



meet the
WALKER Family

family spotlight

Darin and Kari Walker must be unwavering believers in fate, destiny, luck and serendipity. Consider author, David Levithan’s statement: “I am a firm believer in serendipity— all the random pieces coming together in one wonderful moment when suddenly you see what their purpose was all along.” Unbeknownst to Darin and Keri, their serendipitous relationship had its beginnings in 1983, when Kari moved from The Woodlands to Westlake, Darin’s home since 1973.

“We met our sophomore year while attending West Lake High School and became good friends. We both graduated from WHS in 1986.” And here is where their serendipitous path came to its completion. According to Darin, “We reunited at our 20th Year High School Reunion in 2006. We began dating in 2008 and married in 2010 at my childhood home in West Lake Hills.” (Interestingly, this same childhood home served as the backdrop for their 1986 Senior Prom pictures.) “While we didn’t attend as each other’s date, we did go in the same small group of three couples!”

During the years from 1986 and 2006, Darin and Kari journeyed down different life paths. Darin traveled down the streets of Austin to attend UT, where He graduated with a degree in Economics. He is currently a Realtor, Luxury Marketing Specialist with Moreland Properties. Darin explains that “I bring over 20 years of invest-

ment and finance expertise to the table to help advise my clients. Through my community, schools, and organizational involvement, I’m focused on the latest current events. I’ve found many of my clients find this insight helpful when in the process of making their real estate decisions.” (darin@moreland.com)

Throughout the same 20 year period, Kari went to college at St. Edward’s University and graduated with a BA in Communication. She then lived in NYC (Manhattan) for 18 years to pursue a career in marketing and sales. Today Kari is an Oncology Account Specialist with Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals.

Fast forward to 2016, and you will find that Darin and Kari have made West Lake Hills their family home as did their parents decades before. As one can imagine, the Walkers lead very busy lives. But they do manage to find time for fun and relaxation. Relaxing oftentimes takes the form of cookouts and grilling. Presently, “We are into cooking Darin’s latest catch from Alaska – halibut and salmon!” But Kari believes that Darin’s specialty is smoked brisket! And there’s more. “We join up with friends and go out a lot on the weekends to our favorite restaurants (Ranch 616, Las Palomas, Bombay Grill - for authentic Indian cuisine – and Eddie V’s), host dinner parties, attend West Lake sporting events, and enjoy activities at the Austin Country Club.”



But their fun – time and again – usually encompasses the “uniquely- Austin” music scene. The couple is partial to ACL Live at The Moody Theater and Circuit of the Americas - Austin 360 Amphitheater. The Walkers “love all types of music but especially enjoy concerts of bigger bands. We recently have seen Aerosmith, Def Leppard, Snoop Dog, Peter Frampton, Duran Duran, Stevie Wonder, and the Doobie Brothers.” Furthermore, they delight in tailgating for the UT football games and can be seen rooting for the Dallas Cowboys. And it goes without saying that Friday night lights are all about their high school alma mater, Westlake High School.

Both family and community are important to the Walkers. First and foremost is their family which includes two children – Madelynn and Jackson. The family also consists of two cats - Gingerly and Oreo – and Sparky, a rescue dog that the Walkers are fostering.

“Madelynn is a senior at Westlake High School and is a very active cheerleader in the position of a ‘flyer.’ That position is the team member that gets tossed into the air and performs stunts. She has been a gymnast since childhood. She was a member of the varsity cheer team when Westlake won the 2014 and 2015 national championships. She currently works at Blenders N Bowls between school and cheer commitments. She’s been

looking at colleges both in and out of state, but hasn’t made any decisions yet.”

“Jackson is a junior at Texas Tech University studying Wind Energy. The past two summers he’s returned home to Austin and has worked at the Paradise Cove Marina on Lake Travis with a group of his buddies from WHS. It’s been a dream job for a young college student, but he’s also excited about his future and is looking forward to an internship in his field of study.”

And with family comes its traditions that carry on and become more special year after year. Many of the Walker family traditions and memories take place on the family ranch, north of Austin, near Briggs. The ranch has been in the family since 1982 when Darin was in high school. “It was a tree farm during that time. Today it’s a recreational and working ranch that we use for hunting, fishing, campouts, and entertaining. We also run about 30 head of cattle. It has a wet weather creek with a swimming hole that is enjoyed by the second generation of our family.”

In addition, the Walker family is partial to hiking and snow skiing. They try to take a family vacation to Colorado either in the summer or winter of each year. Recent Colorado destinations have been Aspen, Vail, Crested Butte, and Purgatory in Durango – especially since Westlake High School alum, Class of 1986, James Coleman, purchased the ski resort in 2015. More recently, Darin’s fishing trip to Alaska and Kari’s “girl trip” to the South of France make for amazing memories.

For Darin, the combination of being a residential real estate advisor, (specializing in Central and West Austin) and a West Lake Hills city council member (since 2014) keeps him incredibly connected to what is happening in and around the community. As a result, Darin is uniquely involved in making a difference within the community. Currently, he is the WLH Build Design Committee Chairman and serves on several city council subcommittees. Together, the Walkers support several Austin area charities/civic groups –Texas Exes, First Tee of Austin, Colorado River Foundation, Coastal Conservation Association, Eanes EPTO, and Westlake Cheer. One special note: Darin also coordinated the class of 1986, 30-year Westlake high school reunion that took place in October 2016.

Together, Darin and Kari Walker bring a very distinct perspective to what they love about living in West Lake Hills. And in their words, it is apparent that their fondness for WLH runs just as deep as their family roots. “We love the combination of the natural setting, the peace and privacy of WLH, the strong sense of community-centered schools, the neighborhoods, and the lifestyle of being close enough to downtown Austin to enjoy the best it has to offer. In our opinion, there simply is no better place to grow up and raise your family. Westlake simply provides a very high quality of life – education, strong community, diversity of neighborhoods, real estate opportunities, and closeness to Austin.” Remember serendipity? It’s those “random pieces coming together in one wonderful moment.” It’s the Walker family. It’s West Lake Hills. It’s the Walker family and their home in West Lake Hills.