

Looking for Love in All the Right Places

By Sheila Johnson

I, determined by my age, fall into the rank and file of the Baby Boomers. Many of my friends are Baby Boomers as well, and we share several social commonalities. We inherited some of the quirks and behaviors of our parents' generation and have sought, somewhat unsuccessfully, to twist their idiosyncrasies to our liking. Most of us love Rock and Roll, country music, R&B, and will dance to almost anything that was recorded in the 60s. We are a gregarious, vivacious, and wild group. We have tried, and/or smoked pot, talk a lot of politics, and are generally not afraid of too much! I am proud to be a hippie, aka Baby Boomer!

With this in mind, my assignments and honors as a clerical woman, have included some of the most interesting, eclectic, and non-traditional ceremonies and rituals. "Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here today on top of this rocky, windy, cliff overlooking the beautiful waters surrounding Puerto Vallarta, to join together, in holy matrimony, Janie Smith and John Doe. Janie lives her Christian faith by serving others in a most generous, unselfish fashion. She is accepting and welcoming to every person she meets. Janie is, by nature, a very outgoing and extroverted being. John lives his Jewish tradition by faithfully observing the religious rituals of his faith. He is kind, accepting, and welcoming to everyone he meets. By nature, he is a quiet introvert. On this day, they are also joining together four sons, two dogs, and one cat.

"They have chosen to write their own vows, jump the broom, and honor the Jewish tradition of marriage by crushing a glass beneath a cloth napkin. After their vows have been spoken, wedding rings exchanged, and their love sealed with a kiss, let us trek back up the hill for dancing, drinking, and singing."

And so it was! The evening was amazing. The port lights lit up the ocean, and we all brought in the New Year by watching the traditional fireworks display sprinkle color across the bay. A dove appeared out of nowhere and perched itself upon the rafters of the outdoor patio for the entirety of the celebration. Oh what a night!

The fate of this unforgettable evening manifested itself all because of a very short newspaper ad placed by the groom, and answered by the bride a few years prior, which read: "I'm looking for a tall, beautiful, woman to become my bride." He looked for love in the right place. And so it was!