



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

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Be My Valentine

When Manuela Pennes and Alfonso Vega met nine years ago at 30th Street Senior Center, it was love at first sight. Manuela, who loves music, was singing down the hall. Alfonso heard her voice and peeked around the corner to see who was singing. Two years later, they married in Puerto Rico. Seven friends went along to help celebrate.

Alfonso, 79, says he's been as lucky in work as he has in love. "I was vacationing in the U.S. and was offered a job in construction of the 280 freeway, for three and a half years." Later he moved to Chicago, where he worked for Western Electric for nine years. Then he came back to San Francisco and worked 24 years for U.S. Food Co. Manuela, now 76, worked 38 years for Hunter Douglas, and then retired.

Three or four years ago, a Stanford student asked them to be part of her oral history and video presentation for her diploma. Their romantic story is also featured in *Autumn Romance* by Carol Denker, a book of portraits and stories of love after age 50.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

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