



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



25 Years of Mother's Day

This year's Mother's Day was celebrated at all the family homes but in addition, Bud and Margaret met Mom at church and brought her back to Merrill Gardens and shared a terrific champagne Brunch with her. Afterwards they were playing music and we even got mom to do some dancing. She danced on and off for an hour-- mostly dancing and very happy to be reminded of all of the times she danced with Dad. Towards the end, the twins, Ed and Carol joined in, bringing ice cream sundaes to share. Later Carol drove Bud and Margaret to the airport so they could spend the rest of Mother's Day with Megan in Seattle.

Francie also had a special gift for Mom... a box full of Mother's Day wishes with pictures from all the kids. She and Carol took a video of mom opening her gift and it can be seen here: <https://pix.sfly.com/uxSSvf>

MOTHERS DAY CELEBRATION 1995

Mothers day was a special one for Grandma Riel. The celebration started off with brunch at the home of Listy and Bob. Birdy also was present as were the Benesch and Mehan families. After a delicious series of snacks we took off for the Lewis Junior High School Auditorium to watch Jessica and Dustin perform in the musical Hans Christian Anderson. After the show (see following for more details) we took off to the home of Francie for dessert. Incidentally, the newly painted and landscaped house looks great, and stands out in the neighborhood. After some spirited basketball in the back yard half court we all enjoyed that old Riel tradition, banana splits, with lots of toppings. After everyone was filled up, we watched Grandma open her Mothers Day gift from all of the family. To her complete surprise it was a quilt made up from panels drawn by each of the grandchildren. Twenty completely different panels illustrated names in fancy lettering, cartoons with soccer balls, baseball mitts, smiling faces, and the like, plus each ones age listed somewhere within the panel. It was a great gift, much appreciated by Grandma, and will be hung up in the 1875 family room, for all to see. Grandma thanks everyone who helped create the panels, and especially Francie, who masterminded the whole thing, and put together the final product.

Finally, throughout the years we have had many memorable parties and I thought it might be nice to look back over the years to see how we spent Mother's Day in the past, as reported by the RFNL. Hope you enjoy the trip down memory lane!

Mother's Day celebrated at Benesch home 1999

Mother's Day was the occasion for another family get-together, and Carol and Jeff kindly volunteered to host a party. We all enjoyed refreshments followed by lots of ice cream, with lots of nuts, syrups, and other trimmings. The kids enjoyed some back yard games, ping-pong and the trampoline. After everyone was stuffed full we set out for a walk to the nearby Mission Trails Park. The facility includes a nice exhibit hall and a small outdoor arena, where we gathered for some picture taking. The Benesch pet, Brutus, had to be restrained from attacking a statue of a coyote. It was an easy and pleasant hike, and everyone enjoyed to exercise. We all thank Carol, Jeff, and family for the hospitality. We have some pictures, as follows.



Listy, Robert, Carol and Bob



Grandma enjoys some coffee



Grandma and daughters



Grandma and granddaughters



The whole gang at the Park

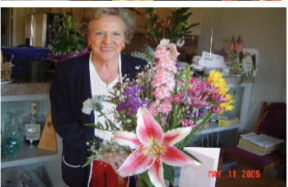
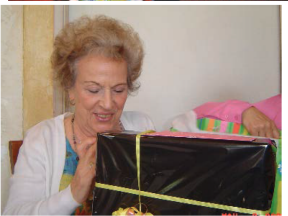
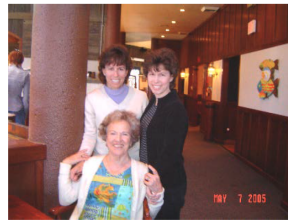


Laughing at Brutus

We received by e-mail a nice note from Bruce's mother, Nat Hartman, as follows. *Hi Frank....I'm writing to congratulate you on the new and wonderful RFNL. The color is terrific and the whole layout is so professional. Best of all is the news which I enjoy reading every month. I sent the last two copies to my friends, Mac and LeRoy, the ones who join us at Christmas. Your Easter article about donating to more needy folks was beautiful. I have a new Grandson, Luke Hartman, born May 4th to my son Mike and his wife Keri. Have a restful and happy summer. Keep the NL's coming. Nat*

