



July - 2022

Issue No: 378

Another Family  
Member Will  
be Here Soon!



## Another Baby Sorem - Due December 2022

By: Bridget & Bryce Sorem

Santa isn't the only one coming to town this Christmas! Baby #2 is due December 16th, 2022.

Kieran doesn't quite understand what's making mommy's belly so big, but he loves babies so we are hopeful he will take on the big brother title with pride.

We didn't find out the gender with Kieran but will do so in a few weeks with this little one. Either way, baby will most definitely be a

**Padres fan!**



# Proud Moments

By *Listy Gillingham*



When I was a school principal, I had the honor of writing commencement and promotion speeches to recognize the moment we shared with our graduates/8th graders. One of my favorite speeches was sharing the idea of “proud moments” that parents feel throughout the lives of their children. Starting from the moment they’re born with the memorable firsts “crawling, walking, talking, etc.” and moving on up with them when they were able read their first word or ride a bike for the first time. The best part of being a parent is the that those proud moments continue to present themselves even after graduations, as our kids become

amazing adults. Watching them become next generation parents and also, go into the work force with resilience and attitude to make a true difference in the world makes us all very proud. So today, I get to share some proud moments of my family members (and a few extended) because I feel such incredible joy in seeing their success pay off in more ways than one. If you want all the details, you might have to ask them personally, but this article should provide you with the bursting joy I feel from celebrating the success of our wonderful family.

**Kristy Keith** gets the first shoutout with her announcement of being named as the Vassiliadis Family Distinguished Fellowship in English Award recipient. This honor goes to a middle or high school English teacher at Francis Parker who exemplifies the highest standards of professional conduct, teaching ability, ethics, and champions Parker’s mission. She was selected for this honor by the Head of School, Head of the Upper School, and Head of the Middle School for these qualities along with her masterful knowledge of the subject matter, classroom management, student assessment, ability to inspire and engage students and faculty, and her passion for Parker.

Not only does Kristy get her name on a perpetual plaque which is housed at Parker, but she also is awarded hard cold cash for the next 4 years. The \$20,000 stipend is given to her in \$5,000 increments to remind her how of how special she is over time. There’s also money (\$7500) awarded to the English department for creating fun projects as well which comes with this award. (The Vassiliadis family previously awarded Parker \$1,500,000 in Bob’s name where they named the Head of Lower School’s Name to always be known as the Dr. Robert Hendee Gillingham Head of Lower School so it’s fun to see how this one family has been so generous to our family on behalf of the Parker community. Go Bob!)





**David and Bethany Gillingham** get a shoutout for surviving their first administrative assignments during a difficult time to be a teacher and leader in our crazy COVID years. As a former employee at High Tech Middle Media Arts (she is now the Asst. Director of Special Education for Julian Charter Schools) and a supportive wife who attends many events at the school, Bethany knew how much the staff appreciated working with David. I got the same feeling when I went to visit him on a professional development day. Every grade level team stopped what they were doing when David introduced me to them and told me in a sincere way how much they loved him as their

principal. Talk about a proud moment! Bethany decided to go one step further by sending out a note asking for the teachers to share their feelings about David and how the school year went to be shared at their last staff meeting of the year. It's hard to describe a video, so you'll have to ask Bethany for permission to view it, but it's worth the time to see how much the teachers love and appreciate David. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q8xcyB8dMoG4Pz5SHs\\_qghluN-Riy8J\\_5/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q8xcyB8dMoG4Pz5SHs_qghluN-Riy8J_5/view?usp=sharing)

What were some of the challenges you ask? Imagine being responsible for the health and safety of middle school students during a pandemic? Think masks patrol, temperature checks, covid testing for every student and staff member, close contact tracing, etc. Then add social media access and how it relates to mini teens? That included various TikTok trends that had gone viral to encourage them to vandalize a restroom, hit a staff member, etc. It's interesting to read about it in the paper, but when you're the one who has to investigate and figure out who is responsible for what, it takes it to a new level. Regardless of the challenge, David's role became super important because he is challenged to find a way to create synergy and good vibes among the staff to help them support the cause of educating today's youth! His staff members appreciation and love for him was easily noted throughout the video using song, humor, and a sense of school pride to be on the journey with Mr. Dave at the helm.

