



**Welcome to  
the Family  
Ryker Hall!**



# Lyle And Cindy Add To Their Family And Enjoy A Special Family Reunion!

*By Cindy Hall*

We're excited to share the news of our newest family member, Ryker Hall, born on Sunday, January 8th. Ryker is incredibly adorable, and we can already see a personality in him.

The first day home was tough, luckily Big Lyle and Birdy offered to drop off food, and they got to meet Ryker for the first time. Then Emery came home from grandma's house when Ryker was 4 days old, she was first shocked to see a new baby and stood still at the door for a minute. Lyle and I told her this is her new baby brother and since she was already familiar with the concept, she soon warmed up to him.



We prepared a stuffed bunny as a gift for Emery on behalf of Ryker, she held it and immediately wanted to share it with Ryker. She also played peek-a-boo with him and wanted to hold the

bottle to feed him. It feels like she already knew how to be a big sister. We're so happy Emery and Ryker now have each other as siblings, and can't wait to see them grow together and share each other's joys and milestones along the way.



Another exciting moment is when my parents arrived and finally got to meet their grandkids in person. They have not been able to visit us because of the pandemic and travel restrictions, therefore they have not been able to meet and hold Emery. We've had numerous video calls in the past two and half years so they can see and talk to her, so it's even more special for them to be here in person to meet Ryker and Emery at the same time.

They're staying at our house and have been enjoying the grandkids dearly. As an old Chinese phrase my dad likes to reference, good things come after difficult obstacles. As much as I wished they could meet Emery sooner, I also learned a lesson from my parents to be patient and make the best out of the current situation.

As we embark on this new chapter as a family of four, we are filled with love and gratitude for the support of our family and friends. It sure takes a village to raise a baby. Since our family and friends are reading this article, we want to express that we are so grateful to have you all in our lives and we look forward to all the new memories we will create together.





HAPPY 73rd BIRTHDAY,

*Margaret*

# Margaret Celebrates Her Birthday With Friends And Family

*By Margaret Riel*

Monday, March 6 was my birthday, and it was great to celebrate it with family. The celebration started on Saturday when Bud bought me a new iPhone for my birthday. On Sunday, there was a surprise birthday dinner with Michael and Ashley, Emily, and Addy.





Then it was a day of golf with my sisters, Carol, Birdy, and Listy, brothers Bob Gillingham and Ed and nephew Chris Riel. They treated me to golf, put a birthday cake balloon in my golf bag, and bought me golf presents, making me feel very special all day long.



Megan called and kept me company as I drove home. Addy and Emily called to sing happy birthday to me. And I found a thoughtful present hanging on the back door from Judi and Gordon. Bud told me about plans to have dinner but didn't let me know that Carol and Jeff would join us--such a nice surprise! And then, a few days later, the celebrations continued with a birthday lunch with good friends.



However, I missed one birthday tradition. I would always start that day by calling Mom and Dad to wish them a happy birthday as well-- a birth is, after all, a shared event. And I missed Francie, who would always tell me that family occasions should not pass without celebrations of life. So, to Francie, I celebrate your spirit --you should still be here with us!





# Brian & Drew's Trip to London!

By *Brian Riel*

Drew and I have always wanted to go out and travel the world, and London is a destination we have always had on our list. Not only is it full of history, Harry Potter sights, and castles, we have a friend who lives over there as well. So, we would be able to get a lot accomplished on this trip. While growing up in Montana, Drew's best friend had family from the UK and when they came to visit, Drew got to know Anna and her family well, and it has carried on into today. Anna has come out to visit the states and even stayed with us in AZ. So, when we mentioned we wanted to go to London, Anna and her family offered to host us. It was very exciting knowing we would have a friend who could take us around to all the sites and help us get an inside look to the UK. We had originally planned on traveling a few years ago, but COVID happened, so here we are finally making the trip in 2023. We booked everything and headed out.

