

SPOTLIGHT

Exclusively for the residents of Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club

April 2021

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS
**LISA AND CARL
KLEPPER**





Carl and Lisa Klepper

On Being Multi-Generational Residents of Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club

Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club has seen its fair share of residents over the years. In fact, Royal Palm is currently home to almost 3,000 residents. So, seeing as how many people have lived in Royal Palm over the years and have gone on to expand their families while living in the community, it's not unusual to see multi-generational families living here for years to come. One such family that has lived within the community going on three generations now are Carl and Lisa Klepper.

The Kleppers first moved from Manhattan to Florida in 1998 after getting married the previous year. However, when it came time to choosing what Florida community they would call home, it was an easy decision. "I basically grew up visiting Royal Palm because my grandparents had been here since the late '70s. My grandparents, Edith and Anthony Comparato, were long-time and well-known residents. So, for me, anywhere else just didn't feel like home," said Lisa. With that, the Kleppers have been loving their life in Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club along with their two children for many years now. In addition, Lisa's sister's family, Lori and Bobby D'Angelo, also live in the neighborhood.

Their son Carl Anthony plays Division I Lacrosse at Mercer University and their daughter Sophia is currently attending the University of Virginia which happens to be Lisa's alma mater. Carl and Lisa even joked that their house, over the years, became the go to place for their kids and their friends to hang out. "I would come home and all the neighborhood kids would just be at my house hanging out," said Lisa with a laugh. Sitting down with the Kleppers, we talked about the fun story of how they met, their current career endeavors, and what it is about Royal Palm that feels like home to them.

Q: Where are you both originally from?
L: I was born in Rochester, New York, but I was raised in McLean, Virginia.
C: I grew up in Long Island, New York, in a town called Huntington Bay.

Q: How did you both meet?
L: I was getting my MBA at Georgetown University and Carl was visiting his college roommate in 1994 and we met in a favorite hangout called Third Edition. The next time he came to town six months later he called in advance asking for a date.

Q: What did you do on your first date?
C: I drove to D.C. and I told her I was picking her up to go out and I asked her to wear a formal gown. She asked where we were going but I wouldn't tell her. After picking her up, I took her to my college roommate's black-tie wedding downtown.
L: I remember thinking, "Where could we possibly be going that I need to wear a formal gown?"

Q: Do you have any family traditions?
C: We try to spend all of our meals together. It's very important for us to eat together because that's our time to really catch up.
L: I honestly think we spend a lot more time together as a family than most people do. During quarantine especially, I cooked most

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of our meals because I love to cook and frankly enjoy it more than most restaurants. We also have quite a large extended family in Boca, 21 to be exact, and are privileged to be able to see them so often, especially during the holidays.

C: During quarantine, we had a nightly movie marathon. The best was when we watched all 26 Marvel movies in order from start to finish. Speaking of movies, as tradition, we also watch all the Harry Potter movies with the kids during Christmas break. The holidays are big for our family. We've hosted Thanksgiving for 20 plus years and all of our family comes over dinner. We usually end up having as many as 30 people at a time. Christmas Day is always at the D'Angelos, and we have alternated Christmas Eve over the years. Each holiday bringing more extended family and friends. It's always an undertaking but something we cherish.

Q: What do you like to do for fun?

C: We do everything together.

L: The kids have been a big part of our fun meter. They both played sports at school and travel programs which kept us extremely busy during school and on weekends. We also take a yearly family vacation in the summer. During covid we like to take walks in the morning with our fur babies and weekend trips to the beach.

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

L: I like to work out, read, cook and enjoy photography, it's always been a passion of mine and my daughter, Sophia, has a passion for it as well.

C: I play golf once a week, workout every day, and play tennis once a week. I also have a big passion for any kind of motorized vehicle. I have had 25 motorcycles, street bikes, sports cars, you name it. However, all the maintenance became somewhat draining. So, I've narrowed down my focus to doing activities outdoors and exercising.

Q: Do you have a favorite quote?

C: I can't take credit for it but it describes me to a "T". "Life's journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out, shouting, 'Holy s***! What a ride.'"

Q: Of all the places you've traveled to, which was your favorite?

L: Carl will say anywhere in Italy. We can't go anywhere in Europe without stopping in Italy for at least a few days or he'll be upset. That's how much



he loves it and I love it too. However, my favorite vacation was Africa for a month with the kids in 2019. That was a bucket list trip!

