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# Gay and Lesbian Wedding Guide

## Welcome to marriage equality, Illinois!

Our fight has been long and arduous, and our resolve unshakeable, and we, as a community, have achieved Marriage Equality in the state of Illinois. Whereas our battles as a community are far from over, this victory for justice and fairness is ours to celebrate!

All over this great state, questions are being popped, rings are slipping onto fingers and our LGBT brothers and sisters are beginning to forge new traditions, build stronger families and shout their love from the rooftops, from Chicago to Springfield to East St. Louis and beyond. It's time to add your voice to that chorus of shouts.

At Windy City Media group for almost 30 years now, we have always put forth the idea that we, as a community should support those businesses that support us. With the advent of the signing of SB-10, the bill legalizing Marriage Equality, we have seen a groundswell of business owners who are proud to stand with us. These businesses look forward to giving their all in the effort to make your "big day" all it can be ... and all you deserve it to be.

So please consider the businesses in this guide—photographers, caterers, venues, officiants, florists, orchestras, clothiers, and so many more—as you put together the details of your own wedding. It's time to party!



—Kirk Williamson, editor

Photo by Rick Aguilar Studios



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Lower left: Photo by Rick Aguilar Studios

Lower right: Photo of Pat Ewert and Vernita Gray by Hal Baim



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# THE START OF SOMETHING BIG

**Gray and Ewert make history as first Illinois same-sex marriage**

**BY TRACY BAIM AND MATT SIMONETTE**

By court order, longtime Chicago lesbian activist Vernita Gray married Pat Ewert, her partner of five years, Nov. 27 on the city's North Side, making them the first same-sex couple to be legally married within Illinois in the state's history.

Judge Patricia Logue, former head of Lambda Legal Midwest and a longtime lesbian activist herself, performed the ceremony in front of several dozen family and friends.

In her remarks, Logue called the event "a very personal yet historic occasion—an event long-awaited and hard-won, (and) one that crystallizes the impact of equality and inequality in all our lives. And once, again, as so often happens in our nation's long civil rights journey. As so often happens, we are assisted by a federal court decree in favor of justice and humanity for a minority group."

Logue expressed Gray and Ewert's appreciation to the many people who made the day possible, especially Cook County Clerk David Orr, who refused to have his office defend itself against lawsuits filed against it from Illinoisans demanding marriage equality. "We never met a

finer opponent," joked Logue.

Jazz singer Lucy Smith performed a song for the couple. Their friend Paul Fairchild read words of support while Jim Bennett was flower girl. Mary Morten coordinated the celebration.

Toasting the couple after the ceremony, Morten said, "It is really hard being first ... but we owe you a huge debt of gratitude for stepping out, for all of us."

"What a perfect way to be with both of you today, and I look forward to celebrating here over and over again," added Bennett.

Two days earlier, a federal court ordered Orr's office to immediately issue a marriage license to the couple, and they did so. Lambda Legal and the ACLU of Illinois filed the case Nov. 22, seeking immediate action due to Gray's failing health. Judge Thomas Durkin issued the decision.

Other marriages in Illinois are not scheduled to start until June 1, 2014, based on passage of the marriage equality law Nov. 5 in Illinois and its subsequent signing by Gov. Pat Quinn Nov. 20.

"Vernita is terminally ill and she wishes to marry the woman she loves before she dies—

and now she won't have to wait another day," said Camilla Taylor, Marriage Project Director for Lambda Legal, in a press release. "These two women, who have loved and cared for each other in good times and bad, through sickness and through health, will get to know what it means to be married."

Gray was first diagnosed with cancer in 1996 and the cancer now threatens her life: "I have two cancers, bone and brain, and I just had chemo today—I am so happy to get this news. I'm excited to be able to marry and take care of Pat, my partner and my family, should I pass."

See more photos and video at [www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Gray-and-Ewert-make-history-as-first-Illinois-same-sex-marriage/45349.html](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Gray-and-Ewert-make-history-as-first-Illinois-same-sex-marriage/45349.html).

Content originally appeared in the Dec. 4, 2013, issue of Windy City Times.



Facing page: Judge Patricia Logue presides over the historic marriage of Ewert (left) and Gray.

Above: Ewert and Gray proudly display their marriage license.

Photos by Hal Baim



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# FRANKLY SPEAKING ...

## Expert tips to plan your wedding expertly

**BY FRANK J. ANDONOPLAS**

The first thing most newly engaged couples ask is "Where do I start?". My advice is to first decide on two key elements: the number of guests you want to invite (actually make a list), and what you would like to spend on the wedding. Both are vital to have decided on before you start any of the planning.

From here you might want to consider hiring a wedding consultant to design and plan. Even if you cannot afford to engage a planner for the entire experience, I actually offer hourly consultations to guide the couple while they do all the legwork with creative ideas, etiquette information as well as vendor referrals. Either will save you time, and will help prevent you from making some expensive mistakes.

The first and most important step is selecting the reception and ceremony sites, if they are not the same. You would need to check availability on the date you selected, make sure they can comfortably accommodate your guest count, and find out the minimum in food and beverage (which is usually exclusive of tax and tip, so don't forget to add that in) that they require to hold the wedding there.

Other larger venues will charge a rental fee, and then you need to hire a caterer to prepare, cook and serve the food. In addition, with this type of venue you will need to rent every fork, glass, table and chair as well a myriad of other items. This will probably be the biggest part of your budget. If the ceremony is not in the space, you will need to search for the perfect place to exchange your vows. This can be a garden, church, chapel or synagogue, or any other place you feel is the perfect place to make this commitment. When searching, find out the

rental cost, the number of hours you can use the site, as well as restrictions.

From here you would then move into the other "fixed costs," which would include officiant, entertainment/music, photographer and videographer/filmmaker. My advice for this is to make sure the things you are viewing are the work of who is actually going to be there that day. Bands switch out singers, and make sure the photos and video are taken by the person who will actually be at your wedding.

The remaining things to think about add to the variable costs, and a multitude of choices and designs come in. Save-the-dates, invitations, your menu, flowers, linen, lighting, up-graded chairs and dinnerware are just a few of the many things that are truly design elements and set your wedding apart from others. But this also is where costs can go out of control, so if you do not have an unlimited budget, this is where a consultant can guide you in choosing the things that are the most meaningful to you, and that will make the biggest impact.

**Frank J. Andonoplas has designed social and corporate events all over the country since 1992. Frank is an active member of the Association of Bridal Consultants, and in 1995 was appointed State Coordinator. He has also earned the designation of Professional Bridal Consultant in 1993. In 1996, the designation of Accredited Bridal Consultant, and Master Bridal Consultant in 1999, then making Frank the 19th in the world to earn that distinction. He is also a member of the International Special Events Society, and served on their Board of Directors. See <http://frankeventdesign.com> or email: [frank@frankeventdesign.com](mailto:frank@frankeventdesign.com).**



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## SNAPSHOTS OF LOVE

We asked readers to send in photos of their weddings/civil unions to share with the community. What we received was a collection of beautiful stories of love and commitment. All photo courtesy of subjects except where otherwise indicated.



**Diane Martino and Tina Kachold** joined together in a civil-union ceremony in June 2011, followed by a celebration with friends and family the following month. The couple plan to "upgrade" to marriage in June.



**Craig Harzinski and Ken Mertes** travelled north to Victoria, British Columbia, July 12, 2005, to tie the knot. They also celebrated with a kiss at the recent signing of SB-10, legalizing same-sex marriage in Illinois.



Partners **Drew Bauhs and Olin Eargle** seal the deal at their civil union ceremony.



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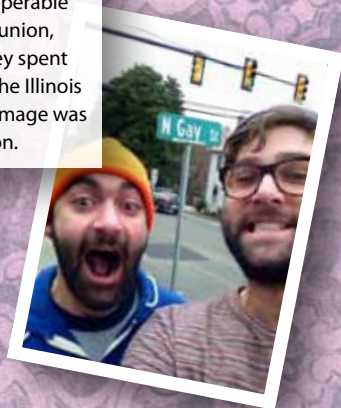
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## SNAPSHOTS OF LOVE



Partners **Blake Ryan Howard** (with glasses) and **Keeton Chamberlain** met at their local neighborhood bar and have been inseparable ever since. After celebrating their civil union, Dec. 11, 2013, at Armand's Pizzeria, they spent their honeymoon in Asheville, NC. At the Illinois marriage bill-signing ceremony, their image was part of the big Powerpoint presentation.



