



Meet A Client

Connie & Harold Meyer

By Dee Farris

We hear so much about retirees travelling to exotic places several times a year. But what about those who aren't real keen about international travel...or spending exorbitant amounts of money, especially in the current economy? Can they still enjoy retirement? The answer is a resounding yes! Harold and Connie Meyer can attest to the fact that retirement years can be low key and yet still be very rich, enjoyable and rewarding. The Meyers share common interests, entertain and travel domestically with friends and share precious family moments with their children.

Harold and Connie were destined to be together. Harold's sister invited him to SEYA, a group of single working people. She wanted to introduce him to Connie's roommate who she worked with. But fate stepped in and Harold met Connie instead. They started working together on committees...dated...and married April 10, 1971. And the rest is history.

Connie was born in a small Minnesota town where she lived through her high school years. After high school graduation she attended Trinity College in Chicago. She earned a degree in elementary education and taught 3rd grade for five years. Connie has one older sister who lives in Jacksonville, Florida. Her parents spent their lives in the small Minnesota town. Her father worked at a grain elevator and a turkey hatchery. Although her dad had only an 8th grade education, he had a brilliant mind, particularly when it involved math.

Harold was born in Chicago and his family moved to Des Plaines while he was still in grade school. His parents were first generation immigrants, his mother was Norwegian and father was German and Irish. His parents met in Chicago and both graduated from Moody Bible Institute. His dad was a salesman most of his life and his mom taught sewing after the children left home. Harold is the oldest of seven children. He is a junior and hence acquired the nickname Bud.

Bud studied electrical engineering at University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. He also served in the

Navy and was stationed in Alaska. Much of his career was spent at IBM doing software trouble shooting.

Connie and Bud have lived in Arlington Heights for 25 years where they raised three children, Kari, a youth minister in Waukegan; Jodi, who works for a Chicago ad agency, and Doug who is a graphic designer and recently married.

The Meyers keep quite busy in retirement. Connie enjoys reading, crossword puzzles, crafts, entertaining friends and church activities. Harold keeps busy with golf, youth work, camp and men's group at church; teaching bible study and Sudoku puzzles.

They have a time share that they purchased when their children were small. Several of their friends also have time shares and they travel together to different resorts, relax, sightsee and play card games. When their kids were young, they travelled with three other families. There were eight adults and eight kids in their group. Kids could entertain themselves. Their travels with friends included Colorado, North Carolina, Arkansas, Texas, Virginia.

What are their retirement goals: to stay healthy, downsize, travel with friends and go on a cruise to Norway someday.

Connie and Harold connected with Vermillion in 1989 when their oldest child was a junior in high school and looking at colleges. Harold posed the question to VFA, "How do we get all three children through college?" With sound financial discipline, Connie and Harold were able to put all three children through college.

The Meyers received some good financial advice when they married that they'd like to pass along. Their pastor advised them to save 10% of their income, donate 10% and don't live beyond their means.

To those looking to retire in the near future, they advise, "Find a good financial advisor and a good lawyer, plan ahead...and start saving early."

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