

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch The News

March 2012

RFNL 253

A Heavenly Engagement Party



Birdy and Bruce Host

Chavva and Jason's Engagement Party



On Saturday, February 25th the Hartmans' hosted Jason and Chavva's engagement party. As reported last January, they became engaged during the last holiday season but now... it's time to party! Family and friend started to arrive at the Hartman estate around 6:00pm and were treated to a wonderful view of that night's spectacular sunset.

As usual Birdy and Bruce provided a warm welcome to each guest as they were invited into the festively decorated home. There were plenty of chips, salsa, guacamole, crackers and cheese to munch on while everyone caught up on the latest news. Out in the back yard, Bruce had manned the bar and was serving many different varieties of wine, beer, soda and for the really wild ones... water!





Jason and Chavva were making the rounds saying hello to everyone and more importantly introducing the Fionda family to the Riels. We are all very excited about having another family join in with the Riel clan.

Soon it was time for dinner. The theme was Mexican and the food? Just delicious! There were the cheese burritos, chicken and beef fajitas (with all the fixings), beans, rice, and my favorite chili rellenos. Following the Riel rule "the quick and the fed" the Riel boys were all first in line. Everyone enjoyed their meals as they sat by the fire pit, on the patios under the heater or inside at the dining table.





Jessica who had flown in from the east coast with Benny (Miguel could not make it due to work) and Dustin who had flown in from San Francisco (Lauren and Holden could not make it) made the evening even more special for Jason and Chavva, not to mention Carol and Jeff.

Speaking of flying... Listy, who had been in Sacramento on business for the past two days, still managed to fly back, just in time for dinner. Bob was particularly happy because he had to pick up Listy at the airport and would not have been too happy if he missed all the good food.

After dinner, it was time to toast the newly engaged couple. Dustin handled the honor with ease while everyone joined in, raising their glasses of Champagne



It's Still Matrimony to Me...

*What's the matter with this song that we're singing?
Can't you tell that it used to be cool?
Maybe all of us should just keep on drinking,
Then we wouldn't look the part of the fool.
Who made the rules, they seem kind of funny,
You can't get hitched till you spend a lot of money.
What the heck, another check, bills are climbing to their necks,
It's still matrimony to us.*

*What's the matter with the groom that we're seeing,
Does he know he'll be single no more?
All the college cuties whom he used to make eyes at
See his ring and make a run for the door.
It's just not fair what they ask of a fellow,
All this fidelity could just make you bellow,
That's tough, one's enough, Chavva's got the right stuff,
It's still matrimony to us.*

*What's the matter with the bride we're observing,
Does she know that the presents will stop?
Once the vows and the toasts have been given,
And the crystal is replaced by a mop.
Don't worry Jason, she's a happy little camper,
Feed her gluten-free and you won't see her scamper,
First kiss, wedded bliss, the two of you just couldn't miss,
It's still matrimony to us.*

*What's the matter with crowd that we're seeing,
Don't they know that they've played a big part?
Jason and Chavva have all these great people,
Who will always reside in their hearts.
We love you Chavva and we love you Jason
And we won't forget you when all your kids you're chasing
Oh no, just months to go, then you'll really be betrothed,
It's still matrimony to us.*

*Everybody's talking 'bout the new couple
Funny, but it's still matrimony to us.*

and congratulating Jason and Chavva. Not to be outdone, the Riel singers had a special song just for the occasion. With the help of many friends and family they sang in their usual, semi-off-tone glory, the song, sung to the tune of Billy Joel's "*It's Still Rock and Roll To Me*," printed in the side bar to this article.

As is tradition now (well at least twice now), the couple shared their own chocolate dipped strawberries with each other. This is what one might call, a non-dress rehearsal for the cutting and sharing of the wedding cake.

It was a wonderful night and everyone had a great time. Once again Birdy and Bruce have outdone themselves by providing another very successful party. We all thank them for their hospitality and as Grandma would say "God Bless you children!"

