

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Correspondence

Series/Staff Member: Kelley Van Auken

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 18016

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Same-Sex Marriage Background [1]

Stack:

S

Row:

41

Section:

7

Shelf:

5

Position:

2

Daniel W. Burkhardt

 09/28/99 11:20:47 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Kelley A. Van Auken/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: delia a. cohen/who/eop@eop, shivaun a. cooney/who/eop@eop
bcc:
Subject: Re: Greetings Policy 

kelley -- thanks for this e-mail. i am fuzzy on the policy -- it was in place when i became deputy here. could you please call jamie williams, the former director, at 366-9747, for clarification? when we have this, i can raise the issue with sean. thanks.

Kelley A. Van Auken

Kelley A. Van Auken

 09/24/99 11:53:50 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Daniel W. Burkhardt/WHO/EOP@EOP, Delia A. Cohen/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Shivaun A. Cooney/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Greetings Policy

Hello. Seeing as how I am very new to the Greetings Office, I wanted to run a thought by you and get your feedback/have you fill me in on the history of the policy.

Probably about six months ago I learned of the Greetings Office policy regarding same sex marriages.

Unfortunately it wasn't my place to do anything more than express my opinion at the time. The front desk volunteer today brought me an invitation mailed in to the President from two women for their commitment ceremony. I've learned that when an invitation comes in from a same sex couple the volunteers put it in a question box which staff go through. In the past, staff members have kept a file of these requests; however, no greeting is sent, nor is the couple responded to in any way.

I'm hoping you can fill me in on the history behind the formulation of this policy. I've checked with Shivaun and she is not sure of how the policy came to be either. It seems that it was perhaps formed quite a while ago and passed on to successive staff members, but a detailed understanding of the "why" of it was lost along the way. I'd like to explain to you why I think the policy should be changed.

First - it is my understanding that the President is committed to "ideally" responding to every piece of mail that comes in to the White House. In other circumstances, if we are unable to fulfill a greeting request, we have a form letter we send explaining why they will not be receiving their card. I understand perhaps this is a little more sensitive than the fact that we only send birthday cards to persons 80 years or older, and I really can't imagine creating a form letter explaining why we won't send the couple a congratulations greeting, but that leads me to the next reason why I think the policy is wrong...

I think a greeting *should* be sent. I understand that it is not my beliefs that should determine what type of cards are sent, as they come from the President, but I think sending a card would fit in with this Administration's policies. He did sign the DOMA, and therefore we would not be able to send the wedding

greeting. However, the couples send in invitations to a ceremony they have established to recognize their commitment to one another. They are not asking for a card congratulating them on their "legal marriage ceremony." Perhaps I'm playing with semantics, but I don't think some sort of recognition of this is too much to ask for. We have a greeting card for practically every other event. I think sending out the Special Day card would be appropriate. It reads:

Hillary and I are delighted to join your family and friends in sending congratulations as you celebrate this special occasion. Best wishes for much continued happiness.

This would not have to be a huge policy change we would need to announce to all the Greetings volunteers, as I know some of them may have different beliefs, but could be something one of the front desk volunteers take care of.

So...please feel free to tell me if I am overstepping my bounds here. :) Perhaps I'm allowing my personal beliefs to guide me a bit too much, but I figure it couldn't hurt to at least bring the subject up with you both.

Thanks for listening.

Kelley
x65479

Daniel W. Burkhardt

 10/15/99 10:41:42 AM

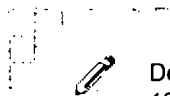
Record Type: Record

To: Kelley A. Van Auken/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Delia A. Cohen/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: commitment ceremonies

sean was very much in favor of sending the special occasion card for these ceremonies. ok to proceed.
thanks.



Delia A. Cohen
10/15/99 10:42:41 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Kelley A. Van Auken/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: commitment ceremonies

thanks so much for bringing this to our attention and fixing it--way to go, kelley!

----- Forwarded by Delia A. Cohen/WHO/EOP on 10/15/99 10:42 AM -----

Daniel W. Burkhardt



● 10/15/99 10:41:42 AM

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Record Type: Record

To: Daniel W. Burkhardt/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
bcc: Shivaun A. Cooney/WHO/EOP@EOP, Records Management@EOP
Subject: Re: Greetings Policy 

Thanks. When writing the e-mail I I tried to tone down my outrage, but reading back through it now, when I'm calmed down more, it seems like I was still venting quite a bit. :) So - thanks for letting me vent. I've left a message for Jamie and will get back to you when I know more. I appreciate your willingness to raise it with Sean.