Mother's Day celebrations, May 2005

Sunday, May 8th was another date to honor all mothers, and as usual the family all celebrated, each in its own way. The first celebration was with Listy and Birdy, on Saturday. They chose one day early because Listy and Bob were driving to Palm Springs to be with Bob's mother on Sunday. We enjoyed lunch at the Red Lobster, and afterwards we toured the newly remodeled Hartman home. As you can see from the pictures (see page 3) the interior work is almost done, and it looks great! There was still some time left over for some power shopping. On Sunday we were picked up by Carol and Jeff for breakfast at the Park House Eatery, on Park Bl. We were joined by Jessica, Francie, Margaret, and Bud, and we all enjoyed the great service and food. Afterwards, we went out to see the latest additions to Francie's new salon. After the party broke up Grandma and Grandpa took in their usual Sunday afternoon movie, which ended a perfect day of celebration. In addition to flowers and phone calls, there was one more celebration. On Wednesday Richard treated Grandma and Grandpa to dinner at Seaus restaurant in Mission Valley. As usual, we enjoyed good food and conversation with Rich, Liz, and JJ. Grandma really enjoyed the various celebrations, and thanks all who made them possible. As usual we have some pictures.





MOTHERS'S DAY 2011

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.





Lyle Turns 60 With a Month Long Celebration!

There has been a lot of partying going on for Lyle's 60th birthday. The original start of his birthday month took place in Asheville North Carolina, where there was a party with all his fire sprinkler association friends. Lyle was very surprised when we arrived for dinner with supposedly 5 others, but instead there were 24 friends there to help him move along to his 60th year, and of course Francie did write a poem for this special event (shown on the following pages).

Such a fun event with such great people, but now we come to the Pebble Beach Event, where Lyle welcomed in his 60th year playing his favorite game with his favorite people. His son Lyle Allen was there with Cindy as were as our friends Rico and Linda, big time donators to Brett's movie career, and Michele and Wayne as well.

Flying out from Singapore were two friends, Clive and Toshie, who decided to get married while they were here. Of course I volunteered to get my membership in the universal life church of what's happening now so I could perform the ceremony. Cindy and Boone picked the perfect spot in Lake Tahoe and the rest is history. Make sure you line up early to have your wedding performed by our poet laureate. We will be getting together soon to celebrate Lyles crossover to his 60th years!!!

Good Evening to all, welcome come near,
as we gather around for some wine food and beer.
Tonight we pay tribute to our most highly esteemed Lyle
Who soon will turn 60 with aplomb and great style.

Today marks one month till the day he will leave
his 50's behind, and I'm sure he will grieve.
How did this happen, this ripening of years?
Perhaps it is finally the worst of his fears
For Lyle thinks that forever he is destined to lead,
a pack full of cars driving at a ridiculous speed.

To start off a month of celebration most hardy,
I've brought you all here to attend this fun party.
The fact that you all come from some near and some far,
to celebrate Lyles birthday in this fun restaurant and bar,
Is a testament to him, but not only his due
for this could not happen without the attendance by you.

From Virginia I see Mike and Belynda have travelled
so Mike can start swinging his newly acquired gavel
And of course Dwight and Leah, are here to give credit,
to a life that soon will be heading towards a debit
Now, Wayne, didn't expect these meetings to fall
At the same time as the Master's, I believe Mike you got
that call.



Here we are at Pebble Beach celebrating the last
day of Lyle Hall's 60th birthday month. From
our fun party in Asheville with our great AFSA
friends to this beautiful gem on the Pacific Coast,
thanks to all who have participated in making
him feel special. We will be going over his Awe-
some Box pictures and all of your dedications
and will be remembering how fortunate we are
to have all of you in our lives!!!!

But good friends always are sure to be there
When it matters to those about whom they most care
Wow, 60 years old Lyle, good lord, how pathetic
how many more years do we have to listen to your rhetoric!

