

## The journey of 'Later Love' can be fun

By Mary Faith Hilboldt

The issue of love. Oh my goodness, love. Especially if you are a woman "of a certain age."

Certainly that age is not 25, or 30, or even 35. Maybe it begins at 40, or even 50. However, with baby boomers exclaiming "50 is the new 30," all stereotypes seem obsolete.

What is certain is that dating becomes more complicated the older one becomes. In my 20s, I was always annoyed that dating took on the more serious tone of "is this the one?"

I just wanted to date, have a relationship, without deciding about marriage at that time. Like the Cyndi Lauper song, "girls just wanna have fun," for me, thinking about "are you the one?"—on his part, or mine, took the fun right out of it.

But now, there's more history to contend with—yours and his. Past marriages, past relationships, long, or for the sake of discretion, "short." One or both of you may have children. The good news is that you probably have a better idea of what you are looking for than when you were younger.

And, as far as where to begin, for most women who have been there and done that, the bar scene is soooooo over.

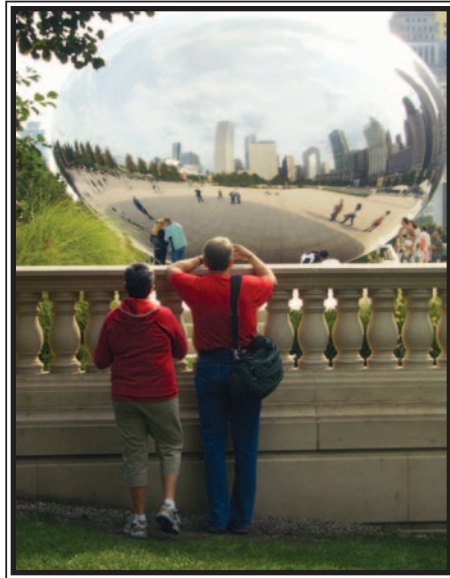
Francine Pappadis Friedman began the dating odyssey after her husband died 10 years ago. After laying low for a while, grieving, and seeing a few men, she then endured two years of "fix ups from hell" before two of her high school friends urged her into internet dating.

The result is chronicled in her new book, *MatchDotBomb, A Midlife Journey through Internet Dating*, a charming, humorous and poignant book relating specific details of the dates. It also describes her loving childhood, wonderful husband and married life, and how difficult it is to start over in the dating world, especially after all those good memories.

At 54, Pappadis Friedman put her internet profile together and sent it into cyberspace. At first, she was opposed to the entire idea, telling her friends, "absolutely not, I'll be the person in the forest preserve with the online ad in my pocket and a nylon stocking around my neck."

But she boldly went where she had not been before and began her internet adventure that lasted nine months. She is quick to tell you this is not a "how to" book on internet dating, though she does describe how to put a profile together and how to be honest; she also gives catch phrases from men's profiles and what she learned they really meant.

For instance, she noted in her book, "when I read 'I'll tell you later,' as the answer to 'Marital status,' I automatically deleted. C'mon guys, what could you possibly be thinking?" Or when she read 'other' listed for 'hair color,' "I knew exactly what to expect. I person-



Top Left: A middle-aged couple spends time in Millennium Park taking pictures of the "Bean," Top Right: Wendy Wiles Kase, Bottom: MatchDotBomb author Francine Pappadis Friedman

Photo by Ben Cook, MatchDotBomb.net & WendyWilesKase.com

ally find bald men sexy."

Pappadis Friedman received 337 responses from her internet profile, but no, she did not go on that many dates. Although she did meet many interesting characters and stated she would try internet dating again as one option, she wants to "diversify" her "social portfolio."

She describes the dating experience as a "journey" and said she learned so much about herself in the process. In her epilogue, Pappadis Friedman states, "I'll gladly go to dinners, plays or concerts with any of my coupled friends, just as I'll continue to have fun going to movies, parties, or the symphony alone. Looking for that special someone is still on my itinerary, but it's only one of the stops on my life's tour."

In an interview she added, "the journey is the important thing. Traveling companions are nice, but [they're the] frosting, cake is the journey." She continues to advise, "don't miss the journey altogether. One thing I learned, trust your instincts. You are the one responsible for your own happiness."

Once you find love, keeping a marriage on track is another issue. Wendy Wiles Kase is an attorney, certified divorce mediator and marital and family therapist who is also trained in using pheromones to aid in attraction. Wiles Kase says couples coming to her for

marriage counseling have cited online affairs, Viagra, and computer pornography as changing the landscape of their marriage.

While pheromones are controversial, she says "if you no longer smell sexual or fertile to the opposite sex, then you are not appealing to them. So many people want it not to be artificial, but it can work." As we get older we stop producing pheromones and the opposite sex doesn't think we smell sexy, Wiles Kase said.

To ease some of the complications of "later dating," dating services have sprung up to help in the matchmaking process. Speed dating, lunch dating, coffee mating, faith matching, online services, all are there to help your search. Barbie Adler of Selective Search uses a "Meet Your Future process," described as, "the same careful vetting processes used by recruiters to fill top level executive positions." This method includes in-depth, in-person interviews, screening techniques and personality profiles of both parties. Her services claim "to take the labor out of finding love."

All the late life love issues seem to point out that what we have always heard is true—that love and marriage take work and commitment. Even if our 20-something selves still "just wanna have fun."



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## Bronzeville Park hosts Sweetest Day dance

By Ben Cook

At 3400 South Indiana on Friday, October 19 the sound of blues music could be heard coming from the a basement room where a live DJ was hosting Bronzeville Park's annual Sweetest Day Dance. The dance, one of countless activities planned by Director of Therapeutic Recreation Angela Byrd, gives the residents a chance to cut a rug with fellow residents. Residents danced at their own individual ability - while some were content to tap a hand or foot others were up dancing right next to the speakers every song with a energetic smile planted on their face.

Bronzeville Park is a nursing center with in-house rehabilitation and physical therapy, dialysis machines, and a spacious outdoor patio for summer barbecues, which happen on a weekly basis.

Next week, the center is taking those who are able to a pumpkin patch to pick the pumpkins that will be used for the pumpkin-carving contest. The four-floor facility will then have a competition between floors among its 160 staff members and 280 residents to see who has the best pumpkin. The winners will be displayed outside to greet the steady stream of visitors coming to see their loved ones.

With resident's ages ranging from 22 to 106, Angela and her staff are constantly busy with activities that keep everyone stimulated. The residents are all too happy to oblige - just because they might be getting up there in years is no reason to surrender interest in life. The energy and enthusiasm shown by the residents demonstrates that they are not simply watching a clock ticking away, but instead they are active and finding joy in living and interacting with their peers. By interacting socially, the residents keep a more active physical and mental regiment that allows them to age gracefully and fully and shows that a person can make dear friendships at any age.

Among some of the recent highlights on a packed activity calendar include a cash bingo tournament that was run by State Representative Kenneth Dunkin, weekly trips to Indiana Pentecostal Church, a Hawaiian Luau, and a Love Note Day Social.

The activities show that age should be no indication of ability. In a culture where it is more common for elders to be quietly filed away than looked up to, events like Bronzeville Park's dance show that not only are these people still alive, they are kicking-75 years old or not. While the 106 year-old resident didn't attend, the activity among the residents ages 55-80 more than demonstrated that it is never too late to enjoy many parts of life that are often thought of as exclusive to "younger" people.

StreetWise would like to extend a special thanks to Angela and her staff for providing their time (and ice cream) while offering a peek inside an eventful and exciting Sweetest Day.

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