

June 2005

My siblings and I commissioned Ruthie Ristich and Skydancer Productions to create an original production to commemorate our parents' 50th wedding anniversary.

First, the process was not only painless, but pleasurable. Ruthie was so engaged in learning about our family history and organizing sounds and images to tell the compelling story of how my parents met, started a family, proved victorious through various challenges, and actually made it to the fifty-year mark. Because every family is different, no one "formula" is going to work for everybody. Ruthie had so many creative and thoughtful ideas as to how to approach and organize this project so that it reflected my parents' unique story and inter-personal dynamic in the context of their greater community of friends and family.

Second, Ruthie is a master of technique, and the look and feel of the production was close to a PBS-style documentary. This was no overly sentimental, disjointed audio-visual garble that we all too often see around weddings and anniversary celebrations. Rather, every frame had meaning and a thousand kind and intelligent thoughts behind it.

I knew that I could expect a tasteful, professional-quality product from Ruthie. However, the final production was beyond all of my expectations. In fact, it was so beautiful and moving that I did not dare "premier" it at the anniversary party itself, for I knew that my parents would be moved to tears and rendered speechless - - hardly a condition in which to entertain guests. So the kids decided to present it to them a few hours before the party. My parents' response was beyond description. The first words they uttered were "this is so precious to us." They simply could not believe that anybody could have chronicled their 50 years together with such compassion, humor, and insight. We played the production in a special room throughout the party and it triggered countless laughs, hoots, and tears as loved ones both living and departed - - members of our family community - - were depicted on screen.

Ruthie's work serves as an important historical document for my family. It will be played by grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and by friends and relatives on several continents. Its movement, color, and excitement will serve as an important link to future generations.

I cannot thank Ruthie Ristich enough for the care, love, and vision she channeled into this marvelous piece of work.

-Dyann DeVecchio, Esq.

SEYFARTH SHAW LLP  
Two Seaport Lane  
Boston, MA 02210-2028