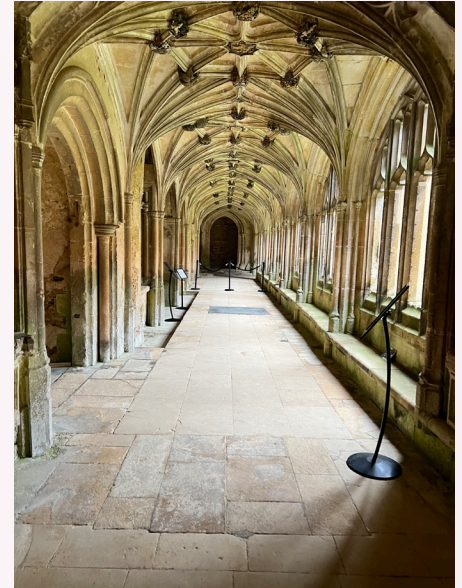


We landed in London March 7th, and we were picked up by Darlene, Anna's "mum". She drove us all the way from London out to Swindon, which is about 2 hours west of London, where they live. It's also very close to many Harry Potter filming sites. She took us on a

small driving tour of villages and towns so we could see what life was like and see some countryside farms. She also showed us stones as old as Stonehenge, that have been placed in ceremonial positions. When we got to their house Anna was home from work and had supper in the works. Her boyfriend Mike came over and we had our first British meal, cottage pie (like shepherd's pie but beef instead of lamb), Banoffee Pie (banana toffee pudding pie), and "a cuppa" tea while we discussed our plans for the next few days.



The first true day there, Anna drove us up into Wales and out west to the beach where Dobby from Harry Potter was buried in the film. It was a beautiful 3-hour drive as it had snowed the night before and the countryside was dusted white with snow. When we arrived at the beach, the site for Dobby was much larger than we had expected. Rocks piled a hilltop, full of paintings, messages, and tributes. It was nice to see what people had created and what they were paying tribute to. The beach itself was also beautiful, we walked all the way out to the water and enjoyed the sounds and smells of the salty beach. We headed back to Swindon for another homemade meal, "Toad in a Hole"!



Heading into day two Anna, Drew, and I drove out and picked up Mike who had planned a whole day for us seeing Harry Potter filming locations in some local areas. We first stopped at Lacock where a historical Abbey and village was located and was home to multiple filming locations. We started with the Abbey where we learned all about the Abbey, the owners, and how it played a role in history. It was interesting to see how it started as a monastery and then was changed to be a residence. We then headed into the village and saw filming locations like the Potter's home and some other houses. We stopped to have some fish and chips at an old pub, and after lunch we drove up to Oxford where we got to see the university and more filming spots. Some notable filming spots were the great hall and the hospital wing. On the way home we stopped by a store and got everything for a taco night at Mike's place.



As our time in Swindon and the countryside ended on Friday, we headed out to Windsor Castle the next morning. We took the full tour of the Castle and got to walk around the grounds a bit, we got to explore inside and see all kinds of different rooms and chambers, as well as some chambers used for state dinners, parties, or events. Sadly, we were not able to take photos while inside, but it was absolutely breath taking. We stopped into the Castle's Cathedral and was able to visit the queen final resting place. Anna and Mike said we didn't get to see as much as we could have because the King was present at the time. There was higher security,

and the Sovereign flag was flying. From the Castle we made our way into London and used the London Underground or "tube" to get into the city for dinner. Mike wanted to take us to his favorite American BBQ place. We found it funny flying thousands of miles to go get American BBQ, but he wasn't wrong, it was delicious.





Waking up on Saturday we didn't know this would be the day our feet would be worked to their max. Mike and Anna had planned a very busy day for us walking around London. We got to see sights like Hyde Park, Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, London Eye, and the Theater district. They also took us to a few filming locations for Harry Potter or to locations that inspired the sets for the movies. We ended our London tour at King's Cross Station. Despite being tired the day wasn't over.



We then drove out and did the Harry Potter Studio Tour. It started with afternoon tea which was a full course of sandwiches, snacks, desserts, and teas. This ended up being our dinner because the tour of the studio took the rest of the evening, and we spent three hours exploring it. We got to see all kinds of sets, costumes, props, and behind the scenes secrets from the films. There were a lot of interactive areas and experts filling us in on facts and cool stories. Drew and I also spent way too much money at the shop at the end of the tour, however, in our defense, there were many exclusive things that can only be purchased there so we had to take advantage!

