

April - 2024

Issue No: 399

Happy Easter

Oops!
Wrong Gillingham





2024
HAPPY EASTER





Hawaii in the Winter!



By Listy Gillingham

Spring, winter, summer or fall, it doesn't matter; Hawaii never disappoints! We were lucky to find flights on sale, which is our biggest excuse to book a trip when everyone else is working! We decided to return to Maui because we wanted to help the economy of Maui after the fires took away Lahaina last August. The community was welcoming tourists again but asked that we all stay away from the town as they are actively trying to sift through the properties and figure out how to rebuild it.

We rented a condo in Kihei which is south of Lahaina and filled with condos instead of high-rise hotels making the atmosphere very calm. We got a penthouse suite which made for some great sunsets and whale watching from our lanai which was the tallest building on the coastline (7 stories). We had a private outside bbq area with outdoor seating as well, which was super comfortable for book reading and relaxing in the warm tropical weather while we enjoyed the lazy hazy days of Hawaii.



We went with our travel buddies, Kym, and Doug, and had a great time enjoying everything the island has to offer. We golfed in the “high country” on the first day, when the weather was super windy. We had threats of rain, but we lucked out and got off the course just in time. After that, the weather was near perfect, hovering in the 70’s and 80’s.

We drove up the coast, past Lahaina and got a highway view of the devastation. The pictures were from the car as tourists were not allowed in the area and we honored that as we drove up to visit the northern coast for a beautiful hike and some shopping.

We spent a few days on the beach as well, which was lovely! We also shared many meals in the local restaurants and cooked a few in the condo using our private residence to ogle at the ocean vistas. We loved having warmer weather (since SD seems to like the rain lately) and to enjoy some downtime with our working friends. It was a wonderful time, and it sparked our interest enough that we rebooked a trip for our birthdays next June as gifts for each of us.





ROMANTIC GETAWAY

THE BREWERY GULCH INN IN MENDOCINO, CA

By Birdy Hartman-Hall

Lyle was looking for a weekend getaway for us to enjoy when he came upon The Brewery Gulch Inn in Mendocino, CA. Lyle used to go to school in Eureka, CA, so this brought him back to an area that he used to love. Once he saw that this 10-room inn was located above the ocean with amazing views, he was hooked. He booked us a trip from Friday to Monday in the middle of March. We both know that Northern CA is usually rainy, cold, and overcast. But we took a chance and booked it anyway. We left San Diego on a Friday amidst rain and snow in our local mountains.



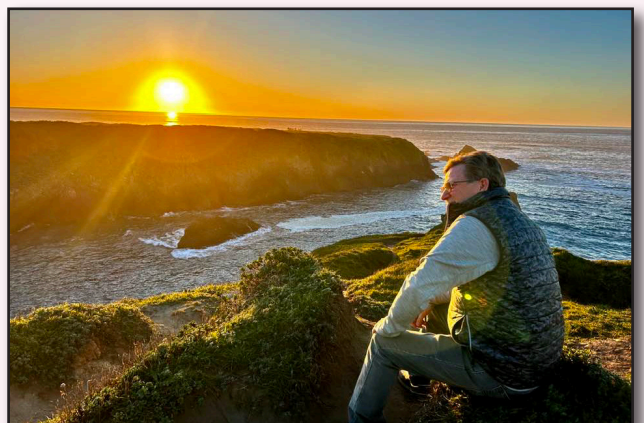
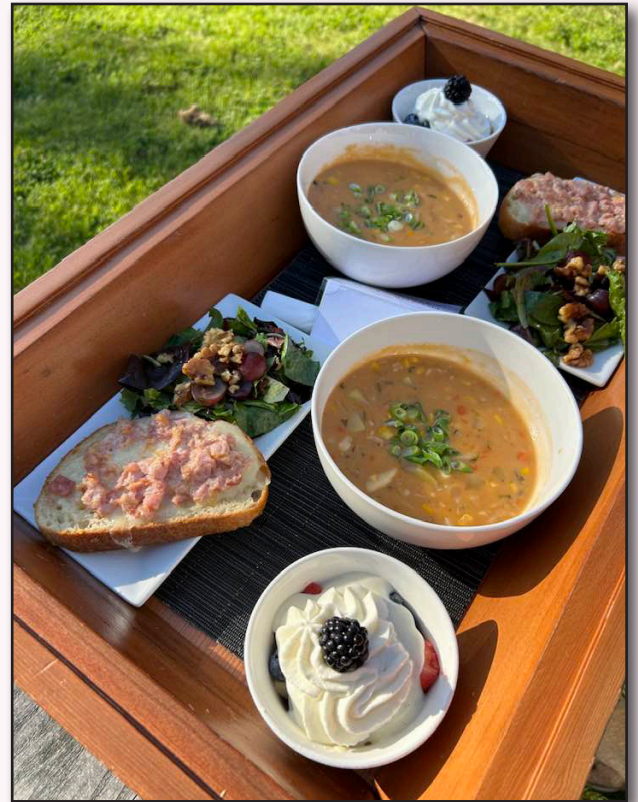
When we landed in Santa Rosa, we drove up to Mendocino, stopping only at Roederer Winery for some sparkling wine tasting and a caviar lunch. The views were spectacular, and the wines were just the right touch to take us to the last part of our drive to the coast.



