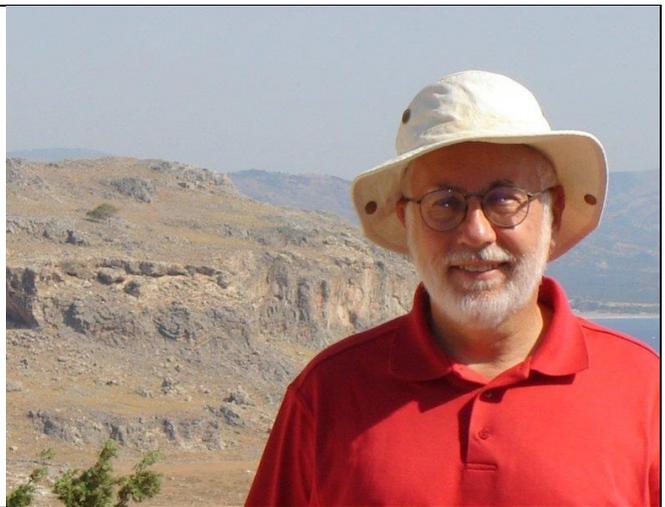


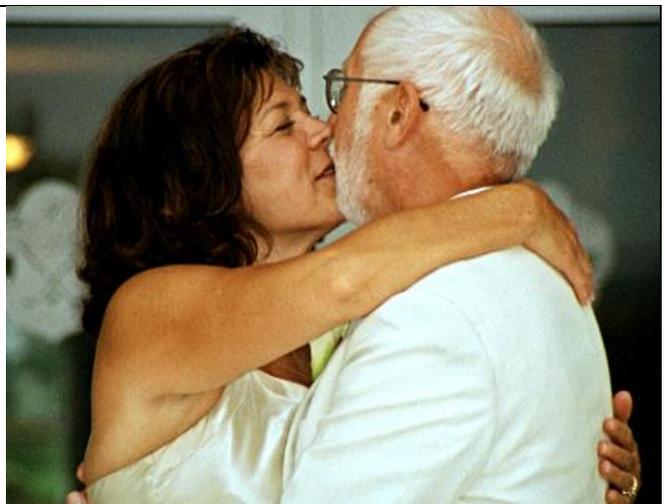
Fifteenth Anniversary Chronicle

What's This All About?

I don't know how you prefer to celebrate your wedding anniversaries: perhaps a quiet dinner at a favorite restaurant, the kind you save for special occasions. Perhaps you employ part of the evening to express your gratitude to each other in words that may not appear on Hallmark cards.



But what about the so-called milestone anniversaries? I imagine a desire to share your joy with friends and family, recapitulating in maturity the impulse that made you want to gather as many people as you could to celebrate your wedding.



My parents, having arranged for their wedding to fall on a national holiday, celebrated their February anniversaries alone each year with a weekend of cross-country skiing at Mohonk Mountain House in the Catskills. But they marked their sixtieth anniversary with a gala folk-dance party attended, in colorful costumes, by members of the folk-dance groups that had been their principal social outlet for decades. Readers of this Chronicle include couples who have celebrated forty, fifty and sixty years of marriage: you know what I'm talking about.

The Psychology of Partnership

It has been observed that we tend to attract partners at a level of emotional maturity comparable to our own, which is a somewhat abstract way of acknowledging that it took me a long time to get my act together. ("A ridiculously long time," long-time friends will agree.)

In a successful partnership you learn to address issues as a team, discovering to your surprise that, as a rule, your joint solutions to problems turn out to be superior to the proposals that either of you put forward individually.

A Celebration

Patti and I won't live to see our fortieth or fiftieth anniversaries, and perhaps not even our twenty-fifth. But must we really wait?



The coronavirus simply compounds the challenge of geography—the party of people we'd like to assemble spreads across three sizeable continents. So a physical gathering is out of the question, pandemic or no. Zoom meetings of more than half a dozen participants tend to be awkward testaments to a good idea gone awry.

Even a mere fifteen years of marriage produces more stories than anyone outside the union really wants to hear, no matter how polite they may be in not saying so. So I'm simply going to festoon this celebratory Chronicle with images that may tell their own stories.





Wherever you happen to be on July 16, 2020, I invite you to hug your partners and share our joy.



Cheers,
Patti and Art