

JDA's GOLDEN COUPLE

Ruth and Harold Fallman celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Sunday 12 November 2017.

Here, Harold Fallman tells Brinthan a few highlights of their lifelong love story:

Tell us about your early lives

Ruth was born in Schlochau, a village in Northern Germany and I was born in Brick Lane, East London.

We met at the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children (RSJDC). She was aged 5 and I was aged 4!

When Ruth was 14 she left England to go to America to be reunited with her family. I was 25 when I decided to write to Ruth, who was by now an American lady!

In 1965 I went to Washington for Deaflympics '65. First I went to New York to see Ruth. That was the first time I had seen her in over ten years. When I returned to England, we kept in touch writing letters. Eventually Ruth came for a 3-week holiday in England. On the last day, I asked her to marry me and she agreed!

Where did you live after you got married?

We lived in Walthamstow. At that time a new tube station opened up and it was easy to get to Central London.

What are among your happiest memories?

We loved being together all the time. She was a chatty one and we could talk forever.

What is your proudest personal achievement?

When Closed Captions came out in the 70s, it was not possible to record the captions on video tape. We could only watch subtitled TV live at the time it was aired. I was an electrician and I wanted to be able to video subtitled TV. I kept thinking about it and one night, I worked out there could be a way. It was like a lightbulb moment in my head. Next morning immediately I went to my television and got to work. Eureka I did it! My Deaf friends were amazed! I set it up for them and, as far as I know, we were among the first people to video subtitled TV. That was my proudest moment! (I believe the device I created is now in the British Deaf Museum in Liverpool.)

What is the secret to a happy marriage?

Understand each other, keep chemistry with your partner, stay loyal and caring...that is my secret!



Ruth and Harold on honeymoon



Golden wedding celebration with all the family