Now Debbie and Chuck have arrived near our table
I'm sure they could tell a few facts or some fables
the times we have spent drinking champagne, cutting hair
while Lyle is asleep sitting up in a chair.

When I think of the times and all of the places
we've spent with all of you filling in all the spaces
Lyle doing business with most of you here
while I'm in the bar sharing some cheer.

It's my job you know, as the spouse of a member
to make sure we have a time that we'll always remember
And sometimes it happens, the chair next to me fills
with the life of the party my good friend Meaghan Wills

Now I know I am older, I get it you see
but sometimes it's just the best place to be!
Last at the helm in this family of sorts
we have Joe Heinrich and his wife Kathy of course.

Those years were great fun, where Lyle grew
and he prospered
under the leadership Joe was able to foster.
And welcome to Frank, soon to direct the AFSA ride,
We're so happy you're here with Kara your soon to be bride.

And also from Cali, Lyle's gotten much joy,
From Tom his good buddy and local home boy.
Now I certainly realize, before much more is said
I need to mention our good friends Debbie and Ted
I'm sure Lyle has stories about Ted in the meetings
but I always look forward to Debbie's fun greetings.

Somehow while AFSA business is popping.
Debbie is leading us all out there shopping.
Now "This ain't my first rodeo you often might hear,
which brings us to Kraig and his wife Deb so dear.
You often would see Kraig with Mary in tow,
He was a leader whose presence is still with us you know.

And Judy and Bob no meeting is complete,
without Bob here taking his place in a seat.
So Judy is free to leave the workplace behind
and school us all on a great bottle of wine.
Of course we're so lucky to have Manning
and Laura so near,
Let's ask him to give an invocation for us here.

Now no Sorem/Hall birthday ever could start
without Linda and Rico flying in to take part.
For my 60th party, on a train to Seattle
All the way from Shreveport, the Biernacki's skedaddled.

whether cruise ship, train, high speed boat or a bar
they come to celebrate us, that's what great friends they
are.

So now Lyle the suspense is coming I fear,
as you've noticed I've applauded most everyone here.
with your 50's quickly moving farther than nearer,
soon just a to be a memory in your rear view mirror,
I'd like to tell you, no kidding aside,
thank you for bringing me along on this ride.

The times we have spent so many to mention
that often seemed like a stint in detention
Not that they haven't been stellar by far
but it is a little tough to be second to a car
I realize she's sleek and faster than most,
but did you really think I'd let you get by without a roast?

I met you as a salesman at Western Fire Protection
selling sprinklers to businesses to protect their posses-
sions.

Besides work as you know, a game of golf he likes to take
spending hours chasing a ball in the rough or the lake,
Trying to master the art of the drive
and attempting to make at least one par of 5

In the years that have gone by, you've come far to this day
Ascending the ladder of success on the way.
I've watched you grow older, that much is true
but I've never felt prouder than when I stand next to you.

The roads that we've travelled the times that we've given
the children we've nurtured, the life that we've lived
As we ride off into years too scary to imagine
with you by my side it's not hard to fathom

So let's drink a toast not to ages or years
let's drink to our times spent together as here,
Let's always remember that wherever we roam
we are when together, truly at home.

love to all, Francie



Four American cyclists named Gillingham compete in ride wearing kit from North Dorset cycling shop

*Reprinted from the Western Gazette - North Dorset, UK.
Posted: April 10, 2016*

FOUR keen cycling cousins from America have taken part in a charity ride wearing shirts from a Gillingham cycling shop - after a chain of unlikely connections brought them to the town.

The Gillinghams – Steve, Rear Admiral Bruce, Doug and Bob – all live in California but share their surname with the North Dorset town. The parents of Doug and Steve brought them on holiday to the village of Bourton, near Gillingham, back in the late 1980s and early 1990s. They stayed at holiday cottages run by Jane Freeman and she became friends with the coincidentally named family.

Mrs. Freeman said: "We've been friends ever since. I didn't know the rest of the family until much later. I met the others in 2013 on their visit here." Rear Admiral Bruce and Bob

visited Gillingham, Dorset, for the first time on that trip for a family birthday.