Kelley
Daniel W. Burkhardt

Daniel W. Burkhardt

 09/28/99 11:20:47 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Kelley A. Van Auken/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: delia a. cohen/who/eop@eop, shivaun a. cooney/who/eop@eop
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Thanks for listening.

Kelley
x65479

Kelley A. Van Auken



10/14/99 02:00:15 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Daniel W. Burkhardt/WHO/EOP@EOP, Delia A. Cohen/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Shivaun A. Cooney/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Greetings Policy



YEAH - I'm very happy. When I was out yesterday afternoon Shivaun took a call from Meredith Cabe. She said that Counsel's has no problem, from a legal perspective, with us changing the policy and sending out the Special Day card to same-sex couples for their commitment ceremonies. She said she didn't know how the policy came about in the first place or any involvement they had, but as far as they're concerned, it's not a problem.

So, where do we go from here? Do we need to talk to other people? Implement it?

She also had me call Terry Good to take care of the boxes of transition info.

Thanks
Kelley



Hillary and I are delighted to join your family and friends in sending congratulations as you celebrate this special occasion. Best wishes for much continued happiness.

Bill Clinton



Congratulations on the celebration of your wedding. Our thoughts and best wishes are with you as you begin your new life together.

Bill Clinton

Hillary Rodham Clinton



White House Rejects Same-Sex Marriages

Clinton's Gay Constituency Angry

WASHINGTON (AllPolitics, Sept. 21) -- President Clinton chose the small hours of Saturday to sign a bill denying federal recognition of same-sex marriages, and the stealth treatment was no mistake.

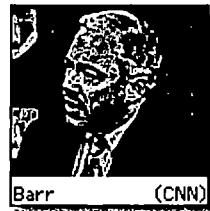


It is not a great political issue for Clinton, and his decision to sign the bill is angering his loyal gay constituency.

There was no attempt to call attention to the signing because the president believes the lawmakers who sponsored it had "dubious" motives, according to White House press secretary Mike McCurry.

Clinton has long been on record as saying he would sign the bill into law, even though he has charged that many of its supporters were just seeking a way to bash gays and lesbians.

Members of the homosexual community already promise a constitutional challenge of the new law, and they charge that Republicans picked this time to raise the issue in order to get the most political impact. The bill's sponsor said just the opposite was true.



"It wasn't really on our agenda at all at the beginning of the year -- it was forced on us by the homosexual extremists," said Republican Rep. Bob Barr of Georgia.

Opponents of the new law say Clinton is wading "into the mud with Bob Dole on this issue."



"We believe what the President has done is very shameful," said David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign. "What he has done is instituted a law, put his name on a law, that creates a second-class status for gay people."

The law leaves it up to each state to decide whether to recognize same-sex marriages.





The Dispatch is a monthly activation tool covering local and national issues. The Dispatch provides the reader with information and the means to respond. It is available by mail, on-line or fax. Distribution is to media monitors, outlets and members.

June 1996

CLINTON AGAINST SAME-GENDER MARRIAGES

Both Reuters and Associated Press newswire services have run national stories on the anti-same-gender marriage legislation recently introduced in Congress. Since the Defense of Marriage Act began working its way through the House and Senate, President Clinton, through his spokespeople, has stated he personally opposes "gay marriages." Spokesperson Mike McCurry said, "He (Clinton) believes that this is a time where we need to do things to strengthen the American family."

It is expected that President Clinton will sign the legislation defining marriage as only between a man and a woman if it reaches his desk.

Please send letters to the editor of your local newspaper, or to some of the major papers listed below:

Contact:

Associated Press/DC Bureau

2021 K Street NW, Suite 603
Washington, DC 20006
202.828.6400
fax: 202.828.6422

Reuters/DC Bureau

1333 H Street NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20005-4793
202.898.8300
fax: 202.898.8383

Editor

New York Times

229 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036
212.556.1234
fax: 212.556.4607
e-mail: letters@nytimes.com

Editor

Chicago Tribune

435 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611-4041
312.222.3232
fax: 312.222.3143
e-mail: TribLetter@aol.com

Editor

Los Angeles Times

Times Mirror Square
Los Angeles, CA 90053
213.237.5000
fax: 213.237.7197

LGBT community members call Clinton a hypocrite

by **Tara Wood**

Daily Staff Writer

With President Bill Clinton's extramarital affair having been exposed to the public, some members of the gay community felt angry at what they called the hypocrisy of the situation.