**Kevin Mulholland** has been very busy this year managing a full-time job at Sempra while raising two beautiful daughters. He gets to work at home three days a week and spends two days a week at the office. This adds some interesting challenges with a 6-month-old baby whose needs are plentiful and a precocious 2 ½ year old daughter who loves to play with her dad. Sempra knows a good thing when they see it and they awarded Kevin with a promotion for being such a great manager of his time and work duties. He is now the Senior Project Development Advisor where he is leading the development of export facilities to support clean energy internationally. According to non-bias wife Annie, "He's basically saving the world." Given what is happening around Russia and Ukraine, his work is front and center in terms of energy concerns. I think that's noteworthy and quite impressive, so he gets a shoutout for sure!



**Annie and Kristy** are also to be celebrated as new business partners! They opened an LLC (Limited Liability Company) with their hat business titled DEKT. I love seeing their creative juices paired up as they use their “non-working time” with their other jobs to develop a company that I’m sure will be on the FORBES List as the best company to work for in the coming years. Seamus reported a proud moment in using DEKT hats as a promotional prop where he traveled to Chicago to dance with his team to the song “This is How We Do It!” wearing DEKT hats. I wanted to see that video, but he hasn’t shared it with me yet!



**Seamus Keith** also gets a shoutout because he gets to travel to Ireland for his work. I know his company appreciates his hard work and having him work internationally is quite an accomplishment to shout about. Now that Kristy has the extra cash, she can use it to travel with him while we get the boys to hang out with during the summer!



**Scott Hartman**, all the Hartmans feel like they’re our kids too, gets a shoutout because he must know how proud we were to hang out with him at the Catamaran Hotel. He gave us a personal tour of the expansion going on at the hotel and shared with us some of the duties he has as the Hotel Manager. He is responsible for anything that isn’t about food (which means he’s like the principal of the hotel from my perspective). It was easy to see how admired he was as we passed by some employees who gave out an unsolicited shoutout that stating, “Scott is the man!” Our stay there was very special mostly because we knew Scott was in charge of making the place amazing!

**Ana and Craig Hartman** are also always filling us up with pride. Craig for being an internationally recognized mechanic who has a title at Hawthorne that no one has had to keep him competitively compensated for the work that no one else in the company can do (Bruce is beaming in heaven). Ana for getting a new job where she gets to use her lawyer skills helping clients find their way through legal battles that no one wants to have.





**Curtis and Lauren Hartman** also have new jobs. Lauren moved to a new company where she gets to continue to work from home and Curtis was named the Dean of his school, Tarbut V'torah Community Day School where he gets to take a stab at school leadership! Cora now has to answer to Curtis when she misses school as she is enrolled for school with her dear old Dad.

**Michelle and David Lane** are also getting a shoutout. David gets recognized for supporting the family as Michelle has been deployed all over the globe doing amazing work around microbiology. How he is able to work from home and raise two rambunctious boys is truly note-worthy while being the only one home on many occasions. Michelle has also been recognized in her work in the navy by being named the Director of Microbiology. I'm not sure I have the title right, but regardless she has been given a fancy title of overseeing something incredible. She's doing the work at a rank less than what most directors might have, which will likely lead to a promotion for her! She continues to work with infectious diseases in a time where we all know that her work is needed and can be world changing if not managed appropriately.



As you can see, proud moments are precious and never-ending in this family of ours. I guess that's partially why **Dad** started this newsletter. He wanted a space to document our amazing accomplishments and to keep us together as a family. What an amazing gift he's given to us over time. Makes me proud to be his daughter! Here's to many more proud moments as we keep racking them up! By the way, did I tell you Kenzie can now sit up by herself?



