

Margaret celebrates 60th Birthday with family and friends

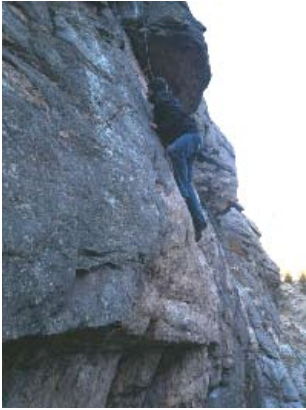
It's pretty hard to arrange a surprise birthday party on one's 60th birthday. The informal committee, headed by Francie, did surprise Margaret on the night of her birthday, March 6, 2010. Francie and Lyle had invited Margaret to come to their home at about 6:00 pm knowing full well that Margaret would figure out that a surprise party was being organized. However, only family members were on hand to greet her on arrival. In the meantime a large group of friends were assembling at a parking lot two blocks away. Unknown to Margaret, Michael, Ashley and Megan had traveled from their home bases, Boulder CO and San Francisco, and were in charge of the "friends group". When the real surprise was ready to take place Michael was alerted by cell phone to bring the group, on foot, down the street and into the garage. Once assembled the rear door of the garage, leading to the patio, was opened and the guests filed in to wish Margaret a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!! Soon thereafter food was served buffet style. Chef Lyle expertly grilled shrimp and chicken, and a whole array of side dishes and drinks were available. After everyone had enjoyed the food, the "Margaret roast" commenced. Francie and Bud had arranged for about ten or so family/friends to recall some particular event or experience they had shared with Margaret. The order of presentation was chronological, hence Grandpa and Grandma were the first speakers. Grandpa told about the frustration of dressing the little children in wintertime snow outfits. After a very brief romp in the snow they all came back into house and cold and wet snow gear had to be removed. In the 1990's time frame Grandma told the story about how she and Margaret went on a shopping trip in Tijuana and were arrested (almost) for passing a counterfeit ten dollar bill which they had gotten as change. In spite of a demand by telephone from Grandpa that they come home at once, Grandma persisted in getting back the ten dollars back. Grandpa ended the roast with a note written by Margaret which contained instructions on how to shop for toys for Megan when she was about four years old. Other family and friends told similar stories that centered on one of three themes, her willing to talk on any issue, her parenting skills and tricks, or her role as a techie. It was a great party.



News from Michael in Boulder

Hi Grandpa,

Ashley and I have been in Boulder for a few months now and have really been enjoying ourselves. My job has been going very well. It is a good balance between the creative freedom that I enjoyed in graduate school and the satisfaction of seeing my work put to use. Our company is moving forward very quickly so it has been pretty exciting. I'm spending most of my time working on clinical studies like melanoma, pancreatic cancer, and depression. The fast pace has been great and I've been getting along really well with the people I work with.



Ashley and I have been going rock climbing with some of the people from work a couple times a week in a local gym. On one of our warmer days, they took us outside for some real rock climbing. I've attached a couple pictures of Ashley and myself scaling a mountain. She's actually a lot better at climbing than I am, a fact

my co-workers are happy to remind me of on a daily basis.

When we aren't rock climbing, we are playing soccer three times a week. The field that we play at in Boulder is a lot of fun. They film the games and then replay them on a 100 inch screen in a bar



upstairs that over looks the field. After the games, both teams file upstairs to have a few drinks and watch the highlights. Our games are on Friday night at that field so it works out well.



Ashley and I both have season passes so we've been going snowboarding almost every weekend. Ashley took me to Vail for three days last weekend for my birthday, which was absolutely amazing. I've attached a picture that the Vail photographers took of me going off a jump in the park (sorry for the watermarks). There is an open invitation for anyone who would like

to come out and visit. We have a guest room and discounted lift tickets for anyone who makes the trip.

That just about covers what we've been up to. A friend of mine just gave me a bike so as soon as the snow melts I'll be picking up riding as well. We'll be native Boulderites in no time at this rate. Hope to see you soon.

Love, Michael

More pictures of Margaret's 60th



It is with great sadness we share this report.

Maria FAIRWEATHER

Maria, much loved wife of Patrick and mother of Catherine and Natasha, died at home on 8th March 2010. Public funeral at St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury, Wilts at 1.30pm on Thursday 25th March and afterwards at Arundell House, Tisbury. No flowers please. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the cancer unit which treated Maria may do so by cheque to Stars Appeal, Salisbury District Hospital, Salisbury SP2 8BJ or by bank transfer to NatWest Acct.no.78531225, sort code 544119. Please include reference to Pembroke Unit Fund and/or 1306PF.

Published in The Times on March 13, 2010

Maria was the daughter of Grandma's eldest brother Romulus Merica (deceased) and wife Isabelle, who still lives in Athens, but is in poor health. Maria is the author of an award-winning [biography of Madam De Stael](#), a famous French writer. Margaret has been in contact with Maria's husband, Patrick, and the following messages give some details. A detailed report on Maria's book is presented in the March, 2006 RFNL. (RFNL1813)

From: **Patrick Fairweather** <patfair1@waitrose.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 12, 2010 at 12:21 AM
To: Margaret Riel

Dear Margaret, Thank you so much for your sympathetic message which Catherine, Natasha and I found very moving. Your perceptive observations on Maria and her work (and on your own state of mind when you came over)) touched us.

