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Stamford nonagenarians find love, scooters in second marriage

By Liz Skalka Updated 4:57 pm, Tuesday, February 13, 2018





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93-year-old Doris Harrington and 92-year-old Peter Koroscil pose for a photo inside the Edgehill retirement community on Palmers Hill Road in Stamford, Conn. on Monday, Feb. 12, 2018. The pair met at Edgehill ... more



STAMFORD — They met six years ago at a wine-and-cheese night.

He was dancing with another woman when she caught his eye. She declined his first invitation to cut a rug. But not the second.

A few months later, nonagenarians Doris Harrington and Peter Koroscil, then 87 and 86, married at the senior living community where they met and both live.

Harrington, a longtime Greenwich resident, had just moved to Edgehill eight years after Koroscil, who has been in Stamford since the 1950s.

Though not as spry as they were for their 2012 nuptials, their late-in-life union is still going strong.

These days, when Harrington, 93, and Koroscil, 92, eat meals together and participate in activities, they do so side-by-side — and on wheels.

He rides a Jazzy. She has a newer model Buzzaround. Tanglements are unavoidable.

"You're on my wheel," Harrington said, as the two edged close for a kiss.

"I'm off," Koroscil said.

They laugh. He raises a hand to her cheek and leans in.

"They're so married," said Mary Camilli-Bernat, Edgehill's director of independent living activities.

This isn't the first go-around for either partner. Both were in long-term marriages and had lost their spouses before moving to Edgehill. Combined they have about two dozen children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Many older adults — and their grown children — view marriage skeptically since it can raise taxes and health care costs and upend years of careful retirement and estate planning. Harrington and Koroscil said their families were surprised by their decision to wed, but supportive.

They're the first couple to meet at Edgehill and marry. Other residents have paired up, but none have chosen to tie the knot.

"We have a lot of couples who met here and are seriously dating," Bernat said. "I'm actually surprised they're not married."

Bernat is among those uplifted by Harrington and Koroscil's union.

"Somebody said to me, 'Why did they even bother to get married?' and I said, 'Well, you're a bummer!"

Koroscil, a former salesman and the more outgoing of the two, has a response for the naysayers.

"I think of it this way with those kinds of questions," he said, "they're afraid to take a chance."

Their proposal came one night during dinner, followed in six months by a wedding at Edgehill's event space with more than 100 quests and two pastors officiating. The bride wore fuchsia.

Soon after, they moved to Harrington's unit, which was the larger of their two.

Together they dine with friends and attend gatherings organized by Bernat, and often wear matching costumes for holidays.

The couple says they owe much of their happiness to laughter and having an easy time together. They also know how to live independently. Each had been single for years before their marriage. Harrington, a former executive assistant, lost her husband in 1998, and Koroscil became a widower around 2004.

"We haven't really argued at all," Koroscil said. "Not even a spat really. Two minutes later, she goes here and I go there. No problem at all."

Harrington says she was most attracted to her husband's unflappable nature.

"He's very calm," she said. "You could tell him the place was burning down and he'd still be calm."

They still attend the same wine-and-cheese event on Friday nights. The band plays Koroscil's favorite song, Bobby Darin's "Mack the Knife," and they dance together as best they can in scooters.

"He's a good egg," Bernat said.

Harrington doesn't miss a beat.

"But a little scrambled," she said.