

Surviving Holidays as a Stepparent



By Michele

Sfakianos, RN, BSN for [Hope After Divorce](#)

It doesn't have to be difficult.

A stepparent who has different holiday traditions from the rest of the family, especially a stepparent with no child of their own, can feel left out of the celebration. All family traditions matter, and it's vital for everyone to be considered when planning holidays.

Actress Megan Fox is stepmom to hubby Brian Austin Green's son, Kassius. Word has it that she is a stepmother to the fullest extent. She has happily looked after Kassius since he was three years old. Fox is a good example of a stepparent who most definitely includes her stepchild in all holiday celebrations as well as every aspect of their family's life.

It should be this way for all children in blended families.

As a stepparent, here are a few things you should consider when planning holidays:

Related Link: [Reinventing Home for the Holidays](#)

Who is going to spend the holiday where? Holiday plans can be predetermined by custody or shared parental agreements. If you have the flexibility of options, discuss them with the children and keep their desires in mind. Some families split up the holidays each year: "I'll take Halloween and you take Thanksgiving." Or some try to do both: "I'll take Christmas Eve" (Mom) and "I'll take Christmas Day" (Dad). Several people celebrate twice, once with each parent.

Where will the gifts be opened? Parents who purchase presents for their children like to see their reactions when the child is opening the gift. How would you feel if you didn't get to see their surprise? Make sure you think of all parties involved when making plans.

Watch out for trouble on the stepsibling front when the kids have other plans. Stepchildren can feel left out if there are "whole" kids in the picture. Try to keep the presents even and have the major festivities take place when all the children are present.

Don't expect holidays to be as you had in the past. Be aware the loss of the old ways of doing things is a disappointment for the kids *and* for you. Discuss how holidays were for each of you and have each person define which rituals are most important to them. This can be hard to hear, but it's important. Incorporate a few of these old rituals into your new holiday.

Create new holidays. If all the holidays seem to be taken up with stress and other people's claims ("But Thanksgiving is mine!"), you can always select another day (Cinco de Mayo,

Arbor Day, Stepparents Day) to become an annual blow-out holiday. Acknowledge you are starting from scratch. There is a new excitement about having the opportunity to create holidays as you would like them to be. Aim for creating your own holiday spirit (with additions) and welcoming kids into it.

If you won't have the children for the holiday, create an alternate festivity for yourselves. Don't stay home and mope. Don't force false cheer. Make new memories. Get creative. Plan ahead and don't let yourself feel lonely or disappointed.

Related Link: [How to Cooperatively Co-Parent After Separation or Divorce](#)

Here are a few more simple tips to keep in mind as well:

- The first few years, try to lower your expectations.
- Don't assume holidays will be calm and peaceful if daily life is full of conflict. There is no holiday from mixed feelings, and you cannot force fun, laughter, and family spirit.
- The winter holidays are traditionally a time of family togetherness. You and your partner can have private time too, but always take the children and stepchildren into consideration.
- Take into account the religions of those involved. It's important to keep family traditions alive with certain cultures.
- Be flexible and encourage flexibility.
- If things are tense, do not force get-togethers or minimize the amount of time spent together.

No matter the holiday, remember to celebrate. You are a real family!

For more information about Hope After Divorce, click [here](#).

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Top 5 Celebrities with the Most Marriages



By April Littleton

Many celebrities are known for their numerous, infamous marriages to other stars who are in the spotlight. Cupid has

come up with a list of the top five celebrities who've had the most marriages. Check it out here:

Billy Bob Thornton

This 58-year-old has been married a total of five times. Thornton married Melissa Lee Gatlin, with whom he has a daughter with, in 1978. The couple divorced in 1980. Six years later, he married actress Toni Lawrence. They separated the following year and divorced in 1988. The *Sling Blade* actor was married to Cynda Williams from 1990 to 1992. A year later, Thornton became involved with *Playboy* model Pietra Dawn Cherniak. They have two sons together, Harry James and William. However, the wedded bliss didn't last long. The lovebirds divorced in 1997. The next lady to come into Thornton's life was none other than Angelina Jolie. At the time, the *Tomb Raider* actress was 20 years his junior. The duo married in 2000 and were known for their eccentric public displays of affection. They reportedly walked around with vials of each other's blood around their necks. The newlyweds separated two years later and divorced in 2003. Currently, Thornton is in a relationship with makeup effects crew member Connie Angland. The pair have one daughter together, Bella. The couple have no plans to marry in the future.

Related: [5 Celebrities with Open Marriages](#)

Elizabeth Taylor

The beautiful Elizabeth Taylor married eight times to seven husbands. Her first marriage was to Conrad "Nicky" Hilton from May 6, 1950 to Jan. 29, 1951. Taylor's next husband was Michael Wilding, who was 20 years her senior. The couple stayed together from 1952 to 1957. Her next marriage to Mike Todd was the only one not to end in divorce. The lovebirds were married from Feb. 1957 up until Todd's death in 1958. Eddie Fisher, Todd's best friend, became Taylor's fourth husband. The pair began an affair while Fisher was still

married to Debbie Reynolds. The duo divorced Mar. 1964. The *Cleopatra* actress married Richard Burton Mar. 15, 1964 and divorced June 26, 1964. They remarried in a private ceremony in Kasane, Botswana, but soon re-divorced in 1976. Taylor married Republican United States Senator John Warner Dec. 1976, but the couple separated in 1982 because of Taylor's unhappiness with the political lifestyle. Larry Fortensky was Taylor's last husband. They met at the Betty Ford Center and married at the Neverland Ranch. The duo were together from 1991 to 1996.

Larry King

The television and radio host has been married a total of eight times to seven different women. In 1951, he married his high school sweetheart Freda Miller at the age of 18. The marriage was annulled a year later. Next, King was briefly married to Annette Kaye, whom he has son, Larry Jr. with. His third wife, Alene Akins, was a Playboy bunny. The couple married in 1961 and divorced two years later. Mary Francis "Mickey" Stuphin, who divorced King, married him in 1963. He remarried Akins in 1969, but they divorced again in 1972. King was involved with math teacher and production assistant Sharon Lepore for seven years. Julie Alexander became his sixth wife in 1989. However, the couple lived in different cities, resulting in a divorce in 1992. King married Shawn Southwick in 1997 three days before he underwent heart surgery. The couple have two children together, Chance and Cannon and are currently still together.

Geena Davis

The *Beetlejuice* actress has been married four times. She married Richard Emmolo from Mar. 25, 1982 to Feb. 26, 1983. Her next marriage was to actor Jeff Goldblum from 1987 to 1990. Film director Renny Harlin became her third husband in 1993. The couple divorced in 1998. Davis married Reza Jarrahy Sept. 1, 2001. They welcomed their first child, daughter

Alizeh Keshvar Apr. 10, 2002. At 48-years old, Davis welcome twin boys, Kian William Jarrahy and Kaiis Steven in 2004. The lovebirds are still married.

Related: [Favorite Celebrity Wedding Dresses](#)

Barbara Walters

Walters has been married four times to three different men. Her first marriage was to Robert Henry Katz in 1955. The marriage was annulled 11 months later. Lee Guber became her second husband in 1963. The couple adopted a daughter, Jacqueline Dena Guber, in 1968. The pair divorced in 1976. Walters married the CEO of Lorimar Television, Merv Adelson in 1981. The couple divorced three years later only to remarry in May 10, 1986. They divorced again in 1992.

Are there any celebrities who should have made the list? Comment below.

Celebrity Christmas Weddings





By [Whitney Johnson](#)

The holidays are said to be the most wonderful time of the year, so it's no surprise that so many couples – famous faces and everyday folks alike – choose to walk down the aisle around Christmas. Thanks to lightly falling snow, flickering fireplaces, and cozy color palettes, the wedding practically plans itself. Whether they embraced the cold crispness in the air or escaped the winter wonderland and headed somewhere warm, the celebrity couples below ensured that their holiday seasons were all the more magical because of their plans to say “I do.”

