

## Dustin Benesch – Lauren Bradley Wedding, August 7, 2010

After many months of planning, the big day finally arrived. The wedding party gathered at one o'clock at the U.S. Grant Hotel lobby for a series of official picture taking. We have not yet seen any of them, but we hope to have some for the next RFNL. We then set out for The Francis Parker Lower School in Mission Hills, the site of the actual wedding. Since the wedding was scheduled for 3:30, there was plenty of time for the wedding party to relax and enjoy the final preparation activities. A few minutes before 3:30 the guests suddenly appeared and filed in through the school office and were seated at the outdoor patio. At the appointed hour the wedding party filed in and were either seated in the front row or lined up on the steps where the ceremony was to be conducted. The last to enter were Dustin and Lauren, who stood before "Rev." Mehan, (Dustin's Uncle) who performed the ceremony. Everything went as planned and a few minutes later the new Mr. and Mrs. Dustin Benesch accepted the applause of the guests and filed away to the Library patio for the reception. Drinks and snacks were served while the tables were set up for the dinner. During the reception a slideshow of pictures of Dustin and Lauren from childhood to the present was shown in the library. It was well done and enjoyed by all.





# The Riel Family Newsletter

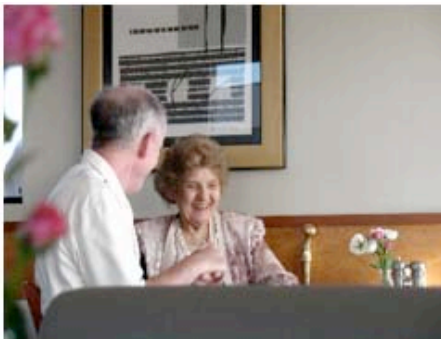
Catch the News August, 2010

## Dustin and Lauren entertain friends at rehearsal dinner

The night before the wedding the various participants for the just described wedding were invited to enjoy dinner at the Pizza Nova restaurant. The entire upper level was reserved for the wedding party, and guests enjoyed a social hour either inside or out on the deck overlooking a marina where several hundreds private boats of all sizes were moored. Before long a buffet of salad plus a variety of pizzas were set out for all to enjoy. After that the guests all assembled on the deck, and Dustin and Lauren enjoyed comments and good wishes from various family members and friends. Then Lauren, with help from Dustin, distributed gifts to the various friends who were scheduled to take part in the next days wedding ceremony. Finally, cake was

set out for all to admire and enjoy. Grandma and Grandpa were pleased to have a chance to get acquainted with Lauren's mother, Alix Bradley, and welcome her into our family group. She is from New Zealand, but now makes her home in the San Francisco area.

YOU ARE INVITED TO  
THE  
REHEARSAL DINNER  
FOR  
**Dustin Benesch  
&  
Lauren Bradley**  
ON FRIDAY,  
AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2010  
AT FIVE-THIRTY IN THE EVENING  
PIZZA NOVA RESTAURANT  
5050 NORTH HARBOR DRIVE  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92106  
NEAR INTERSECTION WITH SCOTT





## The Gillingham and Keith Families Vacation in Europe

By Listy Gillingham

Bob and Listy decided to give their kids one last gift to celebrate the accomplishment of all three kids (plus Seamus) graduating from college by taking a family vacation in Europe. After much planning and discussion, rooms were booked in Austria and throughout Italy and flights were arranged. Bob and Listy started the adventure in St. Johann in Salzburg, Austria. They arrived there on July 19 and spent a few days checking out the area and visiting various cities and attractions. Trip highlights included Eagle's Nest (Hitler's vacation home built on top of the German Alps with a panoramic view of the mountains); a day trip to Vienna; visits to various castles in the area; swimming in a lake in Goldegg; lunch at the top of an Alpine lift; and visiting a mountain gorge with waterfalls cascading right through it.

The "kids" (Kristy, Seamus, David, and Annie) joined Bob and Listy on July 23<sup>rd</sup> after flying into Milan and driving up to Austria with a brief stop in a small town in Italy near Venice. Their arrival was celebrated with a trip into Salzburg (walked all over the city, visited the famous Hellbrunn Castle and dined back in St. Johann). The next day, everyone ventured a little further by driving to Munich. The day began with a visit to Dachau Concentration Camp and ended with "beer and brats" at the famous Hofbrauhaus inside the city. Kristy, Seamus, Annie, and David loved the party atmosphere and decided to book one night there so they could continue to enjoy the city, while Bob and Listy, decided to head back to the calmness of Austria. Everyone met the next day, with David and Seamus taking turns piloting the kid's car and Bob leading the way, on the autobahn, to Venice!

Everyone made it to Venice by the evening via a "water taxi" which dropped them off right in front of the hotel. Bags were left in the room, and everyone headed out to find the perfect Italian dinner. The group enjoyed a day of touring guided by Rick Steve's book, and Annie and Seamus, who had both been there before. From there it was back into the cars and a 4-hour trip to Genoa. Dinner was in a famous British Pub and then everyone got up early to jump on the train for a "pub crawl" through the Cinque Terra.

It started in Riomaggiore with beer toasting and pasta....then a hike along the scenic trail (20 min.) to Manarola where more beer and bruschetta were consumed...and then back to the hike towards Corniglia for beer (a 45 min. hike) and pizza. Trekking to the fourth city, Vernazza, was a little more challenging (90-minute hike up and down the hills) arriving at 7pm. Happy Hour began again with beer and wine and a quick decision that the fifth town would have to wait until the next day. More pizza and wine, and after missing two train trips back, the group kept their spirits high (literally) with two bottles of wine and music from Seamus' ipod. Everyone agreed a cruise day at the beach in the fifth town of Monterosso al Mare was needed, where swimming and

sunning near the Ligurian Sea (next to the Mediterranean Sea) was a welcome part of the vacation. The pictures could never give it justice in terms of how beautiful the Cinque Terra is.

At that point, the Keiths said their goodbyes, taking a train trip to Pisa, Florence, Tuscany, and into Rome. David and Annie spent their last day in Milan where they flew out early the next day. Listy and Bob hopped on a plane to Naples and made their way on the train up to Rome to visit some friends who are living there for the next year.

There were many great trip stories throughout the vacation, but the best part for Listy and Bob was having this experience with their "kids" knowing their lives are about to change as they begin their pursuit of careers and building a family (go Kristy and Seamus). Milestones are important and celebrating the end of private college tuitions seemed fitting to include an educational yet, fun trip for the entire family!



Bridge over canal in Venice



Street scene in Venice



By the Mediterranean Sea

## Curtis Hartman and Lauren Cooper Engagement

Its official! In the Riel family we have the party, the good food and the song and then Lauren is one of us! Taking advantage of the family gathered for Dustin and Lauren's wedding, Francie and Lyle graciously hosted the engagement party for Curtis and Lauren. Bob Gillingham led the all-male choir (a Riel Family first!) and the lyrics will be added to the [RFNL-Online](#). Curtis and Lauren announced their two-year engagement. This will give Curtis time to finish school and Lauren time to get some lawyer practice in Washington DC where both of them are living.

We all look forward with hope for their future and with great anticipation for the eventual wedding to be held at the Wild Animal Park. Is that a cool venue, or what?

