

BROOKLYN_BORN

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Friday, June 03, 2016

Since I've finished my "old spark friends" project, here's one of my oldest real life friends. Joe and Me in '63 - our first date at Rockaway Beach, Long Island, NY. He was 18. I was almost 16.



We started "going steady" 4 months later. I still wear the ankle bracelet, but now it's part of a necklace.

We were married 4 years later - 49 years ago today.

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It didn't start out well. The priest didn't show up, leaving me in the back of the church with the organist playing "Here Comes the Bride" and our guests thinking that one of us got cold feet.

Then there were the anniversaries

#1 - Orders to active duty

#2 - Orders to Vietnam

#3 - He was IN Vietnam

#4 - Preparing for possible layoff. HR department explained that they HAD to give him his job back, but only for one year. Gee, thanks a lot.

#5 - Driving to new home and job in Ohio, pulling a U-Haul with a 1963 Comet. 7 months pregnant with a nearly 3 year old throwing up in the back seat.

Fortunately the marriage itself worked out well.

Here we are today (last year anyway).



So, Spark Friends, if your journey hasn't started out well or isn't going well at the moment, keep your eye on why you are doing this. Hang in there. Good things might be just around the corner.

Edit: An explanation about the priest. He was a young seminarian teaching at Joe's Jesuit HS when they met and became friends. We attended his ordination and he was going to officiate at our wedding. He completed all the paperwork required beforehand since he did not work in the Brooklyn diocese. Then he wrote the wrong date on his calendar. Joe never confirmed the date with him. After a quick visit to the parish rectory, a substitute priest hurried over to make it all legal. The reception went off without a hitch and we caught our flight to the Bahamas the next morning as planned.

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HEALTHYANDFIT27



on 49 years!
1814 days ago



YELLOW09RED



Sorry I missed your Anniversary blog.
I love the picture of you two. Congrats. on 49 years.
My DH and I will be 43 in October.



1815 days ago



MARYJEANSL



Of all the things I can imagine going wrong with a wedding - and an awful lot of them went wrong with mine! - the priest's not showing up would not be on my list. That must have been upsetting at the time, but it does make a great story now.
1815 days ago



BUSYGRANNYS



Congratulations!!
1816 days ago



PHHHISC



1818 days ago



SWEETENUGILL



Hey - he was getting a bit fresh on a 'first date' - swimsuits on the first date! Gosh! Guess you must have known each other a while before you went out?



Many congratulations!

1820 days ago



JOYCRN



You must expect something to not go as planned on your wedding day. The man who was supposed to walk me down the aisle did not show up (my mother's second husband...he didn't last) and my uncle walked me down the aisle in his gray leisure suit (remember them?). But a day does not a marriage make and 37+ years later I am in love!
1820 days ago



NANCY-



Happy Anniversary! Rough starts sometimes make for smoother sailing(kayaking) later. Hope you had a wonderful Anniversary.
1822 days ago



KRISSY82



Beautiful couple. Love this.
1829 days ago



PRNCSCUP1-2FULL



Happy Anniversary to you & your beloved!! Wishing you many more years of love, laughter & happiness! Great advice for marriage and weight loss!! Thanks for sharing yours & Joe's story!
1830 days ago



MISCHAKEO



Happy Anniversary. 40 years of happiness..
1830 days ago



SWEDE_SU



and a slightly belated happy anniversary! we almost share that, ours was #44 yesterday. love the stories of those first few anniversaries!
1831 days ago



QUEENOTHEFOREST



Congrats! What a lovely story, including the vomiting three year old. And a great pict. I bet that poor priest still has shivers when he remembers missing the day, no matter that it was not entirely his goof. I started out life spending my summers in Rockaway Beach too.

Happy anniversary.
1831 days ago



LIVEDAILY



Happy Anniversary!! I love the picture of you two on your first date!! How sweet! When I look at your wedding photo, I see that your daughter resembles you a great deal. And, when I look at the latest photo of you two, I see a couple still very much in love!



