



*The Refectory  
Celebrates 32 Years!*

*Thanks  
for the memories . . .*

*Thanks for the Memories.....*  
of candlelight and wine, castles on the Rhine  
The Parthenon and moments on the Hudson River Line  
How lovely it was!

*Thanks for the Memories.....*  
of sunburns at the shore, nights in Singapore  
You might have been a headache but you never were a bore  
So thank you so much!

*Thanks for the Memories.....*  
of sentimental verse, nothing in my purse  
and chuckles when the preacher said 'for better or for worse;  
How lovely it was!

*And thank you so much.*

*Congratulations and Thanks!*  
*Your memory brought much joy and a smile,*  
*and a song to our hearts!*

*You are our absolute favorite dining experience for all special occasions. Hands down you are our only choice. Since moving to Columbus in 2002 from Raleigh, North Carolina, we have dined at your restaurant each anniversary and every experience is superb.*

*Last year the appetizer chosen was so good, I actually cried a little. So embarrassing, but true. When family is in town from Virginia, they want to go to Refectory as they have heard so much about it from us. And our experience could not be complete without our server, Jean. She makes each meal so special for us; we have gotten to know her so well, she knows our wine selection and what new samples to bring us even! I normally do not like dessert wines but she had me try one in particular last time we were there and it was truly amazing. She thought I would like it and I did! I was very surprised and once again impressed by her skill. I liken her to how hairdressers have their clients. We are totally her clients and would even change our date of dining at Refectory to ensure she was working that night.*

*Refectory takes us away to an experience where it is only my husband and I, in a romantic setting that shuts out the city. You can feel the history in the church which adds to our dinner musing of what the people were like when it was a church and school house on the property.*

*Thank you for making each meal special for us.*

*Happy Anniversary to you!*

*The McCarthy's*

## *Winner of the French Country Wine Dinner*

*How wonderful that I share my birthday month with the Refectory's anniversary.*

*The Refectory gave me the most wonderful 35<sup>th</sup> birthday gift last year.*

***You gave both my husband and I back our romance!***

*My husband had surprised me with dinner at the Refectory for my birthday and it was magical. We had not had a night out or a dinner alone since the birth of our amazing daughter fourteen months before. She is so precious but going out to a restaurant with her is torturous. Dinner at the Refectory was like a dream come true. As soon as we walked into the restaurant your staff made us feel like we were very special guests. The atmosphere and décor was so elegant but very warm. We ordered the most delicious appetizer and again your staff proved to be amazing by suggesting the perfect wine.*

*We lingered through our meal. We did not rush a moment. I savored the filet mignon, the wine, the atmosphere, the impeccable service and the conversation; then the most wonderful thing happened.*

***Somewhere between the baby spinach salad and the crème brûlée***

***I fell in love with my husband all over again.***

*Thank you so much for that night  
and thank you so much for allowing me to share my story.*

*Heather*

### **On Movies, Manhattan, Career-giving advice from Refectory Bartenders...**

It was late August, 2004, and we had just finished watching the movie, "Sideways". Incredibly inspired to drink some fine wine, we knew we had to stop at the Refectory on our way home. A big decision needed to be made that evening, as our daughter, a recent college grad, had just been offered a position at a boutique PR firm in Manhattan; however, her college sweetheart had been offered a nice job in Columbus. She was in turmoil, and had to make the decision to pursue the dream to live in NYC or to stay for love.

We approached the bar, and David, your prior sommelier, was tending. He animatedly and enthusiastically suggested various wines to sample, and then looked at our daughter, and said, "I can see something's on your mind..." We 3 looked at each other, grinned, and she decided to ask him: "Do I go to New York, and take this incredible opportunity, and leave my sweet boyfriend, and be alone? Or do I stay, as he's just been offered this great job in Columbus, and at least we'll be together?"

