

Alumni-Storys

LOVE IN THE HAUS

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On September 26, 2009, Audra and John arrived separately at Pier 40 in San Francisco for the HAUS 2nd National Meeting to board the schooner »Bay Lady« and cruise around Alcatraz Island. They had no idea how their lives would change that day.

When Audra arrived at the dock before the boat ride for introductions, nothing really stood out except for one thing – the bright smile of a handsome young man. On the boat, she never interacted with him, but she overheard him making a joke to another woman. The woman didn't understand the movie reference the man made, but Audra did.

John noticed a beautiful young woman on the boat, but never spoke with her. She stood out because of her bright orange sunglasses. Little did he know that at the next event, a seemingly innocent question from Audra would change his life forever. John arrived at the next event, a buffet dinner at Boudin on Pier 39. After chatting with a few people, John saw the bar was open and headed over to it.

»What should we drink?« asked Audra as she came up beside him.

The way she said it was so intimate, like they already knew each other well.

John smiled and replied »Well, it is only open for an hour, so we better have martinis!«.

And so, they drank martinis, and the two were so enraptured with each other that when the event ended at 7:30pm, they did not want to part. They discovered that they had missed each other in Heidelberg by several years; Audra had studied there 2007-2008 and John from 2001-2002. John was from Portland, Oregon but was living in Seattle, Washington. Audra was from New Jersey but was living in San Francisco.

Audra suggested going to a nearby bar, The Buena Vista, for some of their famous Irish coffee



and to continue their conversation. They parted and said, »Auf Wiedersehen« – and it was true. They would see each other again, many times, until Audra finally moved in with John in 2012. When John proposed at The Buena Vista in 2013, Audra's answer was an emphatic, »YES!« They married in 2015 in the quaint Bavarian-themed town of Leavenworth, Washington and served Irish Coffees to all of their guests.

There was only one choice for their honeymoon: Heidelberg. They hired a photographer, brought their wedding attire, and walked around the city that had brought them together; across the Old Bridge, along the Neckar, with the Brass Monkey, and, of course, up at the castle.

The story continues to be written in New Jersey, where they had their first child, Vesper, in April of 2020.

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