

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD

TWICE A YEAR, the editors of *Savannah Weddings* circle up and ask, "What's new with weddings?" And twice a year, we joke: "Nothing."

Ceremonies, by nature, are steeped in tradition. Weddings, graduations, funerals, bar mitzvahs, even Sweet 16 parties are rites of passage that carry with them certain expectations. We expect the bride and groom to walk down some semblance of an aisle, stand before their loved ones and exchange meaningful words, rings and kisses, and then depart, recognized by family, church and state as officially united.

But within those parameters, things do change. And sometimes this change is monumental, as it was this past June, when the Supreme Court ruled the federal Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, entitling legally married same-sex couples to the same federal benefits as married opposite-sex couples. By August, 13 states and Washington, D.C., will recognize gay marriages. Although the state of Georgia is not *yet* on board, we're proud to say that Savannah—a city that has experienced its share of civil rights struggles—seems particularly poised for change, as seen when our spring issue of *Savannah Weddings* covered a beautiful same-sex, interracial ceremony with zero backlash. In fact, we only heard applause.

Savannah Weddings is not a forum to push a political agenda; it is a magazine celebrating enchanting, personable and inspiring weddings, regardless of a couple's race, religion, orientation or whether they like their grits salted or sugared. (Now that's open-mindedness!) It's our job to go to experts to identify what's new and different—trends that we hope will excite and delight our readers.

The six Real Wedding features in this issue do just that. From the less conventional (skulls and superheroes), to the more traditional (seersucker and white doves), each celebration meets our expectations for what a wedding "should be," yet they are unique in the way they're carefully curated to reflect the distinct tastes, interests, beliefs—and budgets—of the couples they honor.

A black cake? A neon, mod-inspired palette? A canopy fashioned from ribbons and fine china? My

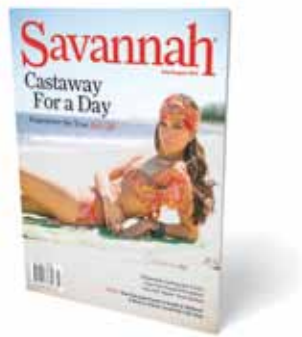


grandmother, bless her heart, would jump right out of her sensible shoes and tea-length skirt if she ever saw such a sight, but that's exactly the point. These aren't my grandmother's weddings simply because it's no longer 1942 (sorry, Grandma). While tradition still matters, how we incorporate tradition into the big day is becoming very personalized.

In these pages, you'll see that anything is possible in Savannah, whether you want to include your beloved pooch in your ceremony or accommodate your guests' special needs when it comes to catering. (A gluten-free vegan with a peanut allergy? Bring it.) You'll discover that the Hostess City is rife with top-notch wedding vendors and exquisite backdrops—from the sands of Tybee Island to the historic brick walls of Old Fort Jackson—making every Savannah wedding "something new."

Andrea Goto

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Associate Editor



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