Without hesitation, he said, "Go to Manhattan." She stammered and gave the "buts..", but David calmly repeated over and over, "Go to Manhattan." He explained to her that these sort of opportunities come to us for a reason, and that if the relationship was to be, it would last. As we walked out that night, his parting words to her was,

"Go to Manhattan."  
And she did, and loved it!

The epilogue? After 2 years of lots of flights for the 2 of them, she moved back to Columbus where she was reunited with her boyfriend, and settled into a fine job here, with tons of New York experience. We were sad that David had moved on, but we still tell this story to the bar wait staff each time we stop in, and together we all have a toast for David.

Thanks, Refectory, for finding such unusual and fun waiters and sommeliers who impact your customers' lives in the most subtle of ways.

Shari

*You asked us to share a special "Refectory Moment." Fred and I met in 1976, the same year the restaurant was started. We dined at The Olde Church and even have a book of matches from there! We moved away from Columbus in 1979 and lived in several cities, including Detroit and Philadelphia. In 1996, Fred got transferred back to Columbus. We fretted, "there won't be any good restaurants in Columbus!" How wrong we were! Upon returning, we were delighted to find The Refectory still there and better than ever. It is comparable, no, actually it is better than our favorite restaurants in Detroit and Philly.*

*There is not one special moment at The Refectory, but rather a culmination of many special moments for us. Fred and I both celebrated our 50th birthdays there; we celebrated most of our anniversaries (32 is coming before long for us!); our daughter's marriage 8 years ago was celebrated there; and then there are the "just going out for a good meal" every day experiences.*

*We thank you for all our memories there!*

*Fondly,*

*Fred and Tricie*

*My husband and I began our life together celebrating with the fine food and service offered at the Refectory.*

*It will be 23 years this August 30th and we have chosen to celebrate most of them with you (except the years we were living in Colorado). I remember on our 10th anniversary, I had purchased James a beautiful diamond ring. I was able to talk with my server while James was away from the table, I gave him the ring and when our dessert arrived at the table he had made the ring a part of it. Needless to say James was very surprised and I was very pleased with the help from your staff in making a special evening even more special. That is just one of many memories we will cherish for a life time.*

*We look forward to many more anniversary spent at the Refectory.*

*Thanks for the memories, Jenny*

**CONGRATULATIONS ON 32 WONDERFUL YEARS  
AND I HOPE IT IS ONLY A BEGINNING FOR YOU.**

MY SPECIAL MEMORY OCCURRED 17 YEARS AGO (THIS NOVEMBER 9TH) AT YOUR FINE RESTAURANT; IT WAS THE REHEARSAL DINNER THE NIGHT BEFORE MY WEDDING. I COULD NOT HAVE IMAGINED A MORE SPECIAL AND ENJOYABLE EVENING.

A COUPLE OF WEEKS PRIOR TO ARRIVING, YOUR STAFF WORKED WITH MY WIFE AND I TO COME UP WITH A VARIED MENU THAT WOULD APPEAL TO ALL THAT WERE TO ATTEND. THIS WAS NO SMALL TASK AS WE HAD OVER 30 GUESTS. THE ENTIRE MENU WAS A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS, WE STILL HAVE FRIENDS THAT TO THIS DAY TALK ABOUT THE PHENOMENAL FILET AND DOVER SOLE THEY HAD THAT EVENING. ANOTHER KEY PART OF OUR EVENING WAS THE SELECTION OF OUR WINES. WE HAD AN IDEA AS TO WHAT WE WANTED BUT REALLY NEEDED AN EXPERT. KAMAL TALKED WITH US ABOUT WHO WAS GOING TO ATTEND AND WHAT THE LIKES AND DISLIKES WERE OF THE GUESTS. HE CAME UP WITH SELECTIONS THAT COMPLEMENTED ALL ASPECTS OF THE MENU WE HAD CHOSEN AND WERE ENJOYED BY ALL.