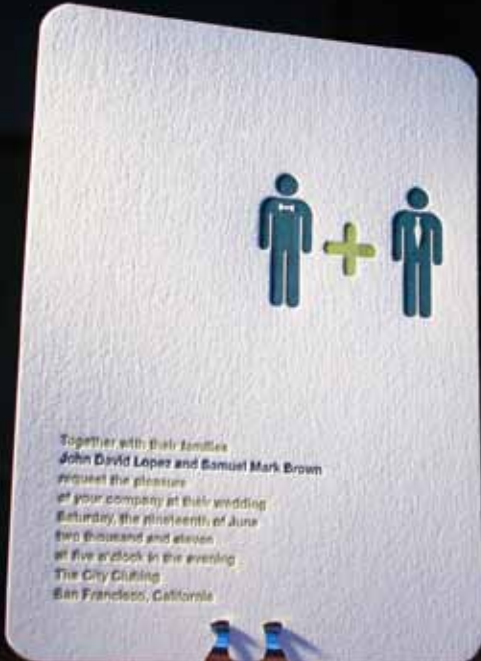
Partners **Cally Raduenzel** (left) and **Polly Jones** wed at Herring Cove, Provincetown, Mass. on August 17, 2013.



Partners **Brian Fallon** and **Fred Mahaffey** exchanged vows in a commitment ceremony on Sept. 6, 2003 (left). 10 years later to the date, they had their civil union at the same church (right).







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# HONEYMOONING

## LGBT Honeymoon Destinations



Vancouver's majestic skyline is just one sight to behold with your partner.

*John Sinal*

### BY MATT SIMONETTE

Chicago may supposedly have the best gay neighborhood in the world, but that won't stop most LGBT Chicagoans from wanting to head out of town to celebrate once they've tied the knot.

When planning your honeymoon, it's always a good idea to research how LGBT-friendly your destination is. Your considerations should go beyond whether or not your marriage is recognized; also think about whether there are laws in place protecting LGBT folks from discrimina-

tion, or local histories of violence against them. Go someplace you'll feel comfortable travelling as a couple, without stares from local residents or confusion from the hotel clerk when you ask for one bed. Sadly, that can apply in certain regions of the U.S. just as much as it does foreign countries.

The good news is that you'll have no trouble finding a destination ready to cater to your whims—even Disney World has hosted commitment ceremonies since 2007. All that matters is how much time you've got, what you want to do, and how much you want to spend.

### San Francisco, California

[www.sanfrancisco.travel/lgbt](http://www.sanfrancisco.travel/lgbt)

Mere mortals might not be able to afford to live there anymore, but San Francisco still is a mecca of sorts for LGBT visitors. The Castro is still a central neighborhood for the gay community, but other areas such as the Mission, Haight-Ashbury and SoMa contain much to do and see as well.

**What's gay:** Even the library is gay here—the San Francisco Public Library is home to the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center. The Gay and Lesbian Film Festival takes place at the historic Castro Theater in June. Leather aficionados won't want to miss the Folsom Street Fair in August.

### Las Vegas, Nevada

[www.lasvegas.com/planning-tools/lgbt-travel/out-and-about/](http://www.lasvegas.com/planning-tools/lgbt-travel/out-and-about/)

Sure, this ranks up there with Niagara Falls as a cliché American honeymoon spot, but many gays and lesbians are into roulette and black-

San Francisco's lively Castro district glows at night.

*San Francisco Travel Association/Scott Chernis*



jack just as much as their straight brethren. Besides, this is where many of our community's reigning divas—think Cher or Bette Midler—go to enjoy the twilights of their careers.

**What's gay:** Many hotels, among them the Luxor, the Encore and Mandalay Bay, have programming and packages for LGBT visitors. "The Loop"—or "Paradise Fruit Loop," to locals—is the hub of gay life. Just remember that this is a car-centric town, so many of the gay bars are located in strip malls.

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of a single soul  
inhabiting two bodies.”*  
- ARISTOTLE



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# HONEYMOONING

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## Maui, Hawaii

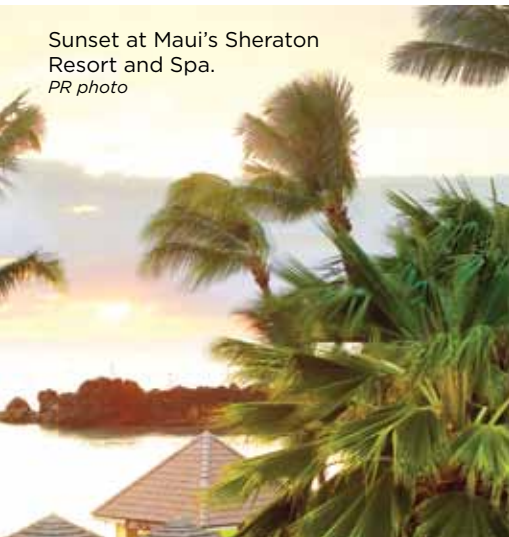
<http://gogayhawaii.com/maui/>

Hawaii was one of the first states to ignite the gay marriage debate back in the mid-1990s, but it was only late in 2013 that marriage equality became the law of the land. Nevertheless, the 50th state has long played host to LGBT travelers. Maui, the second largest island, is fairly quiet—don't go there expecting much of a nightlife—but it does offer great beaches, whale watching, and Mt. Haleakala, Hawaii's highest peak.

**What's gay:** Little Beach, located in Makena State Park (and clothing optional) is where gay locals and travelers often hang out.

Sunset at Maui's Sheraton Resort and Spa.

*PR photo*



## Vancouver, British Columbia

[www.tourismvancouver.com/vancouver/gay-friendly-vancouver/](http://www.tourismvancouver.com/vancouver/gay-friendly-vancouver/)

Western Canada's most photogenic city is also one of its most diverse. Widespread immigration to Vancouver over the course of the 20th century resulted in it becoming a city of several distinctively flavored neighborhoods. If much of Vancouver seems rather familiar, even though you've never been there, it's been widely used as a location for films and movies, among them *The X Files* and *The L Word*.

**What's gay:** Much of the gay life in Vancouver is centered in the West End and Yaletown areas. Winter sports fans will likely want to head to Whistler, about 80 miles away, for the WinterPride Gay and Lesbian Ski Week, usually beginning in late January.

## Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

[www.visitpuertovallarta.com/travel-guide/lgbt-friendly](http://www.visitpuertovallarta.com/travel-guide/lgbt-friendly)

It seems like much of gay Chicago empties out in January and heads down to Puerto Vallarta on Mexico's west coast. Besides a low-key, if sometimes crowded, beach scene, it's known for sunsets, whale watching, and numerous gay and gay-friendly bars and restaurants. Interestingly, Puerto Vallarta got one of its first jolts of notoriety when Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor caroused there while filming the movie version of Tennessee Williams' play *Night of the Iguana*.

**What's gay:** Diana's Gay Cruise is just one of the myriad boat tours geared towards lesbian and gay travelers.

## Paris, France

[www.gayparis.com](http://www.gayparis.com), [www.paris-gay.com](http://www.paris-gay.com)

Okay, this is just as much a honeymoon cliché for Europe as Vegas is for the states, but there's no denying that a few days in Paris can turn the most jaded travelers into heartfelt romantics. Whether you are on a budget or can afford to go on the 1-percenter's plan, you'll surely find more unforgettable culture, cuisine, shopping and people-watching than in any other city in the world. Just remember to avoid the month of August, when the city empties out for vacation ... many of the city's attractions will be closed.

**What's gay:** Le Marais, in the 4th arrondissement, is the main gay 'hood, featuring numerous bars and gay-friendly restaurants.

