



**Congratulation to Carol and Jeff
Celebrating 40 Years of Marriage**



Carol and Jeff Celebrate 40 years

By Listy Gillingham



Carol and Jeff joined Margaret and Bud & Jan and Ed celebrating 40 years of wedding bliss! Jessica Rios started the ball rolling by contacting Listy Gillingham to plan a special party. She originally thought about having the party in the same park they were married in 40 years ago but then got tempted with the offer to combine forces and do a party at Lemon Ave. Jessica selected theme "Cheers to 40 Years" and together they created a fancy party with banners, posters, wedding artifacts and other fun decorations. A large poster size photograph was shared with signatures from the rehearsal dinner.



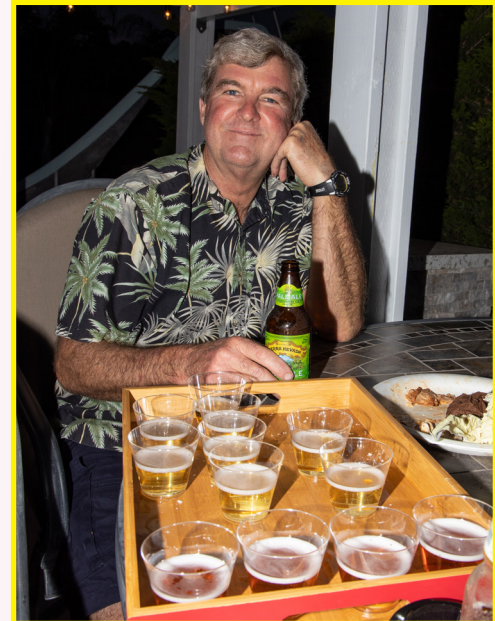
Dinner was aptly cooked by Bob on his famous bbq with support coming from others as he was charged with cooking carne and pollo asado. Everyone enjoyed a hearty Mexican meal and then it was time for the cake and a song. Carol's best friend, Ruth, offered to write the song to



say thank you for all the Jeff-written songs over the years for various parties. After that, everyone just enjoyed a beautiful summer evening with the fire pits glowing and music being played by family friend Doug Farkas. Carol had all of her kids there minus the New Zealand family (we missed you Dustin and Lauren). She thanked



everyone for their support and love over the years. It was a great way to celebrate this momentous occasion! Happy Anniversary Carol and Jeff!



Cheers to 40 Years of Marriage!

By Jessica Rios

On Saturday, July 6th, we had a party to celebrate my parents 40th wedding anniversary. It was held at the famous Gillingham party and event venue, and a party it was! My parents were married June 30th, 1979 and so naturally, we started out the night with some 70's theme jams. Drinks and general merriment followed with lots of reminiscing about weddings new and old. The original wedding album was perused. The pictures of bell bottoms and polyester took us back in time while we listened to the Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, and Van Morrison.

Because the couple has spent all 40 of their married years in San Diego, Mexican food was the obvious choice for dinner. The tacos, burritos, and guac did not disappoint. I can tell you; they just don't have guacamole like that in New Jersey.

After dinner, some of Carol's dearest friends preformed a rousing rendition of the Benesch Bunch (sung to the tune of the Brady Bunch). Carol, Ruth, and Debby were once in an off-off-off-off Broadway singing group called the Marvelettes with songs written by Jeff. It was great fun to see the group back in action once again. Meanwhile, Benicio discovered a video camera not attached to a cell phone and recorded the whole event. We will be sure to have a full 3-hour, unedited viewing at the next Riel Bowl. The entertainment was followed with a champagne toast to the great couple. Surrounded by friends and family, my parents were showered with good wishes. We can only hope that the next 40 years brings as much love, joy, and fulfillment as the last. Happy Anniversary Jeff and Carol!





A big thanks to everyone who helped plan and execute this fun event. Listy, party-planner extraordinaire, DJ Doug on the mic, Bob G. on the grill, and Bob R. with photo creds and meat slicing duties, Margaret for the delicious deserts, Ruth and Debbie on entertainment, and Miguel for the run around/delivery man/sanity saver (I knew I married a good one). I could not have done it alone! BTW... "A good time was had by all!"





