
Love's Lessons Learned

*After 35 years of marriage, here are ten of the relationship lessons we've learned so far.
We hope they help you build your best partnership ever.
Encouragingly Yours, Patricia & David Katz*



Stop keeping score and tracking who won what battle. A healthy partnership is neither a game nor a war zone. Scorekeeping creates winners and losers; it doesn't build relationships. Being amicably together is more rewarding than being self-righteously solo.



Each day, re-commit to your partner. Relationships take work, especially at the start. Once you commit to making this relationship the best ever instead of wondering or dithering about your choice, everything changes for the better.



Work from your interests and backfill the shortcomings. Dave works in the kitchen and loves it. Pat works in the garden and loves it. Neither one of us cares to vacuum and dust, so somebody else does that for us - and we love that, too.



Build an affection (or at least a kind-hearted tolerance) for your partner's collection of stories. You'll hear a lot of those jokes and anecdotes - again and again and again.



Appreciate each other's strengths and take advantage of them as a team. Pat was more patient with the kids when they were little. Dave was much better with them as teenagers. Between us, we made one pretty decent parent.



Never abandon hope. Pat keeps hoping Dave will learn to dance. Dave keeps hoping Pat will enthusiastically embrace every new technology. Talk about springing eternal!



Speak your mind and listen up. Make your wishes clear - don't leave you partner guessing. Let your partner finish his or her say before you shoot your ideas into the air. Some people need to stop and think between words.



Travel many roads together and travel at least a few on your own. Tossing a few solo experiences into the mix make the ongoing conversations that much more interesting.



Applaud and support each other's enthusiasms - whether you share them or not. Hot rods, fishing, or needlework may not be your passion, but how cool it can be to have a ringside seat for someone else's delight and engagement in learning and creating.



Forgive and forgive again. Holding grudges just eats you up from the inside out. Besides, (note to self) you're not that perfect either!

Bonus Lesson: Yuk it up as much as possible!

Laugh together and laugh often. It's good for the soul.