Please also thank your mother for her message. It is amazing that so many years later she retains a memory of babysitting Maria! We are asking people not to send flowers but, if they wish, to make a donation to the marvellous cancer facility where Maria was so well treated. If I may I will forward an email from the Stars Appeal which explains how to do this.

We read the Riel family newspaper with great interest even though, alas, we don't know exactly who everyone is!

Best wishes and love from Patrick

----- Original Message -----

From: [Margaret Riel](mailto:Margaret.Riel)
To: patfair1@waitrose.com
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 9:55 PM
Subject: From Edith, Frank and Margaret Riel

Dear Patrick,

I am hoping that you will be reading Maria's email as it is too late at night to call. We just heard of the terrible loss, and we

are saddened by it. I only learned she was sick this past January when I wrote Gerald to see if he could give me her address. I am glad that we did share a short round of messages in the last month. I have been reading Maria's book, Madam de Stael and I am so sad I will not be able to talk with her about it. What a compelling biography of this very powerful figure in French history. The detail and skill with which Maria brings these women back to life is amazing. I wish I had more time to share my reflections with her. My own memories are of a wonderful time when both of you welcomed me-- both family and stranger-- into your home. I look back now and worry that at 21 I might not have been aware enough of all of the things one should do to be a good guest. I hope that I expressed how wonderful it was for me to get to know you and to spend time with your young family. It was so important to me to get to know my mother's family and now I share with you this sad loss. As the family gathers, please share our love with everyone. My mother also writes.... (she does not have her own computer so she called me and asked me to write this for her.)

With much love,

Margaret Riel

Dear Patrick and Catherine and Natasha,

Frank and I are so sorry for your loss. We both are so sad to hear the news. Maria was so special to me. I can remember babysitting her when I was teenager. I would walk with her when she was a very small baby. I am so sorry that I am so far away and cannot travel. I would love to be there to support all of you in this very sad time.



We will pray for all of you. And know that all of the Riels know of Maria because of the moving books she has written. We are all so proud of her and so sad to miss her. Our thoughts, our prayers and our love are with all of you in this time of sorrow. We would like to send something from our family to yours. Please advise if you would like flowers or a donation to a charity of your choice.

All our love and prayers,

Edith and Frank



News from Jessica and Miguel

To the family,

I hope everyone is doing well. Here is a little update from New Jersey: It snowed here again today but not as much as we were expecting so unfortunately I still had to go to work. Miguel and I have been extremely busy lately. Though we are both exhausted, the results are good. Miguel's karate school has more students than ever. In December, Miguel was awarded a Unit Citation from the Jersey City Fire Department for saving the life of a man life by performing CPR. We went to the awards ceremony and afterward a small celebration at a beer garden close by. With city's worth of firefighters and a beer garden, you are pretty much guaranteed a good time. As for me, I am really enjoying nursing school. I made the Dean's list last semester for good grades. The more time passes, them more I am sure that this is the right career choice for me. I love what I am learning and what I am doi;, I just can't wait to start getting paid for it. Plans for the wedding are coming along nicely. All the big stuff has been taken care of so just the little fun details are left to attend to. I hope you can all make it in June for the celebration. It is sure to be a good time. I hope everyone stays well and warm this February and Happy Valentine's Day!

Love, Jessica and Miguel

Diversification in a Flat Home Building Market

By Ed Riel

Being a small contractor, swimming in the true free-market system, as I have most of my life, is not without its tribulations. To see the market you make you're living at (production home building) go non-existent for several years is one of them. As many of you know I have been trying to move to government work as an alternative. Last year I paid, out of meager earnings from my small private work, enough money to submit eight unsuccessful bids. I know many of you have been worrying about me so it is with some relief that I can report that I have successfully won the last 3 out of four. I start Monday on a fancy block enclosed bus stop for the State of California at the Silver Strand beach park. With a bit of fortune I was also the low bidder, out of 13, beating the next low bid by less the \$600, for a small street improvement job for the City of Coronado. Since the work will overlap, it's convenient that they are just down the street from each other. Finally, I won a small welding job, by less the \$200, over the next bidder, to make handrails at a Poway park ADA compliant. Finally, I won

an uncontested job in Fallbrook, An apartment owner required some major maintenance work, including installation of a block flood control retaining wall, some tree trimming, installation of roof gutters, stucco repair, and painting. Since the owner is The Riel Family Trust I will be working in part for myself,



I don't know if I can say that all of this is an indication of a better economy on the horizon or if I just all of a sudden got lucky, but it's an improvement.

Some Family news briefs

Hi Dad,



I took my kindergarten class to Sea World and look who I bumped into! Chris is now famous in kindergarten! I thought you would get a kick out of the photo.

love, Birdy

Annie will be moving to Madrid, Spain soon, where she has a job offer to teach English. She will be there for about nine months, then back to San Diego (hopefully) to enter law school. **Jessica** has a new job working in a hospital. It is relate to her studies to become a nurse. **Brett** recently ran in a marathon and is training for another. **Scott's** plan to start a new restaurant in Tulsa, Oklahoma has been put on the back burner, pending the resolution of some partnership revisions. **JJ** has been accepted at SDSU, and will be starting in the fall. **Robert** and **Katy** are on diets, and each has dropped about 20 pounds.