

SPOTLIGHT

Pat Patane

Coming from my office off Lake Emma Drive, I was a bit late arriving for our lunch visit at Lugiano's. But, Pat was gracious and we hit it off right away. Through our discussions, I realized that Pat has had an extraordinarily wonderful normal life. Of course, there have been highs and lows, but Pat has persisted in her Irish-heritage way. Notably, she has 37 cousins on just her mother's side!

Heathrow Women's Club (HWC) has had the good fortune of Pat joining us about three years ago. She has been very active in the hospitality and social committees and now serves as Chairwoman for the Hospitality Committee. And, in that capacity she has been very kind in welcoming my Mother to HWC! Pat founded the DIVA Book Club which reads and discusses such interesting books as "Gone Girl" and other works of fiction and non-fiction.

Pat is a hair stylist by profession and has been practicing for over 30 years! She now hangs her shingle at Shades Salon in Lake Mary and has many HWC members as patrons. Pat prides herself on being able to be her own boss and to set her own hours. And, she thoroughly enjoys the social side of her profession and has made many good friends over the years.

Pat and her husband of 25 years, Sam, love the beach. On most Sundays you'll find them over at one of their favorite Gulf side beaches enjoying the surf and sun. They have visited most beaches on both the Gulf and Atlantic sides of Florida. In fact, it was their honeymoon in Destin, FL that led them to move from St. Louis, MO to Florida. Like most people from northern climates, one fall on the ice in the driveway was enough to inspire a move to Florida! Sam and Pat love to travel and have enjoyed a number of Caribbean cruises, most notably on the Oasis of the Seas! And they continue to travel around Florida, finding unique spots like Key West.

Pat is the mother of five children, several of them living nearby. Parenthood comes naturally as Pat comes from a large family of five children, three girls and two boys. Most of her siblings still live in St. Louis, but one of her sisters lives nearby in Orlando. Pat's two youngest sons, Tony and Sam Jr., are both in the US Air Force reserve while working on a computer degree and on an oil rig, respectively. Pat's grandchildren (five) live in St. Louis, as does her daughter Natalie. So, needless to say, Pat and her son Chris, who lives here and is the father of two of the grandchildren, spend a lot of their time up north! Pat's looking forward to next summer when some of the older grandchildren can have a visit in Orlando and of course see Mickey Mouse and pals. Pat's daughter, Jessica, lives locally and works at Ravalia's, a new Italian restaurant (which I can highly recommend personally)!

As we were finishing our lunch, Pat shared with me that she had been dieting for two months and had lost 18 pounds! I was curious about her plan, as I am trying to lose some weight too. Pat shared a couple of her secrets of success, but you'll have to chat with her for the inside scoop. Me, I'm still working on it!



BY LEE GRANGER