## Barcelona, Spain

[www.gaybarcelona4u.com](http://www.gaybarcelona4u.com)  
[www.gaybarcelona.com](http://www.gaybarcelona.com)

The Mediterranean climate of Barcelona, Spain's second largest city, makes for pleasant weather for most of the year. Famous in large part for Antonio Gaudi's architecture—particularly his still-unfinished La Sagrada Família cathedral—the city is also somewhat infamous for its nightlife.



# Tying the Knot



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## HONEYMOONING

from page 20

**What's gay:** The popular Axel Hotel bills itself as being "straight-friendly." Also, Barcelona is about 20 miles from Sitges and its world-renowned gay beaches. The BEARcelona celebration takes place in April.



Muy caliente at Buenos Aires Pride.  
*istockphoto*

### Buenos Aires, Argentina

[www.welcomeargentina.com/  
ciudadbuenosaires/outings.html](http://www.welcomeargentina.com/ciudadbuenosaires/outings.html)

Argentina is one of the more progressive South American nations when it comes to LGBT rights; gay marriage has been legal there since 2010. Buenos Aires combines the flavors of South America with the some of the most cosmopolitan cities in Europe; a friend once said it had become "more like Madrid than Madrid is." There isn't a particular standout gay neighborhood, but gays and lesbians are well integrated into the fabric of the city.

**What's gay:** There's no better time to Tango than when in Buenos Aires. Since 2005 same-sex couples have been gathering for Tango Queer, a weekly party for gay couples.

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*Photo by Hal Baim*

Guests at the January 10, 2014, wedding reception for **Ron Dorfman** (left) and **Ken Ilio** were amused to hear the story of how the couple, having met at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's "Not Just Song & Dance" gala in 1994, ended up living the rest of their lives together.

They were seated at the same table, danced a few times, found each other interesting, and after dinner Dorfman drove Ilio to his home in East Lakeview. Neither had anything to write with, so Dorfman said he would contact their table host on Monday to get Ilio's phone number and make a date.

"That was a Saturday night," Dorfman told the 90 guests assembled at Phil Stefani's, 437 N. Rush. "Early Sunday afternoon, my phone rang." Ilio, a speed reader, had only a first name and a numberless street address to go on, but went methodically through the White Pages until he found a Ron on Sheridan Road. "Fortunately," Dorfman said, "I was in the Ds and not the Ws." The pair have rarely been apart since.

Dorfman, 73, and Ilio, 57, were married Dec. 13, in the chapel at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where Dorfman was being prepared for major heart surgery.

The ceremony was officiated by hospital chaplain Barbara Zeman, a priest who initially was reluctant to unite "a lapsed Jew with a lapsed Catholic," but was quickly won over.

The wedding took place four days after U.S. District Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman issued her first ruling in a class action brought by Lambda Legal and the ACLU with pro-bono counsel from Kirkland & Ellis and Miller Shakman & Beem. In that ruling, Judge Coleman ordered Cook County Clerk David Orr to issue marriage licenses immediately to Dorfman and Ilio and another couple (Elvie Jordan and Challis Gibbs) facing a life-threatening illness before the scheduled June 1 start date of legal same-sex marriage in Illinois.

That was what Orr wanted to do in the first place, so there were no disgruntled parties in the case, and an underlying class action continues that may strike down the June 1 date for all same-sex couples in Illinois regardless of health issues.

The couple had registered as domestic partners in Cook County shortly after County Clerk Orr instituted that program in 2003, but never bothered to file for Illinois civil union status. "It would have made no material or meaningful difference to us," Dorfman said, "because we've really been 'married' for 20 years. But with legal marriage, I know that Ken will have the spousal benefits of federal law for Social Security, inheritance, taxes, and all the other rights that surviving partners have to support their households. It's a great comfort."



PHOTO BY KEVIN WEINSTEIN



PHOTO BY KEVIN WEINSTEIN



PHOTO BY RICK AGUILAR



PHOTO BY RICK AGUILAR

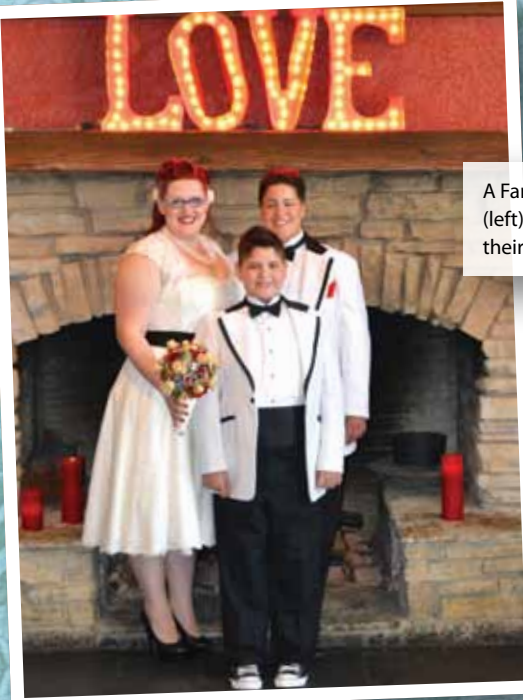
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A Family Affair: **Kate Lindberg-Vazquez** (left) with **Myrna Vazquez** (right) and their adopted son Matheos.

Couple **Michelle Thomas** and **Jan Ferguson** from their civil (and spiritual) union, Sept. 8, 2012. They plan to convert their union to a "real" marriage at City Hall June 1.







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# PREP WORK

**The road to the big day for Johnny and Jason is long and busy ... but worth it.**



Grooms-to-be Johnny (left, in black tux) and Jason (right, in white tux) get their wedding looks in order.  
*Kirk Williamson*

## INTERVIEW BY KIRK WILLIAMSON

When Johnny Corcoran, owner of Blue Island gay bar Club Krave, popped the question to partner Jason Howell (aka Lindsey Devereaux) on stage during a drag show, the planning stages of their super-hero wedding were almost immediately set into motion. Jason took some time to speak with us about that fateful night and about all the work that's gone into the wedding so far ... and how much is yet to come.

### How did the proposal go down? Was it expected?

**Jason Howell:** We were to be celebrating Club Krave's 6-year anniversary with a drag show on the night it happened.

I (Lindsey) had the entire show planned out which included our song, "Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now" by Starship, which we were going to be performing together. What I didn't know was that Johnny switched out this song with an edited version that had a "record scratch" in the middle of the song. We get on stage, start performing the song together, and all of a sudden, it stops. Thinking that the DJ screwed



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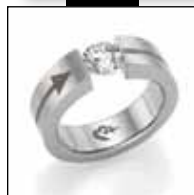
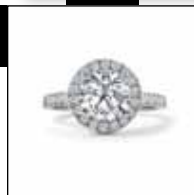
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# PREP WORK

from page 30

something up, I just froze. At that point Johnny asked me to marry him; I said yes. As far as it being expected, no. Apparently Johnny told ALL of my friends to be there that night and what his intentions were. They are usually at the bar anyway, so I didn't really think anything of it. I had no clue!



Screen grab of the “big moment,” on stage at Club Krave in Blue Island.

## How quickly did you begin to plan all the details?

**JH:** Actually that night! We both know who our close friends are, and in fact most of them were there so we started asking them to stand up in our wedding immediately. And I, being the way I am with organizing and planning things, started the process the very next day and have been doing something wedding-related every day, just to be ahead of the game. At this point we have a lot done!!!

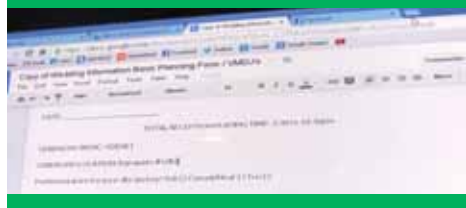
## What has always been your dream wedding?

**JH:** This is a VERY tricky question [laughs].

There is a huge difference between a “dream wedding” and the reality of things. Obviously, when it comes to planning a wedding, how much things will cost is a huge factor. So with that reality, what makes it a dream wedding for us is having our family and friends be part of it, standing up for us and supporting us; having it at a location where we feel accepted and can be ourselves; and over all just celebrating it with people we love and who love us. Oh, and looking sexy as hell in our tuxes!



