



Kevin and Annie  
Get Married

# The Epic Annie and Kevin Wedding Weekend!



By Listy Gillingham

The long-awaited wedding for Annie and Kevin finally occurred this summer just as we moved into the month of August. For most of July, Annie and I spent many days putting together all of the final touches to help make the occasion special for all who attended. I don't think anyone can appreciate the behind the scenes planning that goes on until they have a wedding for a daughter. Throughout the process Annie stayed true to her chosen theme of "beer and fun" which was evident throughout the event.

We started on July 31st with a small dinner party to officially welcome Kevin and Pat Mulholland as they arrived from Florida (Kevin's parents) which also gave us a chance to make the final plans as we had all the key people gathered together in one



spot. The Keiths, David & Bethany, Kevin & Annie, and Birdy & Lyle got to enjoy a special meal to help thank them for the work they were about to jump into as the wedding weekend began.

August 1st was a work day and special thanks goes to Robert Riel who came over to our house to work on the pre-wedding video. He had taken boxes of pictures of Annie and Kevin from their younger years and combined them into a video that will be cherished by both families. The movie was to be used during the rehearsal dinner as a tribute to both families coming together as one.

August 2nd, Carol's Birthday I might add, was well spent with a girls day at the nail salon where Annie met up with her bridesmaids and moms to pretty themselves up for the upcoming events. Later that day, we had another pre-wedding celebration titled, "Beers and Bites" at Eppig Brewery on Shelter Island. Annie and Kevin paid for the pizza, chips, and salsa inviting friends and family for a "meet and greet" with a no-host bar. It turned out to be a great chance to meet Kevin's aunts and uncles from the east coast and a bonding moment for the siblings on both sides as well. The evening provided a great San Diego atmosphere with cool coastal breezes during a warm summer night.



vases that would sit at every table. We brought them to the Courtyard Marriott Hotel where the families were settled into and began an assembly line of creating Annie's vision of white and green flowers on every table. By the time we completed that task Listy and Bob's hotel room smelled like a flower shop as we had everything set to go for the decorating crews that would help on Saturday.



August 3rd was when the work started to kick in as we had many tasks to complete prior to the rehearsal dinner. Annie, Kevin, and I met up early to purchase reception flowers at a local flower shop and took them to the hotel to assemble 33 "growler"

From there, we shifted gears to rehearsal dinner preparations. Annie had everything organized from directions for the table settings, to the games we would play, and the other items that were to be displayed. Pat, Kevin, Kym Farkas, and I were assigned to be the set-up crew at Cutwater Spirits as we weren't needed for the actual rehearsal at the park and Birdy took care of taking pictures so we would not feel like we missed the event. So as Annie and her wedding party practiced for the big day at the park, we ran around like crazy people setting up the venue to transform it from a boring warehouse to an elegant pub-looking setting for the rehearsal dinner in less than an hour.

The games included BLING-O (a bingo game with fun tasks to do); Corn-hole (Team Groom vs. Team Bride); Pick-Up Sticks, Juggling Ping Pong challenge; Beer Pong; and Puzzle Assembly (from Annie's engagement). The Mulhollands provided an amazing dinner of chicken and pasta with appetizers as well (the ceviche was outstanding). They

hosted the bar all night (and with these families that isn't easy to do). They had some designer drinks that included the Mule-holland, Gilling-Bam, Something Old Fashioned, and Happy Wife/Happy Life drink plus all the beer, wine, or other fun well drinks that Cutwater is known for.

After dinner, Kevin Sr. and Pat made some touching speeches thanking family members who made the trip to SD and the Gillinghams for the party to come. Kevin and Annie followed with several special thank yous for the wedding party and their parents. Each groomsmen got beer socks, a tie, and a yeti-like beer holder to keep any sized can of beer cold. Each bridesmaid got a special robe to wear with their initials embroidered for the famous "get ready" party that would ensue at Lyles the next day and a pretty necklace as well. Bob got a very special tie to wear on the day of the wedding that included a label Annie handmade that said, "Dad, Thank you for walking by my side today and always, Love Annie." A nice touch on so many levels.

