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Aloha Francie!

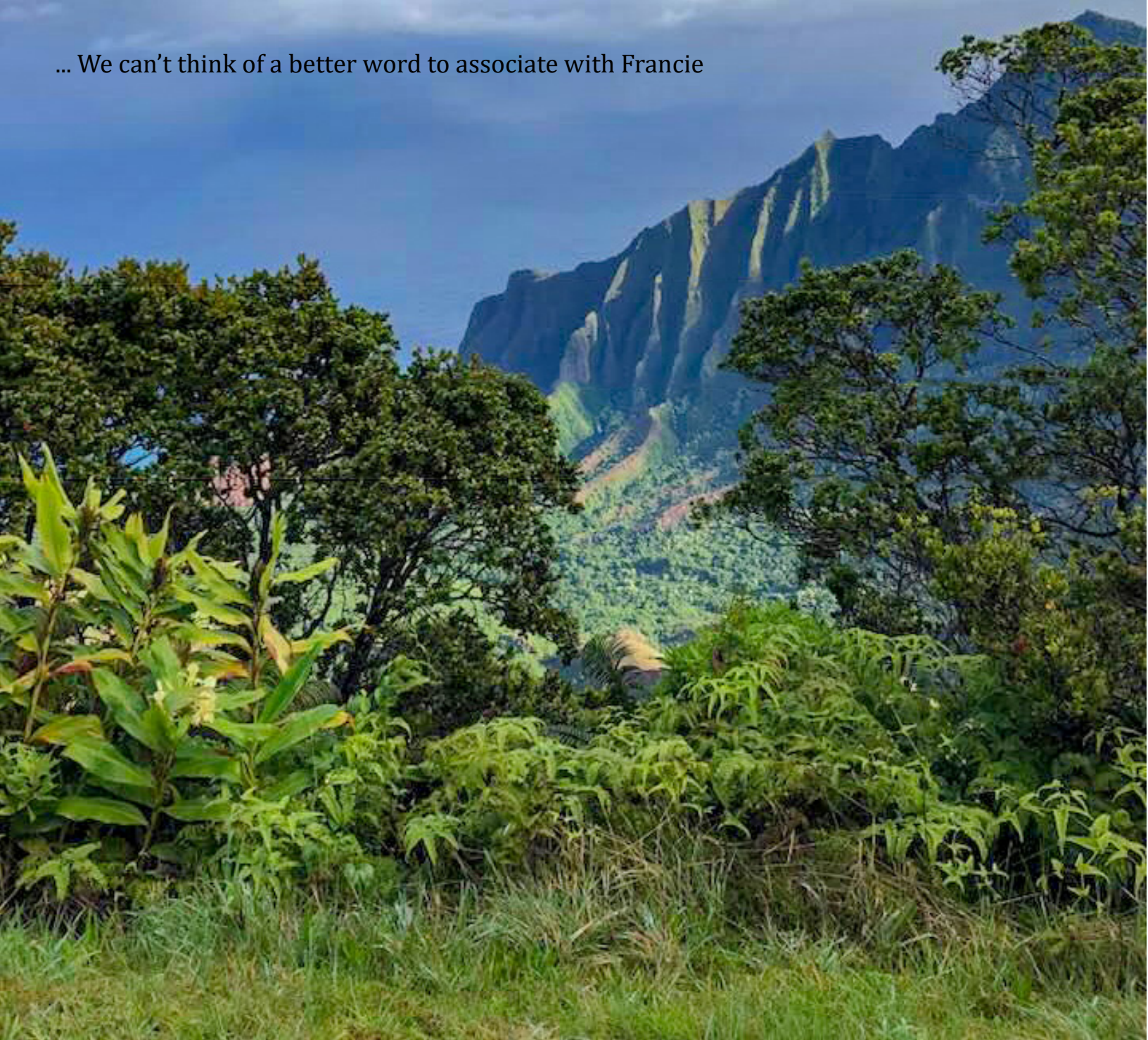


***Aloha*** - is a word that many have heard, but often gets misunderstood. Most people think that “Aloha” is a word that means both hello and goodbye. That is not true, and in fact the true meaning of Aloha is so much more than that.