What comes next? Spring showers, no not the wet kind, Bridal showers. Yes the summer of weddings is just around the corner. Three weddings to be precise, two in June, and one in August. Kind of reminds me of that summer of '79 where we also had three weddings; except there was one in June and two in August! Well, we Riels were never known for pacing ourselves and if history repeats itself, there will be plenty more babies coming our way in the next few years!



Listy Injured at School Volleyball Game

Has Surgery to Repair Broken Bones

Listy and her fellow instructors at De Portola Middle school had accepted a challenge from their students to compete in a volleyball game. The game was set for Wednesday, March 7th at 5:00pm. During the game Listy had just finished digging one out of the net and setting up her fellow instructor when he (the instructor, no names, too many pink slips going around schools these days) tripped and flew head first into her left knee.

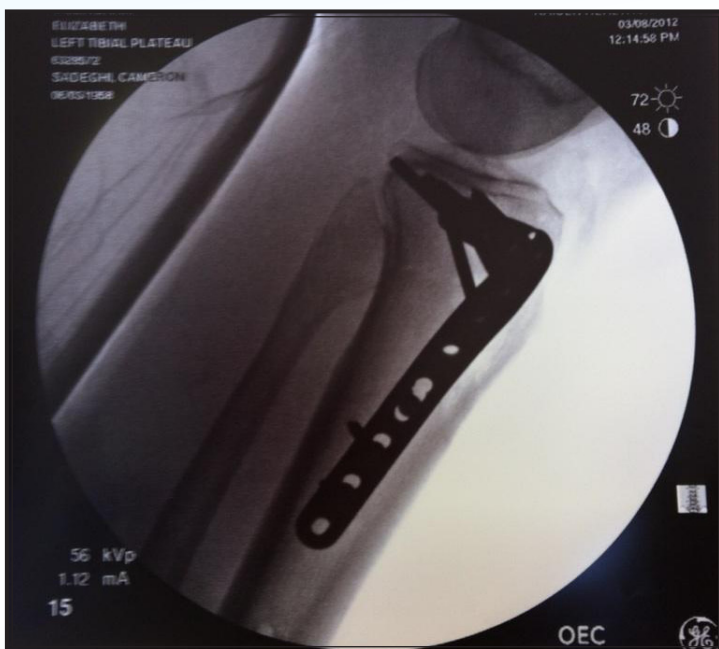
The impact was so hard that it not only knocked Listy to the ground but caused severe pain in her knee. She was not able to get up and in fact, started to show signs of going into shock. The paramedics were called, but Listy would have none of that (not in front of the students... never show signs of weakness). She was helped up (keeping all weight off her knee) and driven to Kaiser Hospital.



After some x-rays and doctor consultations, Listy was informed that the collision had caused the femur to split the tibia and to break the fibula. She was admitted, and at 11:00 am on Thursday she went into the OR where they attached a titanium plate to her tibia. It was a bit sensitive, as the break travelled into the joint, and they needed to ensure everything was well aligned to prevent arthritis. Fortunately the surgery went very well and the doctor thinks that Listy will make a full recovery.

Listy was up and walking (with a walker) on Friday and was able to come home on Sunday. The best news was that she will be able to run again. Unfortunately it will take some time (three months) before she is allowed to put any weight on her knee and she most likely will miss a month of work.

But as Grandpa Frank told Listy in the hospital, "I know it hurts today, but tomorrow it will feel better and it will feel even better the next day." We all wish Listy a speedy recovery and hope she gets back to running soon.





Francie's business continues to grow, first Final Cut Hair Studio, and then she added the Tranquility Lounge, coming in April the Inspiration Lounge. To celebrate this expansion Francie became the first female member of the Riel Bald headed club, once again proving that there is nothing she can't do! Contact Francie for a full update.