After the toasts and speeches, the Gillingham/Riel clan invited anyone who was willing to come sing the official wedding song to Kevin and Annie. Bob wrote the song and used a Billy Joel tune, "For the Longest Time." Here's what he wrote and yes, you have to sing it as you read it to make it authentically fun!



*For the Longest Time by Billy Joel,  
written for Kevin and Annie's  
Rehearsal Dinner*

*Oh, oh, oh  
For e-ter-ni-ty,  
Oh, oh, oh  
Ma-tri-mo-o-ny*

*Since you said "I will" to Kev one night  
You have sent his soul into a flight  
What else could he do  
He's so inspired by you  
You'll be together for the longest time.*

*When she knew Gonzaga days were gone  
She persevered 'cuz bulldogs carry on  
That's where you found her  
Multi-lingual, globe abounder...  
Clearly, you'll be travlin' for the longest time*

*Oh, oh, oh  
For eternity  
Oh, oh, oh  
Matrimo-o-ny*

*Kevin's life was beautiful and free  
Happiness in every brewery  
Suddenly the peace was gone  
All these games were added on  
Pub crawls will be with him for the longest time*

*Who knows what your future holds for you  
Full of promise and adventure, too  
Brace yourself for all the fun,  
What was two will now be one  
Yes, your lives are changing for the longest time*

*Oh, oh, oh  
For eternity  
Oh, oh, oh  
Matrimo-o-ny*

*Diapers, feedings, future things you'll do  
All of it will seem quite new to you,  
But don't despair now,  
We will gladly show you how,  
And we will be smiling for the longest time.*

*You are now right at the very start  
Just remember to lead with all your heart  
Reverend Farkas has your vows,  
Step on up and then you'll see how,  
Life will be so lovely for the longest time.*

*Oh, oh, oh  
For eternity  
Oh, oh, oh  
Matrimo-o-ny*

*We all hope your happiness this brings  
Your sweet union makes us want to sing  
All of us are so glad  
We think that you ought to know that  
We intend to love you for the longest time!*

After the song, it was time for the official movie created by Robert Riel. We all were invited to climb up the stairs to the breakroom, where they had a big TV mounted on the wall and several barrel tables set up for people to stand around. The movie was played and everyone seemed to love it. It included clips from the proposal weaved into the action which made the whole event come together nicely. After that, we all retreated to the hotel for the after party which included family members gathered around a big fire pit. That party lasted until 1:30 a.m. which gave us a hint that Kevin's family would be a great group to party with at the reception to come!



August 4, the official wedding day, started off early at Lyle's house. The bride and her bridesmaids all gathered around breakfast and lunch provided by Birdy while everyone got a turn to have their hair and make-up done. Lyle was gracious enough to allow us to use his house for the girls and made arrangements for us to use the clubhouse for the boys to get ready.

While we were primping and eating, special thanks need to go to Carol, Jeff, and Jessica with the help of friends Rex & Holly and Annie's friends, Kristen and Mike, for all gathering at Karl Strauss earlier than the rest of the group to set up the venue. They had 23 tables that had numbers, growlers, beer mug shapes, beer coasters, and name plates to go up. They were given less than an hour to make the vision a reality with Annie's well-written directions and organization. Meanwhile, Kym Farkas gets kudos for setting up the wedding venue with Doug and Robert helping to get the sound system to work.

At 2:00 p.m., the girls' party met up with the boys' party at the clubhouse for the "first look." Kevin and Annie elected to meet up and take care of the pictures of both wedding parties together. It was a touching moment to see Kevin standing alone and having Annie leave us all to have a private conversation prior to the vows they were about to take. After the "first look" both wedding parties were used for endless pictures in the library and around the clubhouse. The Limo Shuttle arrived right on time and at 3:45 p.m. the entire wedding party jumped in the party bus to ride to the wedding in style. Special thanks goes to Lyle Hall and Brett Sorem who helped do a quick clean-up of the clubhouse as we wanted to leave the space in the same way as we found it. You could feel the wedding nerves as we got closer to the ceremony spot, but with the help of Joe (Kevin's best man), he got the tunes playing and the party atmosphere had begun! The Ring Security (aka the Keith Brothers) loved the Limo Shuttle and the young-

est of the group, Riley, declared as he got on the Limo which had balloons on the roof, "This is the most awesome shuttle ride ever!"



