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Many successful journeys began with a rocky start

Friday, June 09, 2017

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So often we set off on a journey with great hopes and plans only to find the road is bumpy and full of potholes. This is true of the road to a healthy lifestyle/goal weight, as many sparkers can attest, and many other areas of life as well.

My blog earlier this week described revisiting the important sites of our youth for our 50th wedding anniversary. That included the church where the ceremony took place.

This was one of the pictures in our album.



What it doesn't show is the chaos that preceded our serene expressions.

As I was standing in the back of the church, the organist began "Here Comes the Bride" all the guests stood up and there was a flurry of activity up at the altar. There was NO PRIEST to perform the marriage. Due to a mixup in dates, we had no one to make our union legal. So the organist kept playing something else and the guests all sat down wondering which one of us got cold feet.

Eventually a substitute arrived to officiate and the rest of the day went smoothly. However, those first few anniversaries did not.

6/3/68 - Joe's orders to active duty in the army arrived in the mail. Remember Vietnam?

6/3/69 - He got orders to Vietnam. I was 5 ½ months pregnant

6/3/70 - He was IN Vietnam

6/3/71 - He was looking for a job.

The reaction of his employer upon his return was basically oh, you lived? The law requires us to rehire you but ONLY FOR ONE YEAR. This was the attitude of a "patriotic" defense contractor.

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6/3/72 I was 5 months pregnant and driving to our new home in Ohio pulling a U-Haul with a 3 year old throwing up in the back seat

But with patience, persistence and a little bit of luck we continued down the road of life enjoying the great views along the way in spite of the potholes, setbacks and detours.

Last Saturday when we arrived at the church of our wedding, we found it decorated from a wedding that morning. Who would take our picture? Suddenly a priest appeared, just like the substitute who saved the day 50 years ago.



I hope the couple who married that morning can return here in 50 years and look back on their journey with joy.

So often we read blogs from new Sparkers who after starting the program and "doing everything right" are not seeing the results they want. Hang in there. To paraphrase a Broadway song, It's not how you start, it's how you finish.

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KHALIA2
Happy Anniversary!
1188 days ago



KHALIA2
 on your 50th Anniversary! I wish you many more wonderful years!
1190 days ago




BOREDA
Your blog is amazing. Your message is amazing. You are amazing. Thank you so much!
1332 days ago



FRABBIT
I just came across your blog and it is wonderful. What a wonderful outlook! Wishing you many happy years ahead.
1377 days ago



MAW_OH
 on your 50th anniversary!
1430 days ago





NASFKAB



what a lovely blog thanks for sharing
1440 days ago



CHICKIEBABY56



Congratulations on your Anniversary. Life is full of up & downs. You can chose to be happy & positive or let it bring you down & become negative. Glad to see you always looking at the bright side of life. Again Congrats!!!
1441 days ago



GRAMPIAN



THANK YOU!
Beautiful.
1446 days ago



WHYTEBROWN



Well Said! and **Happy Anniversary**
1448 days ago



JERICO1991



Great memories. Good job hanging in there to enjoy them.
1451 days ago



DONNALEE-53



AWESOME **Happy Anniversary** **Happy Anniversary**
1455 days ago



3SISTERS



Great and loved the pic
1456 days ago



SPARKNB



2021 Well Said! **OH SPARKS!**
Love the metaphor; Love your attitude!
1456 days ago



KITTYHAWK1949



thanks for sharing. began well...rocky right now but hope to end well.
1456 days ago



SKYDRAKE



There was a funeral right before my wedding. I had hoped it wasn't an omen. Sounds like you had a lot those first few years. Does it seem like 50 years? Or does it feel like you just blinked?
1456 days ago



PHHHISC



Happy Anniversary
1457 days ago



MRSFANCYLADY



Oh goodness.... this is me! I am not getting results - after doing "everything right". But I am determined to stay the course and finish strong (goal weight!)

THANK YOU!
for sharing! It is so appreciated!

And Happy 50th Anniversary!
1457 days ago

TARATASTICAL



Just like real life and not the fake stuff we see everywhere else. Congrats on 50! Amazing!





1458 days ago




CD13423552

Happy 50th and I wish you many more together! That is really the story, the tougher years and persevering together! You are right, it is how you finish!
1458 days ago



2BDYNAMIC

You have a lot of thank you's to give out  (ha ha, just could not resist)

1458 days ago



DEEGIRL50

Oh, how beautiful. Thank you for sharing your story and giving to others with such loving advice.

Dee

1458 days ago



MSLOUIE3

Thank you for sharing. Bill and I are about to celebrate our 40th and your blog made me reflect on our wedding day and how far we have come.

1458 days ago



SHARON10002

Congratulations on your 50th anniversary. Loved your story, and the message.

1458 days ago



KATHRYNGC

What an amazing accomplishment. It lets us all know, marriages can last . However, I still feel 50 yrs or more to the same man, a woman should get a purple heart from her country for bravery and courage.

1458 days ago



JSEATTLE

What an uplifting story! We rise from the ashes. Thank you so much for sharing today and Happy Anniversary!

1458 days ago



LJC10PERCENT

Thank you for your service. That's a great love story!

1458 days ago



ARTJAC

1458 days ago



CD17342197

What a beautiful story! You sound like a wonderful couple. Happy 50th!

1458 days ago



JUNETTA2002

Thank you for sharing Happy Anniversary

1458 days ago



OVERWORKEDJANET

Congratulations! That's such a beautiful story, warts and all!

1458 days ago



GLORIAZ

Thanks. For sharing your story. Your trials made you and your marriage stronger. As I look back, I think we were happiest when we thought we didn't have much. As we now know, material things are just that, it's all those emotional experiences that matter. Happy for you that you live a





successful life!
1458 days ago



MARIONJEANA

1458 days ago



CD17856861

Beautiful. Happy Anniversary and Thanks for sharing your story. God bless you both.
1459 days ago



CD17462428

1459 days ago



JSTETSER

Your story warms my heart! Life is often very difficult, and we are stronger for what we go through!

God bless you, and happy anniversary!
1459 days ago



1DAY-ATA-TIME

Thank You for sharing your story. So apropos for so many life situations.
1459 days ago



MSLZZY

1459 days ago



NOLAHORSERIDER

Beautiful Blog. Thanks for sharing!!

SparkCheers,
R>Nola
1459 days ago



ALP1976

Wow -- this was an amazing read this morning! Patience, persistence and at times all out stubbornness.

Well Said!

1459 days ago



CD16313034

1459 days ago



SIMPLY_JAE

"It is not how you start but how you finish." Thanks for the reminder..What a lovely couple you are.

1459 days ago



BLUEJEAN99

Beautiful!
1459 days ago



POLSKARENIA

Great timing, as always. I've been feeling a bit, 'meh' the last few days... still exercising, still eating pretty well, but a few drinks slipped in, didn't feel like tracking... so took a day off from Spark yesterday, completely. Today I start afresh with tracking and everything. Definitely, 'It's not how you start, it's how you finish!'



Thank you!
1459 days ago



BLUEFOO



You two is a beautiful couple. Happy Anniversary and thanks for sharing.



1459 days ago



GREYDOLPHIN



Happy anniversary. You look like such a happy couple.
1459 days ago



AMBER461



Happy Anniversary and thanks for sharing.
1459 days ago



ZANDASMOM1



What a beautiful story and beautiful couple!!
1459 days ago



CD4114015



LOVE this blog! You are an extremely inspiring role-model!
1459 days ago



JCMSMILE



Awesome blog! Congratulations for hanging in and holding on to one another for 50 years




1459 days ago



SPEDED2



Not the destination, it's the journey. Congratulations!  (not a wedding cake, but you get the idea)
1459 days ago

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