



Krista and Eric Benson

She went to his prom and he went to hers, and they continued to see each other on vacations after Eric left for Oregon State, until Krista began attending the University of Oregon 40 minutes away. After nine years of dating, they were married and lived in San Diego where Eric was in the Navy, before deciding to settle in Moraga. "Some people move here for the schools," she says. "We came back because we knew what a good place it is to raise children."

Another type of faith is the glue between Jim and Jill Larson. "We have faith that as long as we have each other, everything will turn out fine," says Jill. Love struck the couple in high school, too, but it had a delayed fuse. New to Acalanes, Jill fell for the very popular Jim Larson. He thought she was adorable but had an earlier attachment. They graduated in 1977 and both went to UC Berkeley, where they dated, but had several break-ups. The two met again in Europe in the summer of 1980, only to break-up in Paris. Jill signed up with the Peace Corps and left for Senegal with a two-year commitment. But Jim could not get over her. "He was sending me aerograms saying 'I love you,'" recalls Jill. He even boarded an airplane and found his way to the African village where she was working. When she returned they were married. "For our 20th anniversary I took Jill back to Paris," says Jim. "I owed it to her."

The secret to all these couples' happiness seems to be the shared values, respect and shared experiences from a lifetime together. They all say communication is important as well as working to keep the flame alive – simple things to remember as we approach another Valentine's Day.



Jim and Jill Larson

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Celebrations



Jessica M Cabrera and Justin R. Perlstein Get Engaged!

Sherrie B. and Billy Perlstein are thrilled to announce the engagement of their son Justin R. Perlstein of Orinda to Jessica M. Cabrera, daughter of Alice Cabrera of San Antonio, Texas. They both have successful careers in Los Angeles where Justin is in residential real estate and Jessica is in retail management with Michael Kors. The groom-to-be proposed to the bride-to-be on the island of Kauai, on the beach at sunset with rose petals, champagne and tears of happiness. They plan to be married this May in Malibu, Calif.

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