The wedding began on time (not precisely, but pretty close) and with very few hitches. Doug Farkas, the reverend of the night, performed the ceremony and explained that he and his family have been long-time friends with the Gillinghams for many years. He did a great job bringing humor,

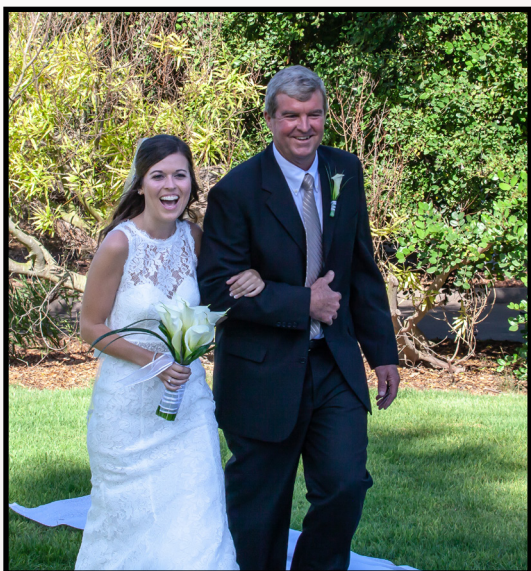
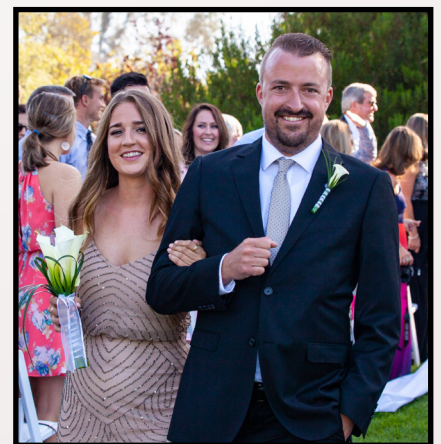


touching thoughts, words of wisdom, and laughter to the event. It made me smile to see Kevin and Annie struggle to repeat the long phrases Doug recited as that very same thing happened at our wedding over 39 years ago which also led to laughter during our ceremony.

There was a “pouring of the beer” ceremony where an amber beer was matched with a pale ale and poured together to demonstrate two lives coming together as one. After Kevin and Annie poured some together and drank it, the single cans were shared with their wedding party making the crowd a bit jealous that they weren’t selected as Annie and Kevin’s best friend to be in the wedding.

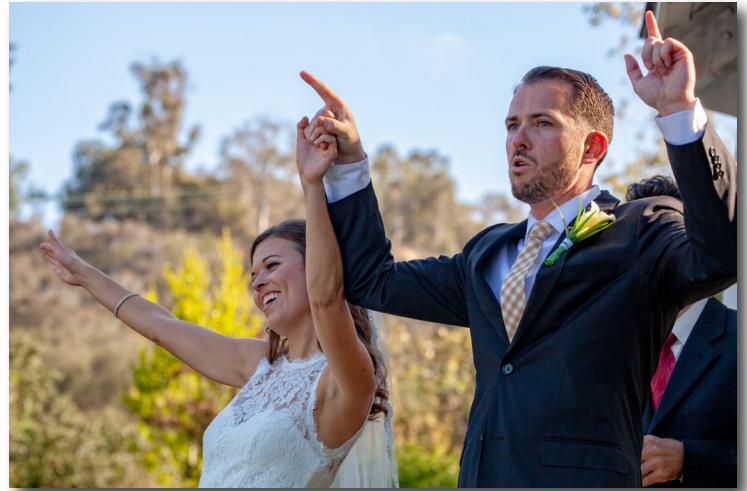


Cousin Kaitlin Gillingham and Aunt Fran Mulholland did the readings from the songs, “Time in a Bottle” by Jim Croce and another song by Lambchops band “I believe in you.” Special thanks to Katy Riel who gave out the wedding programs at the beginning of the ceremony as well.