Preparations at the venue include choosing table settings (above) and the overall itinerary (below).



## Any other comments on the upcoming wedding?

**JH:** It takes a lot of time, money, and effort, but it should also be a fun time working together. It's coming along great and we couldn't be happier to be taking the next step in our relationship!

## DETAILS, DETAILS ...

Just a short list (or not so short, as the case may be) of the wedding planning steps Johnny and Jason have already taken

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- Picked wedding party
- Booked ceremony/reception location
- Picked food/drink package
- Spoke to a minister
- Booked DJ
- Compiled guest list (mostly done sorting seating arrangement)
- Started planning songs and “line-up”
- Booked photographer
- Picked and got fitted for tuxes
- Gathered all guests' addresses for invites
- Found a bakery for cake and got pricing
- Bought champagne glasses, cake cutter, guest book, etc.
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- Started wording invitations
- Picked out and designed party favors
- Created wedding website
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# LGBTFAQ

## Frequently Asked Questions about Illinois gay marriage

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Now that same-sex marriage is on its way to the state (starting June 1), LGBT Illinoisans can look to a number of organizations for help should they begin to start planning for marriages with their partners.

You can contact **ACLU Illinois** for help at 312-201-9740 or **Lambda Legal** at 312-663-4413 for help about the state law. **Equality Illinois** has published a comprehensive booklet entitled "Marriage Rights in Illinois" that goes over numerous key questions. It can be found

online at [www.eqil.org](http://www.eqil.org). Additionally, the **Cook County Clerk's** marriage equality page is at <http://bit.ly/1baUH2X>.

Here are a few key questions and answers, culled from information provided by advocacy organizations. Many logistics of the same-sex marriage law are still being worked out as of publication time, so the following should not be construed as legal advice; please consult with your legal advisors or advocacy organizations to see how the law might apply under specific circumstances.

### When will marriages begin?

Marriages can begin June 1, 2014, which is a Sunday. Cook County Clerk David Orr has said that his offices will be open that day for couples wishing to obtain their license then. Note, however, that there is a 24-hour waiting period between obtaining the license and having a marriage performed.

### What if I can't wait until June?

If you or your partner has extenuating health circumstances that necessitate a marriage more quickly, you may do so at the Cook County Clerk's Office with an authorization form signed by your physician. The authorization form is at <http://bit.ly/1baUH2X>. As of publication time, this early option is only available in Cook County, so residents of other counties must travel to Cook County to obtain their license and have their marriage performed.

### Who can get married?

A couple is eligible to marry if they are 1) age 18 or over; 2) not already legally married to someone else or each other; 3) not closely related; and 4) legally competent to enter into a civil contract.

### How do I obtain a marriage license?

Both parties must go to a county clerk's office to obtain a marriage license. Cost varies by county, but usually falls between \$15-40. The license is valid for 60 days, and only within the county through which the license is obtained. There is a one-day waiting period before the license is effective.

### Will civil unions still exist when same-sex marriages begin in Illinois?

Yes. Couples will still be able to obtain a civil union should they wish for that instead of a marriage.

### If I am already in a civil union in Illinois, how do I "upgrade"?

Couples in civil unions can either marry through regular channels—obtaining a marriage license and having a marriage ceremony performed—or, during the first year after marriages begin, they can simply apply for a marriage certificate from their county clerk's office that will mark the date of their civil union as the date of their marriage. There is no fee for the marriage license for couples already in a civil union. Civil unions entered into outside of Illinois can also be upgraded in the same manner.

### Can out-of-state couples marry in Illinois?

Couples may marry in Illinois as long as their state does not declare same-sex marriages to be "void." Not all states that prohibit same-sex marriages declare them as "void." Clerks may ask out of state couples to sign an affidavit before



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# LGBTFAQ

from page 36

marrying that their state does not declare same-sex marriages to be void.

## **Will out-of-state marriages be recognized in Illinois?**

Yes. Illinois law recognizes marriages already legally performed in other states.

## **Will other states recognize Illinois marriages?**

As long as the state recognizes same-sex marriages, yes.

## **What happens if we must divorce?**

You will follow the same procedures set up for opposite-sex couples. Note, though, that some procedures concerning child support and custody may differ, depending on your circumstances.



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## PROFILE

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From their posting at [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com), August 9, 2013



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# Premarital Agreements: Protect your property rights

BY ROGER V. MCCAFFREY-BOSS

On June 1, 2014, Illinois LGBT couples will be able to apply for a marriage license, get married the following day, and enjoy all the benefits and legal obligations that married spouses have enjoyed for years.

LGBT couples in which someone has a terminable illness, however, can get married now with a supporting letter from their physician.

Although madly in love today, divorce lawyers know that love does not conquer all and that love can sour and turn to conflict. In the world of heterosexual marriage there is an established history of divorce terms, experience with breakup rights and duties that are different from the rules that LGBT couples have lived by.

Divorce clients know the trials and tribulations of a best friend's divorce, the property settlement they got, what their lawyer could or could not do for them and their responsibilities for payment of maintenance and child support. Unfortunately, these rules are new to LGBT couples planning marriage. They are important and everyone who plans to "tie the knot" should be aware of them.

Whatever you thought was your sole property before marriage changes. When married, spouses have rights as to the marital property of the couple. Marital property is any property acquired by the parties during their marriage except for property which is specifically excluded as non-marital property. The burden is on the party claiming non-marital property to prove it.

If you get married and split from your spouse, you may have to pay for maintenance. The amount and duration of maintenance is determined based upon relevant factors including age, income and property of each party; education; length of the marriage; whether the recipient's ability to earn income has been impaired due to absence from the workforce to attend to domestic duties; and lifestyle of the parties.

If you divorce, you may have to pay attorney's fees for yourself and you may have to pay the

legal fees of your spouse. The law says that attorney's fees are the primary responsibility of the party incurring fees. However, if your spouse does not have any money, you may be required to pay his/her fees. Contribution of attorneys' fees from one party to the other is available where the payment of attorneys' fees would undermine a partner's economic stability.

Illinois is an equitable distribution state which means property is not necessarily divided 50/50—there is no guarantee that either spouse will get half. The court considers relevant factors in determining how assets are to be divided, such as length of the marriage; age, health and employability of the spouses; contribution, both financial and non-financial, to the acquisition of property; the parties' respective abilities to generate capital assets in the future and other factors.

And if you die, your spouse has legal rights to certain retirement accounts you have regardless of who you named as the beneficiary.

Instead of letting a judge decide these issues in case you divorce, you should have a Premarital Agreement to establish your own financial agreements. Premarital Agreements clarify the rights and expectations in the marriage and can reduce the expenses and stress in a divorce by eliminating the issues to be determined.

Premarital Agreements must be in writing and signed by both parties. They must be entered into freely and voluntarily and they require fair and reasonable financial disclosures. They also require each spouse to have their own attorney represent them and must be signed well before the marriage so no claim can be made that the Agreement was forced onto one of the spouses.

I have always advocated for all parties in an LGBT couple to create their own property agreements and decide what issues should be covered. Before marriage is the time for that.

**Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, Esq., Law Offices of Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss & Associates, P.C., 33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois, 60602, 312-263-8800, [RVMLawyer@aol.com](mailto:RVMLawyer@aol.com).**

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## PROFILE

### Former Marketing Executive brings a 'fragrant design' to LGBTQ couples

BY GRETCHEN BLICKENSERFER

**Nadine Horwitz** was a marketing executive who was looking to create her own destiny. In exploring her options, she discovered the floral design industry. "I began to learn more about it," said Horwitz. "But at the same time, I brought my strengths of project management and attention to detail."

In May of 2006, she founded Fragrant Design. "I was working for myself versus working for someone else," Horwitz remembered. "I wanted to follow the dream of building something of my own rather than someone else's rules."

Fragrant Design is an event florist. While principally working for brides- and bridegrooms-to-be, the organization has also added its floral touch to corporate functions, galas and fashion shows. Their designs, said Horwitz, "transcend the ordinary."

"90% of our business is weddings," she said. "But we also worked with the Chicago Blackhawks on their ring ceremonies in 2010 and 2013."

Fragrant Design has serviced LGBTQ weddings and, with the passage of marriage equality in Illinois, Horwitz is ready to do more. "It's definitely an area we are super excited about," said Horwitz. "We want to share in the celebration with these couples."

Horwitz said that LGBTQ couples deserve to revel in their love in just the same way as anyone else. "It's taken so long to be legal in this state," she added. "We are thrilled that people can celebrate with friends and family and have a fantastic party."

LGBTQ customers who visit Fragrant Designs for an initial and complimentary consultation will meet a team who want to make their day beautiful and memorable, added Horwitz. "They can expect a fun group of people who will listen to their desires without being judgmental."

According to Horwitz, Fragrant Designs strives to think outside of the norm. "We try to take elements outside of the floral world and bring those inspirations to our designs," she said. "For example, if a client has been inspired by something like The Great Gatsby, then we put those ideas into our final product." Horwitz has a message to LGBTQ couple looking to marry in June. "You are welcome here," she said. "And your dreams will be executed in just the way you envisioned them."

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[WWW.KEITHHOUSECHICAGO.COM](http://WWW.KEITHHOUSECHICAGO.COM)

1900 S. Prairie Avenue  
Chicago IL 60616-1321

Phone: 312.907.7909  
[events@keithhousechicago.com](mailto:events@keithhousechicago.com)





# WEDDING SPACE

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2014 DATES  
AVAILABLE

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2 BLOCKS EAST OF

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AVE



OPENS MARCH 2014

CHEZ-CHICAGO.COM 312.255.0288

247 EAST ONTARIO STREET



Here is your handy guide to supportive businesses who are committed to making your big day one to remember. Support those who support us!

## ACCOMMODATIONS

see also **VENUES**

### **The Guesthouse Hotel Andersonville**

**4866 N. Clark St.**

**773-564-9568**

**[www.theguesthousehotel.com](http://www.theguesthousehotel.com)**

Luxurious boutique hotel with spacious two- and three-bedroom accommodations in Andersonville. Gourmet kitchens, spa-like bathrooms, fireplaces, balconies. Perfect for groups. Walk to restaurants, shops, bars. Live like a local!

### **Lang House Bed & Breakfast**

**7421 N. Sheridan Rd.**

**773-764-9851**

**[www.catscradlechicago.com](http://www.catscradlechicago.com)**

**[info@langhousechicago.com](http://info@langhousechicago.com)**

The Lang House Bed & Breakfast, built in 1919, is honored to support the LBGT community. Lang House is the perfect venue for indoor, outdoor, nearby beach weddings, or receptions. We have special offers; call for details.

## ANIMAL SERVICES

### **Tree House Humane Society**

**1212 W. Carmen Ave.**

**773-784-5488, ext. 238**

**[www.TreeHouseAnimals.org/wedding](http://www.TreeHouseAnimals.org/wedding)**

**[Kristine@TreeHouseAnimals.org](mailto:Kristine@TreeHouseAnimals.org)**

Honor your commitment and save an animal's life with a personalized Wedding Donation Page.

## BAKERIES

### **Roeser's Bakery and Party Palace**

**3216-3224 W. North Ave.**

**Bakery: 773-489-6900**

**Party Palace: 773-489-6928**

**[www.RoesersCakes.com](http://www.RoesersCakes.com)**

We want to celebrate marriage equality with you. Our designs range from traditional to contemporary and will compliment the theme of your special day. We are the place for cakes and everything to complete your party. Free parking.

## CATERING

### **Bountiful Eatery**

**3312 N. Broadway St.**

**773-687-9811**

**[www.bountifuleatery.com](http://www.bountifuleatery.com)**

Gay-owned Bountiful Eatery, awarded "Best Healthy Eats," specializes in healthy food and food sensitivity. Offering a wide range of choices from vegan to wild-caught salmon and grass-fed bison entrees. Call to speak with our catering specialist and we will help you fulfill your dream wedding.

### **Conn's Catering**

**773-262-2666**

**[www.connscatering.com](http://www.connscatering.com)**

**[info@connscatering.com](mailto:info@connscatering.com)**

1993 - 2014: 21 years of excellence. A preferred caterer at Chicago Park District venues. We offer full bar service.

### **Entertaining Company**

**312-829-2800**

**[www.entertainingcompany.com](http://www.entertainingcompany.com)**

Entertaining Company, Chicago's caterer for 20 years,

boldly designs every event, from vibrant wedding and commitment ceremony catering to sparkling social event catering, including backyard barbeques and black tie galas. Entertaining Company catering transports guests to a bold world of celebration inspired by a palate of artisan ingredients, global traditions and colorful settings.

### **J&L Catering**

**1229 N. North Branch St.**

**312-280-7900**

**[www.jandlcatering.com](http://www.jandlcatering.com)**

Celebrating over 25 years of bringing creativity and exceptional cuisine together, J&L Catering has been a supporter of the community since 1989. Full-service, custom catering with knowledgeable event planners who will help you through every step to create an amazing experience for you and your guests.

### **Tri-Star Catering**

**150 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago**

**312-368-8266**

**[www.tristarcatering.com](http://www.tristarcatering.com)**

**[scott@tristarcatering.com](mailto:scott@tristarcatering.com)**

After all, you should enjoy your event as much as your guests do. Tri-Star Catering is more than exceptional food tastefully presented. We take pride in creating the complete special event. Tri-Star takes the work and worry out of your busy schedule. Preparation, presentation, perfection!

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Artists, Events and Entertainment Inc 312-832-1100

[www.artistsandevents.com](http://www.artistsandevents.com)

Make your next event beyond your imagination. From a formal affair to an informal party, we can provide the perfect entertainment for any event. World-class musicians, Big Band, orchestras, harp, violins, piano, Top 40 dance, vocalists, jazz and more.

### Becca Kaufman Orchestra

847-892-4150

[www.beccakaufmanorchestra.com](http://www.beccakaufmanorchestra.com)  
[www.beatmixmusic.com](http://www.beatmixmusic.com)

Available for all your weddings and celebrations. Contact Becca to hear the sounds of your wedding.

## EVENT PLANNING

### Food For Thought

847-982-2608

[www.fftchicago.com](http://www.fftchicago.com)  
[info@fftchicago.com](mailto:info@fftchicago.com)

An esteemed place among Chicago special event planners with 30 years of experience. Our veteran sales consultants assist in all phases of the planning process and can provide expert advice on venues, vendors and entertaining. We are committed to creating memorable experiences for our customers through a culture of creativity, expertise and innovation with delicious food we love and true hospitality.

### Frank Event Design

Frank J. Andonoplas, Master  
Bridal Consultant  
5555 N. Sheridan Rd., Arcade  
Level  
773-275-6804

[www.frankeventdesign.com](http://www.frankeventdesign.com)  
[frank@frankeventdesign.com](mailto:frank@frankeventdesign.com)

Frank J. Andonoplas has been planning weddings for the

last 20 years. He was recently Named Event Planner of the year and is one of 79 Master Bridal Consultants worldwide.

### Kelly Ray Wedding and Events

2915 N. Clybourn Ave.,  
Suite 314

773-909-1980

[www.kellyrayweddingandevents.com](http://www.kellyrayweddingandevents.com)

Kelly Ray Wedding and Events wants you to enjoy your big event. We provide an avant-garde approach to planning to make your dream day a reality.

## FASHION/HAIR

### Dame Couture

1804 Central St., Evanston, IL  
847-866-7599

[www.damecouture.com](http://www.damecouture.com)

Dame Couture provides an alternative experience: one that's more down-to-earth, personal, and relaxed than traditional bridal shops. We love vintage clothes, and reuse vintage clothes and components as much as possible.

### Jordan Hair Extensions

312-404-3053

[www.chicagohairextensionssalon.org](http://www.chicagohairextensionssalon.org)

LGBT owner catering specifically to LGBT clients. Schedule your appointment with Jordan, a hair extension expert with 20 years of experience. By appointment only; in-home or at our Wrigleyville location.

