



September 2021

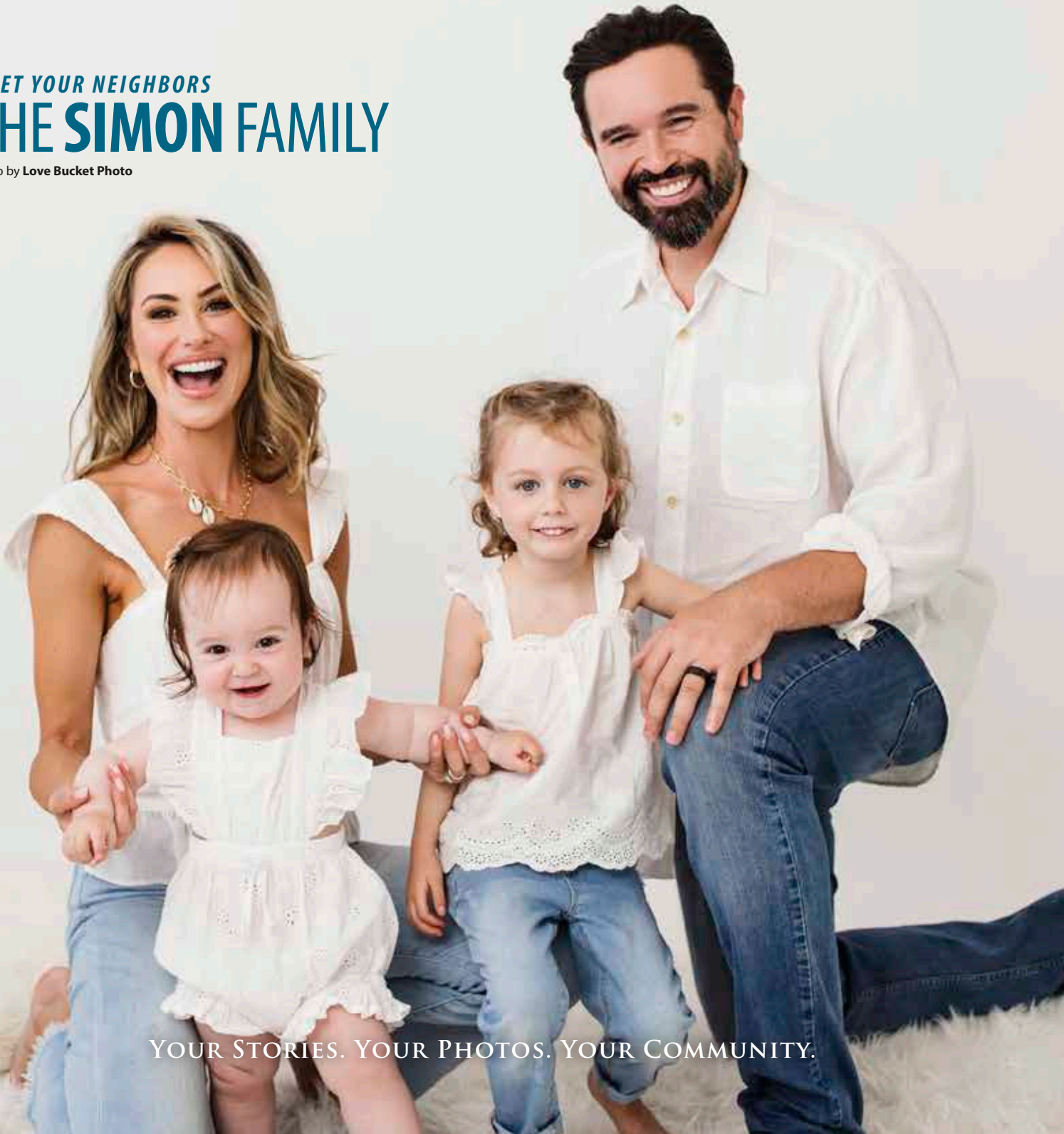
MANHATTAN BEACH HILL SECTION *Life*

A Social Publication Exclusively for the Residents of the Hill Section

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

THE SIMON FAMILY

Photo by **Love Bucket Photo**



YOUR STORIES. YOUR PHOTOS. YOUR COMMUNITY.

the Simmons

meet your neighbors

By Patti Garrity, Hill Section neighbor and resident writer
Photography by Love Bucket Photo

For many years the forlornly empty house next door brooded on its weed and wildflowered prime corner lot, just waiting for the perfect family. And then they came, to their new owner-designed three-story home, planted with mature trees and shrubs and a lap pool now filled most days with the joyful squeals and laughter of 4-year-old Remi.

Bob Simon and Christine Bullock and now their long prayed-for 1-year-old daughter Poppy share the pool with Miss Remington Rain, and our neighborhood is in full summer celebration. None too soon.

