



KATHLEEN ELLEN STECKLER

August 13, 1949 - June 13, 2019

OUR FIRST DATE per Vic Steckler:

As an impressionable young man watching the Tube [no, not YouTube] I recall a particularly fascinating artistic portrayal of the human condition in a 1950's weekly live TV play series. It highlighted an aspect of human nature that I have rarely seen done so well. The theme involved displaying an identical critical family event consecutively each week from the unique and perspective of each of the family members. Each individual recollected the event quite differently with the most significant consequence for their lives. Thus each reacted to the event in amazingly varied ways. My point in rendering this tale is to explain a recent interaction I enjoyed with R, our hospice volunteer, while we're at the bedside with my wife: R inquired how did we meet. I explained it was essentially a blind date orchestrated by good friends. At the time I had phoned this young lady and we spoke for an extended time thus successfully scheduling our first date. From this point on I cannot swear in court that events happened the way I recall them; however, this is my story, so I am sticking to it. On the other hand, I've always had the impression that to-be-bride perceived the first date as not going exactly as I am about to portray but I prefer my own lovely rendition. So.... We went to a soul food restaurant in the meatpacking district of lower Manhattan. They had a jazz band playing background music and served some unfamiliar cuisine. These were the days before it was cool to travel downtown. Back in the day, the elevated High Line Park was not even a gleam in the developer's eye. But somehow, I felt it was an interesting location, albeit at the time a rather sketchy locale, which for a first date could be rather interesting & creative. Somehow, I sensed that being interesting would be particularly attractive to this young lady and if nothing else I wanted to be interesting. This was not your generic movie & a drink type of the first date. Getting there were half the adventure and the destination was integral to the experience. Of course, I thought I had made a cool selection being the young, urbane, hip youth sort of person I wanted to portray. Unfortunately, I did a faux pas since I had not a clue what food to order. I ended up being served a rather fatty ham-butt type dish, which I found rather unpalatable. What happens next set the stage for our life together. My date immediately volunteered to switch plates with me so I could enjoy her much more attractive & wise selection. I was completely hooked at that point. Having just started a relationship with this

woman it was immediately clear that she essentially, [a] could turn lemons into lemonade and [b] put her hand in the fire for me. My wife has been doing exactly that all her life for me, our children, friends, and relatives. The depth of character I worked so hard to display for utterly self-serving reasons was virtually overshadowed by her simple, altruistic gesture, which characterized the type of human being she was and remains. Some people work hard to make themselves look good and some people just have the natural, innate ability to do the right thing effortlessly. And of course, as I like to repeat almost by rote, "She is always right ". As I wrapped up this first-date story to R I sensed that my wife was reacting in a way just to essentially communicate..... that is not the way it happened. I gently responded explaining, hey it's my story and I can remember it the way I remember it. We Kind of chuckled, sorta, kinda, non-verbally in a subliminal manner no one else would be able to pick up on. I know she knew what the rebuke meant. Once again to me, this tale reveals that my Bride demonstrated in a simple & elegant manner that she continues to give to me. I would submit my wife continues to do so more than I could ever return or give back even as I attempt to solace her.

Cemetery

Private Cremation

NJ,

Comments



“ 3 files added to the album Kathleen



Patricia Gazdowicz - June 17 at 04:45 PM



“ I remember when Flo came home from the hospital I was proud as can be I was an uncle at 12. Pat & Flo lived upstairs of us on Loomis. I had asked my sister if I could hold the new baby, she said yes. I picked up this little blonde bundle and was walking around the kitchen when I tripped and fell while holding Kathy for some reason I remember turning so as not to fall on the Baby, I landed on my back, that was the last time I carried her. What a beautiful baby she was and even more so in adult life. We were lucky to have her while we did.
God Bless girl
Uncle Bob

Robert A McGuire - June 16 at 07:45 PM



“ That is a great story!

Rita Cannon - June 16 at 08:46 PM



“ We have enrolled Kathy in Perpetual Masses at the shrine of the Little Flower and Daily prayers said by the Carmelites. Joe and Linda Thiel

Linda Thiel - June 16 at 07:25 PM



“ Thank you Linda! Kathy was smiling a few weeks ago when you spoke with her on the phone, reminiscing about growing up together.

Sheila Higgins Bedard - June 17 at 09:59 AM



“ I will always be grateful that you made that possible. So happy our memories made her smile. Thanks Sheila

Linda Thiel - June 17 at 06:35 PM



“ Uncle Bob & I have requested Kathy be remembered in Masses at the Knock Shrine in Knock, Ireland.

Judie McGuire - June 16 at 06:09 PM



“ Bernadette lit a candle in memory of KATHLEEN ELLEN STECKLER



Bernadette - June 16 at 04:15 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



rita cannon - June 16 at 03:42 PM



“ We were on our way to St. Mary's. That was the visit in which the toilet overflowed after Bryan's use. I believe it scarred him for life.

Am missing Kathy, and wishing her peace.

rita cannon - June 16 at 03:45 PM



“ Kathy I was so fortunate to have known you. Your beautiful family, your strength, depth, beauty and humor made you one in a million. I loved the time we spent together.

Jeanne Pieper - June 16 at 02:01 PM



“ It was a joy to have known you, to have introduced you to your wonderful husband Vic, and to have maintained a friendship spanning decades. You are missed. Rest In Peace.

Jim and Elaine Whelan - June 15 at 11:22 AM



“ Best “ big” sister ever. Love you Kathy and will miss you like crazy. Happy you are now at peace
Barbara

Barbara McCallion - June 15 at 08:00 AM



“ 10 files added to the album Kathleen



Victor - June 13 at 10:06 PM



“ What a beautiful collection of photos and fond memories! I have always looked up to Kathy. Such a kind, gentle, intelligent woman. I loved her sense of humor and her strong sense of loyalty to her lovely family! You will be missed so much Kathy by all of us fortunate to have known you and love you!

Ellen - June 16 at 09:42 PM



“ My sister, Godmother and my daughter's Godmother - you are loved and missed. Peace, until we meet again.

Sheila Higgins Bedard - June 17 at 10:01 AM



“ I'll see you on the other side at a later day. Will miss you so much! Please visit me as a cardinal. Wishing you peace and rest

ME Higgins - June 17 at 10:49 AM



“ I will miss our long telephone calls, across the miles that separated us. We shared a bed for many years in our crowded houses and we shared babysitting duties as the older sisters. But more importantly we shared our loving family which made Kathy the thoughtful lady she was. She never forgot a date or a birthday and was always concerned for the welfare of our extended relatives. I hope you are at peace.

Patty

Patty Gazdowica - June 17 at 03:16 PM