## FAVORS/INVITES

### Pulp & Ink

1344 N. Wells St.

312-475-1344

[www.pulpandink.com](http://www.pulpandink.com)

Since 2001, traditional and urban-minded paper goods adorn this airy showroom. Invitations, programs, and place cards range from clean-lined and brightly colored to those with calligraphy and muted shades. Custom design available

in addition to Elum, Oblation and Bella Figura and more.

### Total Promotions, Inc.

Contact David Strzepke,  
773-505-7794

[www.totalpromote.com](http://www.totalpromote.com)

Special items for your wedding day: Favors, candles, thank you notes, invitations, monogrammed glasses, boxes, gifts and so much more. Any item that can be imprinted, David can get you the best prices.

## FLOWERS

### The Blossom Boys

9911 S. Walden Pkwy.  
773-779-4400

[www.theblossomboys.com](http://www.theblossomboys.com)

The Blossom Boys designed the first legal same-sex wedding in Illinois. Steve and Ryan's rich history, brilliant artistry and sensitivity will honor and celebrate your unique wedding day.

### Flowers by Fragrant Design

1928 W. Fulton St.

312-546-3044

[www.fragrantdesign.com](http://www.fragrantdesign.com)

Fragrant Design has a passion for designing inspiring style for your one-of-a-kind event. Our commitment and desire to create surpass the high expectations we bring to our clients.

## FINANCIAL

### James E. Elvord, AWM, Financial Advisor RBC Wealth Mgmt.

312-559-1738 or

800-683-3246

[james.elvord@rbc.com](mailto:james.elvord@rbc.com)

At RBC Wealth Management, we know that a good portfolio is a reflection of your needs and goals. That's why we work with you to create a comprehensive plan that works for you, with a wide range of flexible financial solutions.

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## HOME/GIFTS

### Char Crews

8 Grant Square,  
Hinsdale, IL  
630-920-0190  
800-323-1972

[www.CharCrews.com](http://www.CharCrews.com)

The Bridal Registry at Char Crews, Chicagoland's finest selection of china, crystal, flatware and giftware at discount prices. Family owned and operated since 1972. Expert registry and gift assistance. Located in Hinsdale, Wilmette and at Char Crews.com.

### Lighting by Fox

3524 N. Halsted St.

[www.lightingbyfox.com](http://www.lightingbyfox.com)

Make your NEW life together brighter with Lighting by Fox! Now open at 3524 N. Halsted St., you'll find an extensive display of traditional to contemporary lighting to compliment your new beginnings. Visit [www.lightingbyfox.com](http://www.lightingbyfox.com) to see our showroom and our merchandise.

### Terry's Toffee

312-733-2700

[www.terrystoffee.com](http://www.terrystoffee.com)

[info@terrystoffee.com](mailto:info@terrystoffee.com)

Terry's Toffee offers a remarkable line of gourmet toffee and gorgeous packaging to celebrate your special day. Partners Terry and Michael honor marriage equality in Illinois and across the country, with you.

## JEWELRY

### Leo Bachrach & Son

55 E. Washington St., #801  
312-263-3111

[www.leobachrachjewelers.com](http://www.leobachrachjewelers.com)

Leo Bachrach & Son Jewelers have been delivering fine quality jewelry craftsmanship and design since 1944. Proud to serve the LGBTQ community, Leo Bachrach & Son Jewelers carries a large collection of

jewelry from designers across the world.

### Jan Dee Custom Jewelry

1425 W. Diversey Pkwy.,  
Chicago

773-871-2222

[www.jandee.com](http://www.jandee.com)

Celebrating serving the community for 40 years. Specializing in custom design. Jewelry repair, watch repair, appraisals, Certified GIA diamond supplier. Mention Jan Dee's ad in this section and receive 15% off your next in-store purchase or \$100 off your custom ring order.

### James & Sons Fine Jewelers

[www.jamesandsons.com](http://www.jamesandsons.com)

Celebrating life's milestones for 50 years. Marriage equality: Now that's a milestone. At James & Sons our mission has always been a tradition of trust, high ethical standards, knowledge of our jewelry products and services, fair pricing and value to our customers. Chicago, Orland Park and Schererville locations.

### Rodger Kadet, Ltd.

5 S. Wabash Ave., Rm. 1703A  
312-854-3007

[rodgerk7753@gmail.com](mailto:rodgerk7753@gmail.com)

In the industry for over 40 years. A one-stop shop for all your jewelry needs, including engagement rings, wedding rings and bands, and more. Specializing in custom-made rings. Proud to support the LGBTQ community.

### Sparkles

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773-944-9600

[www.SparklesFineJewelry.com](http://www.SparklesFineJewelry.com)  
[info@SparklesFineJewelry.com](mailto:info@SparklesFineJewelry.com)

Custom jewelry design, GIA-certified diamonds for engagements and weddings. Live, laugh, love and sparkle!

### Tucker, Inc.

5 S. Wabash, Suite 507  
312-263-3315

[www.tuckercompany.net](http://www.tuckercompany.net)

Established 1935. Jewelry for every occasion. Celebrating marriage equality for all. Donald Strzepek, owner, proud to be part of the community.

## LEGAL

### Berger Schatz

161 N. Clark St.,  
Suite 2800

312-782-3456

312-782-8463 (fax)

[www.bergerschatz.com](http://www.bergerschatz.com)

Berger Schatz is one of the largest law firms in the nation specializing exclusively in matrimonial and family law. Our clients come to us because they know we have the experience, expertise and discretion to resolve their most challenging issues.

### Donald B. Boyd, Jr., Family Law

232 S. Lathrop Ave., Forest Park, Ill.

708-848-1005

[www.boyddivorce.com](http://www.boyddivorce.com)

Specializing in civil unions, LGBT issues, divorce/wills/trusts, real estate closings, custody violation, and child support. Free initial consultation. Evening and weekend appointments available.

### Ray J. Koenig III, Clark Hill PLC

150 N. Michigan Ave.,  
Suite 2700

800-949-3124

312-985-5900

[rkoenig@clarkhill.com](mailto:rkoenig@clarkhill.com)

[www.clarkhill.com](http://www.clarkhill.com)

Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas.



## Lambda Legal

312-663-4413

[www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org)

Lambda Legal is committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of LGBT people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.

## Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, Esq.

**Law Offices of Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss & Associates, P.C.**

33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 800

312-263-8800

[rvmlawyer@aol.com](mailto:rvmlawyer@aol.com)

In service to the community for more than 35 years. Bankruptcy; Wills, Trusts & Probate; Real Estate Closings; Premarital Agreements.

## Rosemary Mulryan, Mulryan & York, Attorneys at Law

4001 N. Wolcott

Chicago, Illinois 60613

773-248-8887

[www.mulryanandYork.com](http://www.mulryanandYork.com)

Mulryan & York is a full-service, community-based law firm providing adoption, estate planning, probate, and other legal services people need to keep their families secure, strong, and supported.

## LICENSES

**David Orr**

**Cook Co. Clerk's Office**

[cookcountyclerk.com/](http://cookcountyclerk.com/)

**vitalrecords/marriageequality**

Congratulations on Marriage Equality! I look forward to finally issuing marriage licenses to all couples! Our office in the lower level of the Daley Center will be open on Sunday, June 1. For more information, please visit our website.

## OFFICIANTS

**Mother Jubi Dutcher, Officiant**

773-946-7318

[revtjdutcher@gmail.com](mailto:revtjdutcher@gmail.com)

A ceremony you'll never forget! When you're planning your commitment ceremony, call Mother Jubi Dutcher to officiate. Your union is a sacrament.

## Dignity/Chicago

[www.dignity-chicago.org/content/families](http://www.dignity-chicago.org/content/families)

Your Roman Catholic resource for your wedding. Full Mass or simple ceremony, ceremony planning, Pre-Cana preparation, ordained male and female priests, musicians and music direction. Inclusive Roman Catholic community.

**more on page 54**

# Get Married

## BY JOHN

OFFICIANT FOR WEDDINGS & CIVIL UNIONS

Ceremony planning, writing, and rehearsal.  
Performing the ceremony on your big day.  
Experienced & Recommended.  
Authorized to certify Illinois marriages & civil unions.  
Ordained by American Marriage Ministries.



