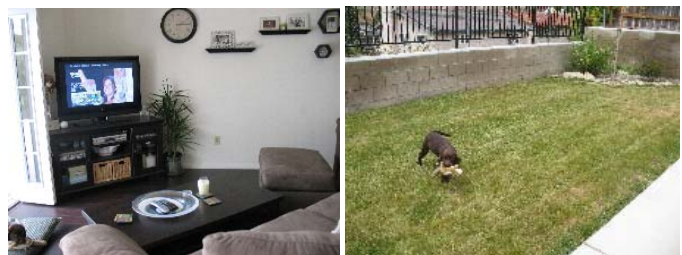




Some Family news – Summer, 2009

Bruce has been battling muscle fatigue for a while and recently got some news.. Ever since his heart attack, the CK levels in his blood (that's the measure of muscle damage) have remained high. The doctors have been so puzzled by this and his other blood work that has been all over the map. Usually, a high CK level in your blood would point to a heart attack but his heart test are fine. The muscle biopsy finally came up with an answer. That's the good news. He has Polymyositis which is an inflammatory Myopathy. This is a disease where the immune system attacks the muscles of the body with no known cause or cure. It causes chronic muscle inflammation and muscle weakness. It affects His skeletal muscles (involved with making movement) on both sides of the body. It can also attack the heart muscle, breathing muscles and swallowing muscles which so far seem to be okay. The treatment is mainly high doses of prednisone (a corticosteroid). He will probably stay on this drug the rest of his life. The good news is that it does it helps him feel better and it helps his rheumatoid arthritis. The bad news is that prednisone also has many harmful and not so fun side effects. It takes a toll on the liver, causes bone density loss, Gastro-intestinal problems, hot flashes, weight gain and rounding of the face and other complications. It is the drug to love and hate. the grand-daddy of the anti-inflammatory drugs. The prognosis for polymyositis varies. Most people respond fairly well to therapy, but some people have more severe disease and do not respond adequately to therapies and are left with significant disability. We can only wait and see where Bruce's disease takes us. It has been extremely frustrating for Bruce and Birdy or the past many months going through test after test and coming up with results that have been inconclusive leading to more tests and more doctors. So although it is certainly not the best of news, it is at least an answer to why he has felt so weak and crappy. Bruce knew something was very wrong so he is relieved to have an answer. Birdy is also very happy to have an answer I but is saddened by what this may do to him. However, if anyone can battle through a disease, it is Bruce! He has the strongest inter spirit of anyone we know. In a month, Birdy and Bruce will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary!! We wish them many years of happiness together and we will pray for Bruce's health.

did a great job, and we enjoyed lots of drinks and snacks while checking it out.



A Fathers Day celebration

Some travel plans resulted in some unable to celebrate the day. However, Grandpa was treated to a surprise lunch. We had planned on the usual 11:00a.m. church service, followed by lunch at our regular Chinese buffet. Richard, Liz, and JJ were with us, and we were enjoying lunch when Listy, Bob, Kristy, and Birdy surprised us to join in. It was a pleasant surprise, and after lunch Richard joined us at the movie theater.

Kristy and Seamus throw housewarming party



As we previously reported, the home that Kristy and Seamus purchased has been extensively remodeled. The job is done and we celebrated the new look with an afternoon party. As you can see from the pictures they



Scott Hartman has new job

Yes, Scott has returned to the hotel world. He was offered a job to be the Assistant Front Desk Manager at the Bahia Hotel in Mission Beach. He is working full time and taking college classes on his days off. His schedule keeps him very busy but he does seem to enjoy life in the hospitality industries.

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

July 2009

Margaret attends technical conference in Amsterdam

As mentioned in page one Margaret and Bud combined business and pleasure during a recent trip. Here is the business report.

The international EdusumMIT Conference on the use of technology in education was held in The Haag. It was a gathering of authors of the International Handbook of Information and Communication Technology in primary and secondary education. They taped interviews with a subset of the participants and this can be watched online

(<http://edusummit.nl/resultssummit/interviews/riel>). Margaret will post more about the conference with links and more picture of Amsterdam and The Haag on RFNL-Online.



Some vacations in Hawaii

On the week of June 14th we made our yearly trip to Kuaii to our time share. This year since all the kids were off to the Netherlands or Ireland, it was just the 2 of us, so Carol and Jeff and Cindy and Boone came along for the fun. It was great, almost like we were kids again having a sleep over.

Cindy and Boone flew with us and Carol and Jeff flew over a few days later. We spent many days touring the beauty of the island. Most of the group took a zip line perspective, i chose to remain behind and chill at the resort. who can imagine me dressing up like these geeks, (see above pic)



We spent many a night trying different restaurants and seeing all that the island had to offer. here you can see us trying out the best the Grand Hyatt had to offer(see pics) The rest of the week we just had a good time celebrating the summer of anniversaries. Lyle and Francie their 6th, Carol and Jeff soon to celebrate their 30th. stay tuned to the "staycation"



Birdy and Bruce take up bicycling

Recently Bruce and Birdy invested in a tandem bike, and now are busy biking about the neighborhood. They stopped by our place (bike in truck) and gave us a demonstration of their new skill. We understand that they had just returned from a tour of the Mission Bay area, with Carol and Jeff. We took some pictures to document this new activity.



Another Day at the Zoo

Last Saturday we felt it was our turn to see the new elephant exhibit at Zoo. After a stole down the monkey trail to our favorite zoo restaurant we walked and scooted north. We approached the enclosure from the east, which was backwards, but proceeded unassailed by neither man nor beast.

The hot sun shined brightly against the stainless steel tree feeders, brisling with state of the art electronic gear; but it did not move. And there were no Elephants. As we walked west to the main elephant washhouse, we found the east side pacaderms resting in the shade. But things were wilder on the west side; not only were the elephants eating whole branches scattered around the grounds but they were rolling in the dust just outside their pool. But even moor exciting was the cougar catfish cage. It seemed strange to see a cat, completely wet, jumping and prancing in a long, water filled trough made to look like a river. When you saw the foot long catfish trying to evade being the cats lunch, it all made sense.

The polar bear exhibit was also cool as was the ice cream and the sea line/bird show. We may just do it again next week