In 1995, President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), outlawing gay marriage. Some lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members said this is not consistent with the president's own actions.

"If you want to support a bill that defines marriage as strictly heterosexual and monogamous, you gotta stick to that," said Tom VanWaardhuizen, junior in English. "And clearly [Clinton] hasn't done that."

Angie Chipman, president of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Ally Alliance, said Clinton's actions have been conflicting, but they do not surprise her.

"In every community, you run into specific people who can't follow their own set of values that they tend to preach," Chipman said.

"People who were going for [DOMA], saying [gay marriage] ruins values and morals ... A lot of time you find in their lives, they themselves have not led the lives they're trying to defend," she said.

Chipman said Clinton is sending mixed messages to the country.

"I think Clinton trying to speak moral values while breaking them sends a good message of the hypocritical nature of our society," Chipman said.

Jeff Sorensen, system analyst for Iowa State, said no connection exists between Clinton's infidelity and DOMA.

Sorensen said the signing of DOMA was a concession that Clinton had to make for political reasons.

Sorensen said he sees Clinton's signing of DOMA as "a weak thing to do," but he said he still considers him an ally of homosexuals.

"I see President Clinton as willing to take baby steps," Sorensen said. "That's more than any other president."

Sorensen said he believes Clinton's affairs are private issues.

"This is an issue between [Clinton] and his wife, not an issue as far as the public is concerned," he said.

VanWaardhuizen said Clinton's signing of DOMA sent more of a social and political message than a legal one.

"When you see a Democrat agreeing with a more conservative [ideal], it shifts public opinion," he said.

"The political system determines the focus; party politics are running public opinion," VanWaardhuizen said.

He also agreed that Clinton's recent problems undermine the legality of DOMA.

"When [the public] gets conflicting ideals and lifestyles [from policy makers], signals get crossed, and it



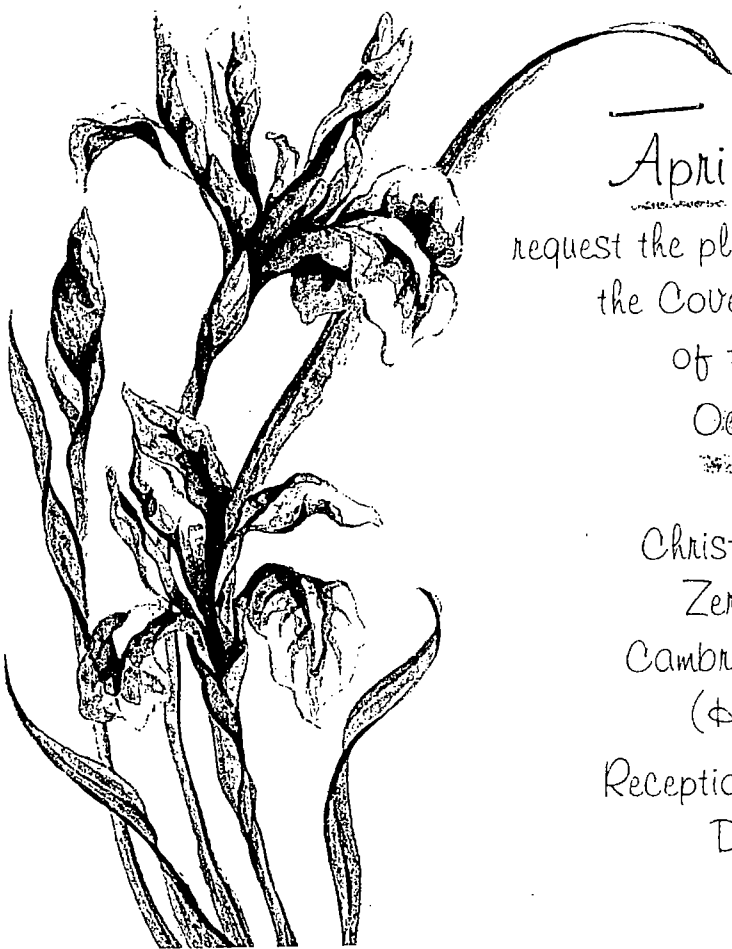
Hillary and I are delighted to join your family and friends in sending congratulations as you celebrate this special occasion. Best wishes for much continued happiness.