Here's where it all began: At Q's, a sports bar in Brentwood in 2008, Bob and Christine accidentally met after Bob's vow of not talking to girls in bars...but that green dress was irresistible, though hardly complimenting his stained white T-shirt, unwashed jeans, dirty cowboy boots and baseball cap. Of course Bob walked right up, introduced himself and within an hour they discovered both were from the Pittsburgh area and only lived 30 minutes apart. Their fate was sealed.

Within a few years of their marriage all members of both families moved out here and in with each other in Brentwood and then Hermosa Beach in 2011. Bob-Bobby-Robert (take your pick) and Christine moved into their new home in the Hill Section in May 2020.

How Christine, who designed the home, kept Bob out of it 'til it was completed and furnished is one of life's great mysteries, though he could drive by and marvel once in a while. (Their beautiful home will be a Hill Section Life feature sometime in the near future.) Bob's favorite room is the whiskey room man cave, Remi's is her multi-closeted playroom and Christine's is the gym. She does all the cooking while Bob does the Door-Dashing - nobody starves in their household.

Poppy loves her nursery, the dogs and the one very friendly bunny, Buggy (of course). The half Bijon Frisee, half Toy Poodle tiny guard dogs may end up in the bottom of the pool unless they distinguish between neighbors and DoorDash.

Bob and his twin brother Brad, and his little brother Brandon, started their own law firm in 2010, now with 60 employees, including 20 other lawyers and their ex-truck-driver Dad, their Mom, their Dad's new wife and one of her daughters and both of Bob's sisters. (They could have a brilliant TV show and call it "All in the Family"... Oh, that's been taken!) Both sisters and one brother-in-law run Justice HQ in a community-based legal tech platform membership-based in an evolutionary process in the legal field.

Between the Simon Law Group and Justice H.Q., there are over 10 locations in California and Texas.

One never knows God's plans though questions



are always asked. For seven years this beautiful couple, who have built a family house now, had been disappointed and saddened by several pregnancy failures. And then they adopted Remi at birth and they were a family. Limited to be sure, but sure also in their God, who of course tested their patience 'til last year's unexpected but joyful arrival of Penelope Skye. Remington Rain was thus named because this godly couple knew rain brings all new life to Earth and she brought new life to them, ending their long seven-year wait. Penelope, called Poppy, is the



flower brought by rain and just proves the family is too clever by far in the naming business!

Remi is about as upfront as a kid her age can be. She looks you right in the eye, asks questions and tells her thoughts and is far smarter than a little kid ought to be. Everybody at the Montessori Peck school knows her as the "bug girl," since she collects those critters daily while dressed in her tutus.

Back to that beautiful house. Bobby was not allowed to enter 'til move-in day; Christine designed the whole house with elements of special memories of their travels around the world, desiring to include all extended family members for get-togethers, entertaining and Steelers games. The house is three-story with bedrooms and an office above the spacious living area with patio, kitchen and hallways on street level. Christine's home office has been put to good use during the pandemic. She has been in the beauty and fitness business for over 20 years as a trainer and model, and an expert featured in many publications: New York Times, Women's Health, W, Reader's Digest, Marie Claire and Forbes, just to name a few. She recently created and founded an award-winning Kayo Body Care® brand of skincare and supplements. That home office is busy, along with

other locations (offices and labs, etc.) maintained elsewhere in Southern California, Oklahoma and Europe.

The house and pool, as well as the shrubs and trees next door to me provide all the beauty and privacy necessary for this area. The Simons and I sat and chatted by a lovely tree in their yard and I wrote this story about them. That tree has great significance, I learned, when I commented on its elegance. Christine picked up the Bible on the dining room table (not from a shelf in a faraway room), opened it without looking in the index for what she read to me in Jeremiah 17 of the Old Testament: "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is in the Lord. For he will be like a tree

planted by the water that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes. But its leaves will be green and it will not be anxious in a year of drought, nor cease to yield fruit." What a blessing to have neighbors of faith (and with trees)!



There's more than house and trees and kids and pups in this family. There's a nanny and caregiver for the girls and then I was surprised to have the door opened by a beautifully delightful lady who is Christine's mother, now living with them. Her name is not Pat, Patti, Patsy or Patty, but Patricia, an elegance that certainly unpretentiously fits. And that's all you get to know about your neighbor's grandmother, although her life was extraordinarily creative and excitingly interesting and endearingly private. Your loss.

The next time you leave your car at home and take a walk around our peacefully lovely neighborhood and hear some happy chatter and splashing behind the bushes (but no, I'm not giving you the address), push through the way I do and say hello to our lovely neighbors. You will be blessed.

