

The Barnstable Patriot

'It's been good to us.' Meet the sweetheart owners behind The Daily Paper cafes in Hyannis

The partnership began 21 years ago when they got married. Five years later, the couple pursued a business venture together.

Samantha and Aaron Webb, co-owners of the restaurant [The Daily Paper](#), are truly partners in life.

Their paths first crossed in 1998. Samantha Smith, a [Barnstable High School](#) graduate, was waitressing at Penguins Sea Grill on Main Street in Hyannis when she met a handsome young line cook, Aaron Webb. Although they didn't begin dating immediately, once they did, their courtship moved along quickly. Taking a bit of a risk, Samantha and Aaron purchased a 700-square-foot home on Old Towne Road. It was a tiny house with no cabinets or drawers, on a postage stamp lot, but they were happy.



After a work opportunity abroad in 2000, Aaron returned home and made the decision of a lifetime. Christmas morning, Samantha was greeted by a surprise marriage proposal. The wedding date was set for Sept. 16, 2001.

In the presence of their bridal party and about 100 guests, Samantha and Aaron exchanged vows at St. Thomas chapel in Falmouth. The little chapel with the spectacular view provided

the perfect setting. A reception followed at the Belfry Inn in Sandwich. The room was filled with family and friends. The atmosphere at the celebration was shadowed by the terrorist attacks five days earlier.

Valentine's Day on Cape Cod

With flights all over the country being disrupted, honeymoon plans required some adjusting. Two days after their celebration, the Webbs arrived in Aruba. Within just hours, they were wading in the deep blue ocean waters. It didn't take long for the first mishap of their new marriage to evolve. While Aaron was fiddling with his wedding ring that didn't seem to feel just right, it slipped off his finger. The ring dropped below the water surface into the fine sands of the ocean floor, and it was gone. Maybe it was an indicator of how the two would join forces, because in almost no time, they had purchased a replacement ring to place on Aaron's finger.

Upon returning home, the couple focused on work – Samantha working in a medical office and Aaron continuing to build his culinary experience at various local restaurants. Having earned a degree from New England Culinary School in Vermont, Aaron soon moved from the kitchen to the “front of the house,” and began to explore possibilities of opening his own restaurant.

When did The Daily Paper in Hyannis open?

The Webbs' partnership grew in leaps with the arrival of baby Sophia in 2005, followed by a business opportunity in 2006. Samantha's uncle set the ball rolling when he let Aaron know that the owner of the Copper Kettle on West Main Street was looking to sell. It all moved quickly, and a deal was struck with the landlords. The inspiration for the new name was Aaron's love of the newspaper and knowing that many people like to read the paper at the breakfast table.

“What's black and white and read all over?” Samantha quipped. “The Daily Paper.”

It was just the beginning. Later, The Daily Paper opened another location at 546 Main St.

Romantic restaurants on Cape Cod

The Daily Paper quickly became the go-to spot. The parking lot was full every day. Life got even busier when Samantha and Aaron welcomed their son Charlie into the family in 2007. Initially, Samantha was juggling her office job and working at the

restaurant. Aaron would take care of their two young children in the evenings, and their parents were a big support on the weekends.

Time moved on. For 16 years, the Webbs have continued to make it all work. The Daily Paper continues to bustle, in part due to the ever-present faces of Samantha and Aaron. On any given morning, the counter is filled with regulars and the booths are busy, often with groups of friends gathering to enjoy breakfast and conversation.

“It’s not just about you,” Aaron said. “It’s about being integrated into the community.”

The mutual relationships built between the staff and the customers is evident. Samantha noted that losing longstanding older customers who have passed away is very difficult.

Do the Webbs discuss work at home?

“Definitely,” Aaron admitted with a smile.

Work is only a step away with Samantha doing the bookkeeping in a room above the garage.

Romance in antiquing

“It’s 24-7,” he said. “There’s always something with two restaurants open seven days a week, whether it’s broken equipment or an employee out sick.”

For Aaron, stress relief comes in the form of pickle ball, and family ski trips are treasured.

“It’s pretty consuming, but it’s been good to us,” he acknowledged.

Aaron has often had an inkling to take on another project, but Samantha is not interested. She has encouraged him to go ahead and find a new partner.

“When you have a 100% successful track record, why would you partner with anyone else?” Aaron said. “We do everything together and I wouldn’t change that for anything.”

Now with their children ages 17 and 15, the demands of parenthood have shifted. Next year with Charlie at Tabor Academy and Sophia headed to college, the Webbs are

anticipating being empty nesters before they are quite ready. Samantha commented that she recently pulled out a couple TV tables given to them as a wedding gift, and just the two of them enjoyed a casual dinner watching TV.

Forever partners, simply happy to be together. Happy Valentine's Day, Samantha and Aaron.