

Bridal Showcase



Vows vary, intent is same

By CATHALEEN ROBERTS
Copley News Service

Strip away the snowdrifts of lace and the flame-silk saris, and all weddings revolve around commitment.

Couples unite through pledges and vows, canopies and rings, lighting candles and offering gifts to the gods.

But whatever the cultural trappings, the core of the service ebbs back to the promise between a woman and a man.

The Muslim tradition views that commitment so seriously that couples are asked if they want to marry three times during the service.

"You're making a commitment to each other under the eyes of God," said 25-year-old Omar Habib, a medical student who lives with his wife, Amina, in Chicago. "Divorce isn't very common in our religion at all. Once you get married, it's for life."

The Habibs married last July. During the service, the couple separated into different rooms as witnesses asked each partner if they were willing to accept one another.

"You can deny it up to that point," Omar said. "Once she comes and sits down with me,



Newlyweds Chris and Jan Rabin are lifted above the crowd in chairs to dance the hora, without which no Jewish wedding is complete.

we're married."

In his wedding speech, the hari, or religious scholar, who married the couple said a husband and wife were to be like garments to one another.

He said to "make sure that you respect and love one another," said Amina. "They really focused on keeping an open mind and supporting one another."

Other services reflect those vows visually. Rat and Brenda Khathakhanthaphixay literally tied the knot during their 1994 Buddhist ceremony in Elgin, IL. A piece of string wove between twin floral centerpieces at the altar. After a priestly blessing, guests

and family members chanted for the uniting of the young couple's souls. Then the priest tied a string around both their waists and blessed them, said Rat's uncle Shawn Phonthibsvad.

Elizabeth and Scott Stephens declared their commitment through traditional Roman Catholic vows. A required engagement encounter weekend showed their willingness to face the problems that can rock the most loving couple. The pair filled out separate questionnaires covering hot

newlywed topics such as money, in-laws and raising children.

Both kept their own checkbooks before they were married, a financial independence each was reluctant to relinquish.

"We're still trying to work that out," said 1996 bride Elizabeth, 26, a teacher.

Those differences also surfaced in their choice of biblical readings. Elizabeth wanted more progressive passages, while her husband preferred the traditional. They learned to compromise.

After taking their vows, the pair lit a trio of unity candles first kindled on opposite sides by each of their mothers. They added a personal signature to this traditional ritual. The bride and groom usually blow the separate candles out before lighting their own in the center.

"We decided to leave them lit because our families are really important to us," Elizabeth said. "We prayed for family and friends that had passed away and for all married couples everywhere."

Central Catholic class of 1973 to hold class reunion

The Central Catholic High School Class of 1973 is planning its 25th Reunion. It will be held on September 5, 1998 at Konefal's Grove, Dallas. The next committee meeting will be March 3, at 7 p.m. at Hogan's Place in the Narrow's Shopping Center, Edwarsville.

The committee would appreciate help in locating the following people: Denise (Bogdon) Woods, Deborah (Derby) Knecht, Hope

(Ellsworth) Clinton, Andrew Gallagher, Michael Good, Sandra Main, Margaret Noonan, William Novak, Joanne (Pivelis) Mosca, Linda Smalanskas, Eleanor (Sobota) Edelson and Carol (Uzdilla) Gula. If anyone has any information regarding these people, please contact the reunion committee at: Carleine Feist/CCHS 1973 Reunion, 32 Slocum St., Forty Fort, PA 18704-4021. E-Mail: CFfeist@AOL.COM



Past Grand Knights honored

The Dallas Knights of Columbus, Father John J. O'Leary Council 8224, recently honored Past Grand Knight Rocky Knorr as well as all other Past Grand Knights at their annual Past Grand Knight's dinner dance, held at Appletree Terrace, Newberry Estate, Dallas. Knorr was cited for his many accomplishments as Grand Knight during the past fraternal year. Pictured from left, are, Honoree Rocky Knorr and Mrs. Maryann Knorr; Grand Knight John Filip and Mrs. Charlotte Filip; Past Grand Knight Jack Cacoza and Mrs. Marlene Cacoza, Past Grand Knight Bob Lucas and Mrs. Barbara Lucas.

New Memorial Books at library

Back Mountain Memorial Library announces the addition of new memorial books:

In memory of Edythe Kromelbein "The Rain or Shine Activity Book", "Meet Josefina", Mr. Tucker", "Josefina Learns Lesson" presented by Friends from Westmoreland Club.

In memory of Daniel H. Evans, "Required Reading: Why Our American Classics Matter Now", "Don't Be Afraid to Discipline" presented by the Employees of W-B Area School District.

In memory of Alberta Oliver, "Jane Austen: A Life", "The End of the Novel of Love" presented by Co-Workers at Medical Oncology Assoc.

In memory of Carol Bayliss, "It Doesn't Take a Hero" presented by Beth Delaney.

In memory of Mr. Zigmund Savitsky, "Planet Quest" presented by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Stepanski.

In memory of Clementine Kristopa, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families" presented by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Minckler.

In memory of Andrew F. Demnicki, "Your Life is Worth Mine" presented by the Polish American Congress of Pennsylvania.

In memory of James A. Oliver, "The Kennedy Tapes: Inside the White House", James Herriot: The Life of a Country Vet" and "The American Opera Singer" presented by David and Carol Greenwald, Bruce and Missy Saidman, Phyllis Sabor and Frank Kinney and "The Buffett Book" presented by his co-workers at Medical Oncology Associates (Kim, Lila, Mary Lou, Michelle, Sherri, Carol, Alissa, Chris, Linda and Camille. Also in memory of James A. Oliver, "Lewis

and Clark" and "Cold Mountain" presented by Leonard and Marion Harvey and Lancelord and Florence Sutton.

In memory of Carol Bayliss, "The Story of My Life" presented by Pauline S. Roth.

In memory of Charles Cigarski, "Women at Home in Victorian America" presented by Sharon Blaszczak.

In memory of James Regan, "Nicklaus" presented by Jim and Jean Alexander, Dick and Millie Hogoboom, Granville and Janet Miller, Arch and Dee Mohr and Dolores W. Mohr.

In memory of Mary Elizabeth Robinson, "Ed Emberley's Big Green Drawing Book" and "Draw 50 Birds: The Step by Step Way to Draw" presented by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Coslett.

In memory of Sam Nicholson, "The 1998 Pushcart Prize XXII" presented by Lou and Jack Conyngham III.

In memory of Mary Lou Bucan, "Collected Poetry and Prose" presented by Mrs. Ruth M. Corcoran.

In memory of Edward H. Reabuck, "Crime Novels: American Noir of the Fifties" presented by Mark A. VanLoon.

In memory of Esther Pearson, "Volcano: A Memoir of Hawaii" by Kim and Rick Ross.

In memory of Ann Collins Clarke, "The Irish in America" presented by Virginia and Dick Ross.

In memory of Melvin Ehrich, "The People's Cancer Guide Book" presented by Lord & Taylor Control Division Staff.

In memory of Joann Beason, "The Christmas Tree at Rockefeller Center" presented by Trustees, Officers and Employees of Franklin First Savings Bank.

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