

FEATURED FAMILY

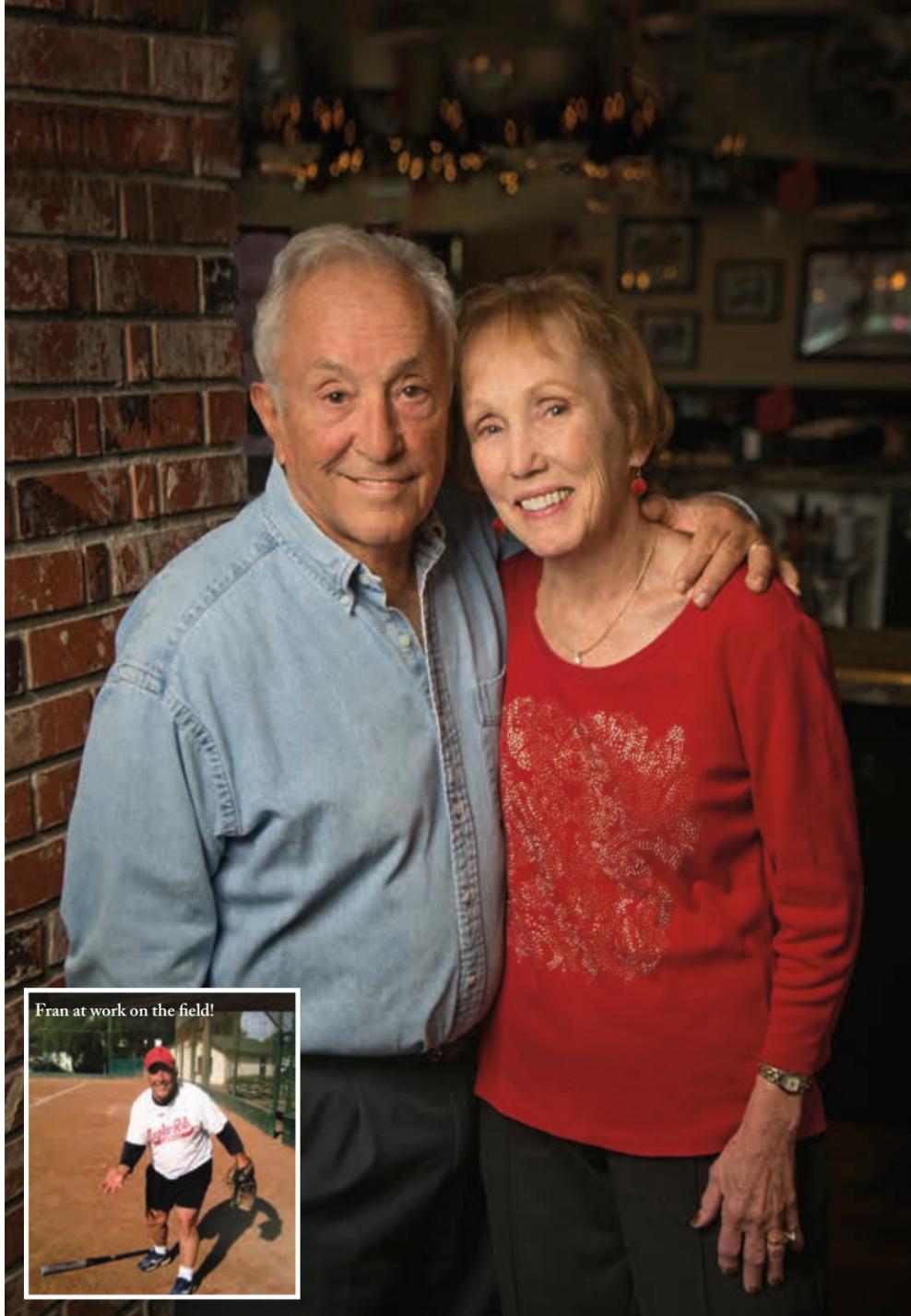
Meet the Ursinis ... A 52 year Love Affair!

By Marybelen Richey
Photography by Tony Florez

Our family spotlight this month is illuminating Fran and Karen Ursini, fifteen-year residents of Spyglass Hill. Their story began when they met at their church youth group in Chicago when they were both just fourteen. They soon began dating and attended high school together, as football player and cheerleader. Karen is proud to say that she still has the little gold football on a chain that Fran gave to her at that time. Apparently their life together was meant to last as they recently celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary surrounded by their three children Dave, John, and Laura, their spouses, and their eight grandchildren.

The Ursinis are presently the owners of the Newport Rib Company in Costa Mesa and Naples Rib Company in Long Beach, but their restaurant ties to this area began back in the mid sixties when they opened up The Surfer, on the corner of Oceanfront and 22nd Street in Newport Beach. A second culinary venture soon followed with the purchase of Hadley's, near the Newport Beach pier. The Ursinis quickly changed the name of Hadley's to Pipeline, and it is still owned and operated by the family today.

Fran delights in telling the story of the time, after his sons had graduated from college and were going to work every-day in suits and ties, when they realized maybe Dad with his business attire of shorts and tennis shoes, had the better idea! Following this realization, Dave



and John soon joined Dad and Mom in the family restaurant business. Along with their sister, Laura, they are presently running all of these family restaurant establishments.

Many local teenagers from CDM, NH, and CM high schools have been employed at the Ursini restaurants and were fervently mentored by Fran. He has followed the sports and business careers of most of these former employees and still remains in contact

with many of them. Local football players might also recognize Fran from his 49+ years of officiating at coastal games. Fran's love of sports doesn't stop there, as he actively plays in a local senior softball league.

Karen joined the Spyglass Hill Garden Club in 2000 soon after moving here to meet people from the neighborhood. She is still active with the club and currently serves as their corresponding secretary. She also enjoys playing bunco, as well as attending many special events, with these long time friends. Karen is involved in many local charities such as the Costa Mesa Foundation, Alzheimer's Daycare Center, and along with daughter Laura, Autism Care and Treatment, better known as ACT.

When Fran and Karen are not in town cheering on one of their favorite teams, they may be vacationing at one of their preferred destinations of London or Venice, although Karen says there are not nearly enough chances for that! They say they love the fun and friendly people of Spyglass Hill! Fran and Karen invite you to stop by one of their restaurants for some great food, to watch a game, or just to say hi!