Doug Gillingham said: "Having an affinity for all things Gillingham, we made a jersey run to the Wheels bicycle store in Gillingham, Dorset, while on holiday for mom's 80th birthday celebration in 2013." Wheels is run by Mrs Freeman's godson, Charles Rees.

The cousins recently wore the shirts from the Gillingham shop while taking part in the Tour de Palm Springs century ride in January. The charity ride is held every winter in California. In a further twist, Mrs. Freeman now lives in West Coker just a few miles from the Gillingham's ancestral home.

She said: "It turns out their ancestry goes all the way back to East Coker. I couldn't believe it when we looked at their family tree with them. There are just lots of different connections which make it such a lovely story."

Doug added that if any cyclists from the Gillingham and District Wheelers are ever stateside, they are welcome to join the Gillingham cousins for a ride in the San Diego area.



Steve, Admiral Bruce, Doug and Bob Gillingham. The four cousins from America with the surname Gillingham recently completed a charity cycle ride wearing jerseys from a Gillingham based cycling shop.



KATY GOES FROM PIRATE TO DAPPER IN JUST A FEW WEEKS!

By Katy Riel



The past few weekends I took a break from adulting. No work, no laundry, no responsibilities, and took some time to reconnect with my inner kid. First up was the Escondido Renaissance Faire. I am part of a Privateer Guild, The Rogues of Avalon, and we set sail twice a year at this Faire.

Privateers are more or less pirates that have been hired by the Queen for her protection and as such we camp between the Queen and her people and the actual pirates. We use our position to our advantage and will typically send our ships resident thief to steal from the Queen while our brute squad will capture us a filthy pirate.

After keeping the pirate in our stocks for a while we bring him and the stolen goods back to our Queen and collect our reward for bringing back her treasures and the man responsible for taking them. Not only do we have fun but the patrons watching get a good show.

Other than the shenanigans we plan and act out there are also several shows and events to attend. Everyday there is a battle in the field where the Queens soldiers must defend her from the scum that wishes her harm. If that is not your cup of tea, then you can also dance with gypsies or learn magic from the fairies. While this faire season is over I would love to see you all at our Fall Faire happening sometime next September or October.



Next up was two trips to Disneyland within a week. My first trip up was for Dapper Days. This is not even thrown by Disney but by the Dapper Days Group. Before Disneyland officially opened there were drawings released showing what Disneyland would be. The concept artist always drew the guests dressed up in their Sunday best.

The Dapper Day Group likes to pay homage to these artists by setting up two days a year, one in the spring and one in the fall, at a few Disney parks around the world where fans dress up in their finest 50's inspired clothing and take over the park.



This is the second one I've got to attend and I absolutely love it. This trip was extra special because Petey and Daniel had just flown in that day and would be joining me and I had two very good friends that would also be there. Once there we kept running into other friends as well and soon our small group of three turned into eight.

A few days later I got to return with my mom because Brian, Drew, and a few of their friends also flew in. The trip was planned so that Brian's friends and Drew's friends could meet and get to know one another before the wedding. With a large group of eleven there was never a shortage of people to get to know or ride a ride with. It was a great day filled with conversation, new friends, old friends, and by the end we were all one big family.



Am I a “Car Guy?”

By Bruce Hartman



It seems so silly to me that the vehicle we drive can actually impact our lives in a huge way. In my case, this new Mercedes Sprinter Van has truly done that!

I am not a “car guy” ...and never have been. I’m okay with driving just about anything. Over the years my rule has always been to keep The Bird in something nice and, more importantly, reliable because I never wanted her stranded alone or with kids in the car. I was always good with “beaters” or the family van or whatever came along... I spent fourteen years in a service truck fixing broken semi-trucks on the side of the road and many years before that in truck shops working on every make

and model of equipment you can imagine... That tends to make you less of a passionate car guy... Trucks, busses, cars...they are all just tools and all have their good and their bad points. In my humble opinion, they are all about the same and they are all going to break down at some point. We have had great success with Honda Accords so I stick with that but I would probably be happy with something else as well. More importantly is that Birdy loves her car and that’s all that matters to me.

