

# Indianalantic

NEIGHBORS



## The Rockin Rad Family



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Dana Niemeier Photography

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# The Rockin Rad Family

By Jennifer Torres | Photography by Dana Niemeier Photography

Some may call it a happy coincidence or perhaps think of it as fate, but for two people who grew up thousands of miles apart, finding each other was simply a case of “what’s meant to be will always find a way.”

Originally from New Jersey, Margaret’s family moved to Boca Raton in Florida when she was just 11-years-old. Hamid was born in Iran, but at the age of 15, his family sent him to England where he lived with a British family while attending a private school in London.

But when it was time for college they both decided on Florida Atlantic University and met after discovering they had four out of five classes together.

The only class they didn’t have together was basketball, where Hamid eventually came and watched Margaret play one of her favorite sports. It was love at first sight.

“I knew she was going to be my wife as soon as I saw her,” Hamid said.

But when President Jimmy Carter froze all Iranian assets and placed sanctions on Iran, it effected Hamid’s ability to continue his schooling. So, after a year of dating, they quit school together and eloped.

“We came from different cultures but had the same structure for life in general,” Hamid said. “We were young and in love.”

Because of the heavy sanctions between America and Iran, Hamid had to return to Iran. Margaret stayed behind for a few months, but they were madly in love and she knew she could not live without him. Eventually she had to join her husband.

“I was afraid to go to Iran while they were still holding on to the hostages,” Margaret said. “I didn’t know what I was getting myself into!”

Iran was in the midst of a revolution, and civil unrest was rampant. After overthrowing the Persian monarchy, there were widespread demonstrations, strikes, and violence. Eventually the leader of the revolution, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, took charge.

“My parents were very concerned about us, having numerous articles written about me throughout Florida Newspapers from 1979 thru 1981,” Margaret said.

In November, 1979, The U.S. Embassy in Iran was overrun by thousands of locals and 66 Americans were taken hostage in a crisis that lasted 444 days. While Margaret was not one of



the hostages, she was part of the 200 other Americans unable to leave the country after the U.S. Embassy closure.

“We were on the sidelines. We both witnessed the revolution happening in Iran,” Margaret said. “Surviving through the Gulf War with Iraq, it was a severely stressful situation. We saw so many things most people didn’t read or hear about.”

It took quite some time to eventually leave the country and the couple does not like to talk about the specifics right now of how they managed to finally leave – but they did.

“It was a very difficult time and very scary, you don’t really appreciate what you have until you don’t have it.” Margaret said.

Margaret is currently writing a memoir about their journey and the truth about the real regime and its people.

After the harrowing experience, the family traveled around Europe to destinations including; Germany, Turkey, France, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands.

“We embrace and enjoyed other cultures, not to mention Hamid is a fabulous cook who can prepare all types of Persian dishes and when it comes to grilling and smoking he is a master” Margaret said. “There are good people in every country!”

Eventually they settled back in the United States and had a daughter named Candice.

Margaret now works as a Realtor in the Satellite Beach office of Vista Florida Realty LLC.

Hamid is a Business Consultant for Arby’s Restaurant Group where he’s worked for over 30 years. Inspired Brands is the parent company of Arby’s, he supports the franchise owners in Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. He takes pride in working with such a family oriented and talented leadership.

Now grown, their son Kaivon lives in Miami, FL where he works as a Vice President for a large bank, ranking a number one spot for several years. Their daughter Candice recently married and lives in Ohio with her husband, Darin who works as a pharmacist.

The couple enjoys fishing, boating and football. They are big advocates against animal abuse, donating their time and money to several local causes that support animals.

They also enjoy spending quality time in their condo in Daytona Beach where they can relax and enjoy time with each other while listening to the sounds of the ocean.

Their own furry family members include Shih Tzu’s Abbey and Mugsy. They also have three saltwater fish tanks and a very talkative African Grey bird named Bubba, who speaks over 50 words in both English and Fars – and a few choice words too!

“We love animals very much. I’ve always stuck up for the underdog, probably from seeing how animals are treated in war and intense situations,” Margaret said. “There are so many animals in the world with no homes and we need to educate people on how to treat them.”

The couple has spent the last 18 years in a house off Riverside drive in Indialantic.

Margaret and Hamid are gearing up to celebrate 39 years of marriage this month and Margaret says the secret to a long, happy marriage is to pick your battles, keep your own independence and they give each other space to be themselves.

“We are so thankful to be able to live in the United States, where you can live free and make your dreams come true,” Hamid said. “I thank God. God Bless America and God bless our troops. Our blessings go out to all families. Happy Thanksgiving!”

*Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at [jtorres@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:jtorres@bestversionmedia.com).*

