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## *Wedding Guide*

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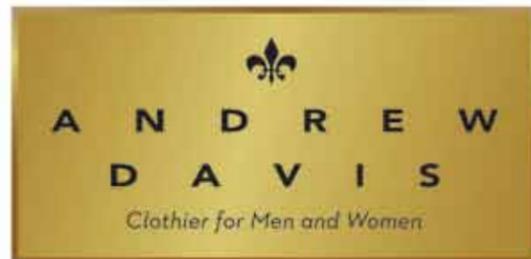
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ANNUAL

# Wedding Guide

## MAKE IT NEW!

The modernist American poet Ezra Pound had an edict for writing: "Make it new." To the best of our knowledge, no one ever asked Pound to be a wedding planner, but his mandate could be applied to creating a great wedding.

All weddings have a few basic components—rehearsal, ceremony, reception—but what is done with and around those parts can make the wedding "new" and completely your own.

The four couples whose weddings are featured this year decided to shun the cookie-cutter approach and let their personalities and traditions guide their wedding plan. Follow their example and you are guaranteed to have a wedding that your guests will talk about for years and that you will remember forever.

*By* Lee Ann Sandweiss

COVER: Caitlin (Teeters) and Bill Martin sealed their wedding vows with a traditional kiss. Photo by Deckard Photography.



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{ WEDDING NO.1 }

# Love Overcomes

## A ROCKY BEGINNING

Nate Berghoff cringes when he remembers the day he met Emily Bryant.

“I left the office that day thinking that this cute new temp probably hates me,” recalls Nate, who was working in sales at the Wrigley Company in Chicago. He had sent a terse email to Emily, the cute temp, blaming her for an error it turns out she didn’t commit—and he copied her boss!

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW BIGELOW

Emily and Nate found a quiet moment on their wedding day.



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The couple chose the elegant Indiana Memorial Union for their wedding and reception site.

Remembers Emily, who was on her first job at the time, "That night, I was at a bar with some friends, and I saw the cute marketing guy who had just gotten me in trouble at work. He offered to buy me a drink as a peace offering, and we ended up chatting all night."

Nate and Emily's connection grew stronger and romance quickly flourished. After five months of dating and an idyllic vacation in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, both knew they had found their soul mate. In August 2011, Nate proposed. After minimal deliberation, the couple decided to wed in Bloomington.

"I came across a wedding online at the Indiana Memorial Union [IMU] that was gorgeous," says Emily, a native of Naperville,

Illinois. "Nate and I talked about getting married at IU. I went there, and so did his father and brothers. Being from Indiana, Nate has always been an IU fan." Nate grew up in Warren, Indiana, and went to Ball State University.

Emily and her mother, Lory Bryant, did much of the design work themselves, but because they lived out of town, they relied heavily on IMU's Wedding and Special Events Coordinator Bari Kuhlman and her team and wedding coordinator Ann Prince of Events by Ann Prince to orchestrate things in Bloomington.

"I don't know what we would have done without Ann," says Emily. "There were so many things that could have gone wrong, but



(top) The bridal party enjoyed a post-reception gathering at Kilroy's on Kirkwood.

Emily and her father, Alan Bryant, walked down the aisle at IMU's Tree Suite Garden.

she knew exactly how to diffuse every situation and made sure I was never stressed out."

The biggest stressor was the rain that threatened the outdoor ceremony at IMU's Tree Suite Garden, which was decorated with gold Chiavari chairs, vintage bird cages, and floral arrangements of peonies, hydrangeas, and roses provided by J. Sims Floral Design of Sullivan, Indiana. Mercifully, the downpour held off until after the ceremony, which was officiated by Emily's uncle, Mike Bryant, an ordained minister of the Universal Life Church.

The dramatic architecture of Alumni Hall where the reception was held was enhanced by uplighting by Mike Schwandt of Big Picture Productions and included a massive lantern chandelier. Subtle and elegant floral and table decorations in a color scheme of cream, peach, pink, and gold were also used in the cake—soft ivory layers of fondant with peach roses—by Sugar & Spice.

Groove Essential, a band from Indianapolis, kept the dance floor full all night. Following the reception, nearly all of the guests were still

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there to send the couple off with 200 sparklers—lining the steps and walkway from the IMU out into Dunn Meadow for a stunning effect. Those who had any energy left enjoyed an after party at Kilroy's on Kirkwood.

For Emily and Nate, the entire day was perfect, but one moment did stand out.

