

LIVING Brentwood

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Amy and Geoff Suddleson

The blind date that never ended



Inside:

Hope through empowerment
PAGE 6

Remembering
Judy Zeidler
PAGE 17

Travel to
the islands
PAGE 23

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Amy and Geoff Suddleson

Finding what they need right in their own backyard



BY NICOLE SELHORST | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT STALEY

Sometimes, breaking the rules opens the door to wonderful things. For Geoff and Amy Suddleson, that led to a date — one that never ended.

Geoff grew up in West Los Angeles. His ties to the neighborhood are lifelong. Amy, who grew up in the Bay area, moved to Brentwood after graduating college.

“We were literally living a street away from each other,” says Amy.

The mother of one of Geoff’s oldest friends set them up on a blind date. When Geoff called, those rules about dating, “if he calls on a Wednesday there is no way I’ll agree to going out as soon as Friday. And it won’t be dinner, just a drink,” Amy says, were broken.

“We’ve learned fluidity and flexibility — enjoying the moment.”

“So, he calls and we’re having this really nice conversation and he asks if I’m available on Friday. I don’t know what came over me. I heard myself saying ‘Yes’ and then he said, ‘How about dinner?’ and I said ‘Yes!’ And worse, I agreed that he could pick me up at my apartment!” she laughs.

After a month or so of dating, Geoff arrived one Friday evening and was waiting in her living room when he noticed a basket with papers and mail sitting on a table. Peeking out of the pile was the corner of what looked like an invitation with a name Geoff recognized. Curious, he broke his own rules and pulled the invitation out of the pile - and saw the name of a friend his father went to Law School with. It appeared that they had been invited to the same wedding. That was the start of an amazing relationship filled with so many mutual connections between family and friends.

“We’ve been together ever since,” they say in unison.

“From there it took off,” says Geoff. They dated 2 years and one month before marrying in July of 2003 at Brentwood Country Club. “It all comes back to Brentwood,” says Amy.

A few years later when Geoff and Amy were looking for a house to buy, “we fell in love with Brentwood Glen. We bought our house through a backup offer,” Amy says. A house Geoff described as the ugliest house on the street. “The entire house was the brown of a See’s chocolate candy,” Geoff remembers. “And when we bought it, people were surprised and even worried.”

But Amy could already visualize transforming it into something beautiful. “I told him, ‘I’m going to paint it and build a brick porch and make it great,’” Amy adds. “We were renting our apartment, I was working at Brentwood School, and we were working on the new house. I transformed the house

on a really small budget, and it was adorable!”

Years later they dramatically redid the house — by tearing it down. But by 2017 they needed even more space and began looking around at other houses. “We were wondering where to live. But we loved Brentwood Glen. It’s really special and the neighbors are very close. People care. So, we added a second story to the house, and never left!” says Amy.

With two daughters, the family is constantly on the go. Both girls started at Brentwood School. Madalyn is 17 years old and attends Palisades Charter High School. She is active on the dance team, theater, school musicals, the comedy club, and loves playing the guitar. She just finished applying to colleges.

Brooklyn, at 12 years old, is in 7th grade at Turning Point School in Culver City. There she plays soccer and performs in school musicals. Coming from Kenter Canyon Elementary Charter, she feels well prepared.

And what both parents wish for their daughters are lifelong ties to a strong community. Geoff is still connected to his childhood friends. As Amy’s dad said at their wedding, “Geoff is the first person I ever knew who had kept his first friend.” Geoff adds, “My oldest best friend and I might not see each other that often. But we can meet for dinner and just pick up as if no time has passed.”

He played football and baseball in high school and attended UC San Diego where he was recruited to play on the baseball team. But, he says, “I really want the college town experience, so I transferred to UCLA my sophomore year.” Geoff’s parents, brother, and sister-in-laws all attended UCLA and their adorable dog is named ‘Bruin!’

“And thus, her organizing business was born.”

Geoff has stayed very involved in UCLA athletics and enjoys traveling to games. He serves on the Entertainment cabinet of the UCLA Alumni Association.

