

VE-THRU WEDDINGS

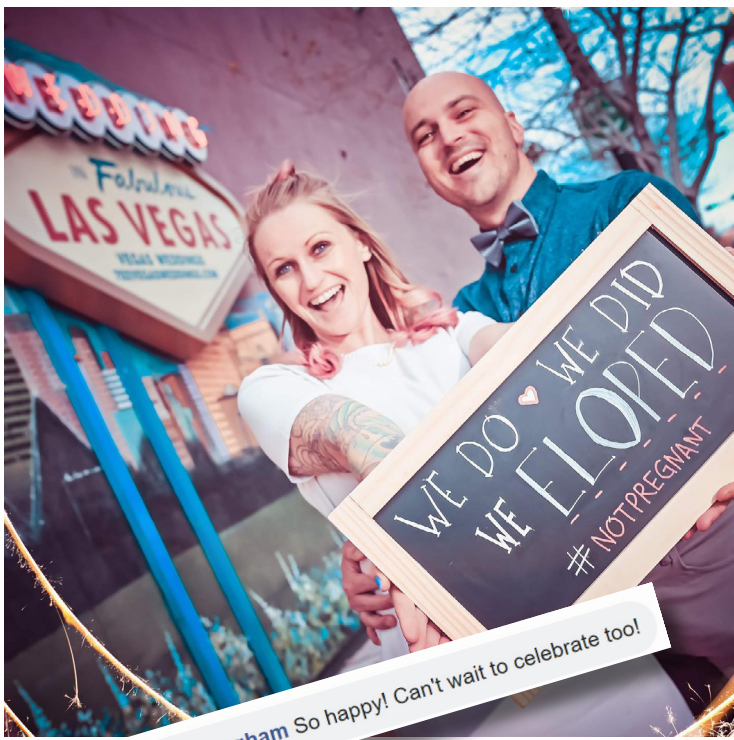


February - 2020

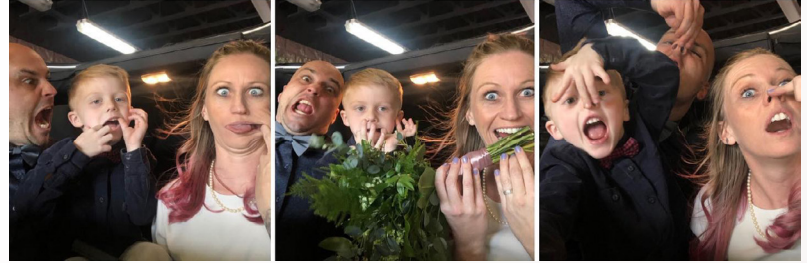
Issue No: 349



WE DO  WE DID
WE ELOPED
#NOTPREGNANT



Listy Gillingham So happy! Can't wait to celebrate too!



We always knew that we would have a wedding in February because Brett and Carinda announced over a year ago. What we didn't know was that Scott and Krissy would elope to Las Vegas and get married via a drive through chapel on February 9, 2020.

Word is that they wanted a convertible but when they got to the car rental area, they couldn't find one. However, they decided upon a nice black Jeep (we're sure it was because they secretly admired the one that Uncle Robert drives) to carry them through the journey of a automobile wedding.

