



Family Marks Double Graduation

Mountain View, Calif.

Local residents Michael and Claire Silver celebrated a double graduation this spring. First was the commencement of daughter Rachel Silver, granddaughter of Margaret Hutz and Brian Bolitho, who received a bachelor's degree in a double major, psychology and social welfare, from Cal Berkeley. Then Rachel's brother, Bryce Silver-Bates, graduated from Summerfield Waldorf School in Santa Rosa. He's now a freshman at University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash. (He's lovin' it, thanks.)

Rachel, meanwhile, has launched a career based on her writing and artistic skills. She first completed a free-lance writing assignment about preparing salmon for getforq.com, a food site and has since been creating publicity materials for Audio High, her parents' business. Declared proud grandma Hutz, "She's accumulating a wonderful career portfolio already!"

And a Bi-i-i-g Graduation Party!

The double celebration of their own children's graduation morphed into a super celebration for five – yes, five! – graduates in the Silver family. In addition to Bryce and Rachel, the feted scholars were Valerie Silver, Bryce's mom and Michael's cousin, who completed her master's degree; Shea Hillinger, Rachel's cousin, who graduated from Long Beach State; and Shira Hillinger, also Rachel's cousin, who graduated from UC Santa Cruz. Fortunately, Claire and Michael have the house and garden to host such a fete, and since the Hutz-Bolitho house is just through the back gate, Grandpa Brian contributed some of his superb barbeque to the party.



Michael and Bryce; Claire and Rachel. Which are prouder and happier – graduates or parents?

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Travelers Menaced by Climate Shift

Mountain View, Calif.

Inveterate RVers Brian Bolitho and Margaret Hutz, upon their return from Las Vegas in October, told a strange and disturbing tale. Interviewed in their driveway here, Hutz said, "We just got back. It seemed at times we might not make it." The couple had a great time at the wedding of Bolitho's former brother-in-law, Gary Stratton, to Griselda Mezzotaro. Bolitho declared "It was a great wedding – nothing Vegas tacky about it. And we got to visit with my niece, Sarah, who came from England." Growing somewhat agitated, Bolitho continued, "Things started to get a little scary after we left Sarah at the airport. We headed due south toward Laughlin. The only reason we're still alive is because the raised road didn't flood. We drove over the crest of an alluvial plain for thirty miles through the grandmother of all thunderstorms."



Griselda and Sarah; Gary and Norma, his mother

"No, really!" said Hutz, "'Sometimes Brian exaggerates, but this...'" Her face took on a far away look. "I've never seen anything like this storm. There were dozens and dozens of lightning strikes all around us and dozens more up in the clouds. It was like being in a Thor movie. Five or six were so close we could feel them in our eyeballs. Let Brian tell you about what happened in Laughlin. I need to keep unpacking."

"When we got out of the van at South Beach in Davis Camp we were instantly enveloped by a biblical plague of tiny flies or midges," continued Bolitho. "In our eyes, in our mouth, in our ears. Then the storm caught up with us and, soaked, we had to flee into the van. That was the most horrible. On every surface, in every crack. Thousands and thousands of them."

Hutz rejoined, "At least they didn't buzz. But we couldn't really sleep. We got up around 1 a.m. and drove straight home. When it got light the flies woke up and flocked to the windshield. So we had to open the two front windows. Each time we did this we released several hundred flies. We hurtled on, dispersing possibly invasive species across 600 miles of countryside until you see us here." Bolitho added, "Stick your head in the van, there's still a few hundred left." [Editor's note: the remaining flies were all dead the next day.]

A Visit from Across the Pond

They couldn't make it to the annual Haley Beach 4th of July pot luck barbeque, but Sarah (Lou) Stratton, niece of Brian Bolitho, and her partner, Sam Wilkerson, paid a visit to the Mountain View home of Margaret Hutz the following week. The trip to the States from England combined business (Ph.D. research) and pleasure (catching up with friends on both coasts).



A relaxed mid-summer dinner.

Left to right: Rachel, Claire, Sam, Sarah, Brian, Margaret, Ken

Sarah is taking an extra year to work on her Ph.D. thesis. In late summer, she moved from Birmingham to Darlington, in the northeast of England, where Sam lives. The couple found a comfortable apartment, and Sarah is now learning to drive according to British rules and looking for part-time work.

A New Deck for Alcorn Lodge

For several years, the members of the Alcorn clan have been adding to a deck fund for the Alcorn Lodge. Last spring, Margaret Hutz made a generous contribution to the fund, and Ari Shackell contracted with a local builder.

The new deck extends beyond the width of the house on both sides and 12 feet out. (Alas, one tree had to go.) At press time, no photo was available of the new deck. Right is a photo of the Lodge without a deck, so use your imagination.



The timing was close, but the deck was finished as agreed upon, in time for the annual 4th of July barbeque pot luck. What a great party! With tables, chairs, shade umbrellas, and banners, the deck held all the guests, who appreciated the wonderful view, as did all the cooks appreciate the proximity of a real kitchen.

News From Mexico

Although he had just one brief visit here from Mexico in the summer, Samai Hutz-Villarreal has spent time with his father, Ken Hutz, during Ken's frequent visits to Mexico.

Ken reports that Samai is finally making progress with reading, as evidenced by this *foto*, shot in the plane to Mexico in September. Now almost 9 and in the third grade, Samai still loves listening to someone read to him.



Caught in the act!

Ken is spending the winter at the villa of a friend in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, establishing a professional presence there and formalizing a custody agreement with Samai's mother.

Same Job, But Better

Mount Shasta resident Marta Hutz recently transitioned from contractor to permanent employee for Sutter Health in Rancho Cordova, Calif. As a contractor, Hutz had been alternating weekly between working on site and working from home, configuring and installing medical administration software. However, this fall the company created a full-time, remote position for her, so she can work from home except when needed for a particular effort at one of the many Sutter Health sites throughout Northern California.

On to High School!

Algebra, English, Accounting – the list goes on. Plus cross-country, basketball, track – seasonal sports. And, to top it off, playing trombone in a jazz band! High school freshman Kristen Hutz has a heavy load, but, according to proud parents Gene and Sue Hutz of Bigfork, Mont., she does it all with ease and grace. Kristen gets top grades and is highly competitive in sports. In addition, after trips to Montana in July and October, her grandmother Margaret Hutz reports that Kristen is growing up to be a poised and pleasant young woman. Way to go, Kristen!



Kristen describes her cross-country meet. Grandpa Brian approves of the team T-shirt!

Palo Altan Quits Penguins

Palo Alto pool player Brian Bolitho announced today that he has withdrawn as a member of the Pilsner Penguins, a team in the San Francisco Pool Association.

"I got a bedsore in May and have been sort of injured reserve," said Bolitho. "But they need the roster spot and I'm getting too old to drive to the City twice a week. So I just made it official." [Editor's note: Bolitho did, however, manage to win three tournaments in Sunnyvale.]