## The Rios's annual trip to "Summer San Diego" and Ben/Jeff's Birthday Bash

*By Carol Benesch*

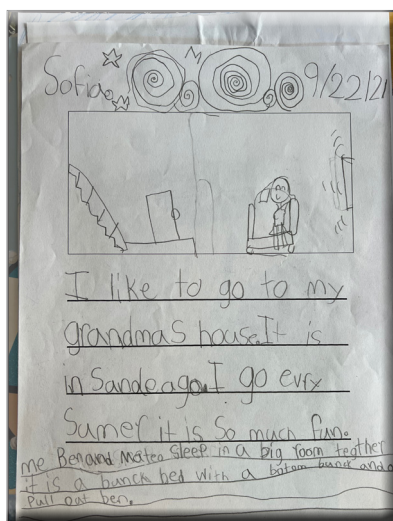
We always look forward to having the Rios grandkids and their parents in San Diego for the Summer. It has been a tradition from the time they were born, and we all really look forward to it. In the past 11 years there have been some changes, but they have always been here for at least a few weeks. With Covid, they traveled by RV, which took some extra time away due to the drive and their visits to National Parks. Jessica's and Miguel's work schedule make their visits shorter, and this year their family is traveling to Europe at the end of July so they could only squeeze in 3 weeks. Jessica and Miguel were only able to be here a few of the days, but Grandpa and I had a lot of fun entertaining the kids!

The kids really enjoy summer camps in San Diego, but with the few weeks here, only Sofie was able to attend one week at Y camp with Cousin Madeline. The other 2 were a little disappointed so I decided to do "Grammy Camp". I created a schedule that took us to all our favorite San Diego spots in 3 short weeks!! The only disappointment was, we did not make our annual trip to either Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm, Universal Studios, or Magic Mountain. Those will have to save for next summer.

To start the Summer off, I flew to NJ to see Ben being promoted to 6th grade and the twins' Hip Hop dance recital. Ben's promotion was on Wednesday, a few days before the end of the year. After his promotion, Miguel, Jess, Ben and I had an amazing Sushi Boat to celebrate his straight A report card and great last year of elementary school. Ben's last day of elementary school was June 17th. It was a bittersweet day for him, as he is looking forward to middle school, but sad to leave behind his close-by elementary school. He had the most amazing 5th grade teacher, and he will really miss being in his class.



On the 18th, the twins had a recital at 10am, Matty and Sofie in Hip Hop and Sofie in Modern Dance. They both did a great and amazing job; we were very proud of them! We came home and had lunch with Miguel's parents and then it was off to the airport for our flight to San Diego. We got in at 10pm and Jeff was there to get us home and into bed!! It was a long day.





**Sunday**, the kids first day, was Father's Day. We got to reunite with cousins and spend the day at Jason's house swimming and eating a sumptuous brunch. The kids were so happy to be back together again!!



**Monday**, started Grammy Camp!! Noah and Madeline joined us for the first week and Cam also joined us for a few of the days. Jessica was in San Diego for the weekend so Monday, she took the Rios kids to their friend's house to swim. The 3 Benesch kids enjoyed playing with Grampa so I could golf with the family. The rest of the week we had Noah and Madeline come over and this is what our week looked like!



**Tuesday**, Bowling at Aztec Center and afternoon crafts

**Wednesday**, Off to Sea World





**Thursday**, The Zoo, with rides on the train and carousel (of course)



**Friday**, The beach, boogie boarding, sand sculpting, and a sleep over with Noah, Madeline and Cam! It was a fun night with games, silly string, water balloons, and a fashion show by Madeine and Sofia!!



**Saturday**, Listy let the kids swim and cool off in her pool

**Sunday**, We had to grocery shop (the kids were not so thrilled with that activity, but they were able to pick out some treats for the week) and in the evening Jason invited us over to swim in their pool with a brand-new water slide! Everyone had a great time with pizza for dinner, and s'mores afterwards.

**Monday**, Sofie and Madeline started their week at Cheer/Dance camp at the Y. Jeff took the boys to The Boardwalk for arcade games, rides, and laser tag! They had a great time while I got to golf!



