

Mother's day was celebrated at the home of Bruce and Birdy this year and everyone was grateful that Bruce had sufficiently recovered from his back surgery to be able to host the event. Things kicked off around 11:00am as the family members started to show up. Just about everyone brought something to contribute towards the Riel Family Feast.

There was no shortage of food as the group provided a Mother's day brunch that even the "Del Coronado" would be envious of. There was a breakfast bar where one could make their own burrito, or just enjoy French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, juice and other amenities. Or if you preferred you could have sliced ham, potatoes, or just make a sandwich (or two).

There were also plenty of choices for dessert, my favorite being Birdy's chocolate something or other. OK I don't know what she called it but it was deadly good! Let's just say that no one went away hungry. I'm guessing that the leftovers would have supplied enough food for a small army.

With three expectant mothers, Kristy, Jessica and Lauren, in the family; this year's celebration was especially meaningful. With three generations of mothers in the room, how could you not have a great party? OK it would have been better if we weren't missing Jessica, who lives in New Jersey, but knowing she would be back in San Diego soon made up for her absence.

Next it was time for the pictures. With all the shutter bugs in the family you would think the paparazzi had descended on the event. There had to be at least half a dozen cameras going at all times. There was never a doubt that within a few hours, Facebook would be filled with pictures of the event.

Grandma Edith spent most of her time giving advice to the mothers-to-be. After all, she did spend the better part of ten years in that condition. Other family members just visited with each other and got caught up on the latest news. All in all it was a wonderful day and we thank Birdy and Bruce for having us into their home.



Jessica's



On Saturday, May 21, Francie's backyard took on a little wilder look as she and Carol hosted Jessica's wild safari



ride into parenthood. Friends and family that have known Jessica for many years, were

there to help in the celebration. For lunch, we all enjoyed Jessica's favorite meal (at least this month) of grilled cheese and spaghetti. While Jessica prefers American cheese on sourdough bread, guests had an array of breads, fancy cheeses, and spiced butter to pick from. Francie was the resident chef and grilled the sandwiches to perfection!



Everyone's gifts were special, from the hand made blanket, highchair, and the glider/ottoman, to all the outfits and baby paraphernalia.

Grandma and Grandpa Riel generously chipped in with a jogging stroller to help her get back into shape.

While Jessica was enjoying her San Diego trip, Miguel was busy finishing up the paper work for their new house. He wanted it to close before she returned so they would have a baby room to put all of the gifts into. When Jessica returned to New Jersey on Monday, all she had to do was sign on the dotted line. Their dream of having a house to raise their children in became a reality! Then came the work! I'm not sure which is worst, being 7 months pregnant and having to move, or having to move with your wife 7 months pregnant. Both, along with many firefighters and Karate friends, have worked hard to make it special for the arrival of baby Rios.

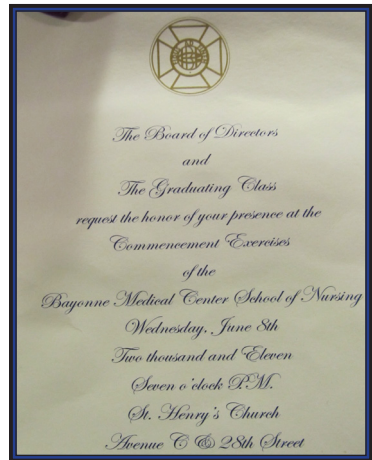


the baby will stay put until he is finished.

Congratulations Miguel and Jessica as you make your new house a home!!

Amazing what can happen in two years; Flight attendant to fiancée, wedding and nursing school, new job in an ER, then pregnancy and a new house, graduation in a week, state boards on June 15th, and hopefully an RN by the 17th, and a new baby boy by the end of July!!

Next month Jessica promises some pictures of the inside... right now Miguel has gutted the bathroom and is remodeling the upstairs!! Hopefully



Bud's Celebrates His 70th Birthday On a Dinner Cruise

On May 27th the day before Bud turned 70, Margaret invited friends and family for a dinner cruise aboard Hornblower's newest ship the Inspiration. We were treated to champagne as we boarded around 6:30 in the evening. Then it was off for a cruise around the harbor while we enjoyed the sites, dinner, dancing and of course the entertainment provided by the Riel Singers.

Thanks to Jeff they were supplied with a great song to commemorate this special occasion. With everyone joining in, the group serenaded Bud with the song as reprinted below. Also, Francie read a poem to Bud that she had written in honor of his birthday.



ODE TO THE BIRTHDAY BOY!