The wedding ended with lots of cheering and joy because everyone knew a great party was to follow at Karl Strauss. Some loaded onto the shuttles provided by Bob and Listy and others drove straight to the venue, but regardless everyone was treated to a nice cold one the moment they arrived. The wedding party stayed back for the traditional pictures and then loaded the wedding limo shuttle where we had chilled champagne for the first official toast to the happy couple.

When the wedding party arrived to Karl Strauss they were given the same treatment, as platters of food, beer, and wine showed up to help put us in the party mood. I have never seen such great treatment at a wedding and that service continued the whole night where drinks were replenished if they appeared to not be cold or a different selection was desired. Just the right welcoming touch we wanted to give to our guests on this special day.





The wedding party was announced and everyone came together for a great reception. The food was individually selected so everyone got what they wanted from the four selected meals (steak, chicken, portabella mushroom or gluten-free meal) and they were all great options. After dinner, we heard a speech from us which included great advice for the newly-weds and thanked the many people who helped make it all possible. We then shifted to Kristy, Annie's maid of honor, who gave the three most important things she had learned from Annie through planning pub crawls together. Joe, the best man, continued by sharing his life experiences with Kevin and how Annie came into their lives and created a special friendship for them both.

The cake was quickly cut and then it was finally time to dance! Annie got to start it off with a special dance with Kevin, then one with Bob. Kevin, in turn, got a special dance with Pat, his mom. You could feel the love flowing around the room as there was an air of anticipation for a wonderful party to come. Once the dancing began the party never stopped. We had the restaurant until midnight and they had to kick us out at the end because the party played well into the night. After midnight, the hard core families met at the hotel lobby where more wine and beer was served and conversations continued to well past 2:00 a.m.



August 5, at 9:30 a.m. the Mulhollands (Kevin's parents) graciously hosted a Bagel breakfast for everyone who remained at the hotel. We had bagels & smears, Danishes, coffee, OJ, Bloody Mary's, Mimosas (yes this group can party), and fruit. A great way to thank those that came and to complete the Mulholland/Gillingham family merge!

Bob and I are very grateful for all of our family and friends who came to the wedding and for those that traveled long distances as well. I was amazed how many people made this a priority and spared no expense to be here for Annie and Kevin. Kevin, you are the perfect choice for Annie and we're honored to have you as our son in law along with the entire Mulholland family. May your marriage continue to grow with new grandkids coming our way when you're ready! For more wedding fun visit #FallinForMulholland on Instagram!





# A New Kiwi Benesch Joins the Family

Hi Family,

The Kiwi Benesch's would like to introduce baby #4: Paxton Benesch (name still pending). Baby was born at 7:06pm on August 10th weighing 7lbs 9 ozs after a quick 3.5 hour labor. Baby came so quickly that, despite mother's requests, there wasn't time for an epidural. Mom is doing great and the boys are all smitten with their new brother. Dad's a little tired but hanging in there!

Love and miss you all!

Dustin, Lauren, Holden, Grayson, Lawson, & Paxton (maybe Harlen, will keep you posted)





# Ed Riel has a New Website

Hi Family,

While I am well aware that the family newsletter is not the place for political statements, I did want to let the family know that I have been working on a new website to share my ideas and to let everyone know why I feel so strongly about the current state of America. Since I am posting my opinions publicly, I wanted my family to know about the site. While I suspect that some of you might think that my overall position is a bit extreme, I encourage you to read the evidence that I use to support my position. My goal is to promote thoughtful reflections, open dialogue and a strong commitment to voting. I would love to hear any comments you might have. More information can be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/edriel>. - Ed

Dave and Michelle Lane spent their vacation this year on the West Coast combining the trip with Annie's wedding. Michelle tells us that "Knotts Berry Farm for the WIN!!! We all had a blast. Swings, airplane rides, truck and train rides, Ferris wheel and even a pint-size roller coaster... amazing fun. BONUS- no lines at all and the kids crashed the second their heads hit the pillows.