"Nate and I had a sneak peek of Alumni Hall before the guests arrived," Emily says. "The room was more exquisite than I could have ever imagined. I was so happy to see it with just Nate before everyone else came in." \*

LEFT:  
Guests lit the newlywed's path with 200 sparklers.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT:

Vintage bird cages were incorporated into table decorations.

Pink cake pops were an item at the reception's candy bar.

Sugar & Spice made the cake of ivory layers of fondant with peach roses.

The bridal bouquet and all floral arrangements were created by J. Sims Floral Designs of Sullivan, Indiana.



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{WEDDING NO.2}

A WONDERFUL  
*WonderLab*  
 WEDDING

Molly Casey and Austin Chapman wanted a casual, fun-filled wedding day.



PHOTOS BY TALL + SMALL PHOTOGRAPHY



The garden ceremony at WonderLab was officiated by Austin's childhood pastor, Joe Phelps, who is currently at Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

It might be the first time a passing remark about the movie *Ghostbusters* led to true love, but such was the case for Molly Casey and Austin Chapman.

Both were graduate students at Indiana University—Molly pursuing an M.F.A. in acting, and Austin a Ph.D. in psychology—when they decided to sign up for OkCupid, an online dating site.

“Eventually, our cyber paths crossed,” Molly says. “Austin made a *Ghostbusters* reference in his profile, and I knew this was someone I wanted to get to know better. After a few emails, we met for drinks at the The Irish Lion and hit it off immediately. The next day, I told my friends that I had met the man I was going to marry.”

Austin was charmed and intrigued that Molly got his goofball references. “We just clicked. Pretty early on, Molly went to Austin, Texas, with me to visit my family, and I got to see her interact with my goddaughter, Sophie. It was hard to watch them without thinking, ‘Yup, that’s the future mother of my future kids,’” he says.

Austin planned to propose around the first anniversary of their meeting and had ordered an engagement ring online, when out of the blue Molly made a comment that threw a monkey wrench into his romantic plan.

“I told him that if we ever got engaged he didn’t need to get me an expensive ring,” Molly recalls. “He quickly tried to throw me off the scent. He was so successful that I began thinking that marriage was the last thing on his mind. When he saw how hurt I was, he got down on one knee, picked up his laptop, and proposed to me with the email which showed the receipt of the engagement ring he had purchased a few days earlier.”

The couple wanted a casual wedding that was light on wedding conventions and strong on fun with family and friends.

“Our original idea was to have the wedding at a cabin out in the middle of Whoknowswhere, Indiana,” says Austin. “We eventually came to our senses and selected WonderLab. That allowed us to have the casual vibe we wanted while not having a logistical nightmare.”



(above) Austin's goddaughter and flower girl, Sophie Worrell, explored the WonderLab grounds.



(right) Molly and Austin stole a romantic moment outside of WonderLab.

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Molly and Austin joined their guests having fun with WonderLab activities.

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FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:

Chocolate mousse and mini-cupcakes were among the confections guests enjoyed.

Sophie Worrell, age four, was fascinated by a funhouse mirror.

Guests Travis Jeffords and Madeline Dowling had fun in the WonderLab bubble room.

Food provided by Bloomingfoods was available at stations throughout the museum.



During the ceremony in the garden outside of WonderLab science museum, Joe Phelps, Austin's childhood pastor, included a "ring warming" which involved passing the couple's rings among the guests who held them while wishing good things for Austin and Molly.

At the reception, guests had the run of the museum and played with exhibits and sampled food at various stations provided by Bloomingfoods. Molly credits Lauren Olson of Social Butterfly and her team for flawlessly coordinating the festive day. "We had absolutely no stress, thanks to them," she says.

After WonderLab, many of the guests joined the newlyweds at The Bishop for dancing.

"We stayed at the Grant Street Inn that night and sat on the floor in our wedding attire, eating Aver's Pizza," Austin says. "We were not only celebrating our marriage that night, we were celebrating our last weekend in Bloomington, since we were moving to Muncie a few days later for our new jobs."

Austin is now on the faculty of the Department of Counseling Psychology and Guidance Services at Ball State University, and Molly teaches theater at the university and is the new artistic director of the Muncie Civic Theatre. ✱

Photographers: bobbi+mike

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Caitlin Teeters and Bill Martin first noticed each other while driving on State Road 46—but didn't meet until a year later.