IN ADDITION TO THE FOOD BEING WONDERFUL, THE STAFF BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR NIGHT WAS ONE TO BE REMEMBERED. THEY TOOK THE TIME TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, THEY MADE CHANGES TO A SET MENU AND THEY ATTENDED TO ALL OF OUR NEEDS AS THE NIGHT WENT ON. I HAVE NEVER HAD THE PERSONAL SERVICE THAT WE HAD THAT EVENING AND IT WAS ONE OF THE TRULY MEMORABLE PARTS OF OUR WEDDING.

TO THIS DAY, WHENEVER WE DINE AT THE REFECTORY WE STILL BRING UP THAT EVENING AND IT ALWAYS MAKES US SMILE. WHETHER IT BE CELEBRATING OUR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OR DINING WITH FAMILY OVER THE HOLIDAYS, THE REFECTORY WILL ALWAYS BE ONE OF MOST MEMORABLE AND ENJOYABLE PLACES TO DINE. COLUMBUS HAS CHANGED QUITE A BIT IN THE LAST SIXTEEN YEARS BUT YOUR WONDERFUL MENUS, VAST WINES SELECTION AND COMMITMENT TO CUSTOMER SERVICE HAS NEVER WAVERED.

AGAIN, CONGRATULATIONS ON THE ACHIEVEMENT  
AND WE WISH YOU GREAT SUCCESS IN THE YEARS TO COME.

SINCERELY,

TOM & DEBBIE

## *Winner of the French Country Wine Dinner*

The Refectory is such a special place to me because it's where I proposed to my wife. I wanted to take her to a very nice restaurant that we could continue to visit at least once each year. I wanted to start a special tradition. So many restaurants open and then close a few years later, so I wanted a restaurant that was established and one that I felt wasn't going anywhere. Naturally, the Refectory was the hands down winner. I was nervous giving up the ring to our waiter and I told him that when my soon to be wife orders dessert, bring out the ring on a platter, lift the cover and unveil it. He asked, "how do you know she'll order dessert?" A fair question, but if you know anything about my wife, which he didn't, you know that she will definitely get dessert, especially at the Refectory. We had a fantastic dinner, as always, and the dessert menu came out. She ordered dessert and my palms started sweating. I was getting very nervous. I had memorized everything I wanted to tell her and suddenly it was all a blur. So here came the dessert platter. He put it on the table and my soon to be wife looked at me as if to say, "why is the dessert covered?" I could tell she thought it was odd. He took the cover off and there sat the ring in the box. He looked at me and also had a pillow for me. He placed it on the floor, smiled at me, and then walked away. That was a nice touch, because I hadn't thought to ask for a pillow. My soon to be wife was definitely surprised. She had no idea I was going to propose to her that night. I can't remember what I said to her, but I remember her face and her tears and her saying YES. We hugged and kissed and our waiter came back with our dessert and told us congratulations. She was beaming. It was one of the coolest moments in my life and remains very special to me. I remember the exact booth we were in and, oddly enough, every design and color of the pillow. When we visit the Refectory each year around August 14, our wedding anniversary, we both look at that booth and smile. The Refectory will always hold a very sentimental place in our hearts and will continue to be a tradition we partake in at least once every year. The staff is so courteous and professional and thoughtful, that it makes it the perfect restaurant. Needless to say, the cuisine is out of this world. The Refectory is easily the best restaurant in Columbus; and that's saying something because Columbus has many good eateries. So, thank you for letting me share my special moment with you and as August is almost here, we'll be seeing you soon.

