

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

**Robert Updegrave, and Loudoun Multi-  
Images LLC d/b/a Bob Updegrave  
Photography,**

Plaintiffs,

v.

**Mark R. Herring**, in his official capacity as  
Virginia Attorney General; and **R. Thomas  
Payne, II**, in his official capacity as Director  
of the Virginia Division of Human Rights and  
Fair Housing,

Defendants.

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF APPENDIX, PARTS 4 through 5 IN SUPPORT  
OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

Plaintiffs submit this Notice of Submission of Appendix, Parts 4 through 5 as an attachment to Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction in the above-captioned matter.

Respectfully submitted this 28th day of September 2020.

By: s/ C. Douglas Welty

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

\*Motions for *Pro Hac Vice* admission filed concurrently

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the 28th day of September, 2020, I electronically filed the foregoing paper with the Clerk of Court using the ECF system, and I hereby certify that the foregoing paper will be served via private process server with the Summons and Complaint to the following participants:

Mark R. Herring, Attorney General  
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Office of the Attorney General  
202 North Ