HAPPILY EX Sust Out talks to some of

talks to some of queerdom's long-term committed couples

> STORY BY PATRICK COLLINS AND ORIANA GREEN PHOTOS BY LINDA KLIEWER

dmittedly plenty of us are not in pursuit of "happily ever after."
We're content with serial monogamy or spinning the wheel of chance every weekend. Some of us are even happy celibates. But especially as we age, coupling and nesting can be increasingly appealing. There has long been a myth that queer couples can't stick together for any significant period of time, and during the sexually liberating days of the post-Stonewall pre-AIDS era, perhaps there wasn't much need to seek stability. We were busy having fun.

But these days more and more queer people seem to be in search of a bungalow for two with a yard for the dog. Just Out went in search of couples who've been together for a decade or more, as well as some advice from therapists who specialize in counseling gay and lesbian couples. So if your fantasies lean more toward picket fences than toward Stark Street, perhaps these glimpses of domesticity will inspire you.

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Al (left) and Liz Lucero outside Metropolitan Community Church of Portland