Bin Clinton



As you celebrate this special occasion, Hillary and I join your family and friends in extending warmest congratulations. You have our best wishes for every future happiness.

Bin Clinton



April and Dorothy

request the pleasure of your company at
the Covenanting and Blessing
of their Relationship

October 10, 1998

at 1:00 PM

Christ Church Episcopal
Zero Garden Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts
(Harvard Square)

Reception immediately follows
Dress to Dance!

6 31P
 1968

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Drennen/Gunn
27 Aberdeen Avenue
Waltham, Massachusetts
02453

10/26/99

Susan Lee DeYoung

no
address

and

Emily Jo Breeden

request the honour of your presence

at our lifetime commitment ceremony

Saturday, the twenty fifth of September

Nineteen hundred and ninety nine

at four thirty

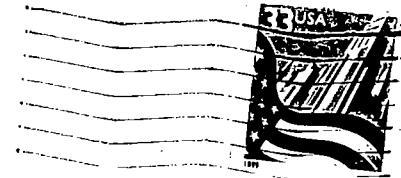
The Blacksmith Inn

Bailey's Harbor, Wisconsin 54202

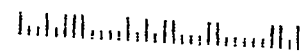
and afterwards on the deck at the Inn for

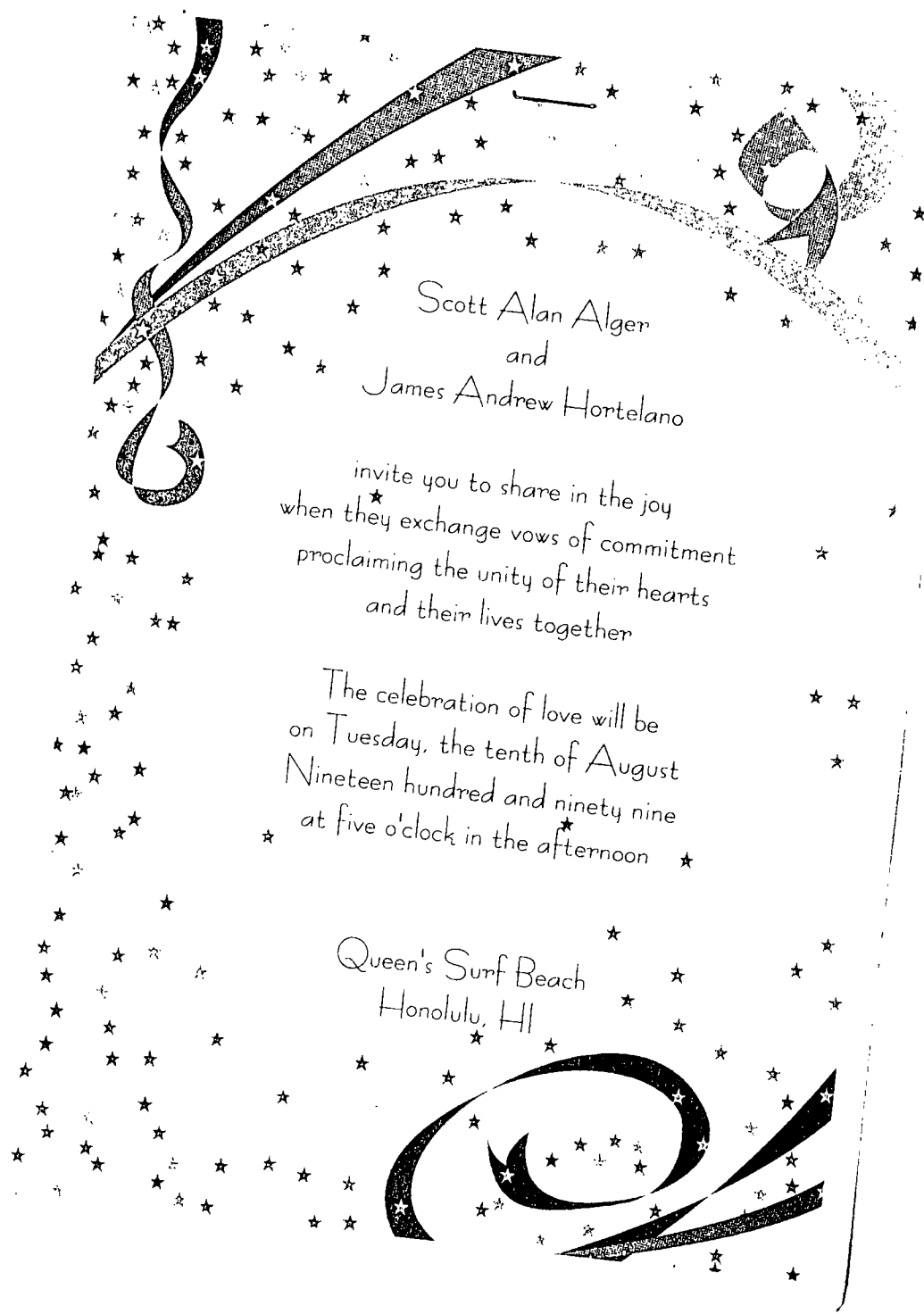
champagne and hors d'oeuvres

dinner at The Common House to follow



The President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500



The invitation is decorated with numerous small five-pointed stars scattered across the page. There are three prominent decorative elements: a large, stylized swirl on the left side, a horizontal band of stars across the top, and a large, stylized swirl on the bottom right.

