



January - 2020

Issue No: 348

Welcome

**Evelyn
Ann
Mulholland**



**Coral
Karleen
Riel**





Annie and Kevin Welcome their First Baby!

By Listy Gillingham

Congratulations to Annie and Kevin Mulholland who gave birth to Evelyn “Evie” Ann Mulholland on December 22, 2019 (making her debut before

Christmas and in time for a tax break). Both parents couldn’t be happier than to meet this tiny (5 lbs. 12 oz) bundle of joy right before the holiday happenings.

Annie and Kevin were out on a pub crawl the night before with David, Bethany, Kristy, Seamus, and a few chosen friends. Annie reported feeling a few cramps during the evening but didn’t say anything to her siblings as she wasn’t quite sure if it was true labor or not. The next morning, she and Kevin made their way to the hospital who told them she was in labor but they should go home, time the contractions, and return once they were 3-5 minutes apart.

Annie waited the day away but by around 4:00 p.m., though the contractions remained 7-10 min. apart, she was beginning to feel the urge to push. So, against the nurse’s advice, they made their way to the hospital to find out that she was 8 cm. dilated (which means the delivery was very close). They quickly admitted her and gave her an epidural (everyone’s favorite part). Evie arrived at 9:19 p.m. (20:19 for the military world) making her birthday 12/22/2019 at 20:19 p.m. Grandparents Bob and Listy were summoned to come and they officially met Evie at about 10:00 p.m. and couldn’t be more proud to finally hold a baby girl after having three amazing grandsons from Kristy and Seamus. Congratulations to Annie, Kevin, and Evie!



Greetings from Claremont!

by Nicole Schwander

Coral Karleen Riel arrived December 19, 2019 at 7 pounds, 8 ounces. While she can't do algebra or play the bassoon, she can pull off cute even when smelly or loud...and sometimes both at the same time.



Blake and Quinn are thrilled with their new playmate. Skip the dog, who wistfully remembers life before kids, is less enthused. Cory, our catfish, is indifferent. Big time thanks to the greater Riel Clan for not becoming indifferent after a third child (rest assured: we are done). Your boundless support and love fire the fumes we run on!



RIEL BOWL XXIX



After a little debate over the date, we settled on Dec. 29th to celebrate the Riel Clan Christmas which has fondly been known as Riel Bowl which was coined by Dad and Robert many years ago. Though we're not as creative as Dad was with his amazing crossword puzzles or as clever as Robert with his fancy Riel Jeopardy game, we did experience a great time with GREAT grands in attendance with their parents and the many nieces and nephews who also came. We had a good turn out likely because of the promise of Robert's prime rib which was cooked to perfection once again. We also had Carol's famous orange salad, Birdy's twice-baked potatoes, and soup made with Jan's finesse by her presentation in a nice vessel making it taste homemade. Margaret presented an ice cream cake that made its first debut for Megan's birthday many years ago and was presented to celebrate Emily's birthday. There was also a festive appetizer prepped by Jessica in the form of a Christmas tree that caught everyone's attention and other contributions made by others that made the meal exceptional for all in attendance.

After much eating and sharing of lives, we shifted back to the White Elephant gift exchange to add a little family fun without taking over the entire afternoon. The rules this year included finding something ODD and of little monetary value so the stealing wouldn't consume the day. We had many people come through with prizes that were hard to not want and as a result, a few gifts made their way to being frozen in spite of our planning. Valued gifts for those who had to miss this event included:



- Trump Toilet paper
- Bacon and egg knitted scarf (yes, this was stolen)
- Size 56 G-string thong/suspenders with a reindeer nose glowing brightly (also stolen for the record)
- Blue tooth lantern and Fire TV Cube (Robert was cleaning out his closet)
- Trump key chain (I think)
- Book light (you had to see this one, a book whose pages fanned out turned into a night light)
- Boob coffee mug (stolen by Jessica because Boobs are her business (so to speak))
- Videos of the Golden Girls era
- Toilet sitting piano keyboard to be played while doing your business (hard to imagine no one stole this one)
- Some Festive sweaters (a Santa vest and a Chanukah sweater dress (both stolen for the record))





The White Elephant gift giving ended with a special delivery gift from Bruce Hartman, although because it included fashion, we might think Francie was standing right by him too. The LAST White Elephant gift was a box filled with CAT hats from Bruce's collection to be given to very special people to help promote Caterpillar Company. Everyone got a hat and we all proudly posed for a family picture. You could feel Bruce's and Francie's good spirit in the room along with Mom and Dad as well. They are all certainly missed but always present in our hearts.

That gives you somewhat an idea on the fun that was had during this part of the party for those that had to miss out. After that exchange, it was time for the GRANDS to get a gift. Each grandparent provided a gift for their own grands in honor of Mom and Dad's memory as they loved providing the gifts for this part of the party. Margaret broke out her ice cream cake at the same time, which created the opening to eat all the other desserts that also made an appearance which included pudding cake, chocolate conga bars, chocolate cake, and more Christmas cookies than anyone could want. Needless to say, no one went home hungry after this event.

Special thanks to Bob Gillingham for always welcoming the Riel clan with much love and affection.

This last paragraph is for the planners who do not want to miss Riel Bowl XXX (next year) and so the date is being set now. Dec. 27th, 2020 at the Gillingham compound at high noon. Start planning your White Elephant now. The theme will be set later, but you can be sure MOST true white elephants will always fit our very general theme.