Scot

## *Winner of the French Country Wine Dinner*

*Dear Refectory Friends,*

*My boyfriend, Ray and I met in late in 2005 on a match service. We had both been recently divorced from very long term marriages. I was hoping to meet and did meet a kind and gentle man to share good times and happy memories with. Ray and I decided to celebrate our six (6) month acquaintance with a special dinner at the Refectory in June 2006. I had been to events and dinners at the Refectory previously; it was Ray's first visit. We shared a bottle of superb wine along with a fabulous dinner. We talked; we shared and we celebrated our good fortune at finding this important relationship. Ray and I are still together; we still talk about how much fun we had that evening. . .and we still love dining at the Refectory!*

*Here is a picture of us that our waiter took of us that evening. We want to thank the staff for giving us this opportunity to say "thank you" to the Refectory for an exceptional dining experience.*

*Cindi and Ray*

*You are our absolute favorite dining experience for all special occasions. Hands down you are our only choice. Since moving to Columbus in 2002 from Raleigh, North Carolina, we have dined at your restaurant each anniversary and every experience is superb.*

*Last year the appetizer chosen was so good, I actually cried a little. So embarrassing, but true. When family is in town from Virginia, they want to go to Refectory as they have heard so much about it from us. And our experience could not be complete without our server, Jean. She makes each meal so special for us; we have gotten to know her so well, she knows our wine selection and what new samples to bring us even! I normally do not like dessert wines but she had me try one in particular last time we were there and it was truly amazing. She thought I would like it and I did! I was very surprised and once again impressed by her skill. I liken her to how hairdressers have their clients. We are totally her clients and would even change our date of dining at Refectory to ensure she was working that night.*

*Refectory takes us away to an experience where it is only my husband and I, in a romantic setting that shuts out the city. You can feel the history in the church which adds to our dinner musing of what the people were like when it was a church and school house on the property.*

*Thank you for making each meal special for us.*

*Happy Anniversary to you!*

*The McCarthy's*

*My now deceased husband and I moved from New York City to Columbus in 1980. Our first visit to The Refectory convinced us that this was the place to go, not only as a twosome, but with any friends, family members or business associates whom we felt had the same "taste" for something special.*

*My present husband and his now deceased wife moved to Columbus in 1981. They too had the very same feelings about The Refectory.*

*So, of course, since Mike and I have been married since 1998 we never had to debate over where we will dine for a "special event". However, in the early stages of our marriage we started having problems, jokingly, as to what constituted a "special event" so we could rectify a trip to The Refectory. After ten years of a very happy marriage we've come to realize we don't need a special event - just coming to The Refectory makes it one.*

*We thank you for many of the best spent times we've had at The Refectory (and, hopefully, for the many more).*

*Our best wishes to you.*

*Mike and Teresa*

## *Winner of the French Country Wine Dinner*

*On October 1st., 1993, my husband and I were married in the upstairs room. This was the second marriage for both of us since we both had lost our spouses. One of our friends provided lovely flowers to decorate the tables and another provided a harpist to play music. Yet another friend who had just been ordained as a minister, performed the ceremony. We were his first marriage.*

*The dinner was outstanding and the pastry chef outdid himself with a wonderful cake. As we were leaving, Kathy was permitted to ring the church bell. It was a wonderful evening we will never forget!*

*Duane and Kathy*

After “courting” each other for 13 years and an endearing engagement period of two years, we finally married. Intended to be a small, unannounced ceremony of 5 people turned into 10 people (small Virginia town - the word got out). I wanted to make our first anniversary special in October, 2001 - at the Refectory.

On the celebration date all I asked my wife to do is dress appropriately for a “nice” dinner - location to be secret until we got there. As we arrived in the parking lot of the Refectory she became excited about the location chosen for our celebration. Then — the power went out as we walked to the restaurant. Somehow, we were able to grope our way through the darkness to the inside. Candles and flashlights made the scene romantic. The staff was scurrying about not quite sure what to do. After a time we were seated at the bar to have a drink while the staff assessed the situation and developed a plan. Other guests continued with their meals by candlelight. After a time, the staff told us the power company advised them the outage was going to continue for some time and we would need to find another place for dinner. We went to pay for the drinks and found we needed exact cash - the bartender couldn't open the register or run a credit card with no power. Anyhow, we went to another restaurant for our anniversary dinner celebration - sort of anti-climatic since it wasn't at our first choice, the Refectory.

