



The Reisel Family

MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES AND LAKE FUN

By Julia Jaegersberg

Professional images by Lake Life Photography



While I've previously introduced you to Hartland's Mike Reisel and his financial business for this magazine, I'm very excited for you to meet the entire family that includes his wife Mindy and children Hayden (12) and Cole (10).

A proposal on top of it all

A mountaintop proposal made their relationship something to celebrate even more after Mindy and Mike had been together as a couple for many years. Mike said that Mindy had officially given up on the idea of a proposal, so it was a complete surprise to her.

"We travelled to Lake Tahoe for a ski trip," shares Mike, "and although I had no set plan on where or how to propose to Mindy, it all came together in the moment. On Rose Mountain, there's a ski trail called 'Around the World.' Since we love traveling, I thought it was the perfect spot to propose. We took the lift to the top of the ski hill and by the sign I stopped and asked her to marry me. It was perfect, as it was private, just the two of us on the top of the world."

"I was VERY surprised," shares Mindy. "I actually asked if the ring was real because I wouldn't put it past Mike to pull a prank on me!" Mindy and Mike were married two years ago in their own beautiful backyard in the Chenequa Club Highlands neighborhood in Hartland.

"We kept everything local with the wedding at our house and the reception at Revere's Wells Street Tavern in Delafield," shares Mindy. "Even the dessert came from Sally's Sweet Shoppe Too in Delafield. We knew we wanted to keep it on the smaller, more intimate side – and in all honesty, I also knew we wanted to save money for a good honeymoon!"

And they did take an incredible honeymoon – a 10-day cruise to the eastern Caribbean, including St. Maarten, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Barbados and Antigua. "It was wonderful being disconnected for that long," admits Mike. "We actually fell in love with cruising so much that we booked another one for February 2021 to the southern Caribbean while we were still on our honeymoon (praying that one can actually happen!)"

However, Mike felt like two years was too long to wait, so for their one-year anniversary, he surprised Mindy with a cruise – sneaking it in right before Covid hit at the end of February this year."

A bit of history

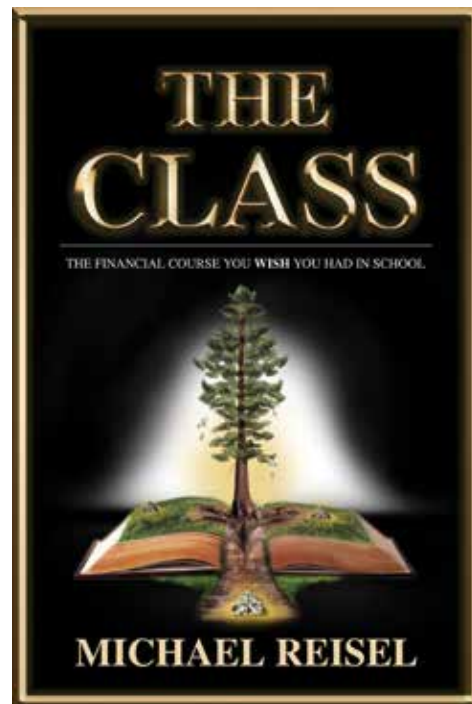
While Mike grew up in New Berlin, his family has since moved to the South. "My parents and sister now live in Alabama," he explains. "My sister first moved to Alabama to go to college and she never came back. Then my parents joined her a few years later."

Mindy grew up in Sussex, and both her brother and parents still live there – just 10 minutes away from her Hartland home.

After graduation, Mindy studied at UW-Milwaukee and earned her bachelor's degree in business administration with a focus in human resources. Mindy now works at Kohl's Corporation in Menomonee Falls in the HR Department as an admin in the department. She began her career at Kohl's in July of 2018 and moved to HR one year ago.

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From education to financial planning

After high school, Mike went to UW-Whitewater and earned a bachelor's degree in education. For the first two years after college, Mike taught eighth grade science to students in Watertown, Wisconsin. "But my entrepreneurship bug got the best of me," explains Mike, "and I decided to switch from educating middle schoolers to educating adults on their finances – a course we unfortunately do not have in school curriculums."

Mike has spent the past 12 years in the financial industry. Although he held some upper-level management positions with some big financial firms in the past, two years ago he chose to branch off to create a firm of his own called Redwood Financial Strategies.

"I was able to take all I've learned in the industry as both an advisor and manager to create the type of financial firm I had envisioned for years. Redwood Financial Strategies is like a financial concierge desk. We encompass the full financial picture, as many make fatal financial mistakes outside of their investment portfolio."

Redwood Financial doesn't limit its clients to stay with only the funds or accounts within the firm, explains Mike. "We're here to

create individualized and unique plans to provide you with the most value for your ongoing and ever-changing financial situation."

