



Oh What a Wedding Weekend!

Labor Day weekend normally has a lot of action attached to it being a 3 day weekend and all but this year, it was even bigger. Birdy and Lyle's wedding took over the weekend and even extended it to a 4 day celebration as they got married in front of family and friends.

It started on Thursday evening with the rehearsal for the next day's big event. Those individuals that were part of the wedding, gathered at the Bahia hotel around 5:30 to practice the nuptials that would follow the next day. Only one problem, nobody wanted to practice. Even with Rev Rex standing tall and commanding it was hard to really practice a ceremony that was slated for

about 15 minutes. In reality the only one who got any practice was me and I realized that trying to take pictures of a vertically challenged couple next to a 6' plus Reverend was not going to be easy. So, only two things got accomplished. First, no way was Rex going to be a step higher than the couple on the gazebo because when we tried it, Birdy was looking into his chest. And second, the onlookers got an early start to the evening by enjoying a beer or two.





In keeping with the 15 minute timetable of the wedding we were done rather quickly and it was time to head over to the Ocean's Room at the Catamaran hotel for some well-deserved refreshments and dinner.



Before all the Champagne and Wine

It was a wonderful night full of champagne, wine and a really good dinner. Lyle brought the beverages from his well-stocked wine cellar located deep below his house in a fortified vault, or maybe just inside his house but it sounded better the other way. We experienced some really good wine and even the restaurant's sommelier was impressed with Lyle's choices.



And After

At the end Birdy and Lyle were surprised with a gift from Bob, Listy, Doug, Kym Rex and Holly that promised an adventure of... what else another weekend together! The adventure will begin in Temecula and will involve lots of wine tasting at the local vineyards. Hopefully, Lyle can restock his seriously depleted wine cellar during this trip.



The next day was the real deal and started with the usual 5 hours of “getting my hair done” for Birdy while Lyle just rested up for the big event. There was a little get together at Birdy and Lyle’s room before the wedding where Margaret presented a few gifts to the couple while we munched on cheese crackers, and of course, more of Lyle’s private reserve wine. While the family was enjoying themselves, a most amazing thing occurred. We looked out on the grass deck of their room and there, resting on the blades, was a four inch perfectly dropped white feather. Birdy was overjoyed knowing that Bruce was indeed part of this celebration and we are all sure Francie was with him. Soon it was time to get this party started and everyone set off to get dressed.

The wedding started on time or fairly close to it with a playing of a song dedicated to the spirits of both Bruce and Francie. Before Lyle and Birdy entered the DJ read and then played the following:

Lyle and Birdy want to thank all of you for being here to witness their new life together. Each of you are here because you have played a role in their lives today and their lives in the past. They are excited to open new chapters and begin to love once again. But before they begin, they would like to dedicate this song to the loves that they have lost...Bruce and Francie.

YOU WILL LIVE IN MY HEART FOREVER

I'll forget about you-never
No matter what I do I won't stop loving you
Or the times that we had together
You will live in my heart forever

All the smiles and the laughter that we shared
And the lessons you taught me
I wouldn't trade for all the money in the world
No not one single memory

You will live in my heart forever
I'll forget about you-never
No matter what I do I won't stop loving you
Or the times that we had together
You will live in my heart forever



After the song was over it was time to get things started by having the ring bearer Zeke Lines and flower girls, Josie and Cora Hartman, move down the aisle quickly followed by Lyle and Birdy. Rex performed a simply marvelous ceremony that was both sincere and humorous at the same time. He walked us through his experiences with both Lyle and Birdy, providing both background to their lives and the new path they have chosen. He summed it up by telling them that in response to the vows that they should “in the words of the immortal Bob Gillingham say “Oh Yah”.



Lyle started off with his vows as follows:

Birdy, You and I continue to ask, "How did this happen?" "How is it that we are together?" We both know that it is a gift from God and two people who are with him right now. You and I know the time we spend together is very special. We know it won't last forever. You may never know how much I am in love with you and how much you mean to me. I am head-over-heels nuts about you.

You knowwe act like teenagers AGAIN in love for the first time. There is a huge contingent of people out there that love and respect you! I know because of the way they greet you: "Mrs. Hartman", "The Bird", "Hartman", "Grammy Mom or Sis"

How can you not love a kindergarten teacher? And then there is you and me: "Miss Bird", "Silly girl" "Shorty" and Pardon me but "Hot Kooche Mama" Now there is something else I get to call you...