1. Cassandra Jean and Stephen Amell: The handsome star of The CW's hit show *Arrow* married the former *America's Next Top Model* contestant during a small sunset ceremony officiated by a close friend in the Caribbean on Christmas Day in 2012. The couple had a second wedding in New Orleans on May 26, 2013, and welcomed their daughter Mavi Alexandra Jean Amell, in October.

Related: [Stephen Amell Marries Cassandra Jean for the Second Time](#)

2. Katherine Heigl and Josh Kelley: These two lovebirds exchanged personally-written vows in Park City, Utah, on

December 23, 2007. The wedding took place at the Stein Eriksen Lodge, and the tent was decorated with white flowers and white candles, both of which complimented the fresh snow. The actress was decked out in a custom-made Oscar de la Renta gown and walked down the aisle to an acoustic song written by her husband-to-be. Bringing in a bit of Christmas spirit, Heigl's bridesmaids wore red.

3. Danielle Deleasa and Kevin Jonas: The pop star made sure that his "Jersey Girl" had a wedding fit for a princess: The couple tied the knot at Oheksa Castle in Huntington, New York, on December 19, 2009. Jonas even gifted his bride, who wore a strapless tulle and Chantilly lace Vera Wang gown, with a pair of glass slippers on the big day. With the groom's brothers, Nick and Joe, serving as the best men and his father officiating the traditional ceremony, it was a family affair – one that most certainly extended into the holidays.

4. Crystal Harris and Hugh Hefner: A tumultuous courtship preempted this couple's big day: Harris began dating Hefner in January 2009 and initially broke off their engagement in June 2011 – only five days before she was set to walk down the aisle. Nearly a year later, the twosome reunited. They became re-engaged on December 1, 2012 and married in a small ceremony at the Playboy Mansion on New Year's Eve of that year. A perfect way to end the holiday season and ring in the new year!

Related: [Hugh Hefner and Crystal Harris Tie the Knot on NYE](#)

5. Perrie Edwards and Zayn Malik: This musically-talented pair, who only got engaged in August, is hoping to say "I do" before Christmas of this year. The reason for the rushed wedding is quite practical: Edwards, a member of the British girl group Little Mix, is dreading being away from her fiancé when he departs for One Direction's 2014 tour, and she's hoping it'll be easier if they're hitched. Only time will tell if these plans come to fruition!

Cupid wants to know: Would you ever want a holiday wedding?
Why or why not?

Celebrity Interview with Hair Stylist Chaz Dean: “The Most Important Part is Feeling Sexy”



Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Editorial by Kristin Mattern.

Stylist to the stars Chaz Dean has been creating covetable celebrity looks for years. An authority on hair care, Dean began developing his own natural product line called WEN in

1996. After building an A-list clientele, he started Chaz Dean Studio in Hollywood where celebs can escape the typical salon products and pestering paparazzi for a calm, rejuvenating experience. With his WEN products as well as the [date night](#) tips he shares below, he brings Hollywood style to the masses in our exclusive celebrity interview.

Related Link: [Hair Battle Spectacular's Blondie Talks Hair Tips For Dating](#)

Celebrity Interview with Chaz Dean

Push your bangs out of your eyes and get ready to see clearly, ladies, because this hairdresser cuts away at the salon facade to reveal the truth about hair care. The way you care for your hair is why you don't have tresses like [Jennifer Aniston's](#), but even America's sweetheart chopped off her locks recently – and it wasn't just to be trendy. “She cut her hair short because of a bad keratin treatment,” Dean explains. Brazilian blowouts, keratin treatments, and Japanese straighteners are touted as healthy for your hair, but this stylist believes differently. “People think it's good, and it's not. It takes such a toll on your hair. Your hair is protein; protein does not need more protein.” He says that added protein makes already dry hair more brittle, causing breakage. If you really want to strengthen your hair, moisture and collagen elements are what you need.

Given his passion for this topic, it's no surprise that hair foibles were part of Dean's motivation for creating WEN. Women want soft, touchable hair that also shines with vibrant color. Looking to keep color from fading, the hair alchemist turned to herbal inspiration: “I literally went to my garden and took sage, rosemary, lavender, eucalyptus, apple, bananas, and pears and boiled them together in my kitchen,” he explains in our celebrity interview. “It smelled incredible, and when I cleansed my hair with it, the natural astringents paired with

antibacterial and moisturizing properties made my hair feel clean and silky.” Dean knew he had discovered the miracle recipe he’d been seeking and wanted to get this product to his customers. After nearly five years of lab work, WEN was born in 2000.

In 2005, the hair stylist started working with QVC. “QVC has been a blessing for me because I get feedback from customers. They all have their opinions, and whether it’s good or bad, you learn and you grow from it,” the client-centered stylist says. “The most important part to me is making people’s life easier by embracing their natural hair’s texture and giving them the hair they’ve dreamed of.” On air, Dean showcases his powerful product; whether you have the kinkiest of curls or baby fine locks, WEN makes hair shiny and buttery smooth.

Related Link: [Top 5 Hot Hair Tips You Should Be Taking from Celebrities](#)

Hair Stylist Talks Best Celeb Hair

Celebrities enjoy WEN products at home and trust him to make their hair radiant when they visit his salon. When asked if he had a favorite famous client, Dean candidly responds, “I would say Nicole Murphy because she trusts me to give her the best look.” But when it comes to who has the best hair, he thinks Megan Fox has an enviable mane. “She was doing an interview recently, and she looked gorgeous. Gorgeous! Her hair, I believe, always looks good.” Who wears the short trend best? Isabel Lucas, whose crop he describes as adorable. Christina Aguilera’s hair doesn’t get such a glowing review from the master stylist. “If she doesn’t stop bleaching it to an inch of its life, she’s going to end up having to cut her hair off. Girl, you can have blonde, but it shouldn’t be translucent or yellow.”

Every woman, famous or not, wants beautiful hair that men find attractive. So do you go Rapunzel long or Daisy Buchanan

short? “Men want hair that is soft and touchable, hair that they can run their hands through.” The stylist believes only insecure men need their women to have long hair; secure men are fine with women rocking short hair. To really impress your guy, wear a style that makes you feel sexy. If your man tells you how to wear your hair, the hairdresser says to put him in his place: “Tell him that when he grows his hair out, then you’ll do what he wants.”

Related Link: [Celebrity Hair & Makeup Artist Predicts Anne Hathaway’s Red Carpet Look](#)

A woman’s hairstyle is perhaps most important on her wedding day, and brides often wonder what ‘do is best to say “I do.” Dean suggests being yourself. “Whether you’re a sexy rocker girl, a timid and sweet curly girl, or a wavy girl, bring out that element.” For damage-free curls, the hairdresser advises rolling hair into sponge rollers, misting with WEN Replenishing Treatment Mist, and taking a shower (without getting your hair wet); by the time you’re done with your makeup, your hair will be set with amazing curls without the damage of a curling iron. Don’t wait until you get hitched to try this style; use this tip for your next night on the town with your sweetie for a sure-to-wow blowout!

Continuing to expand his popular line, WEN products are for the whole family – even Fido! WEN has a pet line that cleanses while repelling ticks and fleas. The kid’s line, nicknamed WEN Sensitive, is allergen-free and perfect for anyone with whey, wheat, gluten, menthol, soy, or nut allergies. The line eventually expanded to include WEN for babies and seasonal varieties like summer honey peach, which Dean calls “heaven in a bottle.” Plus, WEN Men will soon be hitting shelves to address men’s unique hair issues.

WEN will you and your’s be ready to wear amazing hair?

For more information on Chaz Dean and WEN, visit the

website, www.wen.com/chaz-dean.html.

Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: Make Your Holiday the Best One Yet



By Kerri Sheehan

Snow falls in thick, icy blankets; winter attire adorns every shop window; and a sip of steaming hot chocolate instantly warms you up. All of this can only mean one thing: The holiday season is upon us! CupidsPulse.com has gathered some of our favorite articles from our partners this week to make your winter the best it can be.