The Brewery Gulch Inn was so sweet. It was a small and quaint inn with a staff that loved it as if it were their home. They were so over the top friendly and accommodating. Our room was on the ground floor overlooking the cliffs and the ocean. They serve you (as part of your fee for the stay) a happy hour dinner that was so very delicious with an hour of free wine. We had bought our own wines, but it was fun trying some of

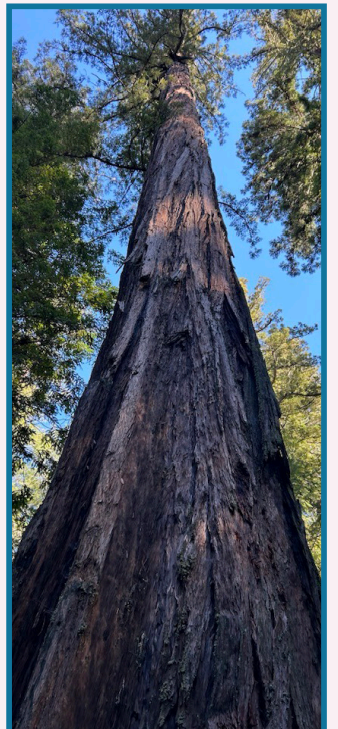
the local wines as we dined. The first night was a creamy corn clam chowder to die for with a cheese ham bread (which felt like a cheesy pizza). It was perfect for us with a light salad and a fruit caramel and whipped cream dessert. It was perfect!

After dinner Lyle took me to the beach cliffs (headlands) and we watched whales spouting as the sun was setting. How we lucked out on the weather is astounding. We were expecting rain and yuck, but we were rewarded with a brisk but sunny day. The sunset was filled with colors, and we applauded when it finally sank into the ocean.



The next day Lyle took me to the redwoods hiking at the Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve. I was so happy to be in the mountains and see the big trees again. Every hike, every moment with Lyle was so sweet and romantic. He just has a way of picking things that he knows I would love. We also walked the coastline, and the day flew by. We returned to our paradise home and showered.

Soon it was happy hour and time for our second dinner. Each meal is stored in a Bento Box with the name of your room imprinted on the front. We stayed in the Manzanita room. Once our box was ready, we took it outside to the patio to enjoy the scenery. When we opened our box, it was like a surprise dinner. You don't get to order your meals. You just enjoy whatever the chef has prepared. Saturday night's fare was breaded chicken covered with mushrooms with hot fingerling potatoes and a cabbage salad. But fear not, because also included with our meal was a delicious chocolate mousse. The food was so wonderful and kept smoking hot in our box. What a great way to enjoy a vacation. We didn't have to search for a restaurant or wait for a table. We just got to enjoy the evening.