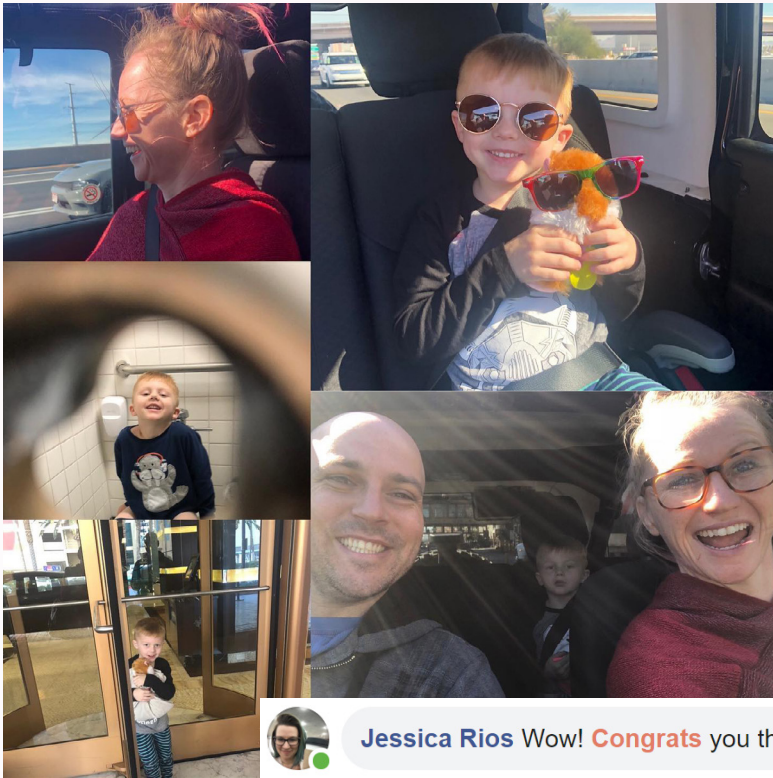
Birdy Hartman Awwwww. The news is out! Hurray! We can't wait for a SD celebration!!!



Krissy Lines is with Scott Hartman in Las Vegas, Nevada.

February 9 at 12:14 PM · 🧑🏻‍🦱

Some things are too good to wait for! I've never been much of a patient person anyway. We had an incredible time eloping in Las Vegas, 'do something wild' bucket list ✓ Reception party pending! #eloped @ Las Vegas, Nevada



Jessica Rios Wow! **Congrats** you three!



Alan Sorem yea...**congrats**!!!



Robert Riel **congratulations** i'm very happy for all of you



Nicole Schwander Riel Congratulations!



Michelle Lane **Congratulations**!!!



Carinda Lee OOMGG **congratulations**!!! Excited to see you guys soon!!!!



Robert Gillingham Awesome! **Congratulations**!



Carol Benesch Very cool 🤩 **CONGRATS**!! I'm very happy for all!!

With Zeke in hand (who knows maybe he drove) Krissy and Scott literally drove down the path to wedded bliss. Maybe a Jeep is just the right vehicle because it can get you over all of the rocks in the road and make a rough journey smooth.

They were both so excited and it was a big surprise to all of us but a happy and welcomed one. We love Zeke and Krissy! We are thrilled to have them in our family.



Kristy Keith This is the cutest thing ever!!! So excited to officially welcome you and Zeke to the family!!! 🍷💕



IT'S A GREAT TIME TO VISIT THE DESERT!

With spring just around the corner now is a great time to visit our local deserts. Karla and I spent the second weekend of February out there and we are going back in March as well. It's the perfect time of year with temperatures in the high 70's to mid-80's during the day and crisp nights into the 50's.



We stay in Borrego Springs at the Palm Canyon Hotel and RV park. It is perfectly located next to the Anza Borrego State park and downtown Borrego Springs. By the way if you are ever in town try Carlee's for dinner. It's located right on Christmas Circle and has plenty of variety to its menu. Everything we have tried there is great, and the service is top notch.



Even though the flowers were just starting there is plenty to see and do in the area. One could spend an entire day visiting all of the pieces of metal sculpted art that have been placed randomly throughout the area. It truly is art for everyone as there are so many different pieces to look at. From eagles and horses to dinosaurs and dragons, even farm workers and a rock-climbing jeep. There is no charge to see these majestic figures in the sand other than the gas you spend driving around the area finding them. For more in-

formation please visit <https://www.desertusa.com/borrego/bs-art.html>

There are plenty of day hikes that take you to places you wouldn't ever imagine were so close to San Diego. A very popular one is about 1.5 miles, one-way, to the palm oasis. Unfortunately, it is closed right now due to a fire that caused major damage to the palm trees at the oasis. There are also mud caves to be explored, a canyon that looks like you're on the moon and even a Hawk migration in the spring.