Not So Free to Fly Across the Country

By: Margaret Riel

Bud and Margaret took off to North Carolina to celebrate 50 years of marriage of their good friends. It was a great occasion with lots of weekend activities, local Bluegrass music, and parties. They were more than happy to be able to join them especially after their efforts of flying through Denver. Margaret and Bud made it to Denver just as a snowstorm crashed in and all planes going out were either delayed or canceled. Fortunately for them, they just had to wait 8 hours in the airport for a new flight and arrive in North Carolina in the middle of the night. It could have been much worse as literally hundreds of other travelers had their flights canceled and were scrambling to find new ones.

After the party weekend, our plans were to fly to Montreal, which should have been an easy hop to NYC, then following a short stopover, on to Canada. But the plane to New York was delayed, and we missed the connecting flight to Montreal. Unfortunately, the next flight wasn't until the next day at the same time. This would mean I would miss a leadership workshop I was scheduled to attend, so Bud in his everyday helpful spirit, said he could drive me there.

But phone calls dashed our hopes as no car dealer would do a one-way rental to Canada. So, not to be deterred, we decided to hop on the bus to the car rental desks and see if we could convince someone. We had luck at the first try. Generally, they do not do one-way rentals out of the county. But they





had a luxury car (with Canadian plates that someone probably paid heavily to drive to NYC) that we could rent for an extra fee and drive to Montreal. So, off we went to Upstate New York, where we drove past the cities of Bud's childhood and the home of his sister and nephew. And again, we arrived in the middle of night, but this time with no luggage (which we would have to get from the local airport). Despite a night without sleep, my workshop, conference, and presentations all went well, and we had lots of fun connecting with friends.

After the conference, we helped celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Montreal Jazz Festival--quite an event. There were streets in multiple directions, all closed and filled with thousands of people milling around. There were both paid and free venues. We did pay to see the history of Salsa dancing while we enjoyed a wonderful dinner. And later, we went to many free events. Some drew thousands of people and projected for many blocks while others were more local. Both of us especially enjoyed an "open mic"-style piano with loudspeakers that anyone could sit down and play.



Since this was a gathering of people who loved music, it was not surprising that lots of people, including small children-- could and did give piano concerts. There were also music globes that when placed in holes light up in colors and played different music. Three people would play together, and each played three balls in grids of about 25 choices. They would try to harmonize but it was very hard for people of different ages to co-create music, but it was a lot of fun to watch.





We had great dinners with friends and visited museums and even watched a tribute to John Lennon. They projected a -Give Peace a Chance- video outside on the side of a 20-story building to celebrate the 50th anniversary of John Lennon's first non-Beatles single. The anthemic "Give Peace A Chance," was recorded on the second to last day of his and Yoko Ono's second "bed-in" for peace, which was held in room 1742 of the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, Canada.



Our trip home continued with bad travel karma. We learned on the way to the airport that our early morning plane would be delayed out of Montreal so much that we would have 4 minutes to make our connection in Washington DC. We were rerouted with more wait time through Newark by a travel agent that was impressed by how short a trip it was to get to San Diego -- only 3 hours. Warning, if your travel agent doesn't know about time zones flying west, well she is not likely to be an expert. Nevertheless, we did get home, about 6 hours after we had expected, and not in the middle of the night.

FAMILY SHORTS



Emily graduated from Bright Horizon Preschool

The first of many graduations for Emily Mehan as she gets ready to start school as a kindergartner next Fall. Addy wasn't sure what all the fuss was about but really enjoyed the day.



Summer Trip to Puerto Vallarta

By Birdy Hartman

Greetings Family. The summer is a perfect time for teachers to beat feet and see the world. Look out for some great traveling news from many of our teaching family members. Lyle and I kicked off June by going to a beautiful condo that we bid on during a Gala for Cancer in Francie's memory. We invited Francie's dear friend and doctor, May-ling Hutchins, and her best friend and dance partner, Arkady Bilenka.

Mexico is such a great place to escape. The weather is perfectly comfortable in the high 80s and the beach water temperature about matches that, making it very easy to swim in the ocean for those of us that hate the cold. We enjoyed laying by beautiful pools, drinking tasty cocktails and enjoying delicious Mexican food. What's not to love? We took a couple of day trips to see the mountain sides. One that took us up 8,000 feet to the Bufa where the mountain touches the clouds. It has a breathtaking view.

Our favorite restaurant was called Barcelona Tapas. The food was amazing! It was the best place to enjoy sangria while watching the sunset on the ocean. You should check it out if you ever go here. But mostly we hung out by the beach and enjoyed our escape from the working world. Stay tuned for our next summer adventure to come.

