

February is the month when we celebrate love. In this month's newsletter, we will look at several aspects of love from those romantic moments that didn't quite work right to a way to improve your relationship to current trends in wedding invitations. We also want to introduce two new staff members to you.

Romantic Moments that did not go quite as planned

Edrie:

I remember one year when Valentine's Day was on a Sunday. My husband wanted to surprise me with a bouquet of red roses. Since the stores would all be closed on Sunday, he bought the roses on Saturday but then he had to hide them until Sunday morning. He didn't have any way to hide them in the house so he left them in his car. Unfortunately, that Saturday the temperatures' dropped to below freezing. On Sunday morning, instead of a beautiful bouquet of red roses, he had a bouquet of frozen roses. We had a good laugh about it and now it is one of the more memorable Valentine's presents I have received from him.

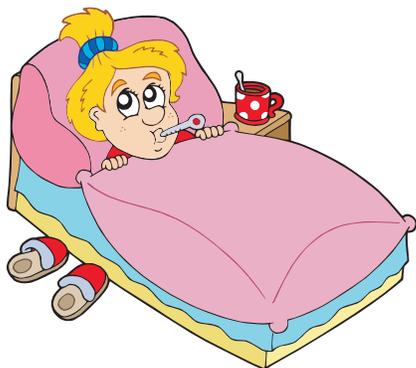


Colleen:

The first Valentine's Day that my (now) husband and I were dating, we were living in Germany and we had big plans. Valentine's Day was in the middle of the week that year,

so we had planned to go on a romantic day trip the following weekend. However, I came down with a horrible case of strep-throat. On Valentine's Day, at lunch time and as soon as he was released from duty for the day, he checked on me and made sure that I ate something

and took my medicine. The following weekend, I was still too tired and droopy to go on our big romantic trip, but it was still nice that he took care of me when I was sick.



Annette:

My husband and I recently went out for our 18th year anniversary. The plan was to go to dinner at an Italian restaurant in downtown Norfolk and then we had tickets to see a musical. I didn't eat lunch that day in anticipation of the dinner, so I was extremely hungry. I tried to convince my husband that we needed to leave at least by 5 so that we would have time to eat and make it to the musical on time. He thought 5 was a little too early. Well little did he know that, not only was there a musical at Chrysler Hall that night but also a hockey game at Scope, so the area was extremely busy, especially the restaurants. The restaurant we had planned on going to couldn't seat us because they would not have enough time to get us out and on our way to the musical. We tried another restaurant, the wait was too long. So, we didn't get to eat (I was not very happy). My husband did buy me a pretzel (a very salty one) when we got to Chrysler Hall. The musical was awesome, so at least one thing turned out right that evening. We did end up going to eat at IHOP at 11:00 at night.

Desirai:

Ooooooooooh so that's what happens when you use shower gel!!! This was my screaming response on a well planned out surprise weekend get-a-way my husband had prepared for us. Until that very moment, my husband thought I was smart.... intelligent even, but for a split second he questioned it. See what had happened was (when someone uses this phrase you know it is going to be a good one) my husband reserved a beautiful suite overlooking a private beach. Our room had all the amenities you could ask for in an upscale

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Romantic Moments

establishment. They had even placed fresh cut flowers in every room. It was just absolutely stunning. After dinner we returned to our suite and decided to get into the whirl pool. I turned on the water and the jets while my husband retreated to the bedroom to get undressed. I notice the whirl pool wasn't making enough bubbles and I wanted to be covered in them so I thought why not add shower gel. I poured in a little and swirled the water around. Thinking I wasn't going to get the results I wished for, I poured in a lot more gel and went to get undressed. Well you can imagine what welcomed my husband & I as we entered the lavished bathroom. Now imagine his face as he turns to look at me and I'm giggling uncontrollably at the mess I've made. I can't go into any further details on what transpired after that moment. Let's just say my husband wasn't mad for long and the unexpected turn of events made this Valentine's Day a little more playful and a lot more exciting.



Improving Your Relationships One Day At A Time

Edrie Pfeiffer

In every relationship there are times when those involved struggle with the relationship. This article will address the marriage relationship but the principles apply to virtually any relationship. Over the past century it has become more and more acceptable to end a marriage when the parties have problems. I have seen this change in attitudes within my own family. My parents were married in 1940 and no matter what struggles they went through, they were committed to working them out together. As a result, they celebrated their 70th

anniversary a couple of months before my father died. The same was true for all of Dad's siblings, out of 12 marriages, there was only one divorce. The same can not be said for the next generation. Two of my three siblings have been divorced and one has been divorced three times. I think one of the core foundations for a strong marriage is the attitude that my parent's had that divorce is not an option and a realization that it is not my spouse's job to make me happy.

You need to make your spouse a priority in your life. This means taking the time to do things with your spouse but more importantly, you need to treat your spouse like they are the most important person in your life. I have seen spouses say things to one another that they would never dream of saying to someone else. In all the years of my parent's marriage, I never saw or heard them say anything negative about the other spouse. I certainly never heard them call each other profane names. In fact, I can not recall ever hearing my parents fight. If they disagreed, which I am sure they did, they did not do it in front of their children.