At less than 90 minutes from San Diego we highly recommend a trip out to the park even if it is just for a day. You will be surprised by what you find

and how much fun you can have without spending a lot of money.



Come out and see us next month... get there for breakfast and enjoy one of my world famous breakfast burritos and I'll introduce you to a whole new world!



Aunt Morag 1929 2019

By: Margaret Riel



I first met Aunt Morag when I was 20 and she and Uncle Michael graciously invited me to stay in their home for a week before beginning a tour of England by bike with friends. It gave mom confidence that she could send me to her brother and his wife to begin my first overseas travel. I am sure Mom must have been thinking about her own trip at about the same age and how she left her parents for good.

Uncle Michael was pleased to find someone who was excited to look at his black and white photo family history. He explained

their life in Constantinople and created such a vivid picture, I knew that one day I would have to travel there. Morag was interested in our family and wanted to hear about my mother and father, brothers and sisters in America.

She was also interested in a practice that I had begun in high school and continued in college—transcendental meditation. We talk about it and I explained how it helped to ground me. Later, when I was in the practice of hosting traveling young adults, I became curious (and a bit worried) about myself at that age. I wrote Morag to see if I had been a reasonable guest and, if not, to apologize for whatever 'guest graces' I had not yet learned. She said that it was my "calm and grounded way" of being in the world that she remembered which she attributed it to the meditation and after I left, she took up the practice. She became a sidha and had been practicing for 47 years. She was a part of the famous effort to show that meditating has an effect on the world. She wrote to me "I was in Washington in 1993 when I joined with 4,000 sidhas and the crime rate was said to be halved. We had meetings in Constitution Hall and the deputy police chief gave us the figures." She also shared that she knew that others made fun of her, but she said that the profound feeling

of wellness that she experienced was proof enough to her and worth the occasional joking. She practiced yogic flying and was quite at peace with the world. We talked about our views of the afterlife as existing on an energy level. Now at the end of my yoga practice, I try to find her wise energy-- I know it is out there in the universe.



The following is what some of our Merica family relatives, had to say about Aunt Morag.

I overheard people say, “he is the nephew”. Well, sort of! Indeed, I am one of 21 nieces and nephews. I wonder whether my dear Uncle Michael when he proposed, warned Morag she could marry into a vast, international, and prolific family.

My modest claim today is that I have been, and remain, the oldest of the 21 (and about ten years younger than Morag).

My first memory of her is little after her marriage. She was double my age, then! No wonder I waited till today to address her by her first name.

I was vacationing in Southport and I was discussing “the war” with my mates. I was in trouble. In fact, I was in a minority of one in my defense of the French Resistance. Until my dear Aunt Morag came to my rescue with a Solomonian statement finely balancing the respective merits of the Brits and the French. That day I became, and I have remained ever since, a fan of my Aunt Morag.



That is not just a young teenager’s anecdote, it happened to be also an early example of Morag’s life record as a peacemaker. Be it within our extended family, or at work in the not always harmonious universe of education, where she made a career.

My second memory is of the early Sixties. I was a young man then. My father was posted in Africa. My mother was in charge of my young teenage sister. And she had been diagnosed with a nasty cancer. That was bad enough, and I was called to serve in Algeria!

As if that was the natural thing to do, Morag opened her young home to my mother; and my sister, who boarded in Shropshire, was always welcome in Didsbury on half terms and other vacations. We were all impressed and immensely thankful for her compassion.

As time went by, and I had my own family, I realized Morag’s, my uncle’s and Theo’s and Liz’s extraordinary generosity in making room for my mother and sister, in their own nest, during a full year.