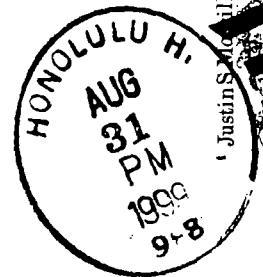
Scott Alan Alger
and
James Andrew Hortelano

invite you to share in the joy
when they exchange vows of commitment
proclaiming the unity of their hearts
and their lives together

The celebration of love will be
on Tuesday, the tenth of August
Nineteen hundred and ninety nine
at five o'clock in the afternoon

Queen's Surf Beach
Honolulu, HI

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY



2000374346



The President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500



Scott Algen & James Hortelano
3740 Lwr Honoapiilani Hwy #E302
Lahaina, Maui, HI 96761

Together with their families.

Douglas Tilden Fischer

and

Robert Haines

invite you

to share in the joy of their marriage

Saturday, the seventh of August

nineteen hundred and ninety-nine

at eleven o'clock in the morning

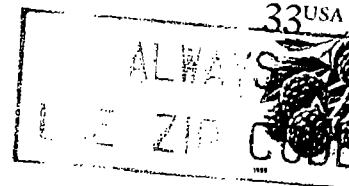
Thomas White House Inn

118 Kale Road

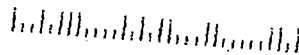
Holinas, California

Reception immediately following

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY



*President and Mrs. Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500*



1329 Blanchard Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

Kathleen Ann Dimock

and

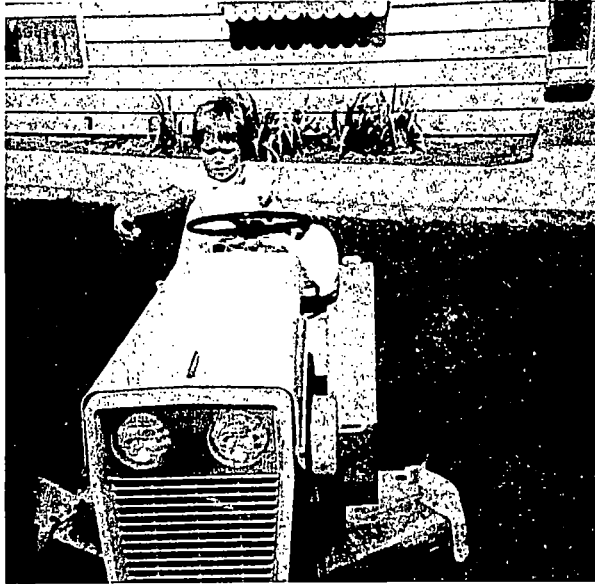
Deborah Ann Rutter

*are pleased to invite you to join
in the celebration of their marriage*

*Saturday, the eighteenth of September
nineteen hundred and ninety-nine
half after six o'clock*