Sunday morning, we got up at a leisurely pace and enjoyed a delicious breakfast. This was also included in our stay, but we were given a menu to choose from. I tried these blueberry stuffed pancakes that were filled with a cream sauce that was outstanding. We had to do some major hiking to walk off this meal along the coast and up to the lighthouse. Wow, the views from the coastline were gorgeous!

Lyle also had the inn pack us a backpack lunch. We hiked back into the redwoods and surrounded by the big trees we enjoyed the cutest picnic. It was fun spreading out a blanket on the forest floor and opening this backpack with foods we had not ordered. There were two kinds of sandwiches, homemade potato salad, fruits, chips and chocolate for dessert. I could get used to this kind of pampering. When we returned, we had the most luxurious hot rock massage. We loved every minute of our trip!

Anyways...if you ever want or need a romantic weekend, keep this inn in mind. It was the best escape from our lives in San Diego.



Jeff Wins Pickleball Tourney!!



Jackie Robinson Pickleball Tournament 03.22.24 Photos

Winners from the 65 & over tournament Friday.



From left to right: Larry, Tim, Sue, Jeff, Roger, Tony

In my opinion, anyone who participated is a winner. Congratulations to all!

Thank you to Chris & Suzan for their tremendous efforts in organizing the event. And to Carl & Rick for helping it to run smoothly. Good work all.

The Jackie Robinson YMCA recently hosted an over 60 round-robin pickleball tournament which took place the day before Jeff's 72nd birthday. Though it was not a mixed doubles tournament, Jeff solicited a pickleball friend named Sue Rose (68 years old but looks 49) to partner with him.

Well, the Jeff/Sue team played seven games against a variety of opponents, including teams with 2 men and beat them all. There were no close games as they tended to start each game slowly, but then turned the heat on to be the first to 11 points each time. For their efforts, Jeff and Sue each received a classy 1st place medal. Carol reports that Jeff still hasn't taken his medal off. It was a lot of fun, and hopefully, not the last tournament win for either player.

Benesch MARCH MADNESS

March is full of madness around the Benesch house. Longer warmer days, NCAA basketball, owls, soccer, baseball, birthdays, pickleball, and this year, Easter, all make it a crazy, but busy fun month!!

By Carol Benesch



Madeline's birthday starts the month off. On her 8th birthday, we took her to Target to shop for American girl doll clothes and accessories and then out for ice cream! Santee now has a Handel's Homemade ice cream shop with the biggest and best-scooped ice creams!! Madeline picked out the birthday cake flavor, but quickly changed it to the cotton candy flavor. She said if you haven't had it, you should...it's the best!! Later that week, we took her to dinner at El Indio's and to see the Broadway performance, Aladdin. She loved the show, her favorite part was, A Whole New World, the magic carpet ride, she sang along and knew all the words!!



Jeff's birthday comes next, and he started the celebration off by winning the YMCA over 60 pickleball Tournament proving he is still young and quick at 72 years old! We were all very proud of him, and his prized medal.

On his birthday, Jason and crew met us for breakfast at Jeff's favorite spot, The Mission. That evening, our friends had us over for a delicious dinner and a little gambling. Jeff's pickleball skills did not work on Left, Right, Center, but we all won with a yummy birthday ice cream pie for dessert!! I gave Jeff tickets to a Padre game, and Jason and Chavva gave him a room at a very nice hotel in Little Italy.

We had a great time taking the trolley to Little Italy, having dinner at Meze Greek Fusion (amazing food!), great seats for the Padre game for a not-so-great game, Ice Cream at Salt and Straw, another amazing ice cream shop, and then a night in a very cute hotel. We took the trolley home the next day and had so much fun we will have to do it again!





Our Saturdays are at the ballpark watching Noah play. His team is one of the better ones and it's fun watching them come together as a team. Noah only played one year of tee ball and is now playing in the minor league. He is getting more confident and better each week. We enjoy watching him play!!