My third memory is of the nearly fifty years my wife and I, and our three children, have lived in this country. One after the other, we became aware of Morag’s commitment to meditation. We and the extended family knew next to nothing of TM (Transcendental Meditation), but, predictably one image caught our instant notice, that of the flying gurus. Morag took her share of teasing with equanimity.

None of us saw her flying, solo or in a squadron, but over time we noted her composure in all circumstances, then, the calm she radiated wherever she went. She had not been angry when we teased her, and she was not triumphant when we told her our admiration. Yet this remarkable reserve was not just an escape from the noisy world.

Until the end, she remained the peacemaker, the compassionate, the generous person she had been, striking a fine balance between inner life and altruism.

Morag has left us, but she is not gone altogether. Her light endures.

Gerard Legrain,

Alderley Edge, 16.01.20

Here is what Elizabeth Merica wrote about her mother

Morag is remembered as a highly intelligent woman, proud, kind, generous and loving. Evolved and a thinker, she was a friend to many and would defend her family to the end.

Born in Scotland, and a proud Scot, nevertheless she lived most of her life in and around Manchester including, for 50 years of this, in Didsbury, in the house that she and her husband built.

She was a lucky woman, married for over 50 years to a man that she loved and a mother to two children, Theo and Elizabeth, whom she was proud of. She had an active life, including a career in local government, many, many, interests and a long and comfortable retirement full of happiness.

A very important part of her life was Meditation. She was a meditator for 50 years and a committed member of the T M movement. Philomena will talk about this more later. She was ambitious for herself and her family and proud to be a member of Mensa. Many of the people here have known her since school, college or her early married life. Continuity of friendship, relationships and spirituality is a theme of her long life.

A Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of



“Morag”

Sarah Kerr Merica

26th February 1929 - 19th December 2019

Thursday 16th January 2020

Macclesfield Crematorium

Service conducted by The Rev'd Robin Pye



Baby Sorem, May 2020 Bridget & Bryce Sorem

We are beyond grateful, a bit nervous, but mostly so excited to soon welcome baby Sorem to our world. We've decided not to find out the baby's sex because surprises are so much fun! We knew we had to really shock the soon-to-be-grandpa, Big Al, so while he was visiting for Thanksgiving and his birthday, Bridget's family, Big Al, Brett, and Carinda gathered around an apple pie made by the one and only, Chef Bryce, and sang happy birthday. When it was time to open his gifts, he pulled out the new brown and gold Padres hat which he immediately put on. However, he didn't see

that in the hat was something else wrapped up, so it sat in front of him for a while. Finally, Bridget prompted him to open it, and he silently looked at it, slowly looked up at Bridget, turned the Padres onesie around, and Carinda screamed, "Are you pregnant!? Oh my God, are you're pregnant right now!?" and everyone screamed in their own form of joy. Big Al threw up his arms and screamed as though the Padres just won the World Series. It was a great time had by all.

So, here our next journey begins, and we are so grateful that Baby Sorem will have so many wonderful grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins on both the east coast and the west coast to love him or her. The due date is **May 29, 2020.**



FAMILY

SHORTS

Krissy Lines ▸ Scott Hartman
 Yesterday at 9:50 AM · 🧑‍👤

From our first picture taken together to our latest picture taken together, other than some parental weight gain, things have only gotten better🥰!! I love you happy 'corporate America tells me I need to love you today🥰' day. 🥰🥰🥰



Ana Rica
 February 13 at 1:48 PM · 🧑‍👤

Spent the morning decorating cupcakes and reading appreciations. Valentine's Day is always fun in Kinder! #josiehartman



Carol Benesch is at HAMILTON: An American Musical.
 February 11 at 6:48 PM · San Francisco · 🧑‍👤

Very excited!!!! Beautiful theater!



Carinda Lee is with Brett Sorem.
 February 10 at 11:27 AM · 🧑‍👤

Happy Birthday my babes! Celebrating you is one of my favorite days of the year! 🥰 #bdayboy #21forever