It is true that in Hawaiian many say “Aloha” both when greeting someone and also saying goodbye. But that is not to be taken literally.

The real meaning of Aloha in Hawaiian is that of Love, Peace, and Compassion. It’s the guidelines of how to live – a life of Aloha is one when the heart is so full it is overflowing with the ability to influence others around you with your spirit.

... We can't think of a better word to associate with Francie



# Family and Friends Say Goodbye to Francie in Hawaii

By Birdy Hartman

Saying good-bye to our sister, Cindy's best friend, Lyle's wife, Brett, Bryce's mom, and Lyle Allen's step mom was not an easy thing for any of us to do. She was a huge presence in all our lives and none of us wanted to see her go. However, we also did not want to see her suffer and so the time to let her go had come. Which is what the trip to Hawaii was all about. We wanted to give her a place, that she loved, to rest her soul. A place that was filled with happy memories with all of us that were there.

We began the event by gathering for dinner at a nice restaurant. It was Lyle's way to thank Cindy, Boone, Ed, Jan, Margaret, Bud, Carol, Jeff, Lyle Allen, Cindy, Brett and Carinda for coming all this way to help him through this final step in his love for Francie. We had a great time but the emotions of the next day were certainly on everyone's mind.

On Monday, we made the trek to the Kulalau Canyon where Lyle and Francie were married. Lyle had bought leis like the ones they wore for their ceremony. We gathered around, and Cindy asked if she could read some words to Francie that she had prepared. I wanted you all to be able to read what she wrote as they were filled with the love from a friend that has known Francie the longest. So here they are:



*Francie - Wife, Mom, Aunt, Sister, Hair Wizard, Gadget Queen, Trend Setter, Plant Grower, Photographer, Party Thrower, and most importantly my Best Friend. She was many things to many people. We go back a long way and this is how I know her..... and what she meant to me.*



*In a nutshell, we met at Francis Parker when we were in preschool. We stayed friends even though we only went to school together for one year. I stayed at Parker, but she went off to St. Vincent's. Through the years I got to meet her friends and hang out with them. Her friends from St. Vincent's were far cooler than mine from Parker. We had lots of sleep overs, and fun days walking around Mission Hills, Presidio Park, and the Hillcrest area. We loved to go bowling. My mom would take us to the zoo and drop us off and we'd walk home on our own. My how the world has changed.*

*We did lots of double dating. I remember a few of her high school boyfriends - Eddie, Marc, Kevin. I went off to college, but we always got together during the holidays and summers. In elementary school, Francie would let me brush her long hair, and one time in Jr. High, I even tried to color it. Boy did I do a botch job. But she didn't get mad at me.*

*Fast forward to her going to Beauty school and becoming a master in all things hair. I'd go to the salons where she worked and watch for hours as she would work her magic with her client's hair. She was an artist! And then she met Alan, and I was her maid of honor, and she had the reception at my parent's home.*

*When I got married, Francie was my Matron of Honor. I moved away - but we still stayed in contact with each other. Even with no cell phones - we stayed in touch. We didn't call each other all of the time, or write, but we did stay connected. She came to visit me in Reno, and whenever I came to San Diego to visit my parents, she always made time for me.*

*Then I got pregnant with Max. Later, she told me that I was one of the reasons she finally decided to have children. She was much braver than I - as she had two amazing kids who were the center of her life. My son Max, and Brett became friends and have stayed in touch to this day. When Brett moved to LA, they only lived about 5 miles from each other. Small world.*



*Boone got a job at UCSD, so we moved to San Diego, and Francie and I continued our friendship. Our lives were very different, as I taught and was on a pretty regimented schedule, and she created her salon and traveled the world regularly.*



*However, we managed to take lots of trips and cruises together through the years. We went to Disney World with her twice. With the new man on the block - Lyle, we managed to travel a lot together. We did an Australia and New Zealand Cruise, a couple of coastal cruises, and several visits to our Tahoe cabin, and her Kauai Condo. What a treat. Lots of fond memories.*

*In 2006, I was diagnosed with breast cancer, and also a Neuroendocrine tumor of my pancreas.*