1. Laugh a little: Nothing is better than popping in a nice comedy with your significant other on a cold winter's night and having a good laugh. These comedians will tell you just

how funny love can be. (YourTango.com)

Related Link: [Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: Make Your Long-Term Relationship A Success](#)

2. Cuddle up: One of the best parts about the chilly weather is that you and your guy have all the more reason to stay indoors and snuggle with each other. Here are 47 of the cutest love quotes for that person you just want to 'mush.' (YourTango.com)

3. Get the girls together: Staying in isn't just for you and your man; your girlfriends want in on the fun too! See how Melissa Joan Hart and her closest gal pals celebrated the holiday season with a cute "girls only" get together. (CelebrityBabyScoop.com)

4. Winterize your skin: Don't stop at a girls' night when it comes to pampering yourself. The icy temperatures are sure to leave your skin screaming for thirst, so here are some ways to get your skin ready for winter. (GalTime.com)

Related Link: [10 Holiday Gift Ideas for That Special Someone](#)

5. Be the best gift giver: Now that you've given yourself a gift (or two), it's time to spread that holiday cheer! Even if you aren't a parent, there are bound to be a child or two on your shopping list. These gender-neutral gifts will have any kid wishing that Santa asked you for gifting advice. (GalTime.com)

What's your best tip for surviving the holiday season? Share below.

Date Idea: Freaky Friday



By Kristin Mattern

Bring on the goose bumps this Friday the Thirteenth by having a superstition-based date with your baby. Take those old wives tales to heart as the two of you skip cracks hand-in-hand so you don't break your mothers' backs. Avoid walking under ladders or breaking mirrors – nobody wants seven years of bad luck. Take superstitious beliefs to a fun new place with this weekend date idea.

If you've never been superstitious, spend some time with your sweetie and look up some nifty ones from all over the world. There are a lot of bizarre superstitions out there, according to bored.com, like black cats being demons in disguise who create a barrier of evil when walking across your path. Looking at the new moon over your left shoulder (so specific!) or cutting your nails on a Friday are two more examples. While your love and you share some giggles about these negative juju actions, discover some good luck superstitions to perform and

ward off the bad luck. Cross your fingers, knock on wood, spill wine while proposing a toast (just make sure you have paper towel on standby) and walk in the rain with your honey to soak up the good vibes.

Take a cue from the movie *Freaky Friday* and celebrate this Friday the Thirteenth by pretending to be one another. Act out actions each other normally does, or imitate catch phrases you both normally use. To really take it to the next level, swap clothes and just have fun! Remember to play nice though – don't harp on your partner's bad habits or annoying behaviors.

Continue this eerie date by watching *Friday the 13th*. Looking for something a little more vintage? Check out the *Twilight Zone* or a Hitchcock flick for some suspense. Your cutie is sure to snuggle close as you curl up together on the couch with some popcorn to finish off this fun Friday the Thirteenth-inspired day!

Freak out this Friday with a superstition-filled date!

Have you and your significant other every gotten a little spooky on a Friday the Thirteenth? Let us know in the comments below!

Ways to Help Single Friends Find a Partner





By Leslie Chavez

We all think very highly of our closest girlfriends, so when one of them is single we naturally want to find a partner for them who is just as intelligent, kind, funny, sophisticated and attractive as they are. Although we mean well, sometimes our good-intentions can be misconstrued as offensive and slightly irksome. As someone who is well acquainted with being set up by happily coupled friends, trust me when I say there are certain ways to go about finding that special mate for your BFF. So before you get all Millionaire Matchmaker Patti Stanger on me, consider these alternative approaches to helping your friends find romance.

Try a new activity together

Sometimes your friends need your help in yanking them out of their comfort zone. Trying new activities or learning a new skill is a great way to meet guys. Ask her what kind of class she's always wanted to take but didn't have the courage to do alone. Maybe a comedy class or surfing lessons, somewhere where there will be plenty of guys around to "help" you and your friend out with that new technique you've been learning. This way the pressure is off and your friend can naturally meet a guy who shares some of the same interests as her, all

while having a great time practicing a new hobby with you. If she does find someone she is interested in, suggest that you all go out for drinks after class.

Related: [Dating with an Age Gap](#)

Take control of her online dating profile

If your friend really trusts you and she is comfortable with this, offer to be her online dating advisor. You will be able to give her a different perspective on those online suitors she's been ignoring. Encourage her to be more open to guys she wouldn't normally go for; she might not know what she's been missing. While you're at it, spruce up her profile. Lauren Ware, Match.com's professional online dating profile writer suggests, getting specific, "when you want to use an adjective to describe yourself, think of an anecdote or example that shows how you embody that trait." Grab a bottle of pinot noir and the two of you can turn it into a fun evening of reconnection and reminiscence. Your friend will have a fresh approach to online dating to boot.

Related: [Celebrities Who Met on Blind Dates](#)

Have a party

Have you had your eye on your athletic co-worker with the curly, brown hair or that blue-eyed barista who greets you every morning, thinking they would be perfect for your friend? Have a party and invite them! This isn't an episode of *The Bachelorette*, so don't start lining up roses for your friend to give away at the end of the night just yet. Take a step back and construct a little plan. You can't just invite cute guys. Invite everyone; friends from work, neighbors and your single friend of course. When the party is in full swing, casually introduce your friend to her potential date(s) and let the chemistry take care of the rest. But remember, try not to put too much pressure on the connection. If there are no sparks, then you have to let it go. Look at it as a reason to

have another party.

Have you helped a single friend find a partner before? Share your experience below.

Dr. Barton Goldsmith Discusses How To Become 'The Happy Couple'



By Priyanka Singh

When it comes to being happy in a relationship, Dr. Barton Goldsmith, a multi-award winning psychotherapist, believes that little things can go a long way. In his new book *The Happy Couple: How to Make Happiness a Habit One Little Loving Thing at a Time*, he discusses how couples can transform their

bad habits into good ones, just by doing simple tasks such as talking for 20 minutes a day and asking clarifying questions to resolve conflicts. It all boils down to communication. We recently chatted with the author about how to strengthen and rebuild a relationship from the ground up. Here's what he had to say:

How do bad habits start in relationships?

It starts by people being complacent and not really talking about things that are bothering them. Bad habits develop over a period of time, and if someone doesn't say something that makes you aware of it so you can change it, the bad habits continue. They happen within every relationship. You get used to your partner doing something nice for you, like bringing you a cup of coffee in the morning, and then you forget to thank them for it – that's a bad habit!

Related Link: [Use Your Five Senses For a More Fulfilled Love Life](#)

Do couples take each other for granted after a period of time?

That's something that does happen for many couples and also something that you want to prevent. No one wants to feel that way. You need to be reminded by your partner that you want to be in this relationship every day. That comes from the little things: the hellos, the goodbyes, the kisses, the hugs. All of that's going to make a difference.

What if your partner struggles with communication? How do you get them to open up to you?

I think the thing that I would say to my partner is, "Look, I've read that communication is the most important thing in the relationship, and if we don't get it together, we're going to be in trouble down the road." In the end, communication is all that you have, so I would approach it very seriously and

say that we need to work on our communication. We can either do that on our own or with books; we can go to therapy or watch self-help videos on YouTube. There's a lot of things we can do, but we have to start communicating! We can set up our own time to talk about our days – maybe 30 minutes after dinner or even during dinner. Then, you create communication as a habit.

Many women say they have a hard time getting their guys to open up. Why's that?

It's a learned thing. A lot of guys wouldn't know how to respond. Emotional communication is something that takes time to develop. By opening up to her man, a woman is setting the example.

There's a very simple exercise in the book to teach your partner how to communicate. You ask them a question; they ask you a question; you ask them a question – and you do that for a half an hour. Ask questions like: What's your favorite movie? What's your favorite color? Tell me about the nicest thing your mother ever did for you. If you're not a communicator, it takes a little practice to get there. The first chapter of the book is on communication, so I would say read the chapter together and do the exercise as a couple.