"My Wife"

Then Birdy followed up with her own:

Lyle, this is the start of our new life together. Today we will be a Mr. and Mrs.... AGAIN, off on a



brand new chapter, in our already full book. And like any good book, there are sure to be beautiful new adventures and things, we've never seen before, unknown wonders we could never anticipate, and exciting challenges. I promise to always stand faithfully by your side, to be honest, loving and true, and most importantly, to always, just in the nick of time, help you escape from fiery buildings at the Ritz, imminent Wildman race car crashes, or cockroach infested rooms in Hawaii....well, maybe that's not entirely in my wheelhouse, but you know I will be by your side as you tackle these problems for ME

I feel like the luckiest woman in the world today, getting to marry such an amazing man. You are warm, kind, so

smart, generous, loving, strong, protective, and so funny that you make me belly laugh as we are driving down the road to say good-bye each working morning.

And as lucky as I feel, I know that luck is what you make it. This is a relationship that we have built together, step by step, growing and nurturing it into the most beautiful love. I can't wait to find out what tomorrow may bring, to discover the ways I know I will feel even luckier and more grateful than I am today. I take you to be my partner, my best friend, my one and only, staying loving and true both in times of unexpected fortune and in times of unanticipated hardship, working by your side to make a lifelong love and marriage.

Lyle, this is going to be short and sweet, like us, but I have a few things I need to say...

And then she made several toasts to everyone thanking them for their love and support during the ups and downs of their lives. Toasts? Oh did I forget to mention that Birdy arranged a special surprise for Lyle? Apparently, Harris and Amy Hartman gave Birdy and Lyle a bottle of Dom Perignon champagne for their engagement party last June and Birdy stealthily brought it to the wedding so she could have her good friends Doug and Kym bring it, and two glasses, up before she started her vows. So, by the time she got down to her toasts both she and Lyle had their glasses full and in the air.



After the ceremony, some of the guests moved to the boat docked close by for the start of the reception. The rest hung around during the picture taking time to be involved on one of the many group shots. After which, it was really time to party so off everyone went to board the William D Evans, a rear driven paddle boat famous for its many cruises of San Diego's Mission Bay.



As the guest arrived, they were greeted with a large poster entitled "Where in the World are you Sitting?" and it listed the tables, which were named after cities in the world that both Lyle and Birdy have visited together. So, you might be sitting in Athens, Cabo San Lucas or even New York!



Once the guest were seated Rev Rex gave a short prayer to start the evening and then dinner was served below a beautiful stain glassed ceiling. After the main course was served, Lyle's son Lyle got up and toasted the happy couple with some very heartwarming words. Then it was Listy's turn and her toast is as follows:

I was at Annie's and Kevin's house the other day and noticed this frame with the words, "Be Adventurous" boldly printed across a mountain. It struck me as great wedding advice because if you know Annie, you know adventure.

And then I began to think about Birdy and Lyle and the word adventure struck me as one of the first changes we've noted in Birdy since she started dating Lyle. You see, Birdy was never adventurous growing up. In fact, daring was not a word I would ever use to describe her. An example that I will never forget was when we were taking a shortcut through a canyon from one side of Mission Hills to another when we were about 7-10 years old. We were walking from a neighborhood friend's house (in those days it was typical for us to say goodbye to our families in the morning and roam the neighborhood all day, without ever having to check in with our parents). You just

left, and somehow, we always returned (I'm not sure if that was my parent's master plan or not, but we did manage to always return by dark).

So this story has my brother Robert, Birdy, and me walking home from a friend's house where we had a choice to either go up the switchback trail in a vacant lot or take a long winding road around it, which felt like a forever walk, to get home.

We always opted to go up the trail, but this time, Birdy was with us. And there had been some rain which caused some erosion where the trail had come apart (maybe by 10 inches) and to cross it, we'd have to stretch a foot over it. You would have thought we were asking her to leap across a huge water crossing. I remember her sitting down and refusing to cross, deeming it unsafe.



