

Mimi Riley

My share is about Laird's wonderful quality of gentle steadfastness.

Laird and Kathy were married in Phoenix in October, usually a month of clear weather...important, because it was planned for the courtyard of our mother's house. Everything was set up beautifully for the ceremony, which included a large group of musicians, with instruments from India, seated on carpets.

Well, as guests were beginning to arrive a raincloud formed, came over the house and a light sprinkling started. This was such a quick change in the weather that guests had no umbrellas and loaners from Mom had to be pulled out to protect them. And...a much darker cloud was looming! What to do?

It was clear the ceremony needed to be moved inside. Someone had to make the call. Now, our mother was a frequent and incredibly generous hostess. But, not always flexible once plans were set. She might have been thinking it would stop, but who could know? With the rain starting to fall faster, the decision urgently needed to be made, and Mom seemed a bit frozen in indecision.

Laird stayed completely calm and steadfast...and talked gently with Mom. They always had a wonderful relationship with a lot of mutual respect. Once he pointed out the problem, and presented a clear solution, Mom agreed. A wonderful team of their friends leapt into action. Within moments everything was moved inside quickly and efficiently. Yes, it was a bit crowded, but everyone was filled with such good cheer it simply didn't matter.

Now, I was the one who went to tell Kathy of the switch in plans. I have a vivid memory of her just smiling calmly and saying sweetly, "Just tell me where to walk." And the lovely wedding took place between that incredibly well-matched couple; those two beautiful souls.

In fact, during the ceremony itself, there was a huge downpour; although it ended...just in time for the reception to be held back outside in the newly refreshed courtyard!

Rain at a wedding is considered a blessing in many traditions, including the one followed by Kathy, Laird, and many of their guests. So there was an added air of excitement, even jubilation! Later, a beautiful double rainbow appeared above the house, which was captured in a photo. It's in their wedding book.