Having been around the restaurant business for many years (as a vendor), I knew the owner would like to hear about our experience and how it was handled by his staff since he was not there. I communicated our experience and observations to Kamal in a letter (frankly it was a little chaotic). He responded with an apology and a thank you for letting him know what occurred that evening so he could make plans/corrections for an event like that in the future. He insisted we come back for dinner as his guest - which we accepted - our delayed anniversary dinner at the Refectory.

Since that time, we have made it a point to visit the Refectory for our anniversary dinner - we have a common bond now.

Jim

## *Winner of the French Country Wine Dinner*

My favorite memory is the night I got engaged, April 1992.

We dated for two years and I still didn't see it coming. I told my sister we were going to dinner at the Refectory because they had the best wine list and my boyfriend wanted to show me what it was all about. He pretended to be ordering a bottle of French red wine and when the champagne bottle arrived, I was so embarrassed for him. I saw a satin bag around the neck of the bottle and I thought that was sooo cute, just like the purple bag around a bottle of Crown Royale (you must be wondering right now, what he ever saw in her?). It wasn't until the waiter told me the white satin bag was for me that I finally realized what was going on. I was so overcome; I couldn't even finish my dinner. I will always remember the special dessert that was prepared for us, 3 different flavors of sorbet. I found out later that my husband arranged everything through Kam and it went exactly as he had planned. We try to make it back once a year for our anniversary and still retell that story every year.

Thanks for the memories.

Jeff and Theresa

In June of 2007, our oldest daughter graduated from eight grade. I am big on marking milestones and tried to think of something that could become a tradition as she and her siblings left middle school. My husband and I love to celebrate our anniversaries each year with dinner out at The Refectory and the kids have always wondered about our magical evenings out. Although we knew the bill would be 'significant', we decided to take the family for an early dinner. I emailed in our reservations and notated our celebration that evening.

We dressed in our 'Sunday best', discussed the behavior expectations of all, and headed out for what was to be a great adventure! The kids were confused by the menu, unsure what to order, but our waiter was wonderful, helping them through every step and making necessary adjustments to satisfy their picky tastes. We chuckled through much of the meal, the kids amazed by the new tastes and flavors, dazzled by the display of the dishes, and overwhelmed by the soda glasses that never got empty! The staff did not forget the reason for our visit and added a candle to our daughter's dessert, joining in the celebration with verbal congratulations from the staff.

As anyone who has visited The Refectory before knows, the service and food are both supreme - my children aged 15, 12, and 9 can attest to that! They still talk about the best food they've eaten and are looking forward to their next visit!

Lisa

One of my favorite memories is when The Refectory recreated the first night my wife, Deborah, and I spent in France during our honeymoon. That first night, which we spent in Lyon, we were still recovering from jet lag, but we were hungry. Our hotel concierge directed us to La Place St. Jean for dinner. As we walked along the street, the proprietor of a small restaurant beckoned us to enter his establishment for dinner. He introduced us to kir royale, which we ordered for every meal after that. The owner patiently went through the menu in English. But because we were both very hungry, we simply wanted to order something "safe" that would fill our stomachs. So we ordered chicken. The owner promptly told us that we could not have that dish. "You can have chicken anywhere in the world. In Lyon, you must try something Lyonnais." Away he went without telling us what we would be eating. We waited anxiously, sipping our kir and hoping for something that would not turn our stomachs. What he brought for us to eat was one of the most amazing meals we have ever had – lobster quenelle. Of course, being so tired and hungry, we did not remember the name of the main dish. But we described what the dish was like in our journal. We wanted to remember the meal in detail. For our fifth wedding anniversary I wanted to surprise Deborah by cooking the wonderful meal we had in Lyon. Because I could not remember the name of the dish, I could not find the recipe. I had not yet enjoyed dining at The Refectory, but I was aware that Chef Blondin was from Lyon. I wrote an e-mail to Kamal Boulos in which I described the meal, asked if the chef knew what it was, and whether he would be able to make it for us. Chef Blondin did indeed know what it was and prepared it especially for us. The sommelier provided perfect wine pairings for the various courses. And everyone served us so graciously, making us feel like royalty. My wife was so surprised! Chef Blondin's meal far exceeded the first meal we had in Lyon. That evening at The Refectory is one of our most cherished memories. It transported us back in time and allowed us to relive that magical night in Lyon.