# Brett Gets a Hole in One!

Carinda and I traveled to New York to go apartment hunting. We allotted six days for our search, and were successful on day two. This ultimately led to some free time. Bryce and Bridget both had Friday off! Bryce asked me earlier in the week if I wanted to hit up a course Friday. That all depended on our apartment hunt. Luckily, I signed the docs Thursday to make it official which meant it was on for the Sorem bro's to hit the links!



Vinny McCarthy (Bryce's father in law) joined us and picked the course. Skyway Golf Course it was. I obviously didn't bring my clubs, but was lucky enough to Borrow Mike's Clubs (Bridget's sisters awesome Husband) Most of you should know who Mike is from passed Riel stories. He is the guy who built Bryce's blue wooden phone booth for his proposal to Bridget all while Bryce probably just watched and drank beer.

Here is where it gets interesting and where most of you may try to discredit my hole in one. Read on. I stepped up to hole #4. 110 yards. I don't know what Mike's W wedge is, but I pull it out and give it a whack. I smash the ball probably 20 yards over the green. It was a great shot right at the middle of the green, just way too far, and unfairly so since I am not familiar with Mike's clubs.

Because I tripled the hole before and felt I got cheated out of a great swing, I let Bryce and Vinny hit and I told them I was going to hit a second ball and take my mulligan. I whipped out Mike's next club down, which was a 56 wedge. Bryce and Vinny struck valiant efforts just of the edge of the green. I tee up and take a couple practice swings. The club feels very familiar because I have had this same Titleist Vokey Wedge that I passed down to Bryce (I might have to buy one again now) It feels solid.



I step up to the ball, line up and swing. I wasn't really thinking too hard, or took too much time, I just swung. I struck the ball well and it was heading in the right direction. It was not one of those shots where I thought, damn I know that's gonna be close, maybe, just maybe, I'll get a hole in one. It was just a good shot that didn't spark any expectations. I watched it head toward the green, I was just happy it was

headed towards the green in hopes of getting my round back on course. We saw it hit the green, bounce up and land right in the cup.

HOLY CRAP!!! A HOLE IN ONE!!!  
OMGOMGOMG!!!!

I still cannot believe it. After coming to terms with this being an actuality, I scramble for my phone and have Vinny snap one of me by the Tee box. I took some video evidence of walking up to the hole. Snapped a couple pics of me grabbing the ball from the hole and was on cloud nine.



We finished off the round, celebrated with a beer, and went on with the day. I am pretty sure I owe Mike a bottle of whiskey for that one! Mike if you're reading this, every-time you grab your 56, just remember, it's my club now, I'm just letting you borrow it ;)



# Margaret Attends 50th High School Reunion

## 50 YEAR REUNION

By Margaret Riel



The school no longer exists, yet over half of the living '68 graduates of Our Lady of the Rosary High School returned to San Diego to spend the weekend together. The event started with a reconnect dinner at the home of one of the graduates, Paulette Rennie.

We played a chance game, Bonco which had us paired in teams with just about everyone over the course of the night. It was a good way to get to talk to a large group. I think it might be a fun game for Riel Bowl as the game is fast moving, played with dice and kids and adults can play together with equal chance of winning.

On Saturday, we went to class—a painting class at Pinot Palette at Liberty Station. In high





school our creative writing book was called de Colores and so we painted flowers in multiple colors. It was like being back in art classes in high school. Lots of goofing off and yet we all managed to all complete our assignment. While there was some talent in the group, the fun was being in class again.

We continue to Old Town and, after strolling through the markets, we had a festive lunch at Casa Guadalajara Restaurant. We had origami praying nuns on the tables to keep us in line.