Also in that chapter, it talks about learning how to ask clarifying questions. That's a very important part of communication, especially for guys, because when a woman presents a problem, the guy goes right to solving it. What the guy needs to do is ask clarifying questions to learn more about the problem before he dives right in. A lot of times, a woman doesn't even want the man's solution; she just wants to talk about what's going on. Guys have to learn how to listen.

Related Link: [Five Ways To Get His Undivided Attention](#)

Let's say you have a hard time coming up with creative and fun things to do for and with your partner. What are some go-to

suggestions?

If you just put a smile on your face, in the beginning, that's going to make a big difference, and that's a very simple thing. You need to change negative thoughts to positive ones. Take a walk; read a light book; write down your feelings; play with the dog; play with each other; give each other a massage; do something outside of the house, in the house, with the house! Do things that add to your environment. Do things that are light and easy that are going to make what surrounds you better.

One of the things I tell couples that get into a negative feedback loop is to be nice. Remember what it was like when you were dating, when he would pull out the chair and open doors for you. Go back to that, and do those nice things for each other again. That creates a lot of positivity in a relationship.

Sum up your best relationship advice in one sentence.

Keep it simple: Love each other every day, and don't be afraid of saying "I'm sorry."

To purchase The Happy Couple, check out Amazon or your local bookstore.

HGTV Designer Sabrina Soto Shares Her Party Planning Secrets in Celebrity Video

Interview



Interview by [Whitney Johnson](#).

Celebrity Video Interview with Sabrina Soto

The holiday season is in full swing, and for many people, that means the next few weeks will be filled with parties to plan. With that thought in mind, we enlisted the help of style expert and author Sabrina Soto. In our [celebrity video interview](#), the host of reality TV show *The Great Christmas Light Fight* shares her top tips for hosting a stylish and affordable party.

Related Link: [Kathy Hilton's Advice for Holiday Entertaining](#)

Plus, she let us in on her holiday plans: "I have been engulfed in Christmas décor for the past two months, so this

year, I'm going to Europe for Christmas just to get away and not have to worry about it!" the HGTV designer reveals.

Be sure to check out Sabrina Soto on *The Great Christmas Light Fight*, which premieres tonight at 9/8c on ABC.

For more great holiday party ideas, visit www.target.com/.

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our [YouTube channel](#).

Get Ready to Celebrate the Holidays with 'A Madea Christmas'



By April Littleton

A small town gets ready for their annual Christmas Carnival as Madea (played by Tyler Perry) gets persuaded by an old friend to help surprise her daughter with a visit over the holidays. Past relationships are put to the test and new secrets are revealed, while Madea celebrates Christmas her way.

Should you see it:

Obviously, you'll be seeing *A Madea Christmas* if you're a Tyler Perry fan. If you're not familiar with any of his plays or movies, you might know some of the actors/actresses who will appear on the big screen with him (Chad Michael Murray, Tika Sumpter and Eric Lively). You could also go see the film simply because you're in the Christmas spirit.

Who to take:

Bring a family member along or a couple of friends. You'll probably end up crying and laughing through the entire movie, so bring someone who can sympathize with both emotions.

Related: [Family is Everything in 'Homefront'](#)

What are some ways to bring a family together for the holidays?

Cupid's Advice:

You might not be feeling any of the Christmas cheer just yet, especially if you can't seem to get all of your family on the same page. Are you having trouble getting all of your loved ones involved in the festivities? Cupid has some tips:

1. Family project: With the holidays vastly approaching, this would be a great time to bring all your loved ones together for a Christmas-related project. Have all of your family members decide on a Christmas tree and decorate it together, or think about doing some secret Santa shopping as a group. Little activities like this will bring all of you closer and

help you figure out ways to work as a team.

2. Family dinner: Pick one day out of the week where every member of your family can be free to meet up for dinner. Keep communication open during the meal. Share your feelings and listen when your loved ones want to discuss any important issues or just normal, everyday topics.

Related: [Jennifer Lawrence is Back in 'Hunger Games' Sequel 'Catching Fire'](#)

3. Just relax: Trying to plan a big family get together can be very stressed, especially if your loved ones haven't been in the same room with each other for a long time. Instead of giving yourself anxiety, sit back and let things fall into place. When your family arrives for the holidays, watch television together, have a dance-off competition in your living room or eat ice cream and stay up all night catching up with each other. Christmas isn't about how much money and time you spend getting everything ready – it's about family and being thankful for what you have.

What are some other ways to bring a family together for the holidays? Comment below.

Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: Make Your Long-Term Relationship A Success





By Kerri Sheehan

Longtime relationships aren't for everyone, but for those who have a committed significant other, keeping the spark alive is of the utmost importance. After a few years together, it can be hard to look at your partner like the lovestruck school girl you once resembled. CupidsPulse.com has gathered some of the best tips and advice from our partners – read on to keep your relationship fresh, strong, and loving.

1. DIY Therapy: Any couple will agree that the seas of love aren't always easy to navigate. The best way to revamp your union is to partake in some do-it-yourself relationship therapy. This approach isn't for everyone, but give it a try; it may just work for you! (GalTime.com)

Related Link: [How to Listen to Your Heart and Take Back Control of Your Love Life](#)

2. Weekly Meetings: When you and your significant other have been together for so long, you tend to let the things that bother you simmer rather than addressing them and moving on. You can only begrudgingly wash the dishes so many times before you feel resentment that your guy never takes his turn. Holding weekly meetings where you clear the air and talk about any issues you may have will keep you both happy.

(GalTime.com)

3. Express Yourself: Being in love is like winning the lottery; it's exciting and wonderful, and it adds so many new opportunities to your future. However, it can be hard to put these feelings into words. Here are 50 love quotes that say what you can't. (YourTango.com)

4. The Duggar Family: If you're familiar with the reality show *19 Kids and Counting*, then you know that Michelle and Jim Bob Duggar celebrated their 29th wedding anniversary this past October. The mother of 19 shared her top three tips for a successful marriage. (CelebrityBabyScoop.com)

Related Link: [Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: Parenting and Marriage After a Second Baby](#)

5. Expert Advice: Every relationship is different, so it can be hard to give distinct advice without knowing the whole story. Here are the best tips and expert advice around for couples in any situation. (YourTango.com)

What is your best advice for couples in a long-term relationship? Share your thoughts in the comments below.

How to Listen to Your Heart and Take Back Control of Your Love Life





By [Marni Battista](#)

It may sound cheesy, but listening to your heart is essential when navigating the path to a happy ending. And as important as this may be, doing so can be especially difficult with input from loved ones clouding your true feelings. Be it a long-term boyfriend, a new prospect, or a re-ignited flame, here is a simple, step-by-step guide to drown out other's opinions on your love life and follow your intuition.

Related Link: [‘Tough Love: Co-Ed’ Star Kyle Keller Says, “Listen to Your Heart”](#)

1. Take Time to Think: Before you completely shut out your loved ones, make sure you take some time alone to sort through your thoughts on your current romantic situation. And I mean *alone* time; even just talking it through one-on-one with a trusted friend can invite a trickle of unsolicited advice that leads to confusion and self-doubt. Sometimes, quieting your surroundings, making a cup of tea, and cracking open your journal are all you need to allow the truth to softly float to the surface. Whether your “thing” is to go for a run in nature, collect your thoughts in a long, hot bath, or write until your hand hurts, the truth *will* bubble up when you take time to listen carefully.

2. Trust Your Gut: Once you've had time to develop a solid stance, you've likely also developed a nagging voice in the back of your head that's constantly urging you toward a particular decision. If you've made your list of pros and cons about staying with a long-time boyfriend and you know deep down the right move is to end it, let that nagging voice drown out that of your mother trying to convince you he will provide you the stability you need. Choices like these are not always so cut and dry, but the more time you allow yourself to process the relationship, the more strongly your gut will lead you in the right direction.