*Francie stepped in and sent me care packages all the time. She was an insanely huge giver and the Queen of gift giving. I have more goodies and gadgets around my house from beauty products to travel items, a back pack I use all of the time, to kitchen tools such as the sliding chip bag sealers I use every day, veggie organizers for my fridge, to jewelry, and anything for organizing. Her generosity is strewn throughout our home. She even gave me a special golf ball holder from Pebble Beach. She is physically with me everywhere!*

*I'm also reminded of her when gardenias bloom in my garden as they were my favorite flower - and she loved them too. (We used to wear Jungle Gardenia perfume in High school). She gave me a whole bag of them from her garden when Max was married. She also gave me a cutting from a plant before she moved from her old house. I fought to keep it alive thinking that if it lived, so would she. Sadly, the plant lives on, but she has passed.*

*Francie was a huge influence in my life. She drove me crazy sometimes, but I always loved her. She knew what she liked and wanted - and heaven forbid if you didn't always agree with her. I usually kept my opinions to myself, and to her I may have appeared weak, but her friendship and our history were much more important to me than to worry about that.*

*Towards the end, when her mind wasn't always clear, and she didn't always make sense, she told me she kept people in her life because she knew they needed her. I feel we became closer in her last year, as I showed her my strength of caring and being there for her. I valued our friendship and history - she and all of the Riel's (as Francie always shared what they were doing) were like a second family to me. I only hope that through the years, she needed me too.*

*I miss Francie and her strength, style, opinions, thoughts, stories, shopping with her, and her company. She crammed more life into each and every day than most of us do in a week. I'm certain she's organizing heaven and making sure that everyone has a great hair day!!!! She wouldn't have it any other way! - Cindy*



Then Lyle, with tears in his eyes, let Francie's ashes rest in the beautiful canyon while we all said our last prayers of love to her. The sisters gathered for a sister's picture with Listy and Francie on our cell phones. Then we left that mountain and decided that a bike ride would be a good way to lighten up our somber moods.



One highlight of the trip came from Annie Gillingham Mulholland. She put together a Fabulous Francie Fiesta Zoot Box, Bar Crawl, for us to enjoy on our last night together. Annie wrote a note for us to read prior to the games. It said, "Dear Francie Crew, it was my HONOR to make a fun Zoot Box to celebrate Aunt Francie."



I hope that this night brings you nothing but joy and laughter. We all know if Francie were here, she would have organized something even more amazing to bring everyone together. So, as you Francie Fiesta, keep her amazing spirit, beauty and love with you and know that she is mixing her own margarita to play along! Cheers to Francie, an aunt that always reminded me of the importance and joy of bringing family together. Love you guys! Annie.

The games that Annie put together for us certainly had us drinking and laughing. We played Some like it Hot, Stache it, Margarita, Margarita, Holy Guacamole and Taco Tower. Each game was played at a different location and there was a lot of hooting and howling as we tried not to get a personal fowl by being the last person to say Tuesday, after someone yelled Taco! The penalty for that was that you had to drink (which I think Brett purposely lost just so that he could keep the margaritas flowing). I'm not sure who won the game, but I do know that Annie worked her Zoot box magic and had us all filled with laughter instead of sorrow.

Other highlights of this trip were walking with my sisters and Lyle through the gardens that Francie loved most. And finding a bench that she loved to sit on with Carol when they visited. The island is full of happy memories for everyone here. Francie was that orb of light, captured on camera by Boone and Cindy, dancing in our minds and hearts. Which is where she will be forever.



# CATALINA CRUISING FOR ANYONE TURNING 60 OR 70!

By Listy Gillingham

It appears that Catalina was the place to go for birthday decade turners as Listy and Birdy, with their high school buddies decided a trip to the island for the first weekend in October was a perfect last celebration for their small group of friends who were also turning 60 this year. Meanwhile Ed and his family decided the Island was a perfect family vacation place for his clan and apparently we ended up on the island the exact same weekend. You'll have to get the details from Ed as what they did but I can report that we had a great time bonding with friends and enjoying the beautiful city of Avalon for three days. We met up with our high school friends, Diane, Tracy, and Cherie, in Dana Point with a quick side trip to the Outlets before loading the boat (shopping is always fun).