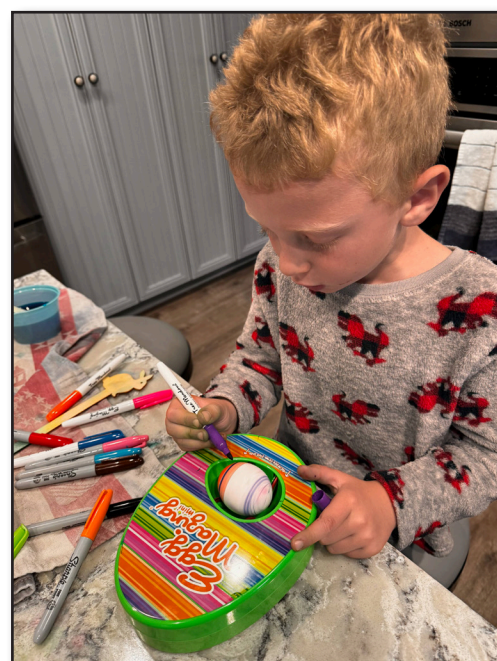


Sundays are filled with soccer! All three kids are playing, which fills up the day quite nicely! Noah is playing on a competitive team, while Madeline and Camden are playing for Crusaders. Jason is coaching Madeline's team for the second year. They have learned positions and how to pass. They are doing really well this year and are very fun to watch! Camden is still in it for the goodie bag in the end... ha ha. He loves playing, but the high-fiving and dancing during the game are still his highlights.



Easter was a little different this year because Jason and Chavva had to spend the day at urgent care with their dog Maizy. Maizy stopped eating, had a hard time getting up and was in a lot of pain. Urgent Care sent them to North County to get an MRI. The MRI and spinal tap showed she had spinal meningitis. The good news is, she will be OK, it is part of an immune deficiency disease, and she will need to be on steroids for 6 months but the pain will go away and she should be good to go!

Easter morning was difficult for all of us, the kids were sad and it seemed like Maizy was not going to make it. While Jason and Chavva stayed with Maizy, we had an egg decorating hour, an egg hunt, a scavenger hunt for their bunny baskets, and Madeline and I made easter Rice Krispie nests. We had a fun day, but we all had our moments worrying about Maizy. Jason and Chavva did not get home until 7pm. Maizy stayed at the hospital which meant Jason and Chavva could get some sleep and not worry as much.

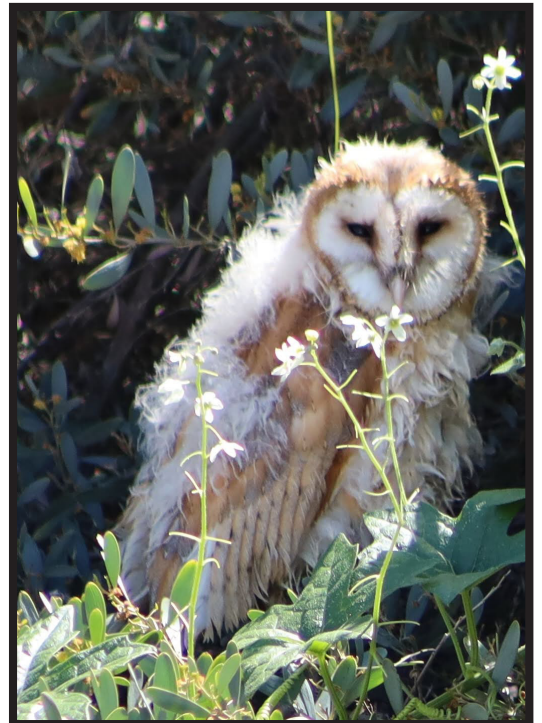




Carol is enjoying her new camera while on owl watch. Pictures are still very difficult to take because the owls like the night much better than the daylight, but I sneak in a few.

Between all the activities, the TV was hosting various NCAA basketball games. No need to talk about UCLA unless it's the Women's team, he he. Maybe next year!