Another way of making your spouse a priority in your life is to think of what they would want first when making a decision. I remember any time that I asked my parents something, their typical response was "your father would like" or "I think your mother would prefer". They had reached a point in their relationship where they first thought was not of what they would want but what the other person would want. This is something I try to keep in mind in my own marriage. I know that there are certain things that my husband enjoys and certain things that he does not like to do. When I make plans, I try to make sure that I keep in mind those things that he would prefer.

A good way to keep this attitude in mind is to think daily, "what can I do today to make my spouse's life better". There have been numerous books and movies that follow this principle. But remember, you can't do this with an attitude of how will this make things better for me. While improving your relationship with your spouse will make your life more enjoyable, your focus should be on making your spouse's life better.

New Staff Members

You may see a couple of new faces around the office. We have a new staff member and a law student intern working with us this semester. Our new staff member is a new office clerk, Chelsea Chandler. Chelsea started the beginning



of January and works part-time. She is handling all the mailings, does the routine filing and scans all client documents into the computer.

Chelsea is also working on scanning all the documents in our open Chapter 13 cases into the computer. We are in the process of going as paperless as possible and this scanning of documents is part of that process. Chelsea is a graduate of Hickory High School in Chesapeake. When she is not working, she likes to go shopping, hang out with friends and read.

Also working with us for a few months is Ryan Reyes. Ryan is currently a third



year law student at Regent University. He is a native of San Antonio, Texas. While at Regent, Ryan has been involved in competitions in

Negotiations, Client Counseling, Moot Court and Trial Advocacy. He is doing a practicum in bankruptcy which requires him to work with a bankruptcy firm. He is assisting us in all aspects of a bankruptcy case. When not in school, Ryan likes to travel and is an avid soccer fan, both as a player and supporting the US National Team. After law school, Ryan wants to practice law in either Texas or Virginia.

Trends in Wedding Invitations

The formal (or informal) request to attend the wedding; is the wedding invitation. Historically weddings were announced with a town crier, but as literacy became a mark of nobility; people began sending written invitations. The Coat of Arms or Family Crest was pressed into wax to seal the invitation. There is a raft of etiquette standards related to how to properly address wedding invitations and when to send them. Today most people send them about six weeks before the wedding.

Marriage is one of the most significant moments in the life of bride and groom, and the same feeling is seen among the friends and relatives during the wedding celebration. But the whole planning of the wedding starts with the selection of the design for the invitation. At the same time, it is important to make the list of people whom you want to attend the marriage ceremony to know how many invitations you will need. There are many online websites which offer exceptional and stunning wedding invitations.

It is advisable to select a marriage invitation that is exclusive to you in terms of theme and colors. These small differences can make your invitation unique and truly yours. One recent trend in wedding invitations is the use of a scroll wedding card. Customization in the wedding invitation and its wordings is also possible since various online sites are offering services for this type of customization. Since many guests may need more notice of the marriage date to be able to attend the marriage ceremony, you can send save the date cards before the actual invitation.

Wedding cards have religious significance and should be considered in accordance with your faith. Following a selected faith may create special parameters when deciding on a marriage invitation and you shouldn't ignore these necessary considerations.

Another issue is that the cost of the printing. It's a known fact that selecting an invitation will depend on the budget. Most wedding invitation sites don't charge for shipping for ordering samples. Therefore, explore varied choices so that you create your dream wedding. Choosing wedding invite cards from on-line cards sites rather than ordering wedding stationary can be less complicated and is fairly user friendly. However, if you are having a large formal wedding, you may find it easier to deal with a local printer who can work with you to customize your invitations and other wedding stationary.

Therefore selecting an invitation is based on factors like budget, color, spiritual traditions, the size and theme of the wedding. If you or someone you know is planning a wedding, we would be happy to meet with you to discuss how we can assist you with your printing needs.

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One of the nicest parts of our practice is when someone sends a friend or relative to us. Be sure that to tell people you refer to us to give us your name so we can recognize and reward you. We would like to recognize the following individuals who have recently referred new clients to us.

Burnell W., Virginia Beach, VA
Juan C., Virginia Beach, VA
Ernest J., Virginia Beach, VA
Gloria M., Norfolk, VA
Malika C., Norfolk, VA

It has been a year now that we have been sending out a monthly newsletter. We hope that you have enjoyed receiving them. One of the hardest parts of preparing the newsletter is deciding what to cover. I would welcome your suggestions on what you would like to hear more about or what you would like to see in future issues. Please call, write or email us your suggestions.

Please remember that we are closed every Monday from 1 to 1:30 for our office staff meeting. In addition, please remember that Mrs. Pfeiffer, Colleen or Annette do not take walk in appointments or unscheduled phone calls. If you need to speak with Colleen, Annette or Mrs. Pfeiffer about your case, Desirai will be happy to schedule you a time to call one of us. Normally she will be able to schedule you an appointment with Colleen or Annette within 24 hours. You can always send us an email at info@hamptonroadslegal.com and we will respond within one day. This allows us to concentrate on your case without interruptions.

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