

Encinitas resident Gretchen Schomer Wendel coauthors the *Becka and the Big Bubble* book series with her brother Adam Schomer. The children's books and television show (seen locally on KOCT and Del Mar TV) are quickly growing in notoriety as children enjoy learning about diverse places and cultures through Becka's world-wide travels on her big bubble.

1. Last laugh out loud?

My three year old had me laughing so hard in the car today—she was trying to sing an ABBA song in a deep-throated voice. She had hand movements going, too.

2. Last book you read?

"Becka and the Big Bubble, Becka goes to India." My kids want me to read it every night. Last adult book was a Danielle Steel romance novel about nine months ago. I love children's books and romance novels.

3. Last book you wrote?

"Becka goes to New York" which is due out next year!

4. Last great meal in Encinitas?

When In Rome. My husband and I love their fresh food and their garden out back!

5. Last time you felt stressed?

Today. With two young children, their schools and activities, the books, the TV show, keeping the house in order...yoga helps me lower my stress level.

6. Last vacation destination?

Portland, Oregon. We stayed on a 20-acre ranch with horses, tennis, a pool, a huge garden and a fishing pond. It was a nice break.

7. Last book reading for the public?

In late August, I took part in a fundraiser for cancer and read the books in public.

8. Last house guest?

My brother and coauthor, Adam Schomer! Our house always lights up when he is around.

9. Last trip to the library?

Yesterday. We love the library

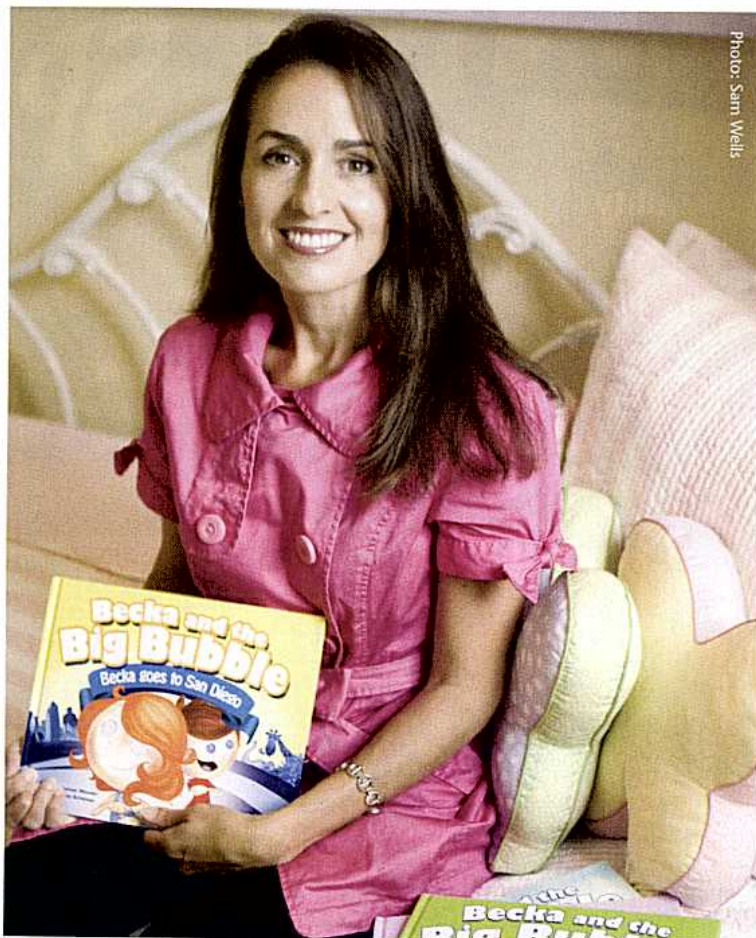


Photo: Sam Wells

and the new Encinitas Library is so delightful.

10. Last trip to the beach?

Moonlight. About two weeks ago with the kids.

11. Last song you listened to?

Daughtry, "I'm Going Home."

12. Last swim in the Pacific?

Same as #10. Moonlight Beach about two weeks ago.

13. Last Encinitas park visited?

Las Verdes Park. It is very close to our neighborhood so we go there a lot and the kids love it because it is a little different than other parks in the area.

14. Last breakfast at an Encinitas eatery?

Potato Shack...my Dad and Mom love taking us to the Potato Shack every time they come to town. Awesome toast and OJ, and of course potatoes.

15. Last trip back to your home state of Michigan?

In July we all went back to South Haven, Michigan. It was a large family reunion consisting of our aunts, uncles, cousins, second cousins, etc. And we all got along well.

16. Last time you and your brother had creative

differences? Everyday, just kidding, my brother and I work very well together...we have discussions about our creative ideas when writing our books and television show. Adam is very easy going. Our creativity flows when we work together and we work together a lot.

17. Last holiday you put decorations up for? Fourth of July...we put up a few small flags in our front yard. We'll decorate big time for Halloween and Christmas.

18. Last time you dressed to impress? In Los Angeles in June...my Mom and I got invited to the L.A. Film Festival through Kraft foods so we both washed our hair, put on our make-up and nice dresses and hit the town!

19. Last feeling of disbelief? Last week when I was at the YMCA for swim lessons with my kids, a Mom came up to me and said "our kids love your books" and then she said, "it would mean a lot to them if you would meet them." Of course I met them and was delighted to learn that they knew every book by heart. Very sweet. It meant a lot to me.

20. Last fortunate break? On Friday our agent called and told us that Costco and Sam's Club had placed huge orders for our books and that three of our books were completely sold out because of their order. Thank you Costco and Sam's Club. And thank you *Encinitas Magazine* for the interview! ☺