{WEDDING NO.3}

## A TUSCAN FARM

# Wedding

(in Bloomington)

PHOTOS BY DECKARD PHOTOGRAPHY

Bill Martin did a double take when he passed the cute blonde driving the silver Honda Civic. The blonde, Caitlin Teeters, thought the guy passing her in the lime green Dodge Charger was pretty hot. It turned out that this was not just a passing fancy—this was destiny.

“In summer 2009, we were both working in Terre Haute but living in the Bloomington area,” Caitlin remembers. “One day we were both driving east on State Road 46. Bill waved at me just before Spencer. Near Ellettsville, he was still behind me, so I decided to pull into the Shell station to see if he would stop. Bill lived one block before that and turned, so we never met. I thought that was it.”

A year later, one of Caitlin's friends said that she wanted to introduce her to some guy. After repeatedly refusing, Caitlin asked why this was so important. “She said that she wanted to drive his car, so I asked, ‘What's he drive?’ When she told me that he drove a lime green Dodge Charger, I immediately agreed to meet him,” Caitlin says.

All floral arrangements were created by Caitlin's mother, Cathy Teeters.



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**CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT:** The newlyweds took a spin around Lake Lemon by pontoon boat after the ceremony.

The couple exchanged vows at Riddle Point Park on Lake Lemon, where Caitlin grew up.

Sycamore Farm was the reception site.

old.” The couple also included their eight-month-old son, Billy, in the ceremony, which was officiated by Senior Pastor Jimmy Moore, now of Centenary United Methodist Church in Terre Haute.

“Rather than the day being about joining two lives, we realized that we had a wonderful baby boy who was going to be part of that life and that



he should be a part of this,” Caitlin says.

The barn at Sycamore Farm was transformed into a rustic yet elegant Tuscan setting, with a special arbor built for the head table, draped with grapevines, hanging amaranths, posies, calla lilies, hydrangeas, candles, and lights. Guitarist Atanas Tzvetkov, who performed during the ceremony, also played through the dinner



of gourmet Tuscan cuisine catered by Lemleys’ Catering and 240Sweet Artisan Treats, both of Columbus, Indiana. In addition to the four-flavor wedding cake by Chieta Rightley, guests enjoyed a s’mores station.

“Being the daughter of a florist and wedding coordinator, I have seen some pretty awesome weddings,” says Caitlin. “So we really tried to incorporate different things into ours. The list goes on and on.” \*

**FROM LEFT:** The barn at Sycamore Farm was transformed into a rustic yet elegant Tuscan setting.

Caitlin and her mother, Cathy Teeters (in blue dress at right), cut loose on the dance floor.

Bill and Caitlin included their son, Billy, in their ceremony.



The two got together the next night at the Bedford All-Nighter softball tournament and have been together ever since.

“It is truly a romantic, fairytale story,” says Bill, who proposed to Caitlin on Christmas morning 2011.

The couple decided the wedding ceremony should be at Riddle Point Park on Lake Lemon, where Caitlin grew up.

Bill and Caitlin wanted a June 2012 wedding, which gave them just six months to plan. Normally, that would be almost impossible, but they had a pro in their corner: Cathy Teeters, Caitlin’s mother. Teeters is a second-generation florist and owner and principal wedding coordinator of Cathy Teeters Beautiful Weddings.

“We decided to have a Tuscan-themed wedding reception at one of Bloomington’s newest

venues, Sycamore Farm.

We love Italian culture,” explains Caitlin, who is a kitchen designer for Tommy D’s Windows, Doors & More. Bill is currently studying design technology at Ivy Tech Community College.

At the ceremony, Bill, who served in the Navy for four years and has been a member of the National Guard for 13 years, was a dashing groom in uniform. Caitlin carried a bouquet made by her mother and bound with lace from her mother’s wedding gown, for “something



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{ WEDDING NO.4 }

# A Traditional INDIAN WEDDING

PHOTOS BY J. SCOTT PHOTOGRAPHY



Since Priya Bhola, the bride, is Sikh and Rohit Bhasin, the groom, is Hindu, they had two religious ceremonies. Rohit had shaved his beard and changed his turban for the Hindu ceremony depicted above. The Sikh ceremony was held earlier in the day.