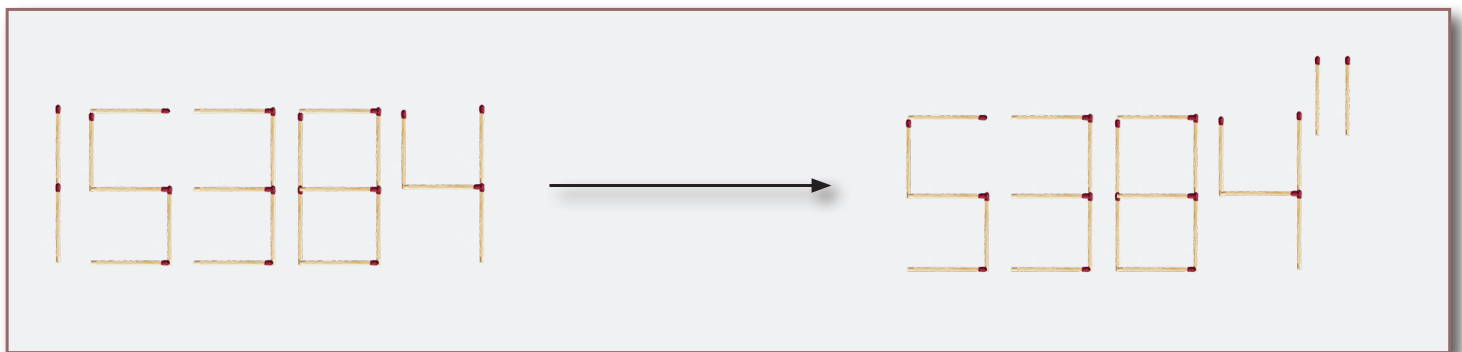
That's it, you are all caught up on MARCH MADNESS at the Benesch's!!



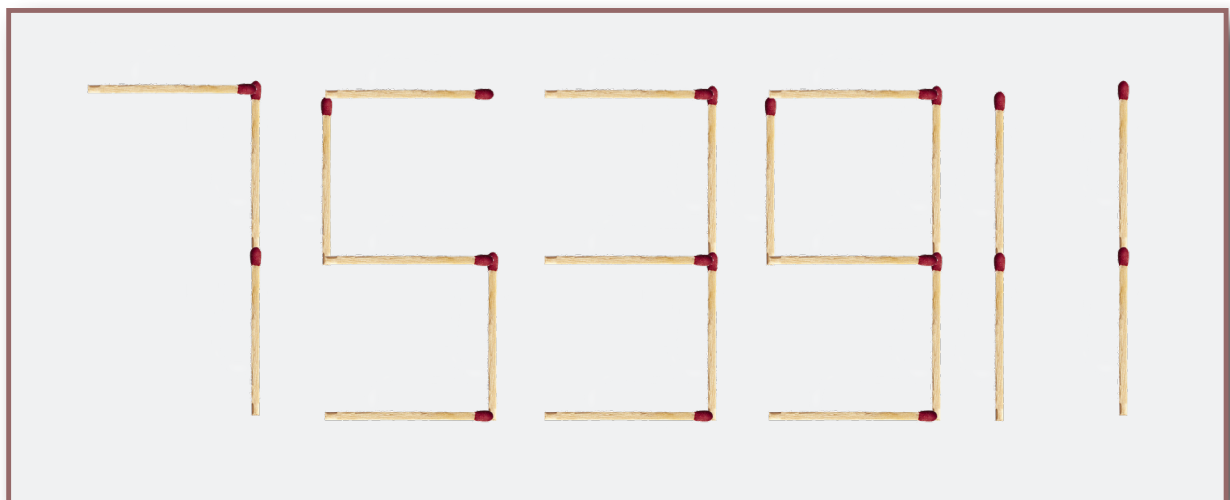
RFNL CONTEST

Last month we had three couples tied for the prize. And now, after the two new challenges presented last month, we still have three couples tied. This is because no one got the correct answers to both parts of the contest. Jeff and Carol did get the correct amount on the Shamrocks (34) but came up, oh so short, on the math test. Everyone else including Birdy and Lyle missed both parts.