**Tuesday**, It was back to the beach

**Wednesday**, Science Museum, and IMAX movie about sea turtles



**Thursday**, Air and Space Museum. It was also our Anniversary and Jessica's friends, Kerry and Colin, took the kids for the night so Jeff and I could have a nice quiet dinner at Island Prime. The kids think they got the better deal, they got to go to their first drive-in movie to see Lightyear. Sofie lost her tooth but somehow the Tfairry found her!!



**Friday**, Sofie and Madeline had their camp dance show, and then they all swam at the Y

**Saturday**, We went to Cabrillo National Monument and did the Jr Ranger program



**Sunday**, Once again, Listy let us teach the kids how to pickleball and then swim in her pool

**Monday**, July 4th! We spent the day swimming and celebrating at Jason and Chavva's house where they were having a block party. The kids swam, rode on all sorts of electrical vehicles, and ate BBQ and lots of sweet treats! We left around 4 and at 6 PM we went to Lake Murray to enjoy the big music fest and fireworks with 10,000 or so of our friends and neighbors.



**Tuesday**, We went to a Del Mar beach and had a picnic with pesky squirrels and played football with the kids. Then it was on to Mini golf and a much-needed trip to our favorite frozen yogurt shop!



**Wednesday**, We went to Mission Trails Visitor Center and completed another Jr. Ranger program. Later in the day we went to Nighttime Sea World and then waited up for Jessica's plane to arrive! The kids were very happy to see her as this was the longest they have been away from her!

**Thursday and Friday**, We spent a couple days resting a bit and getting ready to celebrate Ben's 11th.

**Saturday**, was Ben's big 11th birthday!! We had donuts for breakfast, gifts to open! Decorated at Listy's and had a really nice party in the afternoon with swimming, family, and BBQ. Bob and Listy were so generous with their home, pool, BBQ, house, and help! What great sports they were and physically helped us with much of the set up and clean up, don't know how we could have done it without them!



The Party itself was a celebration of Ben's 11th and a revisit of Jeff's 70th, since the Rios clan was not there to celebrate with us in March. It was also a great excuse for more cake and ice cream!



It was great to see most of the Riel brothers and sisters, and also a first chance for many to meet the new additions to the family: Brett and Carinda were there with Aro, JJ and Samantha brought little Avery, and Lyle Allen (flying solo) with Emery. What a wonderful time was had by all meeting and greeting these little wonders. Some of them swam with their older cousins who make good use of the pool. And Jessica and Carol made a bunch of party games for the adventurous to play, and “minute-to-win-it” filled the sports theme nicely. We ended with the obligatory cake, cupcakes and ice cream and we left with full bellies and great memories.



# Kauai with the Lanes

By Birdy Hartman Hall



The end of the school year brought huge smiles to the Lane boys, Owen and Rhys, because we had a date in Hawaii! We left on June 18, and we were delighted to see the boys on the island. Our trip was filled with some fun adventures. We spent our first day in Kauai at Hanalei Beach. Rhys so wanted to surf but the waves were a bit adventurous for a little guy. So, Dave and Rhys took boogie boards out, and enjoyed the surf without the longboards. Owen was much happier staying beach side with Grammy, Michelle, and Grandpa Lyle. They played volleyball in the surf, took strolls, and built driftwood structures. Then we went back to the condos to play in the pool. The boys are great at three flies up, and water volleyball. I enjoyed watching them play in the pool.



The next day Lyle and I went golfing at the Makai Course in Princeville, while the kids went to Anini Beach for snorkeling adventures. They reported back with excitement about seeing sea turtles, eels, and an assortment of beautiful fish! We were so delighted to hear about their fun at dinner.



Another day we all met up in Kapaa for lunch, and a lovely family bike ride along the coastline. Of course, Rhys was always in search of a way to turn his beach cruiser into a dirt bike by trying to find a ramp to propel him into a jump. No simple bike cruise for that boy! He has a need for speed!