Related Link: [Should You Listen When Your Parents Advise You to Break Up?](#)

3. Be Open: Keep in mind as you dissect your thoughts that even the most unsolicited or inaccurate advice about your personal life from loved ones stems from the best of intentions. Remember that your parents, girlfriends, and siblings are giving advice based on *their* experiences, not yours. While they just want the best for you and to see you with someone who makes you happy, find a sensitive way to explain to them that, though you appreciate their concern, you have a handle on how you feel and what to do. Thank them for their support and remind them that you will certainly come to them for advice when you truly need it. Not only will this open communication show your appreciation for those you care about, but it will hopefully quiet some of those real-life opposing opinions as well!

[Marni Battista](#), founder of *Dating with Dignity*, is an expert dating and life coach with a 10-step system to manifesting love for your self and others. You can contact Marni at marni@datingwithdignity.com.

Exclusive Celebrity Interview: 'Food Network' Host Claire Robinson Says, "Food Is the Key to Passion"



Interview by Priyanka Singh.

Chef Claire Robinson is perhaps best known for her Food Network show *5 Ingredient Fix*. But does she use only five ingredients when cooking at home? "I'm all about few ingredient cooking, which really focuses on the quality of the ingredient and the balance within each recipe," the reality TV host explains in our [exclusive celebrity interview](#). "I'm looking for power-packed punches of flavor!"

Related Link: [‘The Chew’ Host Carla Hall Talks Winter Dinner Date Ideas](#)

Reality TV Chef Claire Robinson Shares Recipe

Plus, she reveals how the Flavor Forecast by McCormick helps her overcome “writer’s block” when she’s developing new recipes. Celebrating the Chilies Obsession of 2014, she teaches us how to make the Three-Chile Mole Fondue. She also encourages viewers to introduce fun and exciting recipes to their partners – and she’s got just the way to do it. “Try some of these new flavors!”

And, of course, we had to ask if food is truly the key to a man’s heart: “Food is the key to memories; food is the key to passion,” she candidly shares in our exclusive celebrity interview. “It’s the one language we all speak.”

For more information on McCormick’s Flavor Forecast, visit <http://www.mccormick.com/Flavor-Forecast>.

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our [YouTube channel](#).

Attitude is Key





By Janeen Diamond

for [Hope After Divorce](#)

“...laughing is one of my absolute favorite things.”

My husband and I have gone through about a half dozen extremely stressful events this past year. Looking back, it seems amazing we still find the energy to laugh on occasion. But that’s the way life is! And the older we get, the more responsibility we take on, the more children we have, the more complicated our lives become – the more stress we are going to have to deal with.

My kids and I have always tried to find something to laugh about when serious things happen. It’s not always easy, but at least we feel relief a lot more of the time. And hopefully, that’s affecting our health in a positive way.

One of the biggest stressors in our society is the breakup of families. We live in a world where divorce has become the norm, and it’s refreshing when I notice couples getting along after a divorce. I was thrilled to see that Ashlee Simpson and Pete Wentz reunited (along with their new love interests) to celebrate their son’s fifth birthday. I can tell you from experience that keeping a friendship with your ex post-divorce is the only way to go. Everyone involved will be happier in

the long run.

Related Link: [Exes Ashlee Simpson and Pete Wentz Reunite for Son Bronx's Birthday](#)

And, just a side note, if your new significant other doesn't agree with that logic, it may be time to get a new significant other!

I think we all believe our trials make us better. They build our character; they solidify who we are as individuals; and they give us perspective. We can all learn to be grateful for those tough times. The key to me is allowing our heartache to strengthen us rather than overtake us and beat us down. Ashlee and Pete seem to have this figured out.

Keep these three little tricks in mind the next time you've lost all hope:

Do one thing you love to do every single day. This doesn't have to be extravagant or complicated. Sure, I'd love to go out and buy a new outfit everyday, but that's simply not going to happen. Simple things that we love make us happy. I might bake chocolate chip cookies one day, or sit by the fire and read a book the next. Sitting in the hot tub before bed makes me happy, and it helps me sleep better. Call a good friend and chat, or meet up with your daughter for lunch. Figure out what you love and do just one of those things every single day.

Make a list of all the things that are creating the stress and see if you can do something to change it. This is a brilliant plan! When we write things down, it's easier to tackle what we're dealing with. We will be able to see what we can't change, and hopefully, we'll be able to accept those challenges for what they are at that point. Making a list of possible solutions could change your life. Just don't overwhelm yourself with trying to do everything at once.

Call the one person who makes you laugh every time you talk to

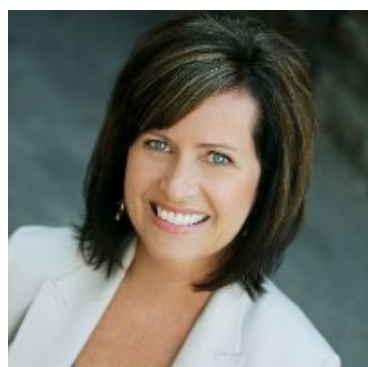
them. For me, this is my big brother. No matter what either one of us is going through at the time, it is absolutely certain that, before we hang up the phone, we will both be rolling in laughter, sometimes with tears streaming down our cheeks. We share a similar sense of humor, and laughing is one of my absolute favorite things. Just writing this paragraph is reminding me to find more opportunity to laugh every day from here on out!

Related Link: [Lessons from Jennifer Garner and Ben Affleck: Don't Take Things Too Seriously](#)

Attitude is everything. I tell my kids that all the time, but sometimes, I have to remind myself as well. How we choose to deal with the stressful times in our lives is up to us. We have to decide how much happiness we want to experience amongst all the grief and upset we sometimes are forced to live with.

Life should be joyful. Make your list right now, and find one thing you can do today that will make a difference in the way you are feeling about your stress. I know I'm going to.

For more information about Hope After Divorce, click [here](#).



Janeen Diamond, author of Save Your Marriage in 30, was a newscaster for KUTV News until 2001. Since that time, she has been actively producing commercials and special programming through her company, Your TV Spot. She has hosted several television and internet productions and has been a spokesperson for several products and companies. She is a leader over the youth in her church and takes a special interest in helping kids stay on track with their lives. Janeen is currently co-creating "Teen Impact TV," a website for high school students to give them a creative and emotional outlet. She is a contributing expert

for HopeAfterDivorce.org, DivorceSupportCenter.com, FamilyShare.com, and CupidsPulse.com. Follow her on Twitter @janeendiamond and www.facebook.com/janeen.diamond.

Celebrity Women Who Date Younger Men



By Gabby Robles

Celebrity men aren't the only ones who go after what's young and hot in Hollywood. Sexy celeb women have helped get the term "cougar" published in the dictionary in its slang term – and with all of these women dating much younger, we're surprised it hasn't happened sooner!

Sharon Stone and Martin Mica: This couple shares a 30-year age

difference, but they haven't let that stop them from showing their love to the world! The duo have been dating for over a year and are still going strong despite rumors of a breakup that surfaced this past January. Mica was only six when Sharon Stone starred in *Basic Instinct*, but that was years ago, right?

Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon: Mariah's first husband, Tommy Mottola, was over 20 years older than she was. Naturally, Mariah decided to go 11 years younger when she married Nick Cannon. These two haven't let age compromise their marriage; they have been married over 5 years and have two adorable children together.

Related: [Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon Spend a Family Day with Their Twins](#)

Julianne Moore and Bart Freundlich: These two have a 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -year age difference, but the actress and director have two children together. Moore stated that when she first began dating Freundlich, she was unsure their relationship would work. But as their relationship progressed, it didn't remain as a standing issue.

Kathy Griffin and Randy Bick: This pair has a near-20 year age difference. The comedienne and her marketing executive-boyfriend met at a food festival over a year ago. Kathy says she "hunted him down." Meow, cougar!

Danielle Fishel and Tim Belusko: These lovers just tied the knot on October 19 in Los Angeles. Their 7-year age gap doesn't stop them from being happy and finding their soulmates; The *Boy Meets World* star had previously said, "Tim is the one. He accepts me for exactly who I am!"

