

Veteran Matchmaker Wants Singles to Have a Ball

Love-hunting festival features seminars, dance

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Pari Livermore likes to get people's hearts pumping in more ways than one. She's the woman behind the 14th annual Red & White Ball on Monday, a dance to raise \$120,000 for the San Francisco Boys & Girls Club that is guaranteed to get the blood flowing.

But it's an open secret that Livermore is also a matchmaker extraordinaire, enjoying nothing more than to get people's hearts aflutter with thoughts of love.

That's why there is a new component to this year's Red & White Ball — the California Matchmaking Festival. The festival will be tomorrow through Sunday and will consist of educational seminars on love hunting as well as activities where singles can mix.

"I believe there's a lid for every pot," said

Livermore, who as proof has a list of more than 100 marriages that have resulted through her efforts.

They include TV personality Jan Yanehiro and Robert Eves (CEO of Venture Corp.), Michele and Steve Kirsch (he founded Infoseek), and Diane and Tad Taube (he is CEO of Woodmont Corp. and president of the Koret Foundation).

Livermore, a former TWA flight attendant, coordinated the first Red & White Ball and stuck with it over the years, cultivating friendships with women who volunteered for the ball's committees and men who made donations to the ball and the charitable groups designated as beneficiaries. For five years she has partnered with Gretchen Wendel for the event.

Livermore says a large part of matching people up is listening to what men want and finding a woman who fits that type.

EVENTS FOR SINGLES

THE CALIFORNIA MATCHMAKING FESTIVAL and 14th annual Red & White Ball are for singles only. Festival events run tomorrow through Sunday around San Francisco; the cost is \$850, including admission to the ball. The formal-dress ball takes place at 7 p.m. Monday at the Westin St. Francis, 335 Powell St., San Francisco. Tickets to the ball: \$150 for ages 35 and younger, \$200 for older patrons. Call (415) 885-1622 or go to www.redandwhite.org.

"Men aren't looking to marry a business partner; they want nurturing, they want femininity, someone like their mother — they were programmed that way," she said. "That is not antiquated — it's reality. I don't care if its 1952 or 2002."

Michele Kirsch, a commercial real estate agent, met Livermore while they were neighbors in the Marina and volunteered for the Red & White Ball committee. She

was engaged at the time, but years later, Livermore heard the engagement was off.

She fixed her up with Steve Kirsch, who was a "horrible" first date, Michele said, because he interviewed her methodically about whether she'd ever done drugs, whether she'd been a straight-A student, what her greatest success was.

"I ended it with a handshake," she said.

But Livermore came to the rescue, telling him to send her roses and ask for a second date. Eventually they learned about their commonalities — he was an engineer and liked ham radio, just like her dad. He liked corny songs by the Beach Boys and the Carpenters, and so did she.

"He brought out interests I had pretty much put aside," Michele said. They married eight months after meeting, he hit it big in the computer world, and they now have two children and a happy marriage, she said.

Taube was twice divorced when he met Livermore through a friend. She set him up

with many dates, and things finally clicked with Diane, a "beautiful, bright, insightful" woman who worked at her father's BMW dealership in San Mateo. They married after two years of dating, he said.

At \$850 (ball ticket included), the match-making festival doesn't come cheap, but it includes classes and opportunities for casual contact. Among the workshops on Saturday are "What to Do If You Forgot to Get Married," offered to women by Livermore, and "How to Court the Women of Your Dreams" by Gayle Delaney, a dating coach with a doctorate in clinical psychology.

Delaney won't be talking about wine and chocolates before the fireplace, though.

"I'll be more of a strategist to help men pick women more worthy of them," she said, "and then to beat out the competition for women who are fair, generous and fun."

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