Sunday morning started with a fun run for those that wanted to get up early (this event did not include me), followed by brunch at Peohé's Restuarant on Coronado Island. It was fun to spend the weekend back in time remembering what it was like to be part of a gang of teenage girls.





# Carinda Turns 30!

By Brett Sorem

# Carinda turned the big 30!

## How do you celebrate this milestone...?

### Have 3 parties in 3 different cites of course!!!

#### Party #1 - Los Angeles

August 2nd marked our last night in LA, my last day at work (yay!!!) and Carinda's actual 30th. We partied at the ACE Hotel Rooftop in downtown LA. Had dinner with Big Al, then headed up to the rooftop. Drinks were tossed around as fast as the reminiscent memories. Spent time with great friends till both our old brittle bodies couldn't take it anymore (sorry Carinda, you're old now, welcome to the club) and called it a night.



the sunset, told favorite Carinda stories. My favorite was one her brother Kendahl told about Carinda being pouty about something and trying to run away. She wouldn't let her brother come with her, and she took off...without shoes. Ha ha. She eventually decided it was not a good idea and returned home.

Dinner was fantastic. Later that night we made our way to Mavericks, the new P.B Bar and Grill. Repeated the night before with a little more dignity, and home we went.

#### Party #2.1

Annie & Kevin's Wedding was the next day. We had an amazing time. The ceremony was very intimate, the reception location was beautiful, the beer was great, and the company was better. We got a chance to catch up with many cousins. It was a great turn out over all and was a great way to wrap up Carinda's Bday weekend. We had a great brunch at JRDN in PB with Lyle and Birdy and the Bday party crasher Big Al! It was a great time, Bloodies and mimosas were craftily constructed, we caught up about each of our recent Europe trips and eventually decided it was time for a nap.

#### Party #2 - San Diego

The next day, surprise surprise, we woke up with a hangover, Carinda's was much worse than mind, which is how it should be. I drove us down to San Diego, So long LA! That night we had party number two. Carinda eventually recovered just in the nick of time to do it all over again! We had dinner with The Benson's to celebrate, as well as Big Al. It's not an actual party if Big Al doesn't crash it. We ate at Cannon Ball Sushi, watched



BUT WAIT A MINUTE. That was only two parties and two cities, what about the third?

It is currently August 11th while I am writing this. Carinda is passed out on Bryce and Bridget's couch, I had to sleep on the floor, and B & B are still asleep in their room with their cats. I wake up early because I have the Francie blessing/curse where I require minimal sleep to function properly, especially after a night a drinking...most the time. So I am taking this opportunity to write the article. Tonight, is Carinda's official 3rd party. But the coverage of this one is going to be a little different. In light of recent bday party experience twice thus far, I am fairly certain how this is going to go down. SO here we go.

### Party #3 - New York (Tarantino Style)

Tonight, we will head to dinner at Mr. Purple in the East Village. A few friends will come. We will be having an incredible time and will be able to remember all of this part of the night in the morning. Great food, better cocktails, a perfect way to celebrate Carinda turning 30, and us finding an apartment in my old Spanish Harlem hood... But more on that story next month. Back to Carinda's 3rd party that hasn't happened yet.

We leave the restaurant, and head to a local hip bar. More people come. Music is louder, the party gets kicked up a notch. This is where it starts to get a little hazy. Brett brings over Jameson shots, and it's all downhill from there. Dancing, more shots, possible second bar, cab ride home, almost lose her phone in the cab. I struggle with the unfamiliar lock on the front door, maybe we sleep in the hallway only to be let in early next day.

We wake up (tomorrow) with a minor hangover, some great memories registered in our brains, and some lost forever. We begrudgingly get ready and head to brunch in a desperate attempt to feed our lives back together and share tipsy Carinda photos.

Cheers to Aunt Carol and Carinda for another Bday. Carol, I know I didn't really get to celebrate with you, but I promise I did enough celebrating for a couple years' worth of bdays! On to tonight. Party #3. Let's do this!!!

