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SOUTH WALNUT CREEK *living*



MEET THE
KNOLLE
FAMILY
*Roll with
the Punches*

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MEET THE KNOLLE FAMILY

Roll with the Punches

BY CALLIE LATTANZIO | PHOTOS BY ADRIANE COSTA PHOTOGRAPHY
AND THE KNOLLE FAMILY

John and Laura Knolle met 13 years ago on St. Patrick's Day at the Front Street block party in San Francisco's Financial District. Specifically, their paths crossed at Schroeder's as their respective groups of friends and co-workers mingled. Three years later, John and Laura wed on Hanalei Beach on the island of Kauai in Hawaii. It was a small, intimate wedding attended by two dozen of their closest family and friends. Aside from the births of their two sons, one of the best memories they have shared together was their 10 year anniversary trip to Bora Bora for a whole week. While there were some emotions leaving their boys for that long, John and Laura were happily reminded of the life they shared before becoming parents and why they married in the first place.

Sharing a common passion, Laura and John are both financial advisors. Laura works for EP Wealth Advisors, a registered financial advisory based in southern California, while John owns his own practice, Saranap Wealth Advisors, here in Walnut Creek. They were both finance majors in college. Laura attended Michigan State, where she was born and raised, and John's degree is from San Francisco State University, where he was born and raised. Laura also holds a Masters Degree in Financial Planning with an emphasis in Tax and Estate Planning from Golden Gate University. Additionally, John earned an MBA from San Francisco State. John and Laura both hold the coveted CFP® designation. Since graduation, Laura has worked in the wealth management space, specializing in helping widows and the elderly. John worked as a bond trader and portfolio manager for Mellon Capital Management in San Francisco for a little over 18 years before founding his own firm to better balance his work and personal life. He has been practicing for over 7 years now and couldn't be happier with his decision to serve individuals on a more personal level.

Jonathan (8) and Jordan (6) attend Burton Valley Elementary where Jonathan is a third grader and Jordan is in kindergarten. Jonathan demonstrated strong athletic ability from an early age and now enjoys playing baseball and basketball. He is currently playing in the WC Fall Ball League at Heather Farms Park. Jordan enjoys quieter activities



Coconut & Papaya

and harbors a strong fascination about bugs and insects. In fact, his 5th birthday party last year was bug themed and featured plastic ants carrying strawberries, gummy worm-infested watermelon, and chocolate cupcakes with crumbled Oreo “dirt” frosting! Despite John’s heritage of being half Filipino, Jordan is a blonde and Jonathan is a redhead! John exclaimed, “No one was more surprised than us when they were born, especially Jonathan. Inspired by his red hair and the fact that he was born on St. Valentine’s Day, we opted to give him a second middle name, Valentino. Not to be outdone by his brother’s two middle names, we named our second son, Jordan Andrew Christopher Knolle earning him the nickname JACK which has yet to stick.”

The Knolle family enjoys exercising and hiking. The East Bay offers access to an endless variety of both relaxing and vigorous hikes. Their favorites are family-friendly hikes at Briones and Shell Ridge. Both boys keep us busy with their various activities including sports and Cub Scouts. John and Laura both volunteer with the boy’s activities (coaching and assistant den

leader) and at their school in the library, classrooms, or hot lunch. They also enjoy swimming in their pool which was just added to their home in 2022. The Knolles take an annual trip to “Nana’s” in Michigan where the boys love to fish, canoe, run up the sand dunes at the beach, and pick blueberries. When not traveling to MI, they enjoy beach vacations to Hawaii, their annual Spring Break trip to Palm Springs or visiting one of Southern California’s many theme parks.

The Knolle family regularly volunteers with the Saranap Community Garden (SCG) which is the neighborhood organization that maintains the bike path along Olympic Blvd. in front of their house. 20 years ago, the path was an unsightly drainage ditch. Through the community’s efforts, the SCG was formed and granted the resources necessary to transform it into the beautiful, tree-lined path that we share today. The maintenance and upkeep of



Laura and the boys at Nana’s

the path is done entirely through neighborhood volunteers. John also volunteers as part of the investment committee for the SF Bay Area chapter of the Cancer Support Community*. This organization offers free counseling, nutrition advice, and support for all things non-medical to cancer patients and their caregivers. Their last Annual Charitable Gala at the California Shakespeare Theatre in Orinda raised over \$600k!



The Knolles have two small rescue dogs, Coconut, a white and tan Chihuahua/Dachshund mix and Papaya, a black and tan Cavalier King Charles Spaniel/Dachshund mix. They are both around 12-years-old and still running strong. Jonathan and Jordan love to let the dogs sprint between them on any open patch of grass they can find.

John and Laura moved to Saranap in 2008 when looking to start their family. They love

great time to connect and celebrate! There is also a neighborhood Facebook page making communication a breeze. Our neighborhood strives for togetherness so there are a few picnic tables located at the entrance of our block so that people can gather. Jonathan and Jordan recently hosted a Kool-Aid stand there with cookies and fresh baked banana bread.

"We would love to thank all of our neighbors for helping us and our children feel so welcomed



Helping clean up the path at the recent SCG cleanup day

◀4th of July 2023 parade

the proximity to both Walnut Creek and Lafayette and love their neighbors! Their neighborhood started an annual 4th of July parade decades ago that Laura now helps to organize in conjunction with other neighbors. It's a

and special in this community. We enjoy the tradition of receiving and passing down clothes and sports equipment from the various children in the area who have outgrown them after a single season. We hope to set a good example for the new families that move to this area just as the empty-nesters, who are now moving away, did

for us. And thank you to all of the advertisers who support this magazine. Without you, we couldn't enjoy this valuable source of information about our community as well as the insight it shares about its individual members such as ourselves!" -John Knolle

*If you would like to learn more about the Cancer Support Community San Francisco Bay Area, please go to cancersupport.net.