It seemed as though we were stuck on that trail for over an hour, as we tried to convince Birdy that it was safe. We both would leap over it, back and forth, showing her how safe it was, or extend our hands to help pull her over. And, each time, Birdy stood up, she had that look like she was going to give it a try, but to no avail, she'd stop short and say "NO, It's too far!" After it started to get dark, Birdy's fear of us leaving her behind, overtook the fear of the crossing, and she finally did it and we made it home on time.



So when Birdy announced that she loved racing in Lyle's car, fast down the mountain curves on trips to Palm Desert, I was skeptical on who was this new person in Birdy's bodyand when she announced that she would go in an inner tube, in a dark cave, where she might get wet, in Hawaii, I thought, no way. But she did it. And when Lyle and Birdy traveled to Alaska where she hopped on speed boats or helicopters, I couldn't help but think, she's definitely putting trust in Lyle that I've never seen before, which made me take note that Birdy was truly evolving.

I found this curious, so I did the next best thing someone can do when they see change happening in front of them. I googled: "How to be adventurous?" Wondering if I could find ways to inspire Birdy to continue on this road she is traveling. Google had 5 bullets for me and they seemed very appropriate for this toast:

How to be Adventurous:

Bullet Number 1 Find Motivation. AH HA! Lyle is definitely motivation for Birdy. He started by wining and dining her in places she would love to eat at. Pancho's comes to mind, anything Mexican actually, and steak and potatoes for sure. But then, he slowly introduced foods that she would never eat or she'd used to complain about eating them, but not with Lyle.

The next thing I knew Birdy was eating sushi, salmon, and exotic Asian foods. Matter of fact, the other day she was quick to say she had some delicious "tongue" for dinner and again, I looked at her oddly, thinking who is this person I used to know so well?

Bullet Number 2 Change Old Habits.... Birdy certainly had a predictable life before Lyle. After all, she's taught kindergarten in the same classroom for close to 40 years. She swore she'd never retire and now, since Lyle, she sees a life beyond the classroom that I never thought she'd embrace. You see, she loves teaching little tiny kids with their germly hands, but huge hearts, who know how to make her feel needed and special, and who have kept her fulfilled in many ways over the years.



But now, she finds much joy in spending time with Lyle who also makes her heart sing and I see her considering new ideas like golf and travel, which certainly wins in my book over sticky fingers!

Bullet Number 3, Find New People. This was also easy for Birdy because she's a natural friend maker and when Lyle decided it was time to introduce Bird to his friends, their evenings out climbed to almost nightly. They went from one event to another as they slowly evolved into a new couple. Hence why we have so many people here tonight to celebrate. You can certainly feel the good energy in the room as we are all here to embrace this special event.

Bullet Number 4, Meet New World. This one has challenged Lyle a bit in becoming more adventurous. You see, One New World for Lyle happens to be Tennis Tuesday! I don't think Lyle ever expected to be playing tennis with a tennis group on a weekly basis, but then came Birdy, and Birdy has become quite fond of tennis as well. Though the truth be told, Tennis Tuesday also includes some competitive beverage drinking prior to playing, and definitely after playing, which adds to the play in the middle, making it fun and silly at times.

When Lyle first joined the tennis group, I might have made fun of his lack of tennis attire, as he showed up in jeans. He tried to get me back by purchasing the ugliest pair of shorts I have ever seen, that did have nice deep pockets for tennis, but in the end, I won because a year later, he's still coming back to play with a new fancy tennis racket and he's becoming quite impressive at the net with his quick moves.



And finally, Bullet Number 5, Explore the world. I think that's exactly where they found their first common interest, as they were both anxious to plan a trip from the moment they realized a friendship was developing. They started off with a short trip to New Mexico and from there they planned their next one over the summer to Europe, and slowly they added Alaska, Mexico, Lake Tahoe, and Hawaii just to name a few of their amazing destinations.

So here's my toast....to Lyle and Birdy, may your lives together include many adventures in your future where you are motivated to embark on new challenges together, change a few habits along the way that don't work anymore, find some new friends, meet a New World which will definitely include for Lyle becoming a grandfather today as he officially embraces the Hartman clan, and lots of exploration of the world, the city, the state or wherever you may roam as the couple you are becoming today! We love you and are excited to be a part of the changes that will come down this adventurous road you are taking! Congratulations! We love you very much!