**JOHN HUEBLER**

773.270.3761

[GetMarriedByJohn@gmail.com](mailto:GetMarriedByJohn@gmail.com)



## Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago

7574 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, IL  
847-677-3334

<http://ethicalhuman.org>  
[office@ethicalhuman.org](mailto:office@ethicalhuman.org)

Our secular officiants will be happy to help LGBT couples tie the knot, either in the beautiful auditorium of our meetinghouse in Skokie, or elsewhere.

## Gay Minister for Gay Weddings

[gayminister@gmail.com](mailto:gayminister@gmail.com)

Gay minister for gay weddings. Are you planning a wedding after June 1, 2014? I am a gay minister available to perform your wedding ceremony.

## Get Married by John

**Officiant John Huebler**

773-270-3761

[getmarriedbyjohn@gmail.com](mailto:getmarriedbyjohn@gmail.com)

Ceremony planning, writing, and rehearsal. Performing the ceremony on your big day. Experienced and recommended. Authorized to certify Illinois marriages and civil unions. Ordained by American Marriage Ministries.

## Marguerite H. Griffin Meaningful Moments

773-919-1333

[www.meaningfulmarguerite.com](http://www.meaningfulmarguerite.com)  
[meaningfulmarguerite@gmail.com](mailto:meaningfulmarguerite@gmail.com)

"I would be honored to officiate at your wedding ceremony and to co-create with you a unique and meaningful ceremony that reflects who you are as individuals and as a couple."

## ILWeddingOfficiant.com

847-873-7463

[ILWeddingOfficiant.com](http://ILWeddingOfficiant.com)

Catering to the unique needs of same-sex couples by serving the GLBTQ community

according to each couple's unique personality, beliefs and desires. Rev. Pamela travels to you or get married at her home.

## Living Well Ministries

773-655-4357

[www.livingwellministries.net](http://www.livingwellministries.net)

Rev. Jacki Belile is a lesbian Baptist minister, life coach, and experienced celebrant in interfaith settings. Her wedding services include custom design and pre-marital coaching sessions.

## Rose LifeCycle Ceremonies

**Michele Rose, Certified LifeCycle Celebrant**

847-215-7715

[www.RoseLifeCycleCeremonies.com](http://www.RoseLifeCycleCeremonies.com)

[RoseCeremonies@gmail.com](mailto:RoseCeremonies@gmail.com)

You can't get married without me! I'll perform your marriage ceremony and personalize it just for you. I officiate at interfaith, non-religious, and same sex weddings, and other lifecycle milestones.

## PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO

### Rick Aguilar Studios

773-478-6607

[www.rickaguilar.com](http://www.rickaguilar.com)

This gay-owned wedding photographer studio has been documenting gay weddings for the Chicago community for over 20 years. He is renowned for his reputation, his creativity, and his work.

## Bean Blossom Prod.

[www.BeanBlossomProductions.net](http://www.BeanBlossomProductions.net)

773-727-5642

Special event videos/photos for weddings, civil unions, social gatherings, team events and much more. Serving the community with Pride!

## Ingrid Bonne Photography

773-991-2400

[www.ingridbonnephotography.com](http://www.ingridbonnephotography.com)

[ingrid@](mailto:ingrid@ingridbonnephotography.com)

[ingrid@ingridbonnephotography.com](mailto:ingrid@ingridbonnephotography.com)

The visual storyteller for remarkable people. Let me tell your story!

## Lisa Howe-Ebright Photography

708-710-2874

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[Lisa@LHEphoto.com](mailto:Lisa@LHEphoto.com)

Capturing the moment now, cherishing the memories forever. Serving our community for over 35 years.

## TRAVEL

### OK Travel

773-581-0100

[www.oktravagency.com](http://www.oktravagency.com)

The staff at OK Travel has journeyed to all 50 states and over 70 foreign countries on six of the seven continents. We are confident that we can provide you the best experience at a great value. We specialize in honeymoons and destination weddings, as well as cruises, family vacations, Disney, Las Vegas and more.

## Villa Loretta Palm Springs

310-869-3465

[hrisben.2827@gmail.com](mailto:hrisben.2827@gmail.com)

3,700 sq. ft., 1/4 acre, beautiful pool and grounds. Room for 250 at a wedding or over 100 sit down. Very romantic and can become your wedding wonderland. Palm Springs home of movie star Loretta Young.

## VENUES

### A Church 4 Me MCC

1545 W. Morse Ave., Chicago

708-951-4862

[www.achurch4me.org](http://www.achurch4me.org)

Transforming ourselves as we transform the world. Supporting marriage since 1968. Sunday worship celebration at 11 a.m. Weddings anytime!

### Bistro Campagne

4518 N. Lincoln Ave.

773-271-6100

[bistrocampagne.com](http://bistrocampagne.com)

Celebrate any occasion in the French countryside, in the heart of Chicago. Bistro Campagne offers several intimate spaces, including beautiful gardens, for groups of up to 50 people. Ask for Alejandro to discuss special events.

### Chez, LLC

312-255-0288

[www.chez-chicago.com](http://www.chez-chicago.com)

[Christine@chez-chicago.com](mailto:Christine@chez-chicago.com)

Situated two blocks from Michigan Avenue, Chez provides a versatile space that can be transformed for any occasion. Once home to the famous Chez Paree nightclub, the space has been reinvented as an elegant and modern loft.

### Chicago Botanic Gardens

**Broadway United Methodist Private and Corporate Events**

**Office: (847) 835-8370**

[www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org)

[events@chicagobotanic.org](mailto:events@chicagobotanic.org)

At the Chicago Botanic Garden, your event springs to life amid a backdrop of pure beauty and serenity. This world-renowned cultural destination is the perfect venue for your wedding, reception, and rehearsal dinner. From the simple to the sublime, we have something for every taste!

### Chicago History Museum

1601 N. Clark St.

312-799-2254

[www.chicagohistory.org/hostevent](http://www.chicagohistory.org/hostevent)

Chicago History Museum is the city's oldest cultural institution. Its classic ballroom with adjacent outdoor terrace make it the perfect venue for your next event.

### City Winery Chicago

1200 W. Randolph St., Chicago

312-229-5989

[www.citywinery.com](http://www.citywinery.com)

[todd@citywinery.com](mailto:todd@citywinery.com)

Host your special day at City Winery Chicago! 33,000 square feet of luxurious indoor and outdoor space. City Winery brings Wine Country to you. Please contact Todd Carr, Events Director, to schedule your private tour and discussion.

**more on page 56**

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*Photo by Anna Guziak Photography*

*Call or email us for a complimentary consultation.*

[www.fragrantdesign.com](http://www.fragrantdesign.com)

1928 W Fulton St. | Chicago, IL 60612 | 312.546.3044

[info@fragrantdesign.com](mailto:info@fragrantdesign.com)

## The Drake

### Catering Dept.

312-932-4337

[www.thedrakehotel.com](http://www.thedrakehotel.com)  
[drakesales@thedrakehotel.com](mailto:drakesales@thedrakehotel.com)

The Drake's distinguished service, iconic location, and regal ambiance exemplify the remarkable REAL CHICAGO™ experience. From the breathtaking Grand Ballroom to the legendary Gold Coast Room, The Drake proudly offers spectacular venues for ceremonies, receptions, and rehearsal dinners.

## GayWedding ChicagoSite.com

847-873-7463

[www.GayWeddingChicagoSite.com](http://www.GayWeddingChicagoSite.com)

Chicagoland's premiere 5-star venue. Elope or 30 guests, enjoy suburban hospitality and legally marry at Pine Manor, the beautiful home/garden of Rev. Pamela. Serving GBLTQ since ... always!

## InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile

505 N. Michigan Ave.

312-321-8735

[www.icchicagohotel.com](http://www.icchicagohotel.com)

Our stylish atmosphere features breathtaking venues and views overlooking the Mag Mile and are evocative of magnificent eras past, accommodating 20-550 guests. Let us help you create your vision while offering the exclusivity and elegance you expect from Chicago's most sought-after downtown location.

