

Southern Weddings
FRUITFUL SUMMER

how to

CELEBRATE MARRIAGE

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DEAR MARRIED FRIEND

Whether you've been married for three years, ten, twenty, or more, congratulations! Marriage is not always easy—in fact, sometimes, it is downright hard—but the effort y'all put forth makes a difference in both your own relationship, and in encouraging your loved ones and those around you.

This week, our encouragement to you is to celebrate! It's easy to celebrate things like your first anniversary or first Christmas together. But how about your seventh anniversary? Or your twelfth Valentine's Day as husband and wife? No matter how many years you've been married, how many fancy nights out you've enjoyed together, or how many holidays you've enjoyed side by side, know that every milestone y'all reach is a gift. In this week's newsletter, we hope to make it easier for y'all to celebrate both the big moments and the littles ones, even when there isn't a tasty tier of wedding cake in your freezer to serve as a reminder. There are few things more special than doing life with your best friend, and we promise that celebrating together intentionally and frequently will only make your marriage sweeter!

Contributing to this week's newsletter are the two ladies in the Southern Weddings office who have been married the longest. We're excited for you to learn from their experiences, and hope you know that they are taking these words to heart right alongside y'all!

Cheers to you, your husband, and whatever you have to celebrate today!

Love,

Jana emily nicole Marissa
Kristin Lisa Amber Jess

STAY AWHILE! Chat with us on any of our accounts.



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Sip along with us! Make a glass of sparkling sweet tea and join us as we chat about celebrating big and small moments in married life!

**FIND THE
RECIPE HERE!**

how to

CELEBRATE MARRIAGE



Hi friend! One of the key secrets to a meaningful marriage is the belief that every day is a new opportunity to celebrate and reconnect with each other. From small moments to big celebrations, we've included some of our favorite ideas to incorporate into your relationship in the following pages!

Love, Amber and Lara

Dear friend,

Ari and I celebrated our our ten-year wedding anniversary in March. Ten years, for us, is a miracle! You see, we are two flawed people who have made enormous mistakes in this decade. We were once close to divorce, and very far away from each other. With all the mess we've been through, we shouldn't still be married. But, we are. And we're not just married; we're more content and grateful than we've ever been. (You can read the whole story in my book, *Make It Happen*). **LITTLE BY LITTLE, EVERYTHING CHANGED.**

We hoped to ring in this new decade of marriage by renewing our vows and celebrating with all our loved ones, but life changed quickly when we got the call about our adoption. Our daughter, Sarah, would be born days before the big celebration we had planned. So, instead of a vow renewal and a Southern brunch reception, we ate whatever leftovers were in the fridge, and took a walk to the neighborhood park. It was just right.

It is often said that a great marriage takes work. This is true, but the work of **MARRIAGE IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF WORK.** It's the work of surrender—letting go of perfect, embracing hard but fruitful conversations, forgiving as we have been forgiven, cultivating gratitude and celebration in the everyday, and staying focused on what matters most.

Little by little, flowers grow with sun and water. Little by little, your relationship can be strengthened and grow in a new way with the same daily tending. **KEEP CHOOSING LOVE,** never stop dating, celebrate the everyday...and slow dancing in the kitchen helps too.

In celebration,

Sara
(and Ari!)

IMAGES BY NANCY RAY PHOTOGRAPHY,
KATIE MCGIHON, AND LAUREN KINSEY



OCCASIONS TO CELEBRATE

BIG OCCASIONS

Your wedding anniversary

Your engagement anniversary

Reaching a major financial goal together

Getting a great new job or promotion

Your first day in a new home

Your children's birthdays

Major holidays

SMALL OCCASIONS

Your dating anniversary

The anniversary of the day you met

Reaching a small financial goal together

Signing the contract on a new home

Bringing home a pet

Minor holidays



IDEAS FOR HOW TO CELEBRATE



A dinner date at a favorite or new-to-you restaurant



Breakfast in bed



A picnic in the park



Cake!



A sweet, commemorative letter or gift



Fresh flowers



A staycation at a fun hotel or bed and breakfast in your city



A fancy, home-cooked meal on your wedding china



A little surcee or gift



A nice bottle of wine



A weekend getaway

BE CELEBRATION-READY!

We're all in favor of making frequent celebrations not only something that is fun to do, but also something that is easy to do. Keep the following items on hand so that you're always ready to commemorate a special day at a moment's notice!

- **CREPE PAPER STREAMERS**
- **CONFETTI POPS**
- **BALLOONS**
- **CANDLES**
(Both for cakes and for fancy table settings)
- **PLATES AND NAPKINS IN A NEUTRAL COLOR**
(They can be used for any occasion!)
- **BLANK CARDS AND ENVELOPES**
For writing a special note
- **SPARKLERS**
- **INSTAX MINI**
- **A PLAYLIST OF SONGS**
(Choose ones that have special meaning in your relationship!)
- **A FAVORITE RECIPE FROM EACH OF YOUR CHILDHOODS**
- **A DESSERT RECIPE THAT COMES TOGETHER IN A FLASH**

GO ALL OUT!



There are some occasions in life that call for a little more fanfare. Whip up a cake, blow up balloons, and toss the confetti to commemorate these joyful milestones!

DECADE ANNIVERSARIES
(tenth, twentieth, thirtieth, etc.)

DECADE BIRTHDAYS

PAYING OFF A HOUSE

GRADUATIONS
(your own and your children's)

RETIREMENT



MARRIAGE SUPERLATIVES!

Along with celebrating the things that happen to you, we think it's also worth celebrating simply who your spouse IS. Being married for a long time means you have the privilege of seeing one another grow and change over the years up close, and you've been in the front row to see the other learn new things and acquire new skills. On the following pages, it's time to acknowledge and reward each other for the many things you're wonderful at!



My husband Brandon is awarded the Master Vacation Planner. He travels often for work, so I can always count on him to make sure we have the most efficiently packed suitcase! In addition, he schedules us to leave the house at the perfect time so we can speed through security and be waiting at the airport gate exactly when we need to be, which helps us kick off vacations in the very best way!



Ari wins "Most Calm Under Pressure." With three busy kiddos, diapers that need to be changed, mouths to feed, and inevitable meltdowns in between, Ari is always calm in the storm.



GOES TO



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FRUITFUL SUMMER

did you miss a week?



THE WELCOME
GUIDE



THE DATING
WELL GUIDE



THE WEDDING
PLANNING GUIDE



THE NEWLYWED
LIFE GUIDE