*Vashon Room Courtyard
Hall at Fauntleroy
9131 California Avenue SW
Seattle, Washington*

Reception to follow



Deborah



Kaki

Dear Kaki and Deborah: _____

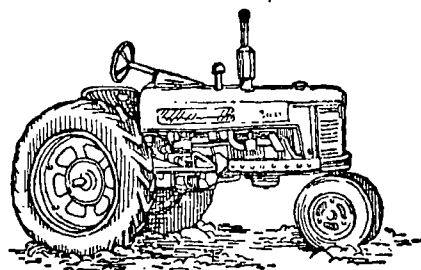
____ *Yes! I'd love to see 2 women get married.*

____ *No... I'm liberal, but not that liberal.*

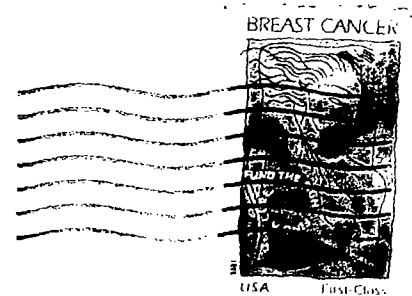
____ *Sorry... I know I'm missing the party of the year,
but I can't make it.*

Love, _____

Please respond on or before September 1, 1999

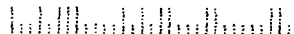


2002 East Pine Street
Seattle, Washington
98122



The President of The United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

20500



—

DONALD LOYOLA MCADANG
AND
STEVEN PHILIP GRAY
REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THEIR COMMITMENT CEREMONY
SATURDAY, THE ELEVENTH OF SEPTEMBER
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE
AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK
MCCORMICK & KULETO'S
GHIRARDELLI SQUARE
SAN FRANCISCO

RECEPTION AND LUNCHEON
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CEREMONY

DONALD LOYOLA MCADANG
STEVEN PHILIP GRAY
PMB 3926
268 BUSH STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94104-3599

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY



Pres. and Mrs. William Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500





CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Address:
2442 Winstead Way
Augusta, GA.
30906

*Sabrina and Sharon invite you
to join in the celebration of their love*

Saturday, March 27, 1999

4:00 p.m.

Christ Covenant MCC

109 Hibernia Avenue

Decatur, Georgia

Reception immediately following

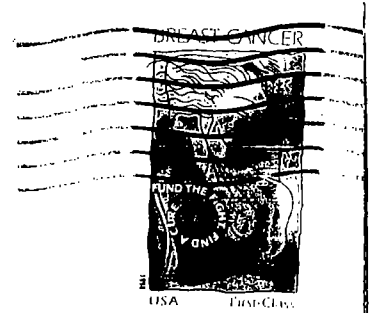
R.s.v.p. 770.898.2446

Sabrina

Sharon

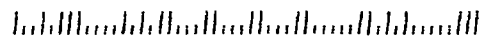
917 Castlerock Way
McDonough, Georgia 30253

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY



The President & Mrs. Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, D.C.

20300/0033



800 NE Roberts Ave, #249
Gresham, OR 97030

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY



President of the United States & The First Lady
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500



President of the United States & The First Lady



Join Patrick and Kent
for their
Commitment Ceremony

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Patrick Augustus Walsh
and
Kent Barry Johnson

Invite you to witness their commitment of love for each other
on the
Twenty-first of August
Seven o'clock in the evening

Their ceremony will be held at
The Peace House
Twenty-one sixteen Northeast Eighteenth Avenue
Portland, Oregon

A celebration with hors d'oeuvres and cake will follow.

In lieu of gifts for Kent and Patrick there will be a
Giving Tree. All donations will benefit Esther's Pantry
and Friends of People with AIDS foundation.

R.S.V.P.