In the last five or ten years I have come to realize that I like a little more comfort in what I drive over functionality. I really liked my Chevy pickup for that reason. It was comfortable to drive and I thought it looked okay. It started every time I twisted its nose and the air conditioner was awesome...what more could a person want? After I installed the lift gate and was able to load and unload scooters & wheelchairs it met my needs quite handily.

The threat of the El Niño fueled rain in our forecasts concerned me a lot since electric scooters and wheelchairs can’t get wet. Another big consideration for me was that my muscle disease is worsening, making standing while loading or unloading wheelchairs into the bed of a pickup very difficult. Then add doing that in the rain and you can see why going anywhere was going to have to be curtailed. The idea of being a home-bound prisoner inspired me to investigate my options for a more suitable vehicle.

As you all know from a previous RFNL, I ended up going with the Mercedes Van. The Sprinter is super popular throughout Europe as a delivery, ambulance, police etc. and is quite a workhorse. I bought the short wheelbase passenger van version for its huge windows and dual A/C units. From there I took it to two different up-fitters. The first was the Ability Center where they fitted it with electric rear doors and a wheelchair lift. Next, the factory 12-passenger bench seat arrangement had to go so that I could get from the back of the van to the driver’s seat. A custom van and limousine up-fitter in Anaheim was my choice of vendors for that scope of work. They pulled out the bench seats, fabricated and welded in a new floor pan and installed four reclining leather captain’s chairs then they finished it off by carpeting the entire van.

Some of the other details included a dealer installed (additional) deep cycle battery along with an additional 250-amp alternator to power an inverter that makes household electricity so I can run battery chargers for wheelchairs... as well as anything you can run off of a plug in your house. I also asked the up-fitter to reupholster the driver and passenger seats in the same leather as the captain’s chairs and to incorporate a seat heater in Bird’s seat to help offset my dual A/C units. Now when I’m comfortable I don’t have to look over and see blue lips and piles of jackets on

The Bird. There is no price too high for a “Happy Wife, Happy Life.” As you might imagine, none of that came cheap since it all has to meet DOT and ADA requirements. I spent nearly enough on up-fitters to buy another car. ...Worth every penny of it, too!

From my prospective this is a really simple formula, I do every day at work. You do a little research, get a few quotes, make an informed decision and pull the trigger...as Larry the Cable Guy would say, “Get ‘er Done.” What I didn’t anticipate and has no place in the formula was the dramatic change it would make in my life.

It would be difficult for any of you to understand what it’s like to watch your ability to do things ever so slowly get stripped away. None of us, including myself, up until a few years ago, would give a thought to stopping on the way home from work at a grocery store to grab a few things for dinner or Home Depot for a project you’re doing. When you can no longer do those simple little things the frustration can be overwhelming. At times, you just want to scream!

Having a wheelchair with me everywhere I go gives me back so much independence and freedom knowing I can go and do anything I want to do. No one really wants to stop at the grocery store on the way home... until you can’t. You start feeling very handicapped which is something I am trying hard to fight off. I am doing my best to stay ahead of the debilitating part of this disease and technology plays a big role in that. I do everything I can to keep Birdy away from the role of caregiver... She has been my wife and my friend for all these years and I want to keep it that way as long as possible. We are so blessed to have the means to be able to afford things like this van and expensive wheelchairs etc. The psychological ramifications of gaining some freedom back when you’ve become so accustomed to things going the other way is almost as good as gaining a super power! (I know...what a nerd!) but it’s true.

Never thought I would be a “Car Guy” ...and still don’t give a rip about zero to sixty in the blink of an eye, horsepower, cornering or any of that crap but comfort and, above all, regained freedom, has most certainly turned me into a “Car Guy”.