Thanks,

Cliff

**CONGRATULATIONS ON 32 WONDERFUL YEARS  
AND I HOPE IT IS ONLY A BEGINNING FOR YOU.**

MY SPECIAL MEMORY OCCURRED 17 YEARS AGO (THIS NOVEMBER 9TH) AT YOUR FINE RESTAURANT; IT WAS THE REHEARSAL DINNER THE NIGHT BEFORE MY WEDDING.

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NEEDS AS THE NIGHT WENT ON. I HAVE NEVER HAD THE PERSONAL SERVICE THAT WE HAD THAT EVENING AND IT WAS ONE OF THE TRULY MEMORABLE PARTS OF OUR WEDDING.

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AGAIN, CONGRATULATIONS ON THE ACHIEVEMENT  
AND WE WISH YOU GREAT SUCCESS IN THE YEARS TO COME.

SINCERELY,

TOM & DEBBIE

## HAPPY 32 YEARS!

Each and every dining experience with you has been a special Refectory Memory for us.

Magnificent, remarkable, outstanding, wonderful are adjectives which do not adequately describe the actual experiences of dining at the Refectory. One has to actually participate in the dining experiences to fully appreciate them.

Some of the most superlative include the two special French dinners a few years ago, each of our anniversary celebrations at The Refectory, and especially the multi-course French delicacies and superlative wines hosted by our good friends and executed splendidly by Chef and Kamal for my wife's birthday.

Though the decor and table service are formal, the expertise and graciousness of the staff bring forward a relaxed, congenial atmosphere in the true sense of elegant French dining.

The world and its problems are left at the front door.

We have dined like royalty at many places throughout the United States and the world, and The Refectory is at the top of the list.

Each meal there is fresh and the dining experience is bright and wholesome like a new sunrise. Here's to many more Refectory memories!

Bravo!

Ron & Betty

## *Dinner for My Valentine*

*Our first Valentines Day as a married couple is one that we will not soon forget. My husband and I dated for 3 years during our college years at Miami University; so needless to say, extravagance and fine dining were not a part of our celebrations during that time of our lives. Valentines Day usually consisted of a bottle of cheap wine, spaghetti or lasagna prepared in one of our tiny apartment kitchens, enjoyed while listening to the rowdy neighbors party though the night. One Valentines day, we attempted to have dinner at The Outback, but the wait was two hours long, so we decided to grab a milkshake from Steak and Shake and head back home. Daniel and I were married two years after college, so needless to say, our financial situation has only slightly improved since that time.*

*As a young married couple, we wanted to celebrate our first Valentines Day in a special way. My husband, who is not known to be a great romantic, decided to take it upon himself to plan a Valentines Day surprise for me. He told me that all I would need to do was be ready to leave our house at 8:30 sharp and dress up. In the past, we had driven up Bethel Road many times and had said that someday, we would have a special dinner at The Refectory. My husband did not want to spoil the surprise, so rather than take 315 N from our Clintonville home, he went south to North Broadway and then circled back around to Kenny Road, finally leading toward Bethel. That was when I knew where we were heading. I was thrilled!*

Since my husband is not one to plan far in advance, we could only get a 9:00 reservation, which was fine by us. We arrived early and waited for a table at the cozy bar. We were excited when the host took us to our table right in front of the fire place. It was the most romantic setting for a special evening! The scene reminded me of something from a romantic novel by Jane Austin. The wait staff was extremely attentive and considerate, feeding the fire each time it started to fade. Our meal was incredible, and one of the best that we have ever had. I ordered the venison loin and my husband enjoyed the lamb. Both were elegantly prepared and cooked to perfection. With our meal, we selected a bottle of wine that is not in our normal budget, but we could not resist the extensive wine selection that The Refectory has to offer. A bottle of the 2000 Snyder Cabernet Sauvignon was the perfect choice for this perfect evening.