Related: ['Boy Meets World' Star Danielle Fishel Marries Tom Belusko](#)

Jennifer Lopez and Casper Smart: Lopez is 18-years Smart's

senior, but these two have been going strong publically since July 2012. The singer revealed to Katie Couric, “It’s hard for me to think of my age... I feel very youthful... And it’s funny, until somebody brings up [the age difference], I don’t think we really think about it.” Well, we’re happy for them!

Dating younger is how some people reach Cloud 9 – and it’s not a bad thing. As long as these couples keep in mind that age is just a number, they will continue to be happily in love!

What do you think of women dating younger? Share with us below!

What Is the Money Talk? Understanding Why You Should Have It With Your Partner





By Rick Osborn

Being in a relationship is often extremely rewarding, as finding that special someone to share life experiences can make for a more enriched life. However, making a relationship last is hard work and one of the best ways to get off on the right foot is to have the “money talk” with the person you love. It can be difficult to discuss, but it is wholly necessary.

In short, the money talk generally means jointly discussing and agreeing on financial goals to make your life together easier and more fruitful. Start by identifying some areas where you and your partner may not be in agreement or have differing habits – for instance, regarding your respective spending and saving mindsets – and then look at areas where your joint finances need work. Perhaps you can set up a budget, or work together on paying down credit card debt.

If you start your life together without discussing finances, you will do neither yourself nor your partner any favors. But having the discussion early on in your relationship – in an open and frank manner, without judging and without raising voices – can benefit you two-fold: It helps you to become accustomed to talking about money together, and it allows you to set – and reach – your goals sooner.

Here are three additional benefits of having the money talk:

1. It Helps You Set a Long-Term Plan

The money talk involves a lot more than deciding who will pay the bills, or who will clip coupons to save money on groceries. Among other things, you need to tackle long-term topics, such as retirement savings, creating and stocking an emergency fund, and saving for your children's college expenses.

Related: [Your First Date: What It Will Cost](#)

2. It Reduces Conflict

Although you may be starry-eyed in love, it's an unfortunate fact that arguments will ultimately arise. However, reducing what those arguments are about and how often they occur can also make for a stronger and more trustworthy relationship. Arguing about leaving the toilet seat up is not nearly as unpleasant as the confrontation that might occur after one of you drops hundreds of dollars on a purchase or a night on the town without the other knowing.

Related: [Top 7 Tips to Win the Love of Someone Rich or Famous – When You Are Not!](#)

3. It Helps Your Relationship Blossom

How many couples are able to freely speak about money, you ask? According to the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, not many. In a poll released earlier this year, 68 percent of the surveyed couples had negative attitudes about discussing money with each other. However, getting over this discomfort can allow your relationship to blossom and grow. Once you get it out of the way, you can enjoy each another's company more fully, and experience more mutual trust.

If you hit a snag during your money talk, it never hurts to

bring in a professional. Do your research before choosing a certified financial advisor – having assistance can take a lot of the guesswork out of your planning. And if you still experience troubles, never hesitate to partake in professional counseling.

Have you discussed finances with your partner yet?

Rick Osborn lives in Chicago and writes about relationships, lifestyle, and personal finance – including tips for making a budget, finding the best entertainment options, and coming up with great first date ideas. Check out www.moneycrashers.com/inexpensive-things-to-do-on-first-date/.

Dating with an Age Gap



By April Littleton

Many people find themselves attracted to others who are older and/or younger than them. Dating someone who isn't the exact same age as you isn't uncommon. In fact, it's almost rare to find a couple who don't have an age gap between them. This doesn't mean that dating someone who's a different age doesn't have its challenges. Sure, you'll have plenty in common with your new boo, but you might also have quite a few differences. Cupid has some advice:

1. Be sure: Whether you're dating someone older or younger than you, you need to be 100 percent sure that you want to be with that person. Why are you dating this specific individual? Do you see it going anywhere? Will the age difference ultimately affect your relationship? If there's a huge difference in age, the two of you as a couple might not see eye-to-eye. One of you might be ready to settle down, while the other is still wanting to play the field a little. Just be sure the person you're devoting your time to is worth the hassle.

Related: [What to Do When Politics Interfere with Your Relationship](#)

2. Find common ground: If you're going to try to make the relationship last, you and your partner need to communicate early on what your goals and interests are. Find some hobbies you and your honey can enjoy together. Discuss whether or not you're looking for something more long-term, or if you're just taking it day-by-day. Make sure you really dig deep into each other's lives. Watch your significant other's favorite movie, eat the food he/she enjoys, etc. You might come to find that you have a lot more in common with your love than you think.

Related: [5 Tips to Dating Someone with a Potty Mouth](#)

3. Don't make it a big deal: Many of your friends and family members might do a double take when you tell them how old your partner is, but the trick is to act like it's no big deal.

Don't act any differently around your honey than you would anyone else. If he/she is younger than you, don't try to act as if you know all of the new slang words people tend to use. If he/she is older, don't pretend to be anymore mature than you are. The two of you are together for a reason. He/she obviously likes you for who you are. Be yourself around your significant other and everyone else will follow suit – regardless of how young or old they are.

Have you ever dated with an age gap? Share your experience below.

'Mob Wives' Executive Producer Jenn Graziano Says, "I'm Not Anti-Marriage; I'm Anti-Ball and Chain!"





Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#).

From VH1's *Mob Wives* to *Miami Monkey*, Executive Producer Jennifer Graziano transformed the realm of [reality TV](#). She now continues to expand her resume with exciting new projects like releasing a classic, family-inspired Italian cookbook and continuing the recent launch of reality TV star Big Ang's new wine line.

Related Link: ["Bigger is Better": Mob Wives "Big Ang" Launches New Wine Line in NYC!](#)

Celebrity Video Interview with *Mob Wives* Producer

Graziano recently sat down with CupidsPulse.com's Executive Editor Lori Bizzoco to talk about the *Mob Wives* franchise and how the series impacted her family and the rest of her career. And, of course, they talked relationships and love: Despite her hectic schedule, this accomplished bachelorette is open to the idea of getting married one day to someone who's willing to support her ambitions as a thriving businesswoman. As she told us in our celebrity video interview, "I'm not anti-marriage; I'm anti-ball and chain!"

To learn more about Graziano, follow her on Twitter @jenngraziano. Don't forget to tune in on Thursday, December 5th at 10 PM ET/PT for the new season of Mob Wives: New Blood on VH1!

Video by Erik Erikson.

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our [YouTube channel](#).

Celebrity Couple Predictions: Jessica Biel, Faith Hill and Kerry Washington



By [Shoshi](#)

For today's column, I want to look at three celebrity couples that tend to keep their relationship out of the spotlight but are faced with tabloid rumors nonetheless:

Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake: This A-list pair recently celebrated a year of marriage – which means that this union has already lasted longer than many predicted. Every few months, there's a story about Timberlake cheating with a hot blonde or mystery brunette; it's a shame, but there may be something to it. When I look at their energy, the actress seems to be 100 percent into the marriage, while her husband isn't as present. That's not to say he doesn't love his wife; it's just to note that there is a piece of himself that isn't completely committed to their relationship. His energy appears to be up and down, which could be trouble in the long run.

Biel is a beautiful woman who seems quite lovely as a person, but she's rather boring. It can be argued that maybe that is why the marriage works. A part of the sexy singer wants stability, which his wife gives him, but there's also a side of him that craves something else.

I do see baby energy circling the couple, so expect a pregnancy announcement really soon. Wishing them the best on the pitter-patter of little feet!

Related Link: [Tim McGraw and Faith Hill Deny Divorce Rumors](#)

Faith Hill and Tim McGraw: Country music's most beautiful couple is rumored to be getting a divorce (yet again). Don't hold your breath on this one, ladies. Hill isn't going anywhere, and there won't be a breakup (at least for now). Rumors are swirling about McGraw having an affair with Taylor Swift and having bisexual relations with men. Normally, within any set of rumors, there are some truths. Even so, Hill knows who her man is, which is the only important thing.

