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Valentine's Day profile: West Roxbury couple knows real meaning of love

During more than 60 years of marriage, Ed and Norma Spadoni have made family the center of their lives.

Expecting their first great-grandchild in May, the former Dedham residents who now live at West Roxbury's Deutsches Altenheim have three sons, six granddaughters and two grandsons. The Spadonis frequently smiled as they enthusiastically related stories about their loved ones.

Above their living room seating area hangs a photo of their oldest granddaughter's wedding, an event that brought great joy to the couple. When asked what advice they've offered to those beginning their marriages, Ed said, "Don't go to bed mad," as Norma added, "Talk it out. There's a solution for everything."

The Spadonis recently shared how they made their relationship work – and thrive – since they wed on Nov. 11, 1953, at St. Anthony's Church in Revere.

Wearing a red turtleneck and sparkling brooch, Norma Spadoni, 89, said the day she and her future husband met, "It was love at first sight ... for both of us."

Sitting side-by-side in their tidy condo, the couple said they met since Norma's sister Evelyn was engaged to Ed's cousin Chickie. Chickie introduced Ed, 86, and Norma after asking Ed to be an usher in his wedding.

For their first date they tripped the light fantastic at the now-shuttered General Edwards Inn on Revere Beach.

"She was better than I was," Ed laughed about his dancing skills.

Both said they were immediately attracted to each other, with Norma adding that she thought Ed looked like 1950s star Mario Lanza.

One month after their initial outing, he gave her a pearl friendship ring. One month after that, they were engaged.

As they raised their kids, Norma continued working as a dental hygienist until retiring at age 85. Ed worked in TV and radio repair since 1948.

Another important ingredient to a successful relationship, according to Norma, was to "live each day, enjoy each day."

"Have a sense of humor," Norma said, as "you go through the hard times as well as the easy times."

Ed concurred, saying, "That's an important ingredient."

Looking back over their love story, Ed smiled and said, "It's been quite an adventure."

Norma agreed, saying, "Let's enjoy every minute."



Ed and Norma Spadoni, originally from Dedham, now live at Deutsches Altenheim in West Roxbury. The couple have been married for over 60 years. Wicked Local staff photo / Kate Flock

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