By Jeff Benesch

YO HO, YO HO, A BIRTHDAY SONG FOR ME
 YO HO, YO HO, I WAS BORN IN ALBANY!
 GOT MY START, AT LOVELY HOBART, THEN OFF TO FIGHT A WAR
 IT WASN'T MUCH FUN, I HADN'T A GUN, I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE RUNNING THE STORE!
 YO HO, YO HO, A STUDENTS LIFE FOR ME
 YO HO, YO HO, A GAUCHO I WILL BE
 VIETNAM WAS WETTER, BUT COLLEGE MUCH BETTER, I LOVED THE CAMPUS STYLE
 MOVED ON TO LA JOLLA, AND OH, WHAT JOY-A, I ENCOUNTERED A MARGARET RIEL!
 YO HO, YO HO, A TEACHER'S LIFE FOR ME
 YO HO, YO HO, I WAS MEHAN, PHD!
 NEER DID HER FOLKS KNOW, SHE'S OFF TO CHICAGO, I FOLLOWED WITH A PLAN
 GOT ME A POSITION, AND WITH LITTLE CONTRITION, I BECAME A VIRTUOUS MAN!
 YO HO, YO HO, A HUSBAND'S LIFE FOR ME
 YO HO, YO HO, I RETURNED TO SAND AND SEA.
 A MARRIAGE DID FOLLOW, IN PRESIDIO HOLLOW, HALF A LIFE AGO
 A PRIVILEGED LIFE, A BEAUTIFUL WIFE, I'VE HAD IT GOOD YOU KNOW.
 YO HO, YO HO, A FATHER'S LIFE FOR ME
 YO HO, YO HO, THE BEST WAS YET TO BE!
 MEGAN AND MICHAEL, A WHOLE LIFE CYCLE, WHAT COULD BE SO BAD?
 I SPENT A FEW DOLLARS, THEY TURNED OUT SCHOLARS, COULD I BE A PROUDER DAD?
 YO HO, YO HO, A GLORIOUS LIFE FOR ME
 YO HO, YO HO, SO WHAT, I'VE TURNED 70!

GO BRUINS!

FAMILY SHORTS



Kevin earns his Masters in English



Dustin and Lauren are having a son!



Kristy is getting ready to have her baby (or may have by the time you are reading this) and Jessica is not far behind.



Francie just completed a small remodel of her salon by building her aquarium into the wall rather than a free standing one.



Annie visits Hungary



Frank (JJ) was out enjoying some fishing last month



Michelle Hartman has just become the latest phd in the family. The proud parents and Francie flew back to Boston to see her graduate. I'm sure we will get a full story in next month's RFNL.



Bryce is really cooking these days, or should I say baking? Here he is showing off his buns!



David has a new puppy?



Who needs the Three Amigos when you can have the Cinco Hermanas?



Look who got to go to Disneyland!



Spain es Magnífico!

By Listy Gillingham



During spring break Bob and I decided we needed a daughter fix and hopped on a plane to visit Annie in Madrid. Having a personal tour guide who lives in the city made our trip abroad the easiest and most relaxing trip! She had planned each day and came up with an itinerary where we were able to visit 4 different cities in the 7 days we were there.

Our first few days were in Madrid, so that we could learn to love what she does. We spent our first day walking around and bonding with Annie. We loved the Palacio Real (Royal Palace) and Retiro Park. Annie wanted to introduce us to the true hustle and bustle of the city, so as soon as we landed she took us to El Rastro (Europe's biggest flea market) to show us how the locals like to shop. It went for blocks, right in the middle of the city. Plaza Major and Puerta del Sol kept us hopping as we loved trying the free tapas with a plenty of cervezas to keep us hydrated.



We took a day trip to Segovia and Toledo. Toledo has the castle that inspired Walt Disney's famous castle and Segovia has ancient aqueducts that are amazing to see first-hand. After that adventure, we decided we were ready to wonder south to see where Annie first fell in love with

Spain as a university student in Granada. So we hopped on a bus and made the 5-hour trip to the land of real tapas.

We met up with Kaitlyn (who was visiting with her boyfriend Brett) and Emily Gillingham (who is studying abroad in the same program Annie went to). We had fun visiting with them and shopping around the town.



The next day we made our way to the Alhambra which was a Muslim Palace until the 1400's when the Spaniards kicked them out. It was really beautiful and quite unique from anything else we'd see so far.

The best part of the trip was to see Annie again. It's so hard to have her live so far away for such an extended time. But, it's also great to know that she's safe and loves her new homeland. We highly recommend a trip to Spain to anyone who wants to visit a warm and friendly country. Plus, Annie proved to be the best tour guide we ever had...no bias of course!

Corbin's 2nd Birthday Party

By Birdy Hartman



Corbin Hartman celebrated his second birthday at the home of Pop Pop (Grandpa Bruce's name given by Corbin) and Gwamma Brwee's house. He was surrounded by many Aunts, Uncles, cousins and other loving family members. Everyone enjoyed the food provided by Craig and Ana.

Corbin woke up from his afternoon nap with a smile that could charm anyone. As soon as he spotted the bubble machine churning out 100s of miniature bubbles, little else mattered. Corbin stood right at the front of that machine as the bubbles continuously blasted his little face. He was soon covered in soap suds and we are sure that he went home squeaky clean at the end of the day.

The home was decorated beautifully by Ana with a whimsical scary monster

theme. Corbin received many great gifts. Tricycles topped the list from his Grandma Ana and the other from his Great Grandma Ya Ya and Grandpa Riel. Upon eyeing them, he jumped aboard and tried his hand at pedaling. Uncle Bob was sure that this was a sign of him wanting to enter his first Ironbaby contest.



There were so many trucks, books, clothes, cars, ships- that Corbin couldn't decide where to start playing. The backyard began to resemble a toy store and Corbin went home a very happy boy. Thanks to one and all who attended this big day for Corbin!