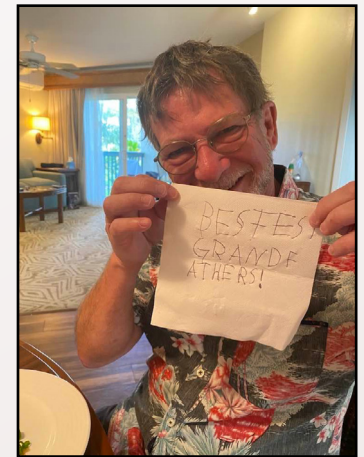
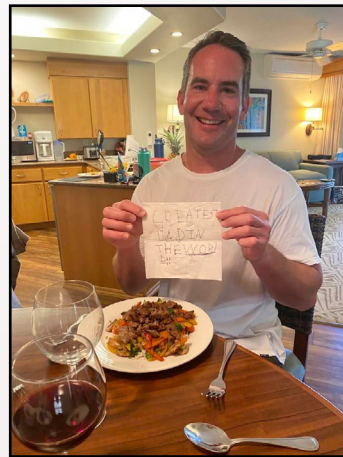
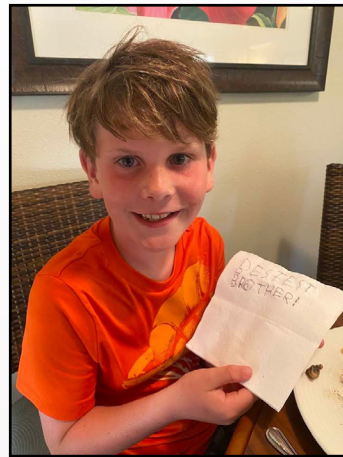
Afterwards, we enjoyed some of Hawaii's shaved ice. You can't come on the island without getting a splash of Hawaiian punch or pineapple flavored ice!

The next day we took the family over to the Poipu side of the island. We took a new hike to some impressive caves that Lyle and I had never seen. And next to it was a farm with tortoises that were fun to try to spy as they tried to find a cool place to sleep. We had a nice lunch next to the surfers and watched the monk seal as he swam along the shore filled with snorkelers. We went to join the fun, but the surf was really strong that day. Normally, we like this bay for swimming because it is so calm. Unfortunately, we were not so lucky this time. We still saw some big, beautiful fish. And I always enjoy relaxing on a beach.

We always like to have dinners in the condos. Michelle's family and ours took turns cooking. One night we were delighted to find special place cards at our seats. Owen had made them with a unique note hidden inside for each of us. Rhys got "Bestest Brother." Michelle got, "Bestest Cook!" (I agree). Lyle's note said, "Bestest Grandfather." Dave was titled, "Greatest Dad in the World." And Grammy was touched by hers that read, "Greatest of all Grandmothers!" It sure made our dinner feel extra special!

We ended our trip by playing mini golf in a beautiful Botanical Garden on the Princeville side. I have always wanted to try this out, but each time we have come, it was closed. We were impressed by all the future golfers in the family. Michelle and Dave had many pars and birdies as we plugged along on each hole. But the true stars of the day were Owen and Rhys because they managed to each get a hole in one. I tried to convince them that hole-in-one winners had to pay for dinner, but that did not happen.

We want to thank Michelle, Dave, Owen, and Rhys for joining us on this fun vacation. They made it memorable in a way that only your kids can do! Aloha all!



# All's Well That Ends Well

*By: Margaret Riel*



This should be a nice breezy article about Margaret and Bud's trip to Zion National Park with a side trip to a conference for Margaret in Cedar City. We decided that car travel would be safest as it is only an eight-hour drive. The conference was hybrid, the in-person group would be small in size and mostly people we know who are also careful about covid.

Since it was also our anniversary, we decided on a stop in Las Vegas to break up the drive and to go to Cirque de Soleil's "Ka" show. We got tickets to the late show as the ticket person said she could put us in a very nice section with no one within six feet of us. Given that theater's ceiling is about 20 stories high, we thought it would almost be like being outdoors. We arrived early and waited till all had left to exit the theater. The performance was spectacular. The specially designed theater has a 50-foot stage on a 360-degree wheel. So as the stage rotates from parallel to vertical, tons of sand cascade down while performers scale the wall. It was amazing to watch all of the gymnasts perform in an incredible setting. Other times, the vertical stage and lights created an underwater context.