The rumors are, however, taking a toll on their relationship.

My spiritual sources tell me that these two have an understanding: What happens on the road, stays on the road. Still, it's hard to not bring some of it home. They are working through all of it as they have worked out other issues in the past. Sometimes, McGraw may sleep on the couch, but if you're waiting for divorce papers between these two, you'll be waiting a long time. It's not even a consideration for this power duo.

Related Link: [Kerry Washington Weds Nnamdi Asomugha](#)

Kerry Washington and Nnamdi Asomugha: There are plenty of Hollywood couples that have drama around them, so I decided to take a look at a very happy pair: Kerry Washington and her new hubby Nnamdi Asomugha. Their wedding came as quite a surprise to most people because the actress doesn't like to talk about her personal life in interviews. There is even a rumor circulating that this private pair are *not* married – which is a prime example of why she kept her relationship a secret, even from her friends. Let's keep it real: Some friends cannot keep their mouths shut.

Not long ago, Washington announced that a baby was on board, and two weeks before she confirmed her pregnancy, I saw baby energy circling her when she was on a talk show. She is quite literally glowing. What could be better than a hit show, handsome husband, and baby on the way?

The only issue this couple has right now is that Asomugha, a football player, recently got cut from the San Francisco 49ers. The good news is he made some decent money from his contract, so even though he's unemployed, there's no need to worry about them being broke when the baby arrives. Other than that, these two are doing great; they are well matched and support one another.

For more information on Shoshi, click [here](#).

Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: Navigate Thanksgiving Weekend



By Kerri Sheehan

The holidays are a time for family and friends to get together and celebrate the best parts of life – so how come no one ever mentions the stress that comes with that? The instructions that came with the turkey say it needs to be basted every hour, but proper dinner conversation topics are rarely outlined. And, of course, there are tons of Black Friday promotions, but there are none that say specifically, “Grandma Margaret will love this!” CupidsPulse.com has gathered some of the best tips and advice from our partners to help you navigate your Thanksgiving weekend:

1. Give Thanks: Thanksgiving is about just that: giving

thanks! Whether it's your husband who helps you enjoy the simple things in life, your beautiful baby girl who will be celebrating her first Thanksgiving this year, or your employer who ensures that you have the funds to stay afloat, don't forget to show your gratitude for everyone who enriches your life. (CelebrityBabyScoop.com)

Related Link: [How Celebrity Couples Celebrate Thanksgiving](#)

2. Easy Conversation: You can bet that almost everyone has suffered through one or two awkward Thanksgiving dinners. This holiday is a family affair, so there will likely be those of all ages at the table. Some of your relatives may have also invited new love interests. Here are five go-to dinner conversation topics to keep talk appropriate and fun. (GalTime.com)

3. Good Deals: Now that you've made it through Thanksgiving Day, it's on to Black Friday! This is the ideal time to get some holiday shopping done, as many people have the day off from work and there will be some great discounts. Learning to weed through all of the promos will help you find the best deals. (GalTime.com)

4. Family Presents: After years of buying gifts for your entire family, you may be short on ideas of what will make their eyes widen. Really, how many times can you buy Aunt Mary a bathroom set, and how many cardigans does your mother need? Here are some unique gifts that your relatives will be sure to love. (YourTango.com)

Related Link: [5 Tips for Enjoying the Holiday Season](#)

5. Gift Guide: Nothing shows how much you care like picking out the perfect gift for your boyfriend. If you do, he'll know that you not only pay attention to what he likes but also that you listen when he talks about his love for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers over the Green Bay Packers. With all of the Black Friday deals out there, let this gifting guide help you decide

which presents will make your man the happiest.
(YourTango.com)

What is your best Thanksgiving weekend advice? Share below.

Celebrities Who Met on Blind Dates



By April Littleton

Blind dating isn't uncommon among people who have a difficult time meeting potential love matches, but it does raise an eyebrow or two when we learn that some of our favorite celebrities endured their fair share of spontaneous dating. You would be surprised to find out that some of our most beloved couples actually met through mutual friends. Cupid has a list of such past and present lovebirds:

1. Tom Brady and Gisele Bundchen: Brady began dating Gisele Bundchen in December 2006. In 2009, he revealed to *Details* magazine that he and the supermodel met during a blind date. A mutual friend set up the two lovebirds . “This friend told me he knew a girl version of me,” Brady said, with Gisele chiming in: “And he said to me he’d found a boy version of me.” The couple hit it off immediately and married Feb. 26, 2009 in an intimate Catholic ceremony in Santa Monica. The duo have two children together, son Benjamin Rein Brady and daughter Vivian Lake Brady.

Related: [5 Celebrities with Open Marriages](#)

2. Pete Sampras and Bridgette Wilson: The retired American tennis player met former Miss Teen USA and actress Bridgette Wilson on a blind date arranged by friends in 2000. Just nine months after their first date, the two got married. They have two sons together, Christian Charles and Ryan Nikolaos.

3. Cindy Crawford and Rande Gerber: These two met thanks to Crawford’s agent, Michael Gruber. After Gerber escorted the supermodel to her manager’s wedding, the two began a friendship. The pair reconnected romantically after Crawford’s three-year marriage to Richard Gere ended in 1994. Shortly after, the new couple married in 1998. “When she’s lying next to me, she looks incredible. That’s the best part: waking up with her,” Gerber said of Crawford, 47. The lovebirds have two children together, son Presley Walker and daughter Kaia Jordan.

4. Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston: The former *Friends* actress met her ex-husband through a date that was set up by both of their managers in 1998. The couple married July 29, 2000 in a private ceremony in Malibu. However, wedded bliss didn’t last long. Five years later, they pair announced their separation and divorced Oct. 2, 2005. Brad Pitt has since moved on with Angelina Jolie and Aniston is now living with and engaged to Justin Theroux.

Related: [Top 5 Celebrity Couples That Live Across the Pond](#)

5. Jenny McCarthy and Paul Krepelka: Before dating her current beau Donnie Wahlberg, McCarthy connected with Boston sports agent, Paul Krepelka. “He was my fifth blind date,” she told talk show host Ellen DeGeneres in Jan. 2011. However, due to the stress of a long distance relationship, the couple called it quits a month after McCarthy went public with their romance.

Who are some other celebrities who met on blind dates? Comment below.

Family is Everything in ‘Homefront’



By April Littleton

Directed by Gary Fleder, *Homefront* stars Jason Statham as former DEA agent, Phil Broker. He is widowed father who decides to retire and move to a small town for the sake of his 10-year-old daughter. The film also includes James Franco, Kate Bosworth and Winona Ryder.

Should you see it:

Jason Statham is known for starring in some pretty action-packed thrillers and this film will be no different. So, if you're a fan of the action genre or you're familiar with any of the actors you'll see on the big screen, take a chance on *Homefront* – you won't be disappointed.

Who to take:

Don't be surprised if this movie is the first one on your boyfriend's list of must-sees. If you're flying solo over the Thanksgiving holiday, grabbing a bunch of your friends or family members to see this film won't be too out of the ordinary – just make sure they don't mind the fight scenes.

Related: [Jennifer Lawrence is Back in *Hunger Games* Sequel *Catching Fire*](#)

How do you help a child get over the loss of a parent?

Cupid's Advice:

The loss of a loved one is hard on anyone, especially if that person was a parent to a child. For children, a death is harder to understand and it may become more difficult for them to grieve properly and eventually accept that their mom/dad is gone. Cupid is here to help:

1. Help them understand: Whether your daughter/son is old enough to understand or not, the actual death of a parent will take him/her by surprise. When the time comes, it's important

that you take the time to answer any and all questions your child might have. You need to help them understand why and how the loss of their family member happened. Acceptance won't happen over night and you shouldn't expect it to – be patient.