## Keith House

1900 S. Prairie Ave., Chicago

312-907-7909

[www.keithhousechicago.com](http://www.keithhousechicago.com)

Weddings and civil unions in

the Near South Loop of Chicago. 1870s historic home, with beautiful original woodwork. Ten minutes from downtown, next store to the Women's Park. Also available for corporate events, baby showers, meetings, art shows, retreats, book launches, and more.

## Maggiano's Little Italy

516 N. Clark St.

312-644-4284

[www.maggianos.com](http://www.maggianos.com)

[chicago.banquet@maggianos.com](mailto:chicago.banquet@maggianos.com)

10 private rooms including ballroom with private garden which seats 350. Social and corporate events, A/V-ready. Chef-prepared, made-from-scratch authentic recipes.

## Mars Gallery

1139 W. Fulton Market

312-226-7808

[www.marsgallery.com](http://www.marsgallery.com)

[info@marsgallery.com](mailto:info@marsgallery.com)

For more than 25 years, Mars Gallery has been home to hundreds of weddings and receptions. Housed in a 19th century all-brick timber loft in Chicago's West Loop historic market district. We are proud to be one of Chicago's most unique wedding venues.

## Mayne Stage

1328 W. Morse Ave.

[www.maynestage.com](http://www.maynestage.com)

[rentals@maynestage.com](mailto:rentals@maynestage.com)

Make Mayne Stage yours! Our 200-seated, 400-standing-room venue is the perfect destination for your next special event.

## Polo Cafe and Catering

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773-927-7656

[www.polocafe.com](http://www.polocafe.com)

Something different ... something wonderful! Minutes

south of the Loop, ideal to gather for a special events, dinners or receptions, weddings or holy/civil union ceremonies, rehearsal dinners, or memorial meals, as well as holiday parties, showers, corporate seminars and more, plus unique overnight lodging.

## Sidetrack

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773-477-9189

[www.sidetrackchicago.com](http://www.sidetrackchicago.com)

[info@sidetrackchicago.com](mailto:info@sidetrackchicago.com)

Bringing people together with legendary parties for more than 30 years. Perfect for engagement parties, wedding ceremonies, or receptions. Custom music and video entertainment options, custom cocktails, caterer-friendly facilities, choice of staff.

## Unity Lutheran Chicago

773-878-4747

[www.unitylutheranchicago.org](http://www.unitylutheranchicago.org)

Make your wedding dreams come true at Unity Lutheran Church, Balmoral and Broadway, Edgewater. Same-gender and opposite-gender weddings. Multicultural, LGBTQ friendly, community involved congregation. Pastor Fred Kinsey; Associate Pastor John Roberts.

## theWit Chicago

201 N. State Street

312-467-0200

[www.thewithotel.com](http://www.thewithotel.com)

Modern class in the heart of downtown Chicago. Imagine a serene setting for your vows, then being whisked up to ROOF for breathtaking views of Chicago and a toast to your new life, followed by dancing the night away in one of our glowing banquet rooms with the city lights as your backdrop.



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**And give a homeless  
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- Personalized Wedding Web Page
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- Friends and family donate to honor you and help homeless animals in need
- VIP Tour of our facility
- Opportunity to name a rescued animal to honor your special day
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## **LEARN MORE:**

**Visit:** [TreeHouseAnimals.org/Wedding](http://TreeHouseAnimals.org/Wedding)

**Contact:** [Kristine@TreeHouseAnimals.org](mailto:Kristine@TreeHouseAnimals.org)

or call 773-784-5488 ext. 238



## **Tree House Humane Society Headquarters**

1212 West Carmen Avenue

Chicago, IL 60640

773-784-5488

[TreeHouseAnimals.org](http://TreeHouseAnimals.org)



# ON THE MARCH

Images from the October 22, 2013, March on Springfield

*Photos by Tim Carroll Photography*



On Tuesday, October 22, 2013, Windy City Times staff and volunteers, including over 15 photographers, joined thousands more as they marched on the state capitol for marriage equality. This push was seen by many as expanding awareness of the importance of passing the bill,

which inevitably was signed into law by Gov. Pat Quinn Nov. 20.

**See [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com) for hundreds more photos from the march and for continuing coverage of Illinois' journey toward same-sex marriages starting this June.**



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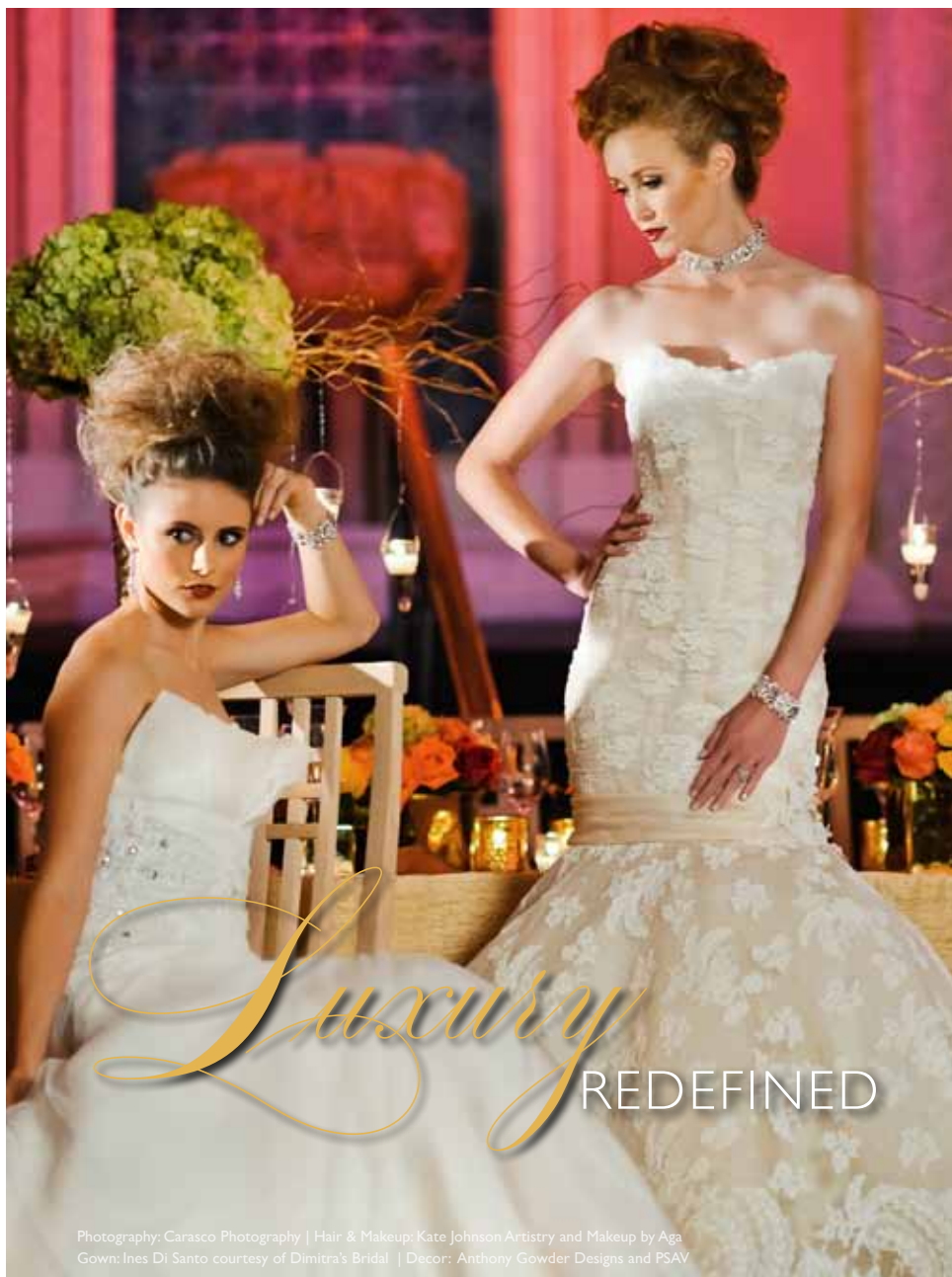
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