C: One of the most fun trips I think Lisa and I ever planned was a trip through smaller towns in Spain and Italy and then Turkey that were off the beaten path. Then, at the end of our month-long trip, we flew directly from Istanbul to Maine to pick up our kids from camp.

Q: Do you have any funny or exciting stories from throughout your life together?

L: Living with my husband is exciting and funny every day!

C: Soon after we moved to Florida, we had planned a ski vacation to Vail, Colorado with her sister Lori. We had an early morning flight so the night before we decided to go out in Miami and sleep down there at a condo we had just finished. After a fun night out, the next morning we arrive to the airport only for them to tell us that our flight was taking off out of Fort Lauderdale, not Miami! Somehow in our sleepy stupor, we still made it. Now, the big joke in the family is we always make sure to check our itinerary and tickets before leaving.

Q: Lisa, you have a new career endeavor, can you tell me about that?

L: Seems like I've had a few careers so far. I started in NYC as marketing director of the cosmetic company Borghese. Then consulted in marketing for years. While I was raising my kids I had a retail endeavor selling European clothing and jewelry for eight years. However, right now, Carl just finished Tower 155 in Boca and there's a retail space at the base of the building where I'm going to be opening up a gourmet market. We're currently in the planning and design phase.

Q: Carl, can you tell me more about your business Compson Homes?

C: Compson Homes is an arm of Compson. The company is a fourth-generation family business and I represent the fourth generation. Compson as an overall umbrella started in Rochester, New York, with Lisa's great-grandfather building homes with his son Anthony in the 1940s.

L: The name Compson is a combination of the name Comparato and Sons. My grandfather had three boys and they all followed his lead into the family business. They all started in Rochester, New York, and then my uncle Bob moved to Boca and joined my grandfather and my father while his brother, Tom, stayed in Rochester before relocating to the D.C. area. My father, Jim, moved to Boca in the late 90's and Carl became involved with the family business when we married. Now, Carl and my brother-in-law, Bobby D'Angelo, are partners.

C: As a company, there are a lot of things that we do. We buy, sell, develop, and manage real estate. We're a multifaceted company.

Q: What makes Compson unique among other builders in the area?

C: The first thing I think that differentiates us is we like to be original. We like to make sure that when you go



to someone's house, you don't see the same details that you have in your home. However, I think what really separates us is that we're approachable and stand by you even after the house has closed. Bobby and I both live and breathe Royal Palm and it means so much to be respected in our community. It's also a sense of pride and commitment of how we see the community evolve. Our clients know to call us when they need help, and we will do anything for them. I believe that level of service is an integral part of how we run our business.

Q: What are some of the questions you ask your clients to discern what they are looking for?

C: We become very friendly with all of our clients so we learn a lot about their lives and how they live. However, the way we learn as much as we do about them is by asking a lot of important questions to find out their budget, style preferences, etc. The biggest component we always try to make sure our clients understand is that we are completely transparent and also willing to answer any questions they have of us as well.

Q: What was one of your favorite projects?

C: We had a condo building that we built and I've never seen anything like it. It was in the 2006 corridor and it was the only time in my life that I knew exactly what it was going to cost and exactly what we were going to make. The project sold out in one day! It had 328 units. A once in a lifetime endeavor as a developer!

Q: Is there anything especially unique about building in Royal Palm?

C: I think it's the diversity of building on three different types of lots that allows for a diversity of creativity. You have the interior, waterfront, and golf course lots. The diversity creates a lot of uniqueness because the caliber of the homes keeps going up and up as the technology progresses. It's interesting to see how these homes have morphed from having formal family rooms and living rooms to now having a great room, club rooms, and offices and more open floor plans.

Q: What about your work feeds your spirit?

C: For me, it's like going to the Super Bowl every day when I get up. Whether I'm sick, tired, hurt, or scared, I give 100% every day. Everyone that knows me will attest to that!

Q: Lastly, what is your favorite part about living in Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club?

L: I can't imagine living anywhere else. My family has been in this neighborhood since the late '70s and when I think of Boca this is the only place I think of. Everywhere else just wouldn't feel like home.

C: I have always liked the relaxed feeling of this community. The people who live here are very lovely. In addition, the access to all of the amenities are unparalleled. The sun, beach, restaurants, and golf course amenities at your fingertips are unparalleled!

For more information about Compson Homes, you can contact them at 561.244.6650 or visit their website www.compson.com.