*At the end of the meal, the server presented me with a gift of a \$25 dollar gift card for The Refectory during the month of April. It was a perfect touch and really made the evening all the more special. When asked if we would like to join the mailing list, we naturally said yes, even though we are not in the financial position to attend many of the events that are listed. When I read the notice to share our special memories with other customers and with the staff, I thought I should write about how The Refectory helped to turn our first Valentines Day as a married couple into an event that proved to be the most romantic meal we have ever shared. From the bottom of our hearts, we say Thank You!*

*Sincerely, Dan and Rachel*

*Fond Refectory Memories*

*I was Emergency Medicine Program Director at Riverside Methodist Hospital. Every month we would have medical students, interns and residents rotate through our department. So that we could have a discussion about the month, I would take the 'rotators' to lunch at The Refectory. Everyone was from different phases of life. I remember everyone being able to enjoy this marvelous restaurant. The wait staff was so gracious to the attendees, even when manners weren't quite up to snuff. We ended up talking more about the delicious food (no one missed a course!) than the month. Thank you Refectory, for allowing me to give this experience to my rotators.*

*This is a very positive memory for me*

*Nancy*

Happy Anniversary to the Refectory!

You asked for special memories made at you restaurant. I must say that each time we dine with you we make new special memories, but one stands out above the rest. In Sept. 1999 my husband. Charles and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary at the Refectory. We had a lovely meal in a quiet booth were we were able to gaze into each others eyes as would a couple of newlyweds. After dinner, Mr. Boulos brought us each a complimentary glass of champagne which I thought was such a nice touch. He checked back a few times to see how we were doing which was also nice, but I was sure that we were not the only people celebrating that evening and wondered why we were getting so much extra attention. My husband asked two or three times how my champagne was and I think it was the third time he asked that I noticed what I thought was a small crack at the bottom of the glass, just above the stem. Whoa, that was not a crack! My honey and Mr. Boulos had conspired ahead of time to have me find the beautiful anniversary band of gold with diamonds in the glass of champagne. I don't know if the idea was original, but it made a beautiful anniversary and a most treasured memory of that time at the Refectory.

This year we will celebrate our 39th anniversary, again at our favorite restaurant, the Refectory. Thanks for 32 great years!

Carolyn

Just like The Refectory, our anniversary is also in August.

On August 18, 1989, my husband Barry and I were wed, barefoot, at sunset on the beach at Ocracoke Island, North Carolina. That evening, we enjoyed a fabulous dinner at our favorite restaurant on the island. Each anniversary since then has been celebrated with wonderful food, often at The Refectory.

My very favorite anniversary memory was for our 10th year. As a surprise to my husband, I brought with me to The Refectory our handwritten wedding vows — promises we had made to each other as we faced one another on that wind-swept beach ten years earlier. After our waiter brought us our wine, I opened my purse and pulled out the papers. Spontaneously, we decided to recite our vows to one another once again.

I couldn't get through mine without tears, of course, as I remembered that day and the intervening years, and how blessed we were. I will never forget how we gazed into one another's eyes as we renewed those promises and declarations; it remains one of the sweetest moments of our marriage.

What I love about The Refectory, aside from the fabulous food and wines, is the quiet atmosphere and wait staff that is there to serve but not hover. This makes it possible to have intimate moments and truly celebrate a special time like our wedding anniversary.

Sincerely,

Sandy