The rest of the evening went pretty much as you might expect from a Riel party. Lots of dancing, drinking and just a plain old good time. The boat left the docks around 9:00 for a two hour cruise around the bay while the DJ played a host of great songs for dancing. At some point during the warm night, the guest found their way to the upper deck to enjoy San Diego's classic great weather and even better view. Off in the distance I noticed three lights grouped together on the horizon and I couldn't help but think that it was Dad, Bruce and Francie sending a happy toast to Birdy and Lyle along with the rest of the family. Francie's light was the brightest knowing what she put this into motion by recognizing past her mortality and putting the two people who needed it the most... Together.





News From New Zealand

By Dustin Benesch

Hi Family,

We've had a busy month of August with two birthdays; Paxton's first birthday on the 10th and Holden's 8th Birthday on the 22nd. For Paxies' special day, we took him and the boys to the Auckland zoo where we checked out the animals and had a nice lunch. Pax did his best to keep up with his big brothers.





For Holden's 8th birthday, Dad took the day off of work and we all went to Dinosaur Kingdom, a zoo/amusement park which has turned into a birthday tradition for us. Holden also

requested a "Camp Holden" themed birthday party, so we had about 20 kids over to our house and set up different camp activities. The kids earned merit badges for making bow & arrows, for spotting animals around the farm, and participating in sack races (not to mention the chocolate cake). Holden, the boys, and his friends had a great time, and Lauren and I can't believe how fast our kids are growing!

Miss you all and hope everyone is well! We're still waiting for our first visitors!

BUTTERFLY creek **ENTRANCE PRICES**

	FARM ANIMALS ONLY	ALL ATTRACTIONS*
ADULTS	\$13.50	\$28.00
CHILDREN UNDER 3	FREE	FREE
CHILDREN 3 - 15 YEARS	\$10.00	\$16.00
SENIORS & STUDENTS	\$10.00	\$23.50
FAMILY PASS (2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN)	\$39.50	\$75.00
EXTRA CHILD (AFTER 2ND PAYING CHILD)	\$8.50	\$13.50
TICKET ENTRY PRICES ABOVE DO NOT INCLUDE THE TRAIN		
TRAIN PRICE (PER PERSON)	\$5.00 (TRAIN ONLY)	\$4.00 \$3.00

* ALL ATTRACTIONS - KIWIFOREST, TROPICAL BUTTERFLY HOUSE, CROCODILES, DINOSAUR KINGDOM, BUTTERMILK FARM

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EDUCATION &...
EYES, holiday...
other special...
FUNCTIONS: Gre...
available for all...
large groups...
MORE ATTRACTIONS:
Ask about Rocket Ropes & Lock N Load Adventures.

OPEN HOURS
OPEN EVERY DAY EXCEPT CHRISTMAS & BOXING DAY

APRIL - OCT (WINTER) 9:30AM TO 5:00PM
NOV - MARCH (SUMMER)
MON - FRI (TERM TIME) - 9:30AM TO 5:00PM
SAT/SUN & SUMMER HOLIDAYS - 9:00AM TO 5:30PM