Always the educator, Mike also wrote a new book called *The Class – The Financial Course You WISH You Had in School*. In the book, he offers financial clarity on topics ranging from debt to credit scores. He also shares first-hand experience that will help you apply what you'll learn in *The Class* to your daily financial challenges. You may purchase the book on Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

Hayden & Cole

Mindy and Mike's children, Hayden and Cole, both attend Nature Hill Middle School in Oconomowoc – and really enjoy going to school there. Hayden is in seventh grade while Cole is in fifth grade. When they recently were told they could go back full time versus virtual learning, both were excited to get back into the live classroom with their teachers and friends.

Hayden has been playing soccer most her life and is quite the soccer enthusiast. She currently plays on U-14 Strike FC team and loves getting out and competing with her teammates, playing both outdoor and indoor soccer with Strike FC.

At school you'll find Hayden rocking out on her saxophone, as band has quickly become one of her favorite subjects in middle school. In addition to playing soccer, Hayden is a paddle-boarding queen, according to Mike.

"When we're up north at our lake home, you'll find her somewhere on the lake paddle-boarding around. When she's not on the paddle-board, she's usually beating the rest of the family at the board games we play. Not sure if it's luck or if she has a hidden talent, but quite often Hayden's victorious over the rest of us!"

Their son, Cole, has been playing basketball for years and now plays for the Oconomowoc Youth Boys Basketball team.



"Recently, Cole also picked up golfing," says Mindy. "This past summer, he participated in a golf camp and really improved his game. Up north, Cole excels as the fisherman in the family. Ninety-nine point nine percent of the time, we'll find Cole on his fishing kayak seeking out the next big bass on the lake."

When the kids are home, you'll usually find them in the backyard on the trampoline. "We have a ninja warrior ropes course that hangs over the trampoline," says Mindy. "Hayden and Cole will spend hours out there making up their own games."

In addition, the family enjoys spending time with the furry family members Molly (12) a border-collie mix and Cooper (2) a high-energy Aussie mix pup. Both dogs are 100% boat dogs, according to Mike and Mindy. "After arriving at our lake home, all we have to say is 'who wants to go on the boat,' and before we even take a step toward the lake, they'll sprint down and jump onto the boat," states Mike. "Both pups have earned the prestigious names of Captain Molly and Captain Cooper."

Family time in Mountain, Wisconsin

After looking for lake property for three years, the right lake house became available in Mountain, Wisconsin, and the family knew this was it.

"We love that even though our home is on a lake, we have privacy and lots of space for the dogs to run around," notes Mike. "We also love being able to do so many outdoor activities right from our property. We spend many hours on the lake swimming, kayaking, paddle-boarding, and enjoying cocktail cruises in the summer. Then in the winter, we enjoy sledding, ice-skating and ice-fishing. We also have the luxury of being able to get to the ATV and snowmobile trails right from our home. This year, we added a UTV, and got a lot of fun, wet and wild miles out of it in 2020."

Other adventures and joys

A few years ago, Mike was able to fulfill a childhood dream to get out on a big-league baseball field when he had the opportunity to

throw out the first pitch at a Brewer game!

As travel lovers, Mike and Mindy feel the mountains are their favorite places to explore. "We loved going to Glacier National Park in Montana where we enjoyed some of the best wildlife sightings – we even saw a grizzly!" says Mindy. "Colorado is one of our favorite states to visit, and we try to get there every year. We typically stay in Breckenridge, and often discuss moving there someday as the town just feels like home. We have a large wooden map on one of our walls at home where we pin little airplanes on the places we've traveled. Although we've travelled to many places, we still have a lot of this world to see. In the future, we plan to take an Alaskan cruise and a trip to Italy."



The family also attends services at Shorepoint City Church, and they were re-baptized just last summer. Mindy and Mike's biggest volunteer commitment each year is participating in the annual Scherrer Cares Buddy Bench Open. "We got involved from the beginning with Scherrer Cares Buddy Bench," states Mike. "We're proud to say that over the past six years we've helped raise more than \$600,000 to help eliminate bullying and build kindness in our community."

Life in the Highlands

The family has enjoyed living in the Chenequa Club Highlands neighborhood for six years. "We first moved here for the house itself," says Mindy. "When we walked through our home for the first time, we both knew it just felt like 'home' to us. We've found since then that our subdivision gives us the best of both worlds – we love it for walking the dogs and riding bikes, but it still offers us backyard privacy to enjoy family and friend time around the fire pit."

Being a spread out neighborhood, the family hasn't met all their neighbors; however, with a party a few years ago and some recent house-warming parties, they've become friends with many. "Everyone appreciates everyone in our neighborhood," concludes Mike. "You will not drive by anyone without receiving a wave or stopping to say hello."