The most correct answer to the matchstick puzzle is as shown below:



I know most of you never even considered this solution as it does require a little more thinking outside of the box. Even our “Math Major” didn’t come up with the answer so it may have been too much to expect anyone else to solve this puzzle. Even if I discounted the use of exponents there was still a larger number than anyone came up with and it is shown below:





Let's make this month's contest easier. Using the picture above, please answer the following questions:

1. What family event was this picture taken at?
2. Who took the picture?
3. What year was it taken (Bonus points for the exact date)?
4. Where was this picture taken (specifically)?
5. How many and what are the names of Edith and Frank's grandchildren that are not present in this photo?

All the rules from the previous contest apply to this month's as well. Have fun!!

Bud Mehan Memorializes A Life Lost

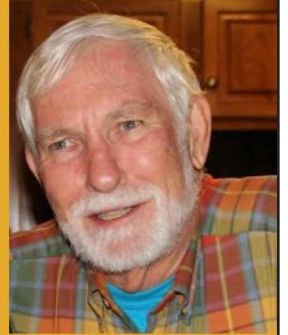


UC San Diego

Sociology Colloquium Series Presents

Hugh Mehan's Tribute to Aaron Cicourel

Aaron Cicourel's colleagues, students, family, and friends are joining us in celebrating his wisdom, warmth, humor, and unwavering support of all of us. Aaron brought to Sociology the principle that language plays an active role in creating and sustaining social structure and social reality. His work spans sociology, linguistics, anthropology, medicine, and cognitive science. In each, he battled mightily to convince his contemporaries such as Erving Goffman, Harold Garfinkel, and Noam Chomsky to recognize the wealth of empirical evidence for a reflexive relationship between social structure and social action—one that disrupted the stratifying machinery to construct more equitable social environments.



April 4, 2024

Social Sciences Building

12:30 p.m. — 1:50 p.m.

Room 101 — Lunch Provided

Bud Mehan lost his internationally renowned academic advisor and dear friend, Aaron Cicourel, this past year. It is difficult to say goodbye to someone so influential in one's life. Aaron held positions in many departments at major universities throughout the world, but ironically, his last position was at the Institute for Health and Aging, UCSF, where he researched dementia only to experience it himself several years later.

Bud had the honor of giving the first annual lecture in a series that will honor Aaron. He did a great job of sharing personal stories in and around the celebration of his accomplishments in many different fields.

Bud also served as the master of ceremonies at the university's tribute to Aaron. Here is the link to the memorial: <https://memorialsources.com/memorial/aaron-victor-cicourel>. Michael joined us as Merryl and Aaron were family friends. Merryl fondly remembered Micheal's Magnificent Magic Show (likely when he was about 11 years old). Megan would have liked to have joined us as she loved to visit the amazing "museum" house with displays of all of Merryl's artwork. Merryl stayed with us during the celebration and gifted us another of her wonderful works of art.



FAMILY SHORTS



Jason and Chavva will be supporting our San Diego FC soccer team with newly purchased season tickets!!



So proud of Rhys and what he overcame to get out there in his first JiuJitsu tournament after only 3 months of training. He got 2nd place in a bracket of 4.

The kid he lost to has been a white belt for 3 years. It was so loud in there. A normal kid, let alone an autistic one, would have been intimidated. - Michelle



Madeline and Noah at their Color Run



Seamus and Kristy finished the San Diego Half Marathon last month with Kristy finishing 13th in her group, with an 8:30 pace. Seamus finished 67th in his group with the same pace as Kristy. Isn't it nice they do everything together?



Just in from Jessica: Ben and Mateo passed their next level; they are now both Yellow Belts! Congratulations to both of them!

However, this is just a warmup as they are entered in the Rock and Roll Marathon this June. They will compete against Listy this year who is a legacy runner and was posting 4-hour marathons when she was the same age as Kristy and Seamus are today. Game on Kids!!!