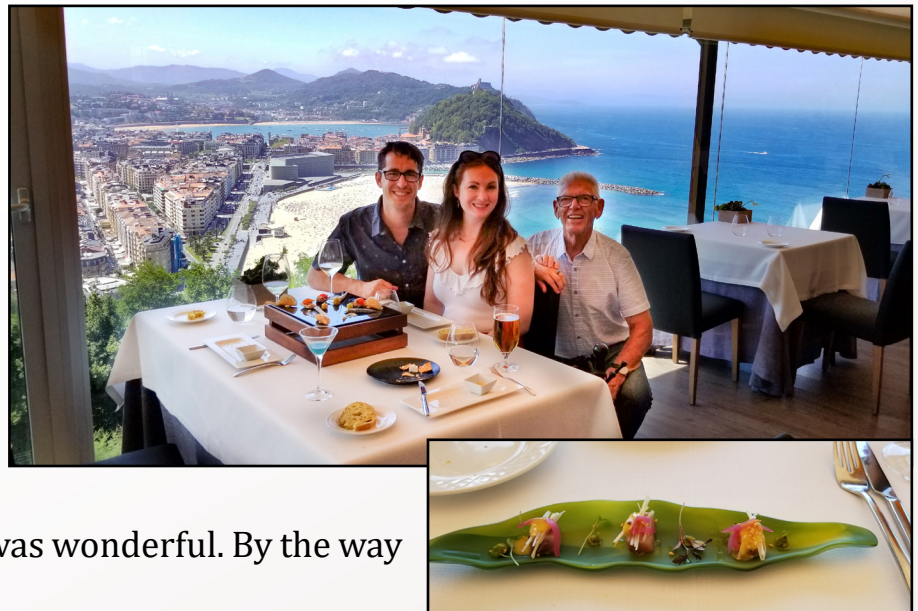


Sorem Euro Trip 2019

By Alan Sorem

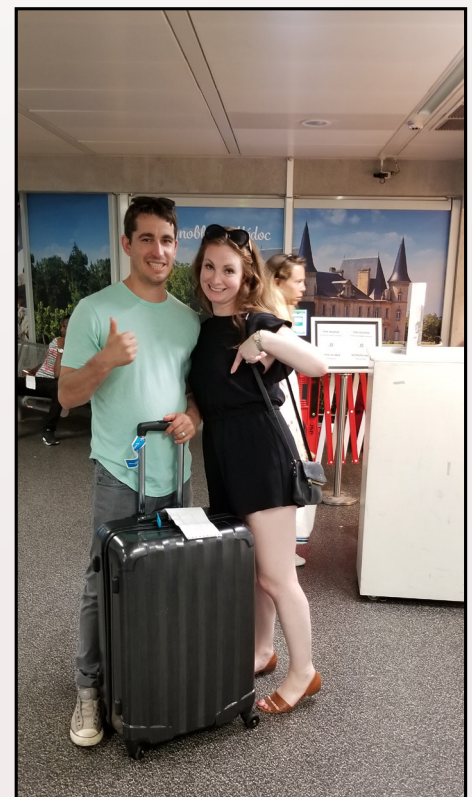
Bridget, Bryce, and Alan take on Spain and France for this year's Sorem Euro Trip sans Carinda and Brett. This trip did have some issues. First off our original dates had to be changed, Brett and Carinda were unable to go as they had work and some other trip they are taking in February 2020, which I guess they felt was more important than another trip to Europe. Because of the date change we had to cut the days of the trip and it also meant we would miss Lyle and Birdy's wedding. Well we pulled the trigger on amazing tickets, under \$900 for three tickets from LGA to Madrid. BOOM.

We flew into Madrid and Bryce and Bridget's checked bag was lost..... sweet. So we left and drove to San Sebastian, Spain, which is in the beautiful Basque Country. Stayed in San Sebastian for 2 nights and had an amazing lunch at Mirador de Ulia, a Michelin star restaurant. When you vacation with Bryce, the food is the main concern. We played tourist the next day and then had another 3 Michelin star meal at Arzak. Thanks Anthony Bourdain for the suggestion. It was wonderful. By the way the pinxtos are great.

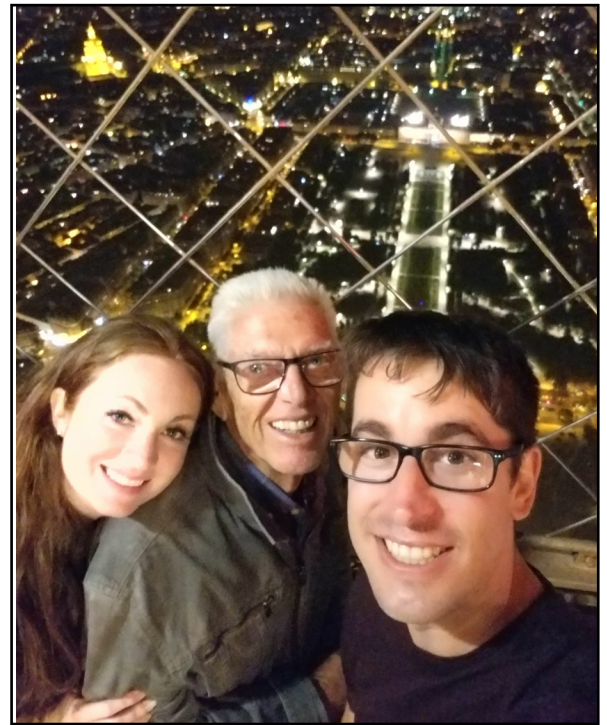


The next day we went to Bordeaux, France. Wine tasting and tours at Chateau de Sales and Chateau Fombrauge. Bridget was in heaven on this day. We also stopped at a very

old little village, Saint Emilion. Great little spot, but we ordered some oysters and one of the two that I ate must have been bad, as I was not feeling great the next day. In fact, I slept in the car while Bryce and Bridget hit a couple more wineries the following day. But the best part was driving back to our not so good Chateau when we stopped by the Bordeaux airport and guess what? Bryce and Bridget's bag showed up, so now Bryce could change out of his 4 day clothes. Yeah!!!



