



*A wedding is for a day . . . A marriage is for a lifetime*

# SPOTLIGHT COUPLE

## Barbara

### *Our marriage works because*

We are very different people with different outlooks and skills. As we have learned to work together and respect each other's talents, we end up with a multi-flavored dish!

### *If we didn't \_\_\_\_\_, then we wouldn't be together.*

Keep working on our marriage. Because we have such different outlooks, it is easy for tension to build between us. Marriage enrichment classes and skills have given us ways to resolve issues without deepening our conflict. My favorite saying is that all marriages have issues; it is how you deal with those issues that make a good or bad marriage.

### *If we only knew then, what we know now...*

Learning to listen was perhaps the most difficult lesson for me to learn. It meant letting go of the notion that there is only one way things can be and opening my heart to looking at all problems from Bob's viewpoint. I don't have to agree with how he sees things, but I sure need to understand. Understanding is the only true basis for resolution.

Please see Barbara & Bob's article on page 42.



## Bob


### *We believe rituals, traditions and celebrations are...*

...the heart of our family. Especially holiday meals together. Here's a funny example. When our three kids were very young, Charlotte was only about 5, she spilled her drink at Christmas dinner. While we quickly attempted to clean up the mess, her older brothers, always ready to jump in and tease her, loudly told her "you ruined Thanksgiving!" Of course she cried. The next holiday meal, one of her brothers knocked over his drink, and Charlotte was quick to point out *he* ruined Christmas! Well, almost every holiday meal we've had since then, somebody spills something on the table. Of course it is pointed out with a hearty "you ruined Thanksgiving, or Christmas, or dad's birthday, or whatever" and we all have a great laugh!

### *Why are you still married?*

I can't conceive of not being married. Having a partner who can do what I can't and being able to do what she can't is beyond good, it's indispensable to a complete life. I often think how difficult it would be to find a new reason to live if she were not by my side. We are more than helpmates, we are help-meets. We meet each other at the point of our need.

### *Your favorite vacation.*

My favorite vacation was totally unplanned and spontaneous. I came back from a two-week Boy Scout hiking trip with the boys in Philmont, NM. Barbara and Charlotte didn't have the good time we did. So we just packed up and left the next morning with the whole family to Hawaii. I think the fact that we did not over-plan or obsess about the "perfect" vacation and just enjoyed each other's company and let whatever happened, happen is what made it so memorable. Sure do wish we could afford to do that again. Oh well. Now, when we're not busy with our non-profit business, we putter around the house and just enjoy each other. 

*Bob and Barbara Zielinski have been married 42 years. They recently moved from the city of Arlington Texas to "out in the country" Corsicana Texas. They have three children and a grandchild.*

We want *you* as our Spotlight Couple! Ask us for our list of questions (or make up your own). Each person answers five questions. You also send a wedding picture and a current picture (no originals please). You receive at least ten copies of that issue to pass on to family and friends.