

## FIVE QUESTIONS / For Pari Livermore

# Mill Valley matchmaker an expert on making love connections

By Carolyn Zinko  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

With Internet dating and social-networking sites allowing lonely hearts to be self-sufficient in the quest for companionship, do people in the modern age really need an old-fashioned matchmaker to help them find true love?

Pari Livermore thinks so. The former TWA flight attendant and Mill Valley resident is a professional love hunter who has linked 200 couples matrimonially through intuition and a network of friends and acquaintances she makes virtually everywhere, from private dinners to grocery stores to cafes. Through word of mouth, she collects people and their interests and puts them together, at events such as her biennial benefit, the Red & White Ball, and at cocktail parties and other get-togethers.

Her clients range in age from 30 to 60 and are looking for deep relationships, not dalliances. To prove they're serious, Livermore asks prospective male suitors to make substantial donations to any one of 12 of her favorite charities. Women are asked to volunteer at various matchmaking events.

And now, the doyenne of dating has come out with a how-to book for women who want to be happier (or who, perhaps, are hapless), called "How to Marry a Fabulous Man" (Meredith Books; \$14.95; 175 pages).

Some of the tips are well taken. She advises women to "visualize success" and "write your own commercial" by listing your best qualities and repeating it to yourself once a day. Exercise, she urges, dress well, don't gossip and become an expert in something, because people like other people who are intellectually stimulating.

But some tips seem to come from before the days of Ann Landers — and the sexual revolution as well.

"Don't do too much talking," she writes. "The men you date are not looking for a competitive relationship. They prefer to compete with their colleagues and adversaries in the workplace. From you they will want nurturing, caring and hugging."

And "until your relationship is exclusive, never call just to chat. Even then, do



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**Pari Livermore** says she's been making romantic matches since her teens.

it sparingly. Remember, men need a challenge to conquer."

She also advises waiting for at least three months to become sexually intimate, because "sex isn't a getting-to-know-you activity." (News flash: Many singles today move on if that hasn't occurred by the third date.)

Her favorite tip is the "velvet hammer" — graciously and calmly telling a man you've dated for a year that he must propose within a month or you will end the relationship. "The velvet is in your approach; the strength is in your resolve," she notes. "If the deadline passes but you continue to date him without becoming engaged, he'll probably never marry you. If he you continue to see him, his regard for you will be lessened because he'll think you're just another woman who succumbed to his charms."

Old-fashioned? She swears it works.

**Q: How long have you been matchmaking?**

**A:** Since I was in my teens. I was ridiculed at my own school for being literary and artsy. I went to a dance at my cousin's high school, and there were two or three guys standing in line to dance with me.

What I saw was if you were new, you were a little more desirable because people hadn't met you. I started introducing people to each other from different schools. If you can bring a little spring in someone's step, make them happy, it's a high.

**Q: What's the success rate of your matches?**

**A:** I've been at it 19 years and see about 40 clients a year. I've made thousands of romantic relationships and 218 marriages, with only an 18 percent divorce rate. I'm responsible for 139 children born from my matches and have brought 284 children together in blended families from second marriages.

**Q: How can you tell when people are going to click?**

**A:** People have to have something in common. One question I ask is, "If it's raining in town in January on the weekend, what would you do? Go to the opera or go outdoors?" You've got to be going in the same direction.

**Q: What is the biggest mistake women make in dating?**

**A:** Women want to fall in love so badly that if they meet a guy who catches her eye, she'll give her heart away too easily. Six months later, she realizes she's not with what she wants, and then you've wasted six months on someone who doesn't deserve you. If you don't ask him enough questions, you won't find out what he's like. And don't say, "I like movies, do you?" Of course he'll say "yes." To find out if he's ethical, say, "My friend saw the guy she's dating shoplifting and didn't know what to do. How serious do you think that is?" If he says, "That's funny — my friends do that, too," then he may not be right for you.

**Q: Do women sell themselves short, or "settle"?**

**A:** Yes — because they're too lazy to get out there and put as much effort into finding a husband as finding a job. You can't just sit home and order a pizza.

E-mail Carolyn Zinko at [czinko@sfchronicle.com](mailto:czinko@sfchronicle.com).