Once we landed we made the trek to our Condo at Hamilton Cover which proved to be a beautiful place that sat right on the water and allowed for some beautiful views of the city and Pacific Ocean. We felt like we were miles away and enjoyed our first night in the condo, playing games and talking about the old days and our parallel lives we led after high school as we all raised our kids together.

On Saturday, we adventured up for a hike to see the Wrigley Botanical gardens. There we read about the history of Catalina and how the owner of the Chicago Cubs was connected to the island. According to Google, "In 1916, William Wrigley bought a share of Chicago's National League, and over the next five years steadily increased his stake. In 1921, as the team set up the field and clubhouse in Avalon Canyon, although never officially named, Avalon townspeople began calling the field Wrigley Field. During this time, the Cubs home field, back in Chicago, was known as Weeghman Park. The Cubs trained in Avalon from 1921 to 1951, with the exception of the war years of 1942-1945. Relocating the Cubs spring training to Catalina Island brought national attention to Catalina Island, which Wrigley purchased in 1919. Weeghman Park in Chicago was re-named "Cubs Park," and eventually, in 1926, the Chicago ballpark become known as Wrigley Field. This makes Avalon the first site of a Wrigley Field.

Nineteen Hall of Fame players trained with the Cubs on Catalina Island, including such legends as Grover Cleveland Alexander, Dizzy Dean, Roger Hornsby, Joe McCarthy and Hack Wilson.



The "W Flag" also has its origins in Catalina. William Wrigley owned the Wilmington Transportation Company. The company was founded in 1877 by the Banning brothers, the original owners of Catalina Island. The company operated several vessels that transported visitors from mainland ports to Catalina Island, including the S.S. Catalina and S.S. Avalon. The Wilmington Transportation Company's logo was a blue flag with a white W. In 1937, Wrigley brought the W flag to Chicago. The flag became a symbol for the team's wins or losses. With a game win, a white flag with a blue W was hoisted up the flagpole to signal Wrigley field passerby's of a win and a blue flag with a white L signaled a loss for the Chicago team. #FlytheW."

After that adventure, we had lunch and then prepared for our one-of-a-kind ZootboxCo pub crawl designed by Annie and Kristy called "Let's Get Nauti" (nautical theme). We donned our sailor hats with our proud new names written on the side like "Saucy Sailor." We moved from one bar to the next playing the games Annie armed us with and



enjoying a few beverages along the way. The funny part was how we caused a bit of stir in the city



by having strangers want to join this strange group of five friends. We had two couples latch on after our second stop, as they wanted to be part of the sailor crew. We grew to a group of 9 and landed our third bar where there was music and dancing. As we left that bar, a third couple was attracted to our party and joined us by buying us another round of drinks. It was quite a scene and

we had fun with our new friends as well as our older friends (smile).

All in all, we were very happy to head home on Sunday with a great feeling from being with our friends that we've shared so many special moments with. I hope you enjoyed our tour of history and our great pictures that tell the story better than I ever could.



*Friends from Left to Right: Diane "Walsh" Bentley, Listy, Cherie "Christian" Martinez, Birdy, and Tracy "Thomas" Bareno*

# Richard Announces his 2020 Run for Mayor Of San Diego

On Monday, at 10AM, on November 05, 2018, Rich Riel the first candidate to declare for San Diego Mayor held his first campaign rally at the Cross on top of Mt. Soledad. Playing music and passing out campaign literature friends and supporters gathered for the first official campaign function. Exclusive coverage of the event was provided by internet radio station AMBS.live. With his 93 year old mother and his 27 year old son by his side, Rich Riel delivered the following declaration:

My Fellow San Diegians', because of my long-time association with this venue, I have chosen Mt. Soledad as the starting point for my campaign for the Office of Mayor of San Diego.

My father first took me to the mountain when I was ten. From the Mountain I watched San Diego change from a small town of 300,000 to the 8th largest city in the United States, all in my life time. As a boy growing up I camped out on the foothills of Soledad. In High School I drove up to the cross and watched San Diego change.