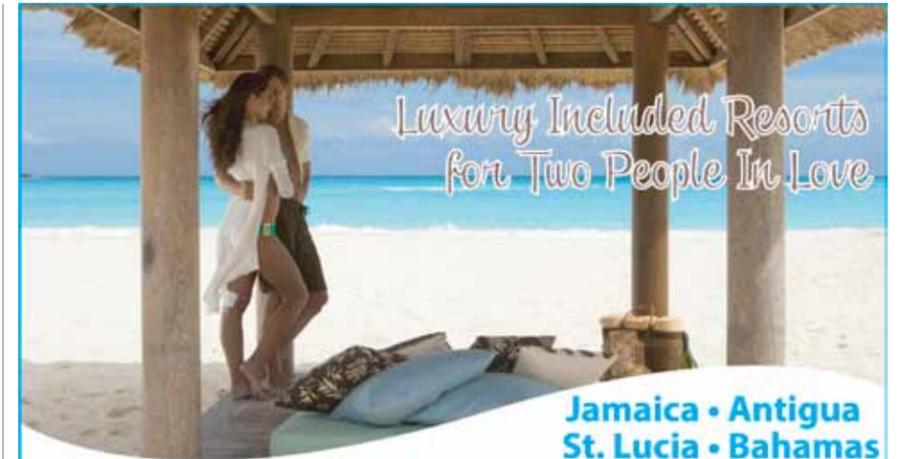
In a ceremony called Chhundi chadana that is performed a few days before the wedding, the female members of Rohit's family showered Priya with clothes, jewelry, and gifts, preparing her for the wedding ceremony.

Rohit Bhasin and his bride, Priya Bhola, believe their connection transcended space and time. Priya lived in Bloomington and Rohit in Boston when they met in October 2010 via shaadi.com, the world's largest online Indian matrimonial site. After just a few emails, they discovered that their extended families had known each other in India—population 1.2 billion—for 40 years!

"I do believe that marriages are made in heaven, and I thought this was just too coincidental," recalls Priya. "On our first date, I felt really comfortable with him. It was a familiar type of comfort. I remember thinking, 'I could have dinner with this person for the rest of my life.'"

For the next year, the couple talked almost daily and traveled to meet each other's parents. Rohit's family lives in Maryland, where he was born. Priya's mother, Inderjit "Indu" Bhola, lived in Bloomington and met Rohit for the first time in January 2011. "I knew from her smile when she first saw Rohit that she knew he was the one," says Priya.

On a weekend in October 2011 when Priya was visiting Rohit in Boston, he proposed on the waterfront of the Boston Harbor. The spot he



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**FROM LEFT**

For the traditional wedding procession, called a *baraat*, Rohit arrived at the convention center by horse.

For the morning Sikh wedding ceremony, Rohit had a beard and wore a red turban. He shaved his beard for the Hindu ceremony later that day.

Priya wore a traditional Sikh bridal ensemble.



chose was one of the first places he had visited when he moved there in 2003 to begin law school and a new chapter in his life. He wanted to share it with Priya, with whom he hoped to start another new chapter. She said “yes,” and the wedding plans commenced.

“Traditionally, in our culture the boy comes to marry the girl in her hometown. We chose to get married at the Bloomington Convention Center because Priya is from here,” says Rohit.

“We knew we wanted a traditional Indian wedding, or as traditional as it could be in America,” says Priya, who went to India with Rohit’s mother to shop for wedding clothes and favors. “Both of our families are from the state of Punjab in northern India. We wanted our wedding to reflect our Punjabi traditions as much as possible.”

Traditional Indian weddings usually last four or five days, but Priya and Rohit’s lasted “just” two—an intricate celebration coordinated by Lauren Olson of Social Butterfly. The night before the wedding, they had a *sangeet*, a pre-wedding party, which included a henna artist for the female guests, dinner catered by The Clay Oven Indian Restaurant of Greenwood, Indiana, and dancing to disc jockey T.J. Singh of Carmel, Indiana. The next day began with a traditional wedding procession, called a *baraat*, with Rohit making his way to the convention center on horseback.

Since Priya is Sikh and Rohit is Hindu, they had two religious ceremonies. The Sikh ceremony was held in the morning and performed by a Sikh priest. For this, Priya wore a traditional Sikh bridal ensemble, and Rohit wore a red turban (traditional

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for Sikh ceremonies). For the Hindu ceremony, Priya changed her wedding attire, and Rohit shaved his beard and changed his turban.

After the ceremonies, the space was transformed into a stunning reception venue, with sapphire iridescent table linens, dramatic lighting, fabric columns, and ceiling draping. Guests enjoyed mango lassi with dinner, a traditional Punjabi summer drink of blended yogurt and mango pulp, and a stacked-cushion cake and a cupcake bar by Angel B's A Galleria of Cakes.

