

Camera Work

WHO DO YOU LOVE?

From siblings to parents to soul mates, area residents tell us who they love

Text and photos by Elizabeth Nida Obert
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Amy Ferguson and Tony Pasquale

"We met on an online dating site in May of 2014 and hit it off right away," says Amy Ferguson of her relationship with boyfriend Tony Pasquale. "We had our first date in Rochester. We planned on just getting a bite to eat and walking at Quarry Hill, but we also ended up going to get frozen yogurt, a drink at Dooley's and to a late night movie. Our first date ended up lasting 11 hours!"

"I think what makes it special is that we hit it off so quickly," adds Pasquale. "Most people tend to have to warm up to one another, kind of feel the other person out to see what they are all about; Amy and I were on the same wavelength from the moment we started talking to one another."



Caroline and Del Dance

"It feels like he has been in our hearts forever," said Caroline Dance about two weeks after her adopted brother, Del Dance, joined her family in Rochester in 2009. "There is no way that I could possibly explain all the joy that he brings into my life," she later wrote in an essay. "No one could ever guess that he had ever been apart from us ... It seems as though I have known him all my life. Whenever I feel sad, I just think of him and my day gets instantly better."

Mike Bauer and therapy dog Keb

"We do everything together," says Vietnam veteran Mike Bauer, of Rochester, of his 4-year-old therapy dog, Keb. "I have post-traumatic stress disorder, and he's my emotional support; makes me wonder how I got along without him." Bauer brushes Keb's teeth and they like to camp together. And Keb, who is "afraid of everything," supposedly including his own shadow, once jumped in Bauer's bed during a thunderstorm. "He's a nervous wreck. He needs me as much as I need him," laughs Bauer. "My Vietnam experience was 13 months long and it seems like it defined the rest of my life. When Keb and I walk, a lot of it comes back, which isn't all bad. I was in denial for 40 years. Now, coping is easy and the dog helps me with that."



Christie Lohkamp and Sharron Lohkamp

"My father died in an oil field accident in Guatemala when I was 9 years old. I am an only child and have not married, so it has been just mom and me for 38 years," says Christie Lohkamp of her mother, Sharron Lohkamp. "I remember watching how my mom's faith in God got her through the rough times after my father's death and it has instilled a strong sense of faith in me. Mom has had a very slow progressing dementia for 20 years now. It is so hard to watch the changes as she becomes someone so different than she was before. You laugh about it or you cry about it so we just joke about it. Love is about growing and adapting to the changes in each other's lives."



Joyce and Larry Crowe

Joyce Crowe and her husband, Larry, met at the Terp Ballroom in Austin when they were teenagers and have been married 61 years. Their secret? "Three little words. 'You're right, dear.' No, that's a joke," chuckles Joyce, noting the pair are "still friends." They still like to dance together. "We bought twin beds to save our marriage," adds Joyce. "Every night before I go to bed, he comes over to my bed and gives me a kiss goodnight and tells me he loves me. I tell him I love him, too. And we thank the Lord for one more day together."



About Elizabeth Nida Obert
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When my granddaughter, Casey Lynn, was born on my birthday 18 months ago, it was love at first sight. And it's a love that only grows deeper, of course, with togetherness and the passage of time. What a little blessing she is.

Photographer's tip: This self-assigned package was an exercise in persistence. While I did have a handful of volunteers, I didn't expect such a challenge in finding sources willing to talk love. In the end, social media was helpful, and my persistence paid off.

About this page

Camera Work is a weekly page of great photography. Each week we pick a fresh theme, and once a month, we feature outstanding work submitted by readers. Coming up from Post-Bulletin photographers.

Send us your photos

For reader-contributed photos, we are planning these themes:

March 14: Winter fun, winter activities, due March 9
Send high-resolution photos by email to images@postbulletin.com. Must include caption information, your name and contact information.