On our way to Paris, we stopped in Loire Valley, a beautiful area with castles everywhere. It was a true fairytale land. Some good history there too. On to Paris...what a beautiful city. Saw all of the regular spots. Our hotel was in the Latin quarter and was convenient to all. Eiffel Tower, The Louvre, Notre Dame (outside, sadface), Arc de Triomphe/Champs Elysée...We stayed in Paris for 2 days. The Eiffel Tower at night is magnificent. We had 10pm tickets to go all the way to the top. Before going to the Eiffel Tower we had another Michelin lunch at Astrance. On a side note we had to stop in for a tour of Paris Saint Germain Soccer Stadium in Paris where the Women's US team played several FIFA World Cup Games.



From this point all plans changed. We were going to go to Martel, France, but got sidetracked by the Palace of Versailles. Spent the afternoon at the Palace



and then decided to skip Martel and our hotel there and go to Biarritz, France. What a good call this was. A much shorter drive and our new hotel was 2 blocks from the beach. One of my favorites on the trip.

The next day was a short drive to Logrono where we spent the evening with the locals and amazing tapas. Which brings us to the last night in Madrid. Another wonderful city, so clean, amazing hotel, a day of beer, wine and tapas.

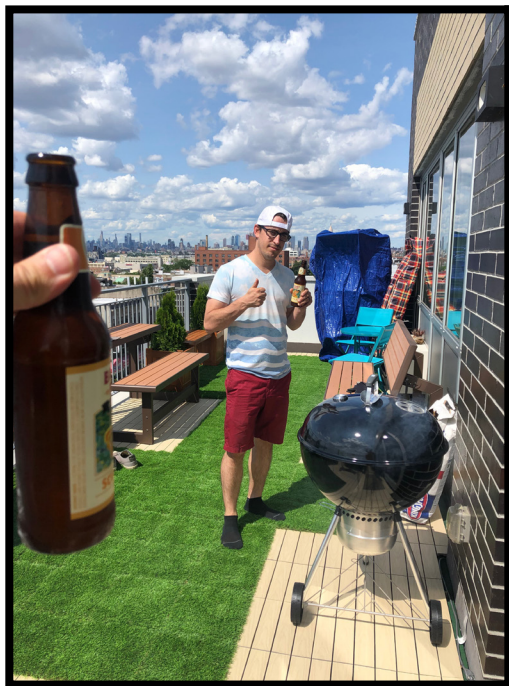


Then the last evening Bryce cooked up some steak to go with our wine and we had a great evening playing the Monopoly card game. The next morning on

to the airport and then home. Great 10 days. Wish it could have been longer!

Alan, Bridget and Bryce.





BROOKLYN WE ARE HERE!

By Brett Sorem

It is official, Brett and Carinda have put down roots in Brooklyn. After nearly 6 months of escrow and city approval, our new condo development in Sunset Park was ready. It's a small condo, like, super small. Like, I would bet almost all of your master bedrooms/bathrooms/closets are bigger than our whole place. It came with no closet in the bed room, which barely has enough space for a Queen size bed, a decent size kitchen, and a living room the size of a couch. Yes, I am sure there are couches at Jerome's that are larger than our whole living room. It does have a washer/dryer, taking up the entirety of the only closet space the condo boasts.

So why would someone want to live in a place like this. I'll let the pictures do the talking. Sunset BBQ anyone? We do have a pullout couch.





Lake Tahoe

By Birdy Hatman

Lyle and I got to run off to Lake Tahoe in July. He had some meetings up there and so we decided to make a little vacation out of it by staying with Cindy and Boone Hellmann. They have a beautiful home that rests on a lovely golf course. We enjoyed sitting out on their deck and listening for wayward golf balls to ping on the houses nearby us. Luckily, none of them came close to bonking us on the head!