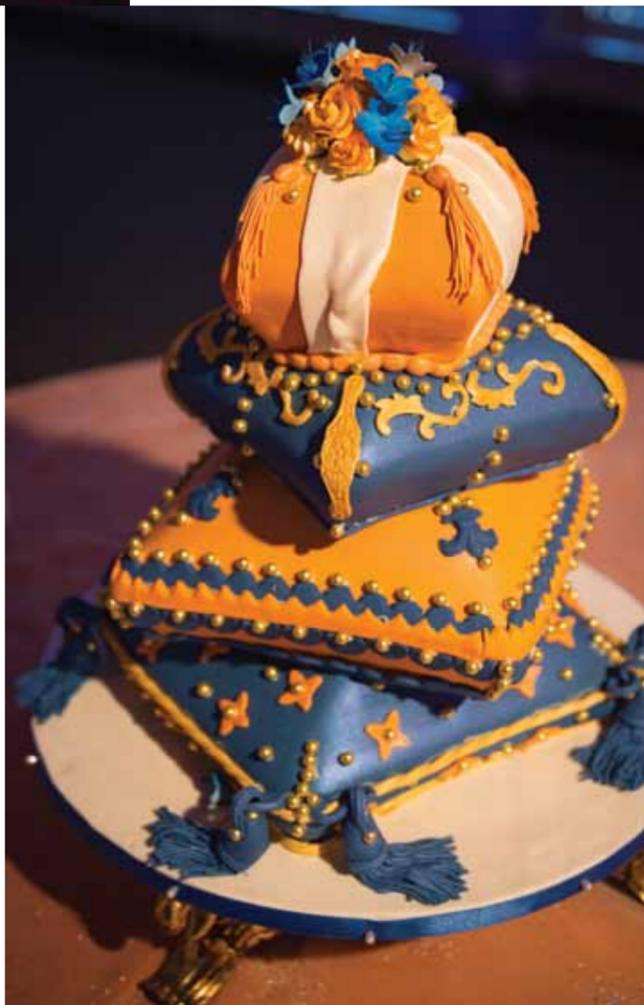
"I feel that our wedding was unique in every way," says Rohit. "All of our guests to this day tell us they have never been a part of an Indian wedding in Bloomington that was this elaborate." \*

(right) Rohit and Priya with Priya's mother, Inderjit "Indu" Bhola.

(below) For the reception, the room was decorated with sapphire iridescent table linens, dramatic lighting, fabric columns, and ceiling draping.



(below) Angel B's A Galleria of Cakes created the stacked-cushion wedding cake.



## COUNTDOWN TO *Wedding* DAY

Bloomington wedding experts agree that it takes about a year to plan a traditional wedding. Here's a wedding timeline to help you plan the biggest event of your life and bring it off without a hitch.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 12 MONTHS BEFORE:

- \* Select wedding date, place, and time
- \* Determine your budget
- \* Book officiant
- \* Start a wedding file
- \* Hire wedding coordinator if you plan to have one
- \* Book reception venue

### 6 TO 8 MONTHS BEFORE:

- \* Draw up guest list
- \* Book caterer, photographer/videographer, entertainment, lighting specialist
- \* Shop for wedding gown and attendants' dresses
- \* Reserve accommodations for out-of-town guests
- \* Send save-the-date cards

### 4 TO 5 MONTHS BEFORE:

- \* Order invitations
- \* Select and order cake, flowers, and favors
- \* Purchase rings
- \* Order men's formal wear
- \* Book salon/stylist
- \* Arrange transportation
- \* Reserve rental items
- \* Make arrangements for rehearsal dinner

### 2 MONTHS BEFORE:

- \* Mail invitations
- \* Make dress alterations
- \* Select ceremony music
- \* Confirm reservations and bookings with all key parties
- \* Order stationery for thank-you notes

### 1 MONTH BEFORE:

- \* Print ceremony program
- \* Apply for marriage license
- \* Do trial run of hair and makeup
- \* Finalize details with wedding service professionals

### THE DAY BEFORE:

- \* Get a manicure and pedicure
- \* Have fun at your rehearsal dinner
- \* Organize dress, accessories, and emergency kit
- \* Get a good night's sleep

### WEDDING DAY:

- \* Eat a light breakfast
- \* Take a short walk with loved one
- \* Get hair and makeup done
- \* Enjoy your day

celebrate your day with us

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