Please respond by July 31st

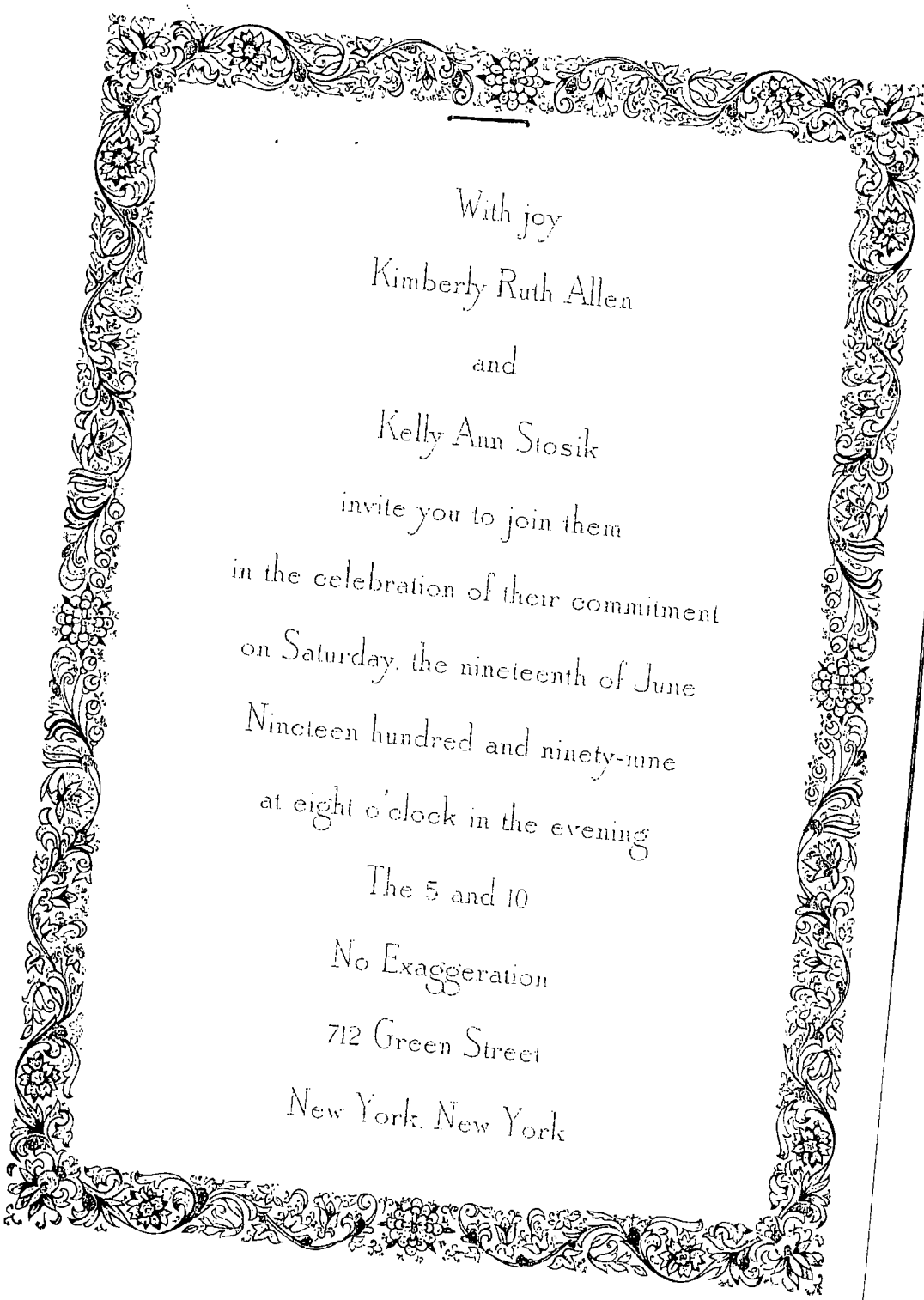
Indicate number of those attending: _____

Need suggestions for accommodations? _____

We regret we cannot attend. ☐



Patrick Walsh & Kent Johnson
800 NE Roberts Ave, #249
Gresham, OR 97030

An ornate, rectangular border with intricate floral and vine patterns, featuring small flowers and leaves, framing the central text.

With joy
Kimberly Ruth Allen

and

Kelly Ann Stosik

invite you to join them
in the celebration of their commitment
on Saturday, the nineteenth of June
Nineteen hundred and ninety-nine
at eight o'clock in the evening

The 5 and 10

No Exaggeration

712 Green Street

New York, New York

HM©

Please respond on or before

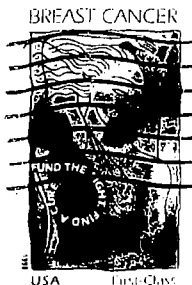
May 29, 1999

M _____

Number of persons _____

400 Broome Street
Apartment 412
New York, New York 10013

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY



*The President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500*