1831 days ago



TUTUNAN



Here's to the good life! Congratulations, and may you have many more anniversaries to celebrate!
1831 days ago



BBEGAN



How wonderful! And weren't you two cozy for a first date...
1832 days ago



SPARKNB



2021  Congrats!
1832 days ago



DOVESEYES




1832 days ago



CD16644385




I love this story and what a bathing beauty you are!
1832 days ago



STEPH-KNEE



Happy Anniversary!! 
1832 days ago



CHERALA




Happiest of anniversaries to you both!
1832 days ago



ONEKIDSMOM



 It's the things that go wrong that make us strong and give us memories to look back on. We sometimes don't remember the things that came easy, but for sure we remember the ones that came HARD.
1832 days ago



PHEBESS



Happy anniversary! And I love the fact that you two go back so far together! What wonderful memories you share, and continue to make!
1832 days ago



GINIEMIE



Without the downs we wouldn't appreciate the ups, without the rough waters we wouldn't notice smooth sailing. Marriage like anything worth having has to be worked for and on. It doesn't just fall on our fingers with the ring. Congratulations to you and Joe. You got married, so what

happened to the priest? There's a storoy there.





1832 days ago



PHOENIX1949



for sharing the pics.

1832 days ago



HOLLYM48

What a great story! Happy Happy Anniversary to you and your hubby. I am so glad everything has worked out over the years. Those are the best marriages, the ones that come with a little bump in the road every once in a while! Way to go!

1832 days ago



CARBMONSTERII

What a beautiful life! Tears, fears and joy, all in a few photos and paragraphs. Love the first date photo. Love the last year's photo even more. Thanks so much for sharing!!

1832 days ago



JAMIRBLAZE

Love your story and pictures! Congrats!

1832 days ago



CD4114015

YIKE! You did have a rocky start....John was in Viet Nam too....BAD stuff too but so glad he came back. Got several medals for his service....get this...he LOVED the war.

Your pics are absolutely awesome!



1832 days ago



POINDEXTRA

Congratulations! Wonderful pictures - both of them. Wishing you many more (uneventful) anniversaries to come.

1832 days ago



JEANKNEE



Congratulations on your 49th anniversary!



DH & I had a rocky start too! When the church burned down in the weeks following our wedding, a co-worker said to me, "Better settle in for the long haul. Church burned down after Bernie & I married and we've been married a looooooong time." I responded, "That's the plan!"

We will mark our 30th this year.

1832 days ago



SYLPHINPROGRESS

It's such a treat to see the old photos. You're still vibrant and beautiful. Make this the best 49th anniversary celebration -- it's the only one of its kind you'll have.

1832 days ago



SEAJESS

I really needed this message right now!



on your life well-lived. I love the anniversary summary.



You and Joe were a beautiful couple then and are a beautiful couple now. What happened with the no show priest? That was before the interwebs, so Universal Life ministers weren't available. Did he show up late? Inquiring minds want to know!

1832 days ago



LIVINGLOVINLIFE

You are wonderful and so is Joe. Your story gives hope and encouragement to all who are struggling in their relationships and wondering if it is worth it. Happy Anniversary.
1832 days ago






WUMPASTAR

Congratulations!!!
1832 days ago



CD8113065

  
1832 days ago



MEADSBAY

Your story makes me smile.
I am all for people who are truly unhappy and unable or unwilling to change or work on things getting divorced but it does seem like folks give up too easily now.
My dear man and I were also high school sweethearts who married young and have been together through thick and thin for almost 48 years.
And, oh, yeah...there were some troubling times, for sure. There always is!
Happy anniversary to you and Joe!



1832 days ago



EVIE4NOW

Our next anniversary we will be married for 45 years, When I think of the early years I wonder how we made it. LOL
1832 days ago



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