While we wore masks all of the time, some COVID cells hitchhiked a ride with Bud to Cedar City. After the first day of the conference, we went for a hike in Cedar Breaks which was breathtakingly beautiful and nicely reminiscent of our hikes in the Sierras when we were younger and fitter. The temperature in Cedar City was 90+ and 68 indoors. Cedar Breaks was a climb and the temperature dropped to 60's with some light rain. We were constantly going from the hot to the cold which may have led to Bud's main (and first) sign of COVID, inability to maintain a constant temperature which was masked by the challenge of aggressive air conditioning in a hot climate.



On the morning of my talk, I decided to test myself to make sure I was ok as I planned to talk without the mask on. I was negative. Then I tested Bud. He had a thick dark red instantly visible line. So, I had to switch into high-gear planning. First, I put in a call to his doctor and to our own Dr. Carol. Then I moved my talk online. I called the local pharmacy. They did not have Paxlovid and didn't know if they would get a shipment that day. During my talk, Carol and Jeff texted us that the nearest CVS was in St. George an hour drive away. So, when I was done, I planned to cancel the rest of the vacation and get us home before I fell sick. The CVS in St. George said we would need a prescription and calling Bud's doctor I learned that no prescription could be written for outside of California.

We quickly packed up, checked out (the hotel kindly only charged us for the days we stayed) and high-tailed it to California. I was to be the driver even though at times Bud insisted he could take a shift. When we stopped to get coffee a few hours later, Bud offered to get gas while I went in for coffee smoothies. However, once at the wheel, he insisted he could drive. I did let him drive while I reached his doctor and after a number of calls arranged for the monoclonal antibody treatment for covid-19 at 10:00 the next morning.

I took back the driving duties but as soon as I started driving the car felt funny. Soon it felt like it was leaning so I quickly pulled off only to see a shredded tire. I have a magic SOS button in my car that is supposed to get us help in any emergency. I push the button, and nothing happens. For that minute I felt a panic-- it is 110, and we are in the middle of a desert. I have a sick feverish husband and a flat tire. Then I started to think my way through the situation, then it came to me, our credit card also included roadside service as one of their perks. So, I call and get a promise of a tow truck.

Meanwhile, I kept pushing the magic button until I finally I got a response. We decide to have them also send a tow truck, as that increases the possibility that someone will be there. The USAA service was first, but they towed us to a place that only stocks truck tires (no help) . Meanwhile, the second tow truck driver calls and is only minutes away from us since he could track the location of the car. So, we take a second 20-minute ride, and he decides not to take us to Toyota, which was closing in 5 minutes, but rather to a 24-hour tire repair shop. We got the tires replaced and finally made it home just in time to get to the doctor's office and get Bud treated. We were supposed to be seeing a Shakespeare play that night – But not happening this time!

Bud and I are both well on the way to recovery (even with a few relapses) and should be back to our usual activities soon.

-- All's Well that Ends Well.



# FAMILY SHORTS



Jessica and Miguel spent an afternoon at Governor's Island Jazz Age Lawn Party. This party is New York City's original prohibition-era inspired gathering. The event started as a small gathering of perhaps fifty friends and fans. The event was carefully crafted and nurtured, becoming what is now referred to by The Wall Street Journal as, "the biggest (not to mention the cleanest and most family-oriented) regular event in the 'Retro Nouveau' movement..."



Noah spent a week at a fishing camp through his school program. He learned a lot about fishing and being patient. He sent me a video of his first catch. He said, "On Thursday, I caught this at my fishing camp in Ocean Beach. It took a lot of effort, and you know how you can't reel it fast, or you won't catch stuff? That's how I caught this, it got hooked right in the gill!! It's about 1-2 feet long (he is already learning how to stretch the fish tale)! We don't know what type of fish it is, but we can take it home!"