

Lamorinda Couples Share the Secret to Their Longevity

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Karen and Larry Blodgett

Photos provided

She joined him in Idaho, where they were married; they returned to Lafayette to raise their family and take over the family business, Blodgett's Abbey Carpet and Flooring.

Matt Delaney met his wife, Karen, during their freshman year at Campolindo High School – he was a football player, she was an aspiring cheerleader. “What’s neat is that we’ve known each other since we were 14, we know the friends and families, we have a shared history and we’ve gone full circle,” says Matt, who asked her to be his date for the Campo Junior Prom. Later, while on a family ski trip together in Tahoe, Matt shared his dream for the couple. “He told me about the house we would have with a circular driveway and a white picket fence,” recalls Karen Delaney. “I knew she was ‘the one,’” he says. “I just projected myself 20 years into the future.” While they broke up and went to separate colleges, they stayed friends.

A friend’s wedding reconnected them when Matt asked Karen to be his date. “The weekend-long wedding turned into a week vacation, then a two-week escapade,” Matt reminisces. They got married in 1999 and lived together in Hawaii before returning to Lamorinda to raise their family. “I always kept an eye on the Burton Valley real estate market,” he says. “Then one day the perfect home came on the market.” The family moved into a house with a circular driveway and white picket fence.

Kathy Biro says, “We feel we have something very special.” She met her husband, Rick, in their junior year in an Acalanes chemistry class. It was 1979. “I arrived late to class and there were only two spots left: one in the back next to a member of the football team, and one between Rick and a girl; that’s the seat I chose,” she says. Love grew steadily during their junior year and junior prom was their first date. They both went to Saint Mary’s College. “We didn’t choose the same college on purpose,” says Rick Biro, “and we even tried to date other people, but we were not very successful!” They soon realized that when they were not together, something was missing. “But it took me nine years to get him to marry me,” jokes Kathy. Rick wanted to buy and fix his first house in Martinez and establish himself professionally, “I was not going to bring a bride in a rundown place,” he says. They got married in 1989 and moved back to Lafayette when they had kids. “We knew we wanted to raise our children in this community.”

For Krista Benson, her marriage to husband, Eric, is a matter of faith. “We have placed God is at the center of our relationship,” she says. Eric Benson was a junior at Miramonte, and Krista a freshman at Campolindo when they met at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church in 1991. Although they were from rival schools, after a church trip to Mexico to build houses, the two started to date.

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Karen and Matt Delaney



Rick and Kathy Biro

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