My last night in San Diego before I left to attend The Citadel was spent watching the sun rise at the Cross. My wife and I were married at All Hollows Catholic Church by the same Priest who holds services there today less than a mile from the Cross. Our only son was born when we lived on the Mountain. My family has a plaque to memorialize the service of my father in WWII here at the cross.

My father, his brother and I are graduates of The Citadel. We are held to high standards because of our association with that institution. When I first decided I was going to run for Mayor I spoke to my dad about why I was doing this. I told him I had spent a lot of time on the mountain thinking about what I could do for San Diego. I was appalled by what Pete Wilson had done to San Diego in his four terms as Mayor. I felt that reforms were needed to stop the developers from further deprecations of our city. Based on my education and understanding of government I came to the conclusion two reforms were needed: terms limits for the Mayor and; a charter amendment halting the sale of City Owned land. I believed then, as I believe now, that elections are the marketplace of ideas. These two ideas could dramatically change the direction of development in San Diego. I felt that a campaign based on good ideas stood a chance of winning in an open election. Even if I did not win the discussion of these ideas might influence future elections.

In 1983, when I first ran for Mayor my ballot statement was: "ARE YOU HAPPY WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS? Doesn't it seem unusual for candidates to spend \$750,000 for a job that pays \$36,000? A vote for one of the big spenders is a vote for more of the same. A vote for me is a vote against large contributions and current government practices.

I grew up in Mission Hills when there were no hotels on Mission Bay. I graduated from San Diego High when it still looked like a "Gray Castle." While I earned a college degree from The Citadel, Mission Valley changed from cow pastures and riding trails to shopping centers and hotels. I support a charter amendment to stop all sales of City-owned land and limit the mayor's office to two terms. I cannot change what has occurred, but I prize what we have lost. If you love San Diego, trust me to protect our City and open space.

I wrote those words almost 40 years ago for my Campaign for Mayor of San Diego. Today we have term limits on the Mayor.

In the last Mayoral election Mayor Faulconer raised and spent over 2 million dollars for a job that pays \$100,000 a year. Clearly he was not running for the salary. The sad truth is the Mayor's office is used as a bargaining chip with developers and wealthy campaign donors to fund a future political career. There can be no clearer example of how this system works than Pete Wilson's political career. Before he ran for Mayor he was an assemblyman for San Diego. In 1971 leaving the Assembly for the Mayor's Office, Mayor Wilson had over 40,000 acres' of City owned land. When he left in 1983 he had sold off more than 30,000 acres' to developers. He was rewarded with a governor's appointment as Senator for California and later was a two term Governor of California. Now that he is retired he lives in LA.

I have watched San Diego politics and in my opinion most of the occupants of the Mayor's office traded the resources of our City in the furtherance of their political careers. I am running as a reform candidate. I believe that a charter amendment stopping the sale of City owned land would be a long term solution to recapturing open space for our City. My candidacy is predicated on the idea that holding public office is not a career it is a civic duty.

My intentions are to run for Mayor and demonstrate that people outside of the power structure of San Diego can win by running a grass roots campaign structured on civic duty rather than career. I make two promises to the voters; I will dedicate my entire campaign to changing the City Charter to prohibit the sale of city owned land and; that I will not run again for any political office.

I want to thank my Mother and my Son for joining with me today at the Cross on Mt. Soledad for my announcement. I want to acknowledge Gary Law, my campaign manager and long time friend. To my friends without whom I cannot accomplish my goals, Peggy, Lars, Josh, Derek, John and the rest of you, words are not sufficient to convey my gratitude for your faith and work.

As I stand here and look at San Diego from the cross next to my father's plaque I can see where we are and imagine where we can go. San Diego deserves better than carpet bagging politicians trading our land for their careers, Together we are going to change San Diego, Thank you and God Bless.



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**



# FAMILY SHORTS



## David and Bethany Announce Their Engagement

Yes, another happy couple has announced their engagement and that they will be married sometime in 2020. David popped the question while he and Bethany were camping in Joshua Tree National Park last weekend (November 12th). Everyone is very happy for them and we can't wait until the big day. Look for more news in next month edition of the Newsletter.



*A delightful evening with the Gillingham 's celebrating the engagement of David and Bethany. Wedding in summer of 2020.*