2. Don't punish: After the loss of your loved one, your child might act out. The sudden change from good to bad behavior is normal in this situation. He/she is just trying to work out all of their feelings and they don't really know how to react at a time like this, especially if this is the first death in the family. Give your son/daughter some time to try to work out their emotions on their own. If you noticed that nothing has changed for the better after awhile, think about seeing a professional therapist.

Related: [How to Support a Partner Whose Ex Passed Away](#)

3. Support them: Your child will need the support from you and the rest of your family now more than anything. All of you will need to be behind each other 100 percent. You can grieve together, help each other accept what's going on and stop each other from doing anything harmful to one another. Being supportive won't just benefit your child, but you as well. Remember, you'll be dealing with the loss just as much as anyone else.

What are some other ways to help a child get over the loss of a parent? Comment below.

Dating with Dogs: When Your Pet Is a Deal Breaker



By Eric Bittman,
CEO/President of [Warren London](#)

For my first expert post, I want to consider a common question: What do you do if your pet is a deal breaker? Let's say you have a two-year-old puppy, and you meet the person of your dreams – and they aren't a dog person. Do you choose your dog, or do you pursue a relationship with your soul mate? Big dilemma!

Related Link: [Must Love Dogs: More Singles Getting Pets](#)

Being a dog owner has changed for the current generation. Keeping your dog outside and tied up to a tree is no longer an option. Now, our dogs sleep next to us in our bed, and some of us spoil them so rotten that they even have their own pillow and blanket. For many pet owners, having a dog can be similar

to having a child: You drop them off at daycare; you bathe them regularly; and you take them to the vet for regular checkups.

Trading your puppy love for a new relationship will certainly be difficult, and it's an issue that you need to clearly communicate to your partner. They need to understand how important your pet is to you and that giving your dog up is not a decision that you take lightly. If you truly want a future together, you *both* must be willing to compromise.

This question affects everyone differently. Luckily, my wife is a huge dog lover, and we'll always have multiple dogs in our household. Our two Boston Terriers have been a huge part of our lives for the eight years we've been together, and we couldn't imagine not having them.

Related Link: [Amanda Seyfried and Justin Long Bond Over Her Dog](#)

This month, I caught up with Jayde Nicole, former Playmate of the Year and star of *The Hills* and *Holly's World*, to ask her some questions about dating with dogs:

Q: You meet someone who says "I'm not a dog person" or "I don't like dogs." Is it over right there?

A: Yes, definitely!

Q: Do you ever feel jealous of your significant other when they're more into their dog than you? Or is it attractive?

A: Never happened to me before!

Q: Let's say your dog eats your partner's new wallet. What do you do?

A: My dogs would never do anything like that – they're very well-behaved.

Q: How do you handle it if your dog doesn't like your new significant other?

A: Most of my dogs hate everyone at first, but they always warm up to people eventually, so I would just give it some time.

Q: You meet someone that insists that his or her dog sleeps in the bed with you. Is that the end of the relationship?

A: All four of my dogs sleep in my bed with me no matter who else is there!

Q: And lastly, Your significant other says hi to the dog before they say hi to you after a long day of work. Do you see it as sweet or just plain rude?

A: Pretty standard – my dogs are so darn cute!

For more information about Eric Bittman, click [here](#). Stay tuned for next month's Dating with Dogs column!

‘Bachelorette’ Trista Sutter Talks About ‘Happily Ever After’: “Ryan and I Make It Work for No One But Ourselves”



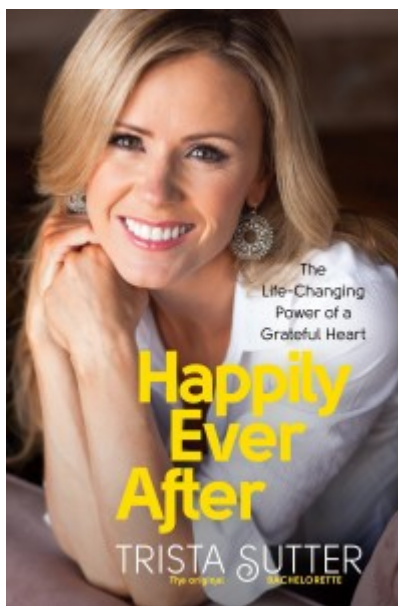
By Kristin Mattern

Reality TV viewers know Trista Sutter from the first season of *The Bachelor* where she grew to be a fan favorite on the show. When she ended as runner-up, ABC chose her as the first star of their new show, [The Bachelorette](#). It was there that she met and fell in love with her husband, firefighter Ryan Sutter. Defying the bleak love statistics of the popular ABC franchise (as of 2013, only three famous couples have gotten hitched out of 25 seasons), Trista and Ryan married in 2003 and have since welcomed two beautiful children – Maxwell Alston and Blakesley Grace. Family life hasn't slowed down this stay-at-home celebrity mom. She regularly contributes to several blogs and most recently wrote a book about the power of gratitude.

Related Link: [Reality Stars Who Found Real Love: Trista and Ryan Sutter](#)

Celebrity Interview with Former Bachelorette Star Trista Sutter

Happily Ever After: The Life-Changing Power of a Grateful Heart was inspired by Sutter's desire to write about a topic she could speak to authentically and realized that the subject most important to her was gratitude. "It's kept me uplifted during the hard times and grounded during the high times," she says in our celebrity interview. "I truly hope I'm able to encourage happiness in my readers by writing about its value through the stories of my life, others' lives, and the incredible scientific research proving its positive effects." The title stems from the reality TV star's Disney-like romance, but her book also showcases that life isn't perfect. Sutter believes that "if you embrace a grateful heart, your fairy tale will reveal itself through a happier life."



With Thanksgiving only a few days away, the release of Sutter's book is fitting. The mother-of-two says she is most thankful for her relationships with family and friends and the experiences in life that have taught her to cherish her blessings. "Moments full of sadness or strife have made me realize how short life is and helped me to appreciate it," she says.

Related Link: [Five Bachelor and Bachelorette Couples We Can](#)

Trista Sutter Opens Up About Her Relationship and Love

When it comes to her celebrity marriage, Sutter says her relationship with husband Ryan is based on true love. Asked if they ever feel pressured to stay together because of their reality TV past, the starlet candidly responds, “I wouldn’t say that we are pressured to stay together, but I’ll admit that I would never want to disappoint our hopeful fans if we were to ever decide that our marriage wasn’t healthy anymore. We love each other and make it work for no one else but ourselves.” This December, the happy couple will be celebrating their ten-year anniversary, but they’re keeping their plans a secret for now!

Over the last decade, their relationship and love has evolved simply because they’ve become parents and have “two tiny humans to concern themselves with.” The charms that keep their fairy-tale marriage under a love spell are simple: “communication, love, respect, trust, honesty, fun, humor, adventure, commitment, friendship, forgiveness, and faith.” Quite a long list, but it works for them!

The Sutter’s haven’t told their son and daughter about their unconventional romance but will do so when the kids are older. When the parents do share their love story, the Colorado natives plan to give this relationship advice: “Be yourself, marry your best friend, and never settle. The fairy tale is out there, and even though everyone suffers through heartache, we need to be grateful for the road that leads us to the eventual path to our soul mate.” In the meantime, she and Ryan are focused on filling their children’s lives with positivity and every night, they recount the blessings of the day.

Related Link: [Love Lesson’s From ABC’s ‘The Bachelor’](#)

Never one to slow down, she is continuing her work by partnering with GloryHaus.com and featuring a line of gifts called "The Grateful Heart Collection," which includes picture frames, wall art, magnets, pillows, jewelry, tote bags, and more – all created with the intention of spreading the word about gratitude. Just in time to start your holiday shopping!

With the next season of *The Bachelor* due to air soon, Sutter advises those women seeking to win the heart of Juan Pablo to have fun, be themselves and make friends!

To learn more about Sutter and The Grateful Heart Collection, visit her website, www.tristasutter.com/index.html. Her book, Happily Ever After: The Life-Changing Power of a Grateful Heart, goes on sale today.