Bruce and I are so proud to share the following news with our family. Curtis is one of the 16 Catholic University students chosen for membership this year in Phi Alpha Theta, the international honors society for History. This is a huge honor and a great asset to add to his resume as he tries to get into colleges to pursue his doctorate in history. As a result of this achievement, he also has been asked to present his senior thesis to the honors society conference in Virginia. We are over the top happy for him. We love seeing his passion for history and teaching come alive as he is currently doing his student teaching in DC. But the best news for us is that once he graduates from Catholic University, he and Lauren will be living in Seal Beach. It will be wonderful to have another child back on the west coast. Three cheers for Curtis! - Birdy

FAMILY SHORTS



Alan's March madness (travel schedule) started early on February 27th... St. Louis Monday and Tuesday, Vegas on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday...Then the next week LA, Next week El Paso and New Mexico, then two weeks in Nor Cal, San Fran, Sacramento and Reno... Then? Not even Alan knows!

Bryce has moved to New York and is now working at Jean Georges. This signature restaurant of Trump International Hotel & Tower that bears the name of its award-winning chef, Jean Georges Vongerichten, one of only five Three Michelin-starred chefs in New York City. The outstanding cuisine from Jean Georges restaurant sets the very highest standards in quality and service. One of the few Forbes Five-Star & AAA Five-Diamond restaurants to also be awarded The New York Times top rating, Jean Georges is one of the New York' City finest dining destinations. The restaurant features a superbly crafted menu, blending French, American and Indo-Chinese ingredients, and the visually stunning floor-to-ceiling windows and the impressive tableside preparations add to the appeal, promising a singular experience every time. Congrats to you Bryce and good luck with your new career, you are awesome!!!!!!



Katy has a new job as assistant manager of the San Diego office of Attorney's Diversified Services. ADS is a single source for all litigation support services and serves most of the largest law firms and corporations in the state as well as solo legal practitioners and small companies. In her spare time Katy recently made a wedding cake for her friend Amy who was married on March 3. She baked and decorated the cake up in Alpine then with Karla holding on drove it to the wedding without as much as a hiccup!



RIEL HISTORY

A COLLECTION OF PHOTOS AND ARTICLES
FROM THE RFNL 20 YEARS AGO
MARCH 1992, ISSUE NUMBER 12



Front Row: Kristy, Nathan, Megan, Curtis, Brett, Dustin, Katy, Scott, David, Bryce, Annie and Brian.
Second Row: Christen, Kevin, Jason, Michael, Michelle, Craig, Chris, Tim and Jessica
Third Row: Rich, Ed, Margaret, Francie, Carol, Robert, Listy and Birdy
Fourth Row: Edith, Liz, Frank (JJ), Jan, Bud, Jose, Jeff, Karla, Bob, Bruce and Frank

HISTORIC RIEL FAMILY PORTRAIT

The above picture was taken at the home of Robert and Karla on January 1, 1992 during the celebration of the first annual Riel Bowl festival. Since it contains the entire family, each wearing their color coded family tree t-shirt, this special edition of RFNL is copied in full color. This important picture thus becomes a permanent record of each person as he or she appeared on this date. Since there will never be another picture exactly like this one, we suggest that it be preserved by each family as a record of how we all looked at that time. In order that there be no doubt as to the identity of each member all are identified, row by row.

None of us know what the future holds, but surely there will be many important citizens developing from within this group.

Perhaps we will see a famous scientist, lawyer, actor, actress, singer, educator, engineer, musician, politician, builder, architect, doctor, nurse, writer, businessman, executive, or who knows what emerge from this group of young children who share a common heritage and have yet to be defined goals for their future. One of the greatest rewards a parent can have, and one of the greatest gifts a child can give to his or her parent is to grow up to be a dedicated, responsible person who is a credit to the community in which he lives and a source of personal pride. Needless to say grandparents and parents look forward to following the development of each child, in the way that best suits his or her personality. To each of you we wish the very best for the future life. - Frank Riel