“I grew up in an entertainment family and my father was head of business affairs at Paramount Studios,” he says. When I was at UCLA, I remember having a heart to heart with my father about choosing a major since I wanted to stay in the industry. He told me to study what interested me, and to have fun.” Geoff earned a degree in history and spent his summers working in industry jobs.

“I spent many months as a Production Assistant. It’s a great learning ground. I had an internship for the *Arsenio Hall* show, then worked production on *Wayne’s World*, the *Naked Gun* sequel, and worked on the Bruce Lee biopic, *The Last Action Hero*.”

After graduation, when Geoff’s classmates were





running off to backpack through Europe, “I hopped on a plane to NY to work on the third Die Hard sequel as a Production Assistant. But I felt that production work was unsteady, and I didn’t want that kind of life. So, I came home and shortly thereafter, went to work for Marc Platt at Tristar Pictures.” Geoff worked with Marc at both Tristar Pictures and Universal Pictures before being promoted to a Studio Executive at Universal Pictures. Years later, Geoff made the change to television and worked at MTV, Fox Sports, and ultimately moved to the agency side of the business. In 2004, he went to the United Talent Agency as a packaging agent, in unscripted television, where he now serves as a Partner and Co-Head of the Unscripted Television Group.

“It’s the thing I talk about all the time in this industry when giving advice. It’s an incredibly flexible environment with a general set of similar transferable skills that we all have. Whether you’re a writer or an executive, or anything having to do with the industry, there is room for change,” Geoff says.

After graduation at UC Davis Amy worked as a Production Assistant on a television show produced by Steven Levitan. But when the show was canceled, she was out of a job — and she decided to leave that freelance world. “I’m organized and I like a plan. That kind of job instability wasn’t for me.” She became an event planner for Universal Studios and then went on to work at Brentwood School as

Director of Alumni Events and Fundraising.

These work experiences solidified Amy’s skills in planning and ultimately in organizing.

“A friend reached out and was thinking of putting their house on the market. She said, ‘I know you have a good eye — can you help me stage my house?’ I knew I could help. I could see the space in my head and knew how to make it both beautiful and functional,” Amy adds. “But when I saw the house, I realized there was so much stuff that it was hard to see what she actually had — so we broke it into steps of clearing, editing, and moving things out before we began staging items in a visually appealing and organized way.”

“Our family values being kind, sharing our gifts and giving back.”

A week later another person called and asked for the same kind of talented help. Her referrals grew. “And thus, her organizing business was born,” says Geoff.

Helping friends organize and transform their spaces always came naturally to her and she sees potential where others see a mess. The surprise was years ago when people started offering to pay her for her services and expertise, doing what she loved.

With a degree in Visual Communication and expertise in spatial design, Amy has worked as an organizer and designer for almost two decades. In 2019 she rebranded

her company, hired lawyers, a bookkeeper, and employees and created The Nimble Nest, a luxury lifestyle brand. Her company transforms spaces with her uniquely customized, one-on-one approach.

So, what do they all do for fun? Hiking as a family up Kenter Canyon with Bruin, making an effort to gather together on weekends, traveling and trying new restaurants are all part of their precious family time together. “I love my alma mater and the fact that it’s right in our backyard,” says Geoff. “We’ll walk to sports events, soccer or baseball, and just connect as a family. They love taking weekend trips to Palm Desert to unwind. “We’ve learned fluidity and flexibility — enjoying the moment,” he adds.

And Amy concurs. “We try to empower others to make choices that work for them — whether it’s the children, a talented young person looking for advice, or someone who needs their personal space transformed.”

“We’ve each found fulfilling careers, and we’re helping others. If I can meet one student and impact their desire and interest then I’ve succeeded,” says Geoff.

“It goes back to our family core values of being kind, sharing our gifts and giving back,” says Amy. “We take the time to find and stay true to ourselves and those around us. When you fill your bucket with these things, you are better able to help fill those of others.” ■