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The Way We Were

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).



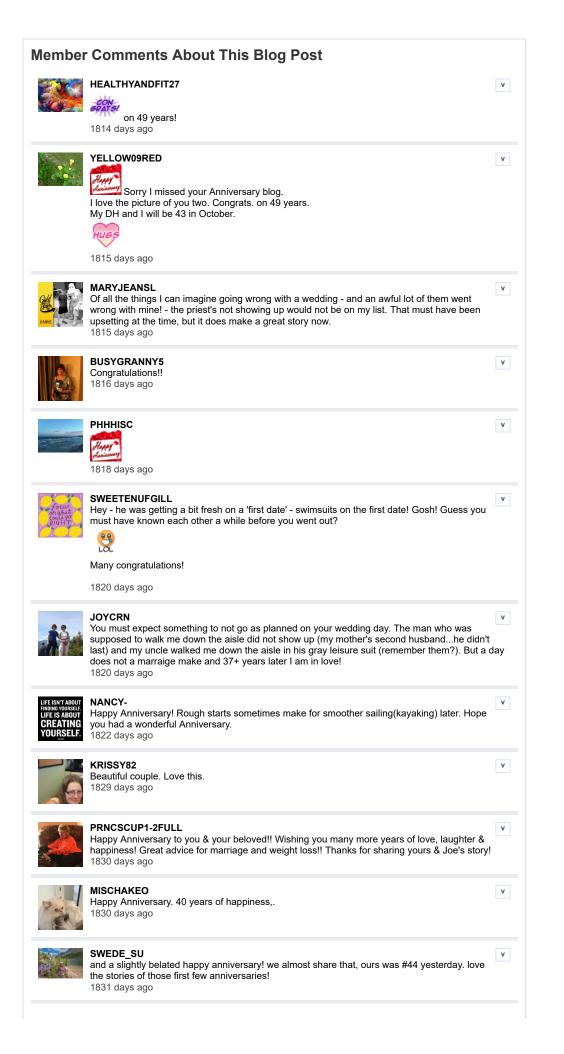
So, Spark Friends, if your journey hasn't started out well or isn't going well at the moment, keep your eye on why you are doing this. Hang in there. Good things might be just around the corner.

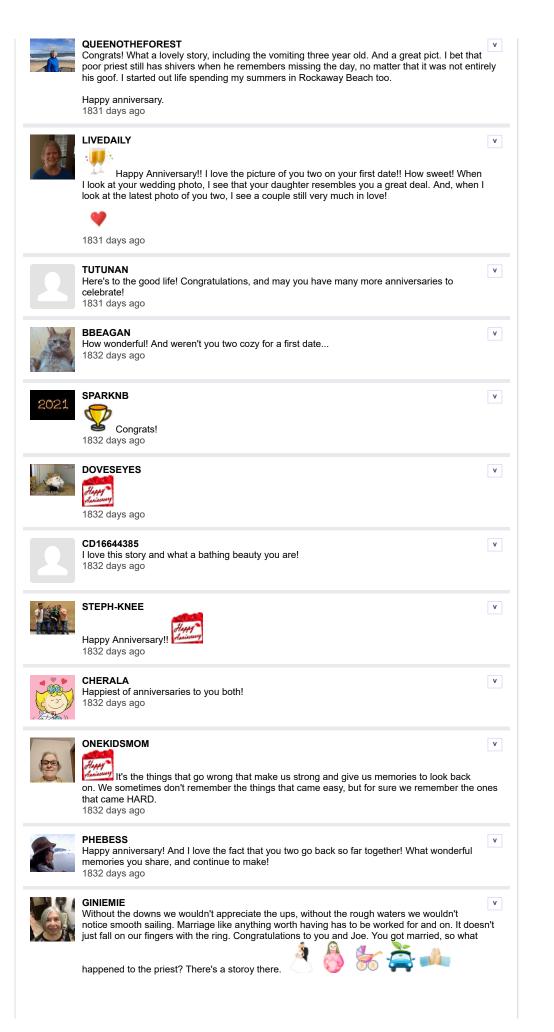
Edit: An explanation about the priest. He was a young seminarian teaching at Joe's Jesuit HS when they met and became friends. We attended his ordination and he was going to officiate at our wedding. He completed all the paperwork required beforehand since he did not work in the Brooklyn diocese. Then 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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1832 days ago









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!

for sharing the pics.

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



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JAMIRBLAZE



Love your story and pictures! Congrats! 1832 days ago



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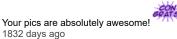
YIKE! You did have a rocky start....John was in Viet Nam too....BAD stuff too but so glad he came back. Got several medals for his service....get this...he LOVED the war.



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POINDEXTRA

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





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 loooooooonnnnnng 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