Hey family,

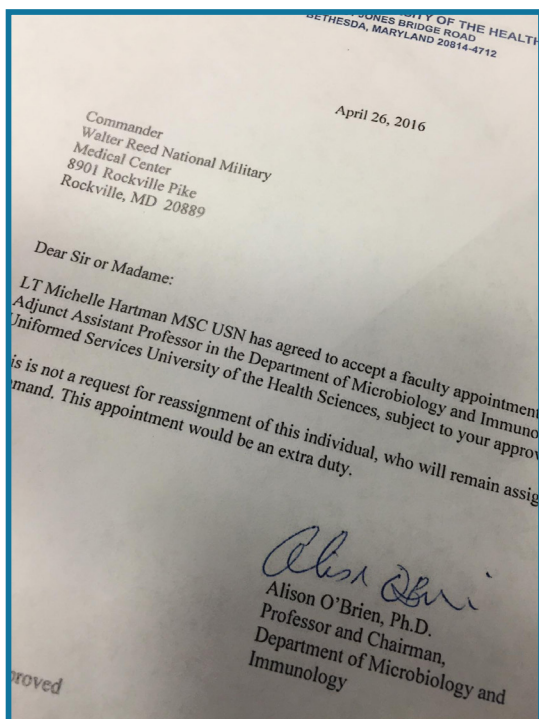
Bruce and I tested out the big machines with our grand kids and it was super fun. Josie was a afraid of climbing into the big ones but Corbin was fearless. I think if we put a dad in there and then hand up a little one, that would work as well. This was just a day of fun like a field trip for little people. Josie did love the buses! So there was something for everyone.

If you are interested, in setting up a trip please let me know. Bruce can only do Sundays because the business is open to workers on Saturdays. This could be a fun Kodak moment for your favorite grand kid.

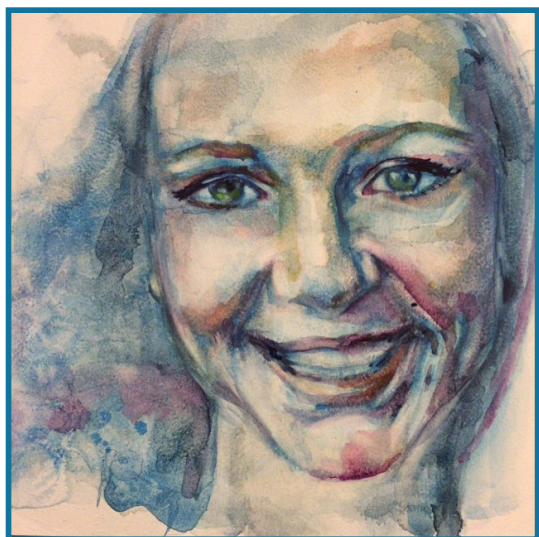
Birdy



FAMILY SHORTS



Michelle tells us that she has a new job to go along with her many other duties. After 3 years of trying to teach she has finally got her foot in the door!! She will be an Assistant Professor in the microbiology and immunology department of the Uniformed Services University-Health Science, in Bethesda Maryland. Congratulations Michelle!!!



Facebook, but if you have missed it you should really check it out. Megan has committed to doing a sketch every day for a year. She is up to about day 229 of her 365 days and each day we all get treated to something new. "Liking" these works of art is just not enough. This is a real commitment and Megan has done an exceptional job. I look forward to seeing them every day!



Seamus and Kristy Keith ran in the Lake Hodges, Foxy Trails, half marathon last month (Look Edith they named a race after your favorite dog!) This local San Diego Trail Half Marathon runs around beautiful Lake Hodges right off of Interstate-15. The race starts at West Bernardo Park and crosses the new stone suspension bridge from the South side of the Lake to the North side. After crossing the bridge runners head west along the North Shore trail overlooking the lake.

After passing through the marina runners enter a wooded area and run along the lake shore. The race is an out-n-back and Seamus and Kristy finished at just over 2 hours. Great Race you two!



It was cousin's day at the wild animal park last April as Mike and Jason spent some quality time with their kids. Ok who knows are Emily and Noah 1st cousins, 2nd cousins, or 1st cousins once removed?

Carol posted the following... I finally get a good picture with both twins smiling and looking at the camera and the background looks like this... Twin win. Housekeeping fail...



I don't know if everyone has seen the work Megan has been doing on her "daily sketch" project on