

Meet Your Neighbors Freddi Wilkinson and Giff Boyce-Smith

[Editor's note: For those of you who are not familiar with it, "Meet Your Neighbors" is a series of irregularly produced profiles of residents of Diamond A which I write to help us all get to know each other better. While the profile subjects often participate in a lot of Diamond A activities, sometimes they are newbies to our hill. I hope you enjoy the 2022 installments of Meet Your Neighbors.]

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One does not have to be a huge sports fan to know that a batter still has another opportunity for a home run even after he has two strikes, and a team has another opportunity for a great inning even after two outs. Well, this team has found marital success on the third try for each of them. Meet Freddi Wilkinson and Giff Boyce-Smith who have not only found each other after two “practice” marriages but also found the house of their dreams high on Grove Street in Diamond A in Sonoma. Their relationship’s beginning sounds like a computer dating executive’s marketing dream. Ever hopeful after six years of single life for Freddi and two for Giff, each of them had signed up with Our Time, a dating site that

caters to more mature folks; Freddi was intrigued enough by what Giff said in his profile about his hopes, dreams and values to reach out to him. Their innate bias towards compromise was immediately suggested by their first “coffee” at a cafe located halfway between their apartments. The extraordinary amount of common interests (sailing, cycling, hiking, travel, good food and wine, the arts and non-profits) and common values made one thing lead to another pretty quickly. However, before they could get married, they had to deal as a team with Freddi’s three dealbreakers:

1. Though Giff loves San Francisco, Freddi was weary of foggy cold summers and needed more sun and blue skies.
2. Though they both love to travel, Freddi wanted to schedule a trip around the world.
3. Freddi would not sleep with a man who snores. (Little did she know at the time that she also snores; the solution has been his and hers earplugs.)

So, for the third time for each of them, they said “I do” in Paris in 2017 while on their way to Africa for their honeymoon.

They are very happy that they met later in life when they would take nothing for granted and would be better able to adjust to whatever life throws at them. They approach life as a team and each brings strengths to the relationship, possibly because they brought very different backgrounds to the relationship—Giff as a physician, medical professor and medical executive and Freddi as a teacher, business consultant, sales/marketing person and advertising executive. Between them they have three adult children and four grandchildren.

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As usual, I asked Freddi and Giff some questions:

What worries you the most?

Giff: The the wealth gap and our dysfunctional government.

Cheryl: Climate change and our divided country.

Favorite restaurant?

Giff: EDK

Freddi: EDK and Cafe LaHaye

Who cooks/cleans?

Giff is the sous chef and Freddi is the cook. Freddi is the organizer, and they both do the cleaning.

Early bird/night owl?

Giff starts earlier, but they both squeeze a lot of hours out of each day.

Significant Diamond A activities:

Giff: Setting-up and cleaning up and helping with food.

Freddi: Helping with the social events.

Professional sports:

Seasonally, the TV is always on—They both love the Warriors and watching the Tour de France. Giff is also a fan of the Niners and the

Giants.

What irritates you?

Giff: When there is a lack of accountability; anything involving Trump.

Freddi: People without integrity and racist comments.

Bliss moments:

Giff: Being with Freddi, hanging out with our kids and grandkids and sailing in the Bay.

Freddi: Anything with g/iff and our kids/grandkids, working in the rose and veggie gardens, being with Giff and sailing in the Bay; sitting in bed in the morning with a cup of tea watching the bees and hummingbirds.

Top of Bucket List:

Giff: Biking in Europe, sailing in Tahiti and seeing Patagonia

Freddi: Biking in Europe, sailing in Tahiti, our upcoming trip around the world. *[Editor's note: Don't these guys sound like they are still newlyweds?]*

Favorite Dessert:

Giff: Fried bananas

Freddi: Macarons from Miette's bakery

Books on the bedside table:

Giff: Red Notice

Freddi: The Path Made Clear; nutrition and meditation books.

Who would be a great Sunday night dinner guest?

Giff: Jack Wootton (my maternal grandfather), Deepak Chopra, Sir Ernest Shackleton and David Attenborough.

Freddi: Greta Thunberg, Nancy Pelosi, Oprah, and Jacinda Ardern, the

prime minister of New Zealand.

If you could pick another first name, what would it be?

Giff: Theodore or Ted

Freddi: I love my nickname Freddi (now my legal name); it feels like me!

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