



Salsa Dancing turns to love

BY JEAN HAILEY

Katie and Keith met in 2004 when Keith purchased the house that was across the street from Katie's parents. Keith, a software developer, was a transplant from Virginia and had moved to Austin with his company. Keith walked his black Labrador, Fathom, past Katie's parents' house every day. Katie's dad had a soft spot for Labs, so he quickly struck up a friendship with Keith and Fathom.



Katy & Keith Astoria OCTOBER 14, 2006

Before long, Keith and Katie's dad were helping each other with household projects and just hanging out together after work. Katie had seen Keith in passing whenever she visited her parents, but they never said much to each other. For months Katie's dad would tell her what a great guy Keith was and how she really needed a guy like him, but she never took the hint.

After several months of seeing each other in passing, Keith mentioned to Katie that he needed someone to house sit and take care of Fathom while he went to Virginia for the holidays. Katie had just moved out of her old house and had not yet found a new one, so she agreed to stay at Keith's house to take care of the dog while he was gone. (Little did she know that this was a set-up on her dad's part to get them together!) Keith and Katie went out with a group of friends the night before

he left for Virginia, and then when he returned after the holidays they began dating officially.

Although Keith and Katie are very different (he's an introvert, and she's a social butterfly; he likes camping and hiking, and Katie likes sipping wine in fancy restaurants), they discovered some activities that they could both enjoy and grow together. They began Salsa dancing about three months after they started dating. Katie had danced off and on for years and had always wanted to delve more deeply into Latin dancing, but wanted a partner who would learn with her. To her surprise, Keith was willing and excited to learn to dance! They started taking classes and private lessons together several times a week, and over the course of the next year they laughed, cried, and danced their way into a blossoming relationship. They truly believe that the lessons they needed to learn to prepare them for marriage – trust, honesty, and commitment – were learned there on the dance floor.

On November 17, 2005 Keith decided to take Katie out for a special dinner under the guise of celebrating a new job she had

gotten. She was running late and was rushing to put her lipstick on when Keith pulled her aside and into the living room. He told her that he loved her and said, "You know that, right?" She said, "Yes, of course I know that, what's going on?" The next thing she knew he had pulled a Benold's Jewellery box out of his jacket pocket and handed it to her. She was too afraid to open it, so she didn't even look at the ring right away! She just started screaming, "Yes! Yes!" and hugged him. Then she realized that she hadn't given him a chance to ask her to marry him! She made him say, "Will you marry me?" Keith then opened the ring box and put the ring on her finger. They both cried and hugged and kissed, and of course she said yes again! Katie jokes and says that she has not quite forgiven him for not letting her finish applying her lipstick before he proposed.

Keith and Katie enlisted the help of Lindy Riddell and Resha Zazueta of 36th Street Weddings for their planning and day-of-coordination, and felt that they were fantastic wedding planners. They helped them coordinate all their vendors for their venue. After months and months of planning,



Austin Resources:

Wedding Consultant:

36th Street Weddings

Wedding Ceremony and Reception:

The Vista on Seward Hill

Catering: Sterling Affairs Catering

Gown: Ahead of the Curve Bridal

Bridesmaid's Dresses: Belle Saison Bridal

Tuxedos: Al's Formal Wear

Officiant: Reverend Vickie Wood

Photographer: Francois Photography

Music: Complete Music DJs

Cake: Michelle's Patisserie

Linens: Austin Party Central

Florist: Wild Poppy Texas

Rings: Benold's Jewelers

Keith and Katie were married at Vista on Seward Hill in Austin on October 14, 2006. Their wedding was a weekend extravaganza for 100 guests. They hosted several outings in and around Austin, where their visitors from outside Austin could get a taste (quite literally!) of the eclectic city. For the wedding itself, they wanted to create an elegant yet distinctive ambiance that reflected them as a couple. They each had a hand on every aspect of their wedding, such as the invitations, programs, and décor. They wrote their own vows and hand selected the music for their ceremony. To represent their vivid yet contrasting personalities, they chose a contrasting color scheme with autumn jewel tones of rust, red-orange, deep plum, and bright gold set against a background of chocolate brown, and continued the bold colors throughout the entire ceremony and reception. From the colored sand in the sand ceremony, the bright floral, the shimmering table linens, right down to the icing detail on the wedding cake, the jewel tones were carried through all aspects of the wedding décor.

Tons of candles and sparkling lights lent a romantic air to the dining room and dance floor. The air was almost magical in the garden patio, where fire pits blazed while guests mingled, sipping Texas Wine and nibbling on fruits and cheese during the cocktail hour.

Since Keith and Katie had developed their love for dancing at the same time as their love for each other, they decided to wow their guests by performing a choreographed Salsa Dance during their reception. It was a complete surprise for the guests, and they felt the guests really enjoyed seeing the bride and groom as the "entertainment" for the evening! Keith and Katie had the time of their lives, and feel as though their friends and family did too.

After their steamy Salsa Dancing and Fantasy Wedding Keith and Katie honeymooned for seven days and six nights in a private beachfront villa at the Fairmont Kea Lani, in Maui, Hawaii.

One can never tell where Salsa dancing will lead you. It definitely lead Keith and Katie to the alter. ❖❖❖