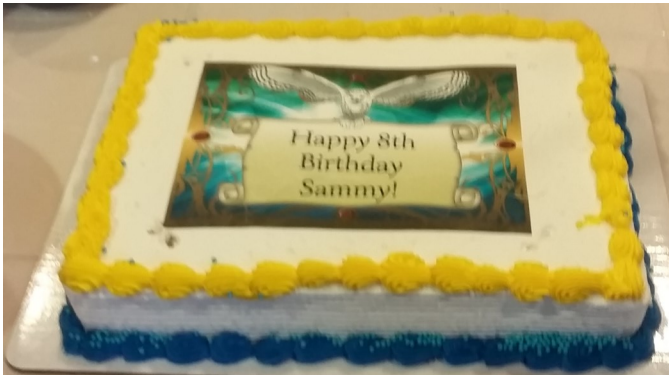


# ***Sacramento***

## ***December 2016***



***Sammy's Birthday Party***  
***and***  
***Christmas***

*Bob and Molly Hillery*

## ***Sacramento, December 2016***

*This was our final trip to Sacramento for 2016 and we were able to celebrate Christmas and Sammy's eighth birthday party during the four days. The "Magical Birthday Party" was a typically Cyndi extravaganza attended by 35 friends and family as well as a magician and was a huge success.*

*Our Christmas celebration (the first of three this year) was a much less hectic affair and a great time spent with our California family.*

### **Wednesday November 30**

We left home (after giving the Lexus a jump start after it had been standing for three weeks) and drove to the Airport Marriott, where we had dinner and checked in for the night. The car had difficulty starting again and, after I got it parked, it was entirely dead – so, we have an interesting situation to return to on Monday.

### **Thursday December 1**

We were up at 6:30 and got the shuttle to the airport for our 8:30 flight to Salt Lake City and then on to Sacramento. We arrived there to a chilly but bright day and met Sammy and Christopher for lunch at Freebirds.

We spent several hours shopping with Sammy in the afternoon during which time she worked hard to spend the money we had given her. She succeeded and brought home several nice gifts as well as a handful of \$1 bargains!

We met Cyndi for dinner at California Pizza Kitchen and had a very pleasant meal before returning to the hotel quite early.

### **Friday December 2**

Molly and I went to iHop for breakfast and then drove to the Outlet Mall at Vacaville where we did a little Christmas shopping as well as buying several shirts for me. We had an early dinner with the family, including Bill and Shirl, as well as three friends of Cyndi and Christopher. This was a somewhat hurried affair as most were going on to a play in Davis, about 30 minutes away. Consequently, Molly and I had another early night which wasn't all bad as we are still recovering from the South Africa trip.

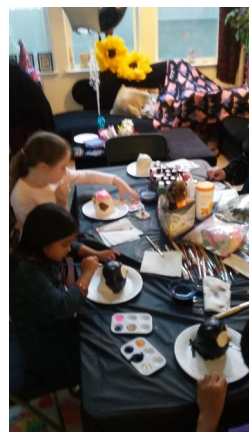
### **Saturday December 3**

This afternoon was Sammy's eighth birthday party at their home. The party started at 2:30 which meant that Molly and I had the morning together during which we had breakfast, I took a short walk and we made our contribution to the party by picking up three sets of helium filled balloons.



### ***The Principal Characters***

There were 35 adults and kids at the party which had something for everyone. Making bead necklaces, painting ceramic owls and dipping pretzels in chocolate were available, as was plenty of snack food and drinks. The main event was a show given by a local magician (the party was themed around Harry Potter and magic) who entertained kids and adults alike.



### ***Activities Tables and The Magician***

The party essentially ended around 6:30, we returned to the hotel for an hour before re-convening with Sammy, Cyndi and Christopher for dinner at On The Border. It had been nice to be with the large group for the party but the more intimate dinner with just five of us was a very pleasant.

### **Sunday December 4 ("Christmas")**

Today was to be Christmas for us with our California family so Molly and I had the morning to ourselves before going to Christopher and Cyndi's home around 1pm. Bill and Shirl arrived shortly after us and we

spent about two hours exchanging gifts among the seven of us.



*Not your typical  
Cyndi Christmas Tree*



*Merry Christmas*



We then had some more of Sammy's birthday cake before saying our farewells to Bill and Shirl.

Molly and I also returned to our hotel as the Junior Hillerys were headed downtown with a photographer friend to have their Christmas card pictures taken at sunset with the Capitol building as a backdrop. It had turned into a bright afternoon after some earlier cloudiness so we hoped that they would get some good photographs.

We were picked up by Christopher, Cyndi and Sammy and driven to the Melting Pot for a very pleasant and relaxing family "Christmas" dinner. This is one of Sammy's favorite restaurants, despite the fact that the only thing she eats there (other than that which she brings from home) is the after-dinner mint! We said our goodbyes around 9:30 after another sometimes hectic, but always pleasant visit.

### **Monday December 5**

We were up before eight, checked out of the hotel and went to iHop for breakfast before turning in the rental car and starting our journey home. We traveled by way of Los Angeles and Atlanta so it was midnight before we arrived in Cincinnati.