On our first day there Cindy and Boone took us for a ride on their speed boat. It brought back great memories for me because when I was 16 years old, Listy, Carol and my parents came to Lake Tahoe to visit Richard. He also took us for a speed boat ride and showed us all the mansions that lined the lake. So zooming around with the Hellmann's reminded me of how much fun we had with our parents long, long ago.



We also took some beautiful hikes around the lake and in the mountains. Everything about Tahoe is breathtaking. If you haven't been in a while, I encourage you to make the trip. It is so close to San Diego and yet, so very different. You feel like you have entered another life of laid-back beauty. They taught us all about how to play a domino game called Mexican Train. We laughed the night away as we played games with them. It was hard to leave the Hellmann's great home, but Lyle did have those meetings to attend. So we thanked the Hellmann's for their hospitality and moved on.

Nestled between the sparkling waters of Lake Tahoe and the majestic mountains sits the Ritz-Carlton. What a gem this hotel was for me. While Lyle went to meeting after meeting, I hiked in the mountains (watching out for bears) and read my books by the refreshing pool. It was 80 degrees with a gentle breeze constantly blowing. I was in Birdy paradise. Luckily, Lyle had a few hours off here and there. We went to lunch and did some walking by the lakes. He truthfully loves to connect with his AFSA friends that feel more like family than competitors. So, it was a great trip for us both.

The one funny story from this adventure was that in the middle of one of our days there, a fire alarm sounded. Imagine, a fire with a hotel full of fire sprinkler experts. At first, we thought it was a false alarm, but soon we saw people evacuating and realized that we needed to do the same. Everyone spilled out into different parts of the hotel grounds. When we realized that the alarm was not going to end soon, we took a walk. We noticed that there was indeed a fire truck dealing with some problem under the building. You will have to ask Lyle what it was but for



us, it just meant that we couldn't return to our rooms for a bit. So, we continued our stroll to the front of the hotel. That is where we met up with some of our friends who were holding champagne glasses. Sure enough, the staff, not wanting their guest to be upset for this disruption in their holiday, were passing out free champagne and homemade BBQ chips for munchies. And if you are not a champagne drinker, no problem, because the staff also walked around handing out beer to

anyone that wanted it. And finally, because this was the Ritz, chairs were assembled outside for anyone wanting a free massage. It turned out to feel like a big outdoor party. The only thing that made you aware of a problem was the sound of the alarm blaring inside the building. So that's our time in Tahoe. I hope you all take a trip there soon and enjoy what we have right in our backyard of CA!



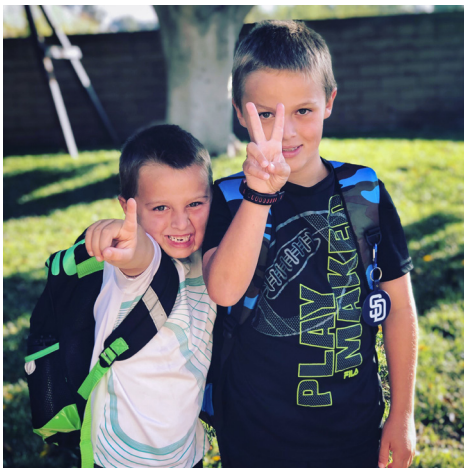
FAMILY SHORTS



Heading into the big birthday weekend with a bang! Alien pancakes, creepy presents, a singing medal (thanks granny and gramps!), and very little sleep because we were so excited to turn 6!



It's Back to School Time!!!
Here are a few shots of family members hitting the road to knowledge once more. We are sure there will be lots of interesting things learned this year and that everyone will have a great time in school.



On September 1st Michelle received her promotion to Lt. Commander while serving on her "Caribbean deployment". The morning colors ceremony complete with a gorgeous holiday flag served as a backdrop for this well-earned promotion.



On September 9, 2019, President Trump nominated Rear Admiral Bruce L. Gillingham to be the 39th Surgeon General of the Navy. His nomination will not come with an appointment to the rank of vice admiral.

If confirmed, Gillingham will be the first two-star surgeon general to hold the office in over 50 years, since Rear Admiral Edward C. Kenney was surgeon general from 1961-1965. More to follow in next month's edition.