By Katy Riel



On Christmas day of 2017 Brandon gifted me with a skydive. I smiled and said thanks, all while laughing silently to myself because I knew I would never go. I came up with every reason under the sun to not go, like “it’s too cold to go during the winter” so we decided we would go during the summer. Well when summer came, I cleverly made the deal to go when I could jump with him and he was hundreds of jumps away from that being a possibility, so I bought myself years!

Fast forward to the night of December 28th, 2019 when Brandon announced that we were both going skydiving the next day. I had less than 12 hours to freak out about. The decision had been made, and I was going to get pushed out of a perfectly good airplane. I say pushed out because I didn’t see a possibility of me wanting to jump.

We arrived at the drop zone and it was a beautifully clear and crisp day. I didn’t say much, just smiled a lot while trying to calm myself down. Brandon ran around most of the time making deals with different friends and instructors; everything from making sure I was paired with a good instructor to borrowing equipment and asking my instructor, Chad, if he would mind getting video since it wasn’t part of my package. He was even able to arrange for us to sit next to each other on the plane.

I was nervous as I can ever remember being, but there was also some excitement and anticipation and I hadn’t been expecting that. On the plane ride up I kept my eyes closed and tried to steady my breathing. Looking back, I can see in the video that the other instructors were evaluating me with a look in their faces that said they truly believed I was not going to jump. At this point Brandon, could see the very same thing so he leans over to me and says, “now would be a good time to ask Chad (my instructor) what you asked me back on the ground.” I turned to Chad and said I know I look scared right now, but can we make the plane ride worth it. When he looked back at me with confusion, I asked him, when we got out of the plane, can we do flips and stuff, making all the fear worth it? His face lit up with a grin and said “Hell ya!” I knew



all my fear was coming from the height and the plane itself. I knew once we were out, that was the ride, that was the fun part, and I was excited, I just needed to move past my fear of planes and heights.

Watching Brandon leave the plane in front of me was probably the scarcest part. I have seen him jump out of a plane hundreds of times on video but seeing it person was something else entirely. The good thing was, I was next so I had no time to react.

As soon as I was outside the door, I had zero fear, worry, or trepidation. I was ready and willing. We left the plane and went into a back flip, and I have never felt more alive or free! If you've been, you know, and if you haven't, well I absolutely recommend it! The only thing better than freefall was flying under the canopy. We had some fun with it, doing 360's and whatnot, but just being up there... it's probably my favorite place in this world. I really don't have the words to describe it perfectly, so the pictures will have to do that.

We landed and I immediately wanted to go again! Planes and heights will NEVER be my thing, but flying, that's something I HAVE to do again, in any way I can! Click on the Video links to see me fly!





Birdy Announces She Will Retire At The End Of The School Year

This is what Bob Gillingham wrote for me as he announced my retirement. It was so sweet, I thought I would share it with you. - Birdy

Until very recently, I couldn't have imagined making this announcement. After all, it seems like just yesterday (actually 44 years ago) that I met Birdy in Julian at Camp Marston as a fellow camp counselor.

Nevertheless, I have always admired her greatly, and from the first time I saw her (and her twin sister... my wife of 40 years) leading groups of kids, all of them mesmerized by their every word and action, I knew that I, too, wanted to become an educator.

But quite apart from that first inspiration, I have marveled at and learned from her skill, dedication, and professionalism. In her 36 years at the Lower School, she has treated every school day as if it were the first in her career, anxiously and excitedly... lovingly providing for the needs of students who adore her. They invariably grow and thrive in delightful ways under her care, and their understanding of the concepts of school and learning are joyous.



FRANCIS
PARKER
SCHOOL





When word circulates that Birdy Hartman is retiring at the end of this year, that message will literally span the globe. Her impact has been so substantial and so powerful on so many people, and true to a paraphrase of Henry Adams' quote... she has so positively affected eternity, and she will never know where her influence stops.

Please join me in congratulating Birdy, the very teacher Francis Parker must have had in mind, as she anticipates the next exciting chapter in her life.

Bob Gillingham



FAMILY SHORTS

Lyle & Birdy are getting a new home!

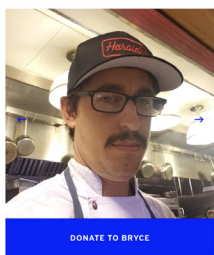
WE got a house in Scripps Ranch! I am so happy! It is beautiful! Wait until I tell you the story about how Bruce said, "This is the one!"

Here is a peek into our new home.....I'll write more about it later!

<http://crmls-spn.paragonrels.com/CollabLink/?id=a332a054-5f4c-4a4b-811c-13f07319d981>



Summertime in New Zealand!



TEAM
BRYCE SOREM

Share page <https://mobro.co/brycesor...>

\$928 Target: \$1,000

MY MOTIVATION
Fundraising for cause areas including: **Men's health**

Movember is the leading charity changing the face of men's health, and this Movember I'm joining them. Together we can beat CJ and Chad, and make a difference for men's health - in prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health, and suicide prevention. Help me stop men dying too young, and help me beat CJ and Chad!

P.S. Chad and CJ's mustache is nowhere near the glory of mine...just gaze lovingly into it!

Margaret Riel donated to a fundraiser for learn-usa. December 2, 2019 - Facebook Fundraisers



Margaret's GivingTuesday Fundraiser for learn-usa
Fundraiser for learn-usa by Margaret Riel

Want to join me in supporting a good cause? This #GivingTuesday consider supporting Global Learning Circles on ... Continue Reading

\$1,315 raised of \$2,000 Ended

Carol Benesch, Margaret Riel and 7 others donated.