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## A Wedding Remembered, an Acquaintance Renewed

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Twenty years after their paths intersected at her own wedding near the world's tallest mountain. Dallas Tax senior manager Sara Stanford and New York Audit associate Jigme Sherpa reconnected this week -- through KPMG Today.

"It's crazy, very exciting," Sherpa says.

"Really amazing," echoes Stanford.

The virtual reunion occurred over email and on the Hub when Stanford, after reading an initial article about Sherpa, posted her sole wedding photo hoping he could identify the monk who officiated.

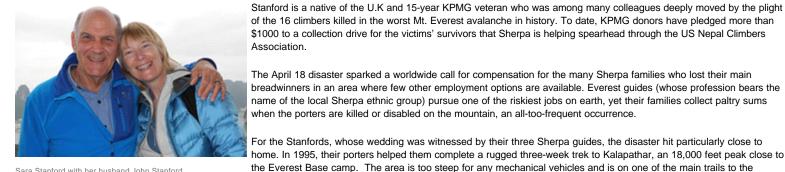
He did. It was his father. And the little boy in the photo?

"That was me in the green jacket," Sherpa marvels.

The subsequent conversation between Sherpa and Stanford was surprising, memorable and totally engaging.

"We talked about her wedding and career at KPMG," Sherpa adds, "as well as about her trip to Nepal and mine to the United States."

## **The Sherpa Cause**



Sara Stanford with her husband John Stanford.

Himalayan Mountains) for their nuptials, where the most esteemed local monk presided.

## **High-altitude Romance**

For the Stanfords, who first met skydiving, it was an appropriate venue.

John Stanford was a professional skydiving instructor, Sara was the student and it was love at first sight when she took her first jump. By the time John retired in 2005, he had logged well over 4,000 jumps to Stanford's nearly 2,000. The pair naturally preferred locations that were far off - and well above - the beaten path, so they sought a decidedly unconventional venue for their wedding.

summit. Along the way the couple stopped at the village of Pangboche, (13,000 feet above sea level and surrounded by

"I come from the U.K and my husband grew up in Colorado and was living in Texas. We knew we'd have logistical problems if we tried to do one wedding and we definitely didn't want to do two. We were also afraid someone would feel left out or offended. So we checked out Nepal, because John had always wanted to take photos of Everest," she recalls.

With the actual date of their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary fast approaching, Sara and John Stanford are now considering a return to the country and the man who first blessed their happy union. Whether they go or not, Stanford knows that her new Nepalese connection will last a lifetime.

"Jigme and I will definitely stay in touch," she says. "This whole thing is pretty incredible."

Written by Sue Treiman.

Sara and John Stanford at left, with Jigme Sherpa, then 8 years old, joining the wedding ceremony 20 years ago







Approved By Bruce Pfau