On our last full day in London, Mike and Anna had to head home so they could have at least one day to rest before returning to work. That doesn't mean they didn't set us up for success. They sent us a list of sites to see, in order of location, so we weren't going back and forth. Drew and I made our way to the Tower of London where we got to take in more history and see a lot of cool artifacts. We also stopped in and saw the Royal Crown Jewels. From there we saw the Tower Bridge, a few different markets that helped inspire sets for the Harry Potter films, walked across the London Bridge and Millennium Bridge, and saw a few different churches. We did a lot of our gift shopping on this day and stopped into a pub for one last round of fish and chips.

That concluded our trip to London, and we took a classic black Taxi ride from our hotel to the airport. We had a blast overall and loved seeing Anna and meeting Mike. Their hospitality was fantastic, and we think there is no better way to visit London. There are still plenty of things we didn't get to and places we didn't get to see. This just means we must go back soon! We are glad to be home though, we missed Kona a lot and there is no better night's sleep than in your own bed at home.





## Riley Keith Honored!

Riley Keith was recognized at Jarabek Elementary for thinking “I Win Win” at school on February 23, 2023. This is the school’s third Leader In Me Habit where students are recognized for looking for solutions to problems that benefit everyone, so that everyone feels good about the decision. Students are recognized for having the courage to say no when something is not a win for everyone. They are noted for treating others the way they would want to be treated and speak about others in a positive way.

The ceremony was held in the assembly hall as the weather was cold and windy. Both parents were not able to attend, which left the honor for the awesome retired grandparents to step in (Bob and Listy). This was the first award given this year where the students elected the winner based on their interactions. Grandparents Bob and Listy felt that Riley certainly earned this award as he is typically noted for his “fairness policing” of his older brothers making sure that everyone gets a fair share when treats are being distributed or games are being played. Special congratulations to Riley Keith, our youngest grandson! You rock!



# Bob's Truck

Bob bought this old truck (1949 F1 Ford Truck to be exact) from our friends Cory and Rueben Hoffman in July of 2021. The truck belonged to Rueben's Dad who was a pig farmer. This work truck was used to haul stuff around the farm and when Rueben's Dad grew tired of it, he gave it to Rueben who drove it from Kentucky to California.

It sat in Rueben's garage for many years and every time Bob saw it, he would ask Rueben when he was going to sell it to him thinking this project would be the challenge he was yearning for in his retirement. Rueben finally relented to Bob's request as he needed the garage space for a new car, and thus Bob's project began.

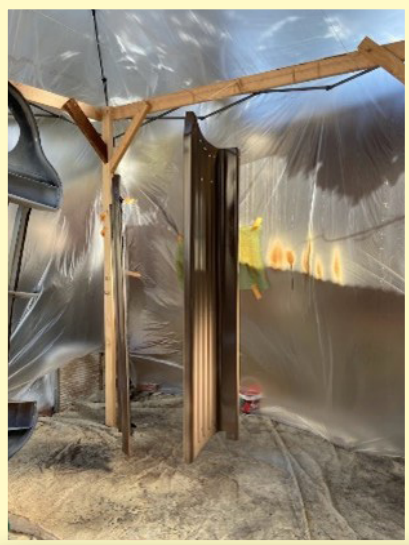
He didn't waste much time in tearing it apart. Everything came out and we had engine and car parts all over the garage in neat little piles as Bob was determined to bring the truck back to life.

Bob borrowed an engine hoist and stand from his brother Dave, who also likes to rehab old cars, and he was able to pull out the engine so that he could begin the process of tearing that apart as well. So imagine our lovely garage as truck parts were



*By Listy Gillingham*





slowly emerging everywhere from truck beds, to the under carriage, to ratty old seats, giant wheel wells, hoods, and engine parts spattered around as well. It was quite a sight of wonder as anyone who saw it wondered if Bob would ever be able to put it all back together again.

Bob also had the big idea that he would paint the truck himself too. That included hand painting the under carriage and spray painting the parts in his homemade “painting booth” made of tarps and a hand-designed fancy frame made of wood and ropes, that he would use to hold the parts suspended in the air. The front of our house looked very interesting with this contraption sitting in our driveway for a few weeks.



Bob decided to paint it yellow with brown accents on the bumper and the foot rails. And, considering the tools and expertise he had, it came out pretty good. However, Bob was not satisfied with it in the end, and decided to have it professionally painted by someone who had the right equipment and could add clear coat to the job to make it come out shiny. You must admire Bob’s determination to try to do it himself though.



Maria was going to try her hand on reupholstering the seats while we were gone on our famous hike across England. But lucky for her, she met a retired man at the fabric store who used to work at Sycuan’s in their reupholstering department and he convinced her to let him do the project. He picked out the material to make it match the original design and did a great job putting it back together.

Bob also decided to tackle the truck bed that had a metal bed frame that was welded into the truck bed, covering up what used to be wood slats. Bob cut that out and designed a new truck bed made of wood slats. He also decided to add wood stakes to give it a traditional look.

The inside was also a work of art as he had to work on the liner, the carpet, create boots for the new steering wheel, get the dials to talk to the engine, find seat belts that would fit, and put in a new shifter too. All of this required re-tooling and problem solving to make it look just right.

As you may have noticed, our Christmas card this year featured the truck with our grandkids. That was done on a spur of the moment idea, and it came out nicely considering we didn't do much planning around it, other than getting the kids all there at the same time. Bob was busy putting the handles and other details on it after being painted again, so one side looked complete for the picture.







So many discoveries were made in this project and Bob had to design many solutions for problems you never could imagine he'd face in putting it back together. Lucky for him, Google was his best friend for both solving weird problems and finding old replacement parts when he needed to upgrade something. Hours have been spent figuring out the electrical system and getting the blinkers to work independently of the backup or running lights.



The same was true in getting the engine to purr. Though it started up right away, when he first put it back together, there were countless trips to the shop for getting it timed right and to help work out little kinks that kept coming up. I do think each mechanic who saw the truck admired Bob for his efforts in getting it to run well and his attention to details all along the way.

Everyone seems to ask what's next? Will Bob keep it and enjoy showing it off at the La Mesa Car Show in the summer months or sell it to the highest bidder on Hemmings website for classic cars?



Only Bob knows the answer to that. But you can bet if he does sell it, another project car will take its place. I'm sure it will be bigger or better in some way (maybe a 55 chevy or an old Porsche?). Regardless, this was a fun first stab at car rehab after not doing it for so many years as his time was limited and the house required his attention (smile). The future for this truck is yet to be written, but at least it has been restored to it's glory days and is ready to be admired by all that see it.

# FAMILY SHORTS



Avery Riel, son of Frank and Sam Riel, and grandson of Ricard and Liz Riel turned one year old, this month. Like all kids he loved the cake, the presents, and especially the wrapping paper.

His original party was scheduled to take place at Aztec Park in La Mesa but due to rainy weather it was changed to Samantha's parent's home.



On February 26th Jeff, along with the entire Benesch family, said their final goodbyes to his mother. She passed away in the evening surrounded by her family. Jeff and Carol have provided the following information about his mother. We all are very sorry for the loss of this wonderful woman!

*In loving memory of*



**AUDREY  
LENORE  
BENESCH**

May 5, 1927 - February 26, 2023

## AUDREY...

Longtime Thousand Oaks resident Audrey Lenore Benesch passed away February 26, 2023 at the age of 95. Audrey was born in Chicago, Illinois on May 5, 1927. She lived a full and inspiring life, dedicating herself to her family and her community. She was married to Bernerd Benesch for 57 years until his passing in November, 2006.

Audrey and Bernie met at UCLA where she was a member of the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority. Audrey is survived by her children Deborah, Jeffrey and wife Carol, Peter and wife Teri, Georganne and husband David, and Elizabeth; 7 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Alongside raising 5 children, Audrey and Bernie were one of seven founding families of Temple Adat Elohim in Conejo Valley. Starting as the first sisterhood president, Audrey remained a dynamic leader and contributed countless hours to the congregation.

Throughout the years Audrey was an avid horsewoman, bridge and mahjong player, bowler, and power-walker. Audrey and Bernie enjoyed trips to Europe, China, Israel, and beyond.

In lieu of flowers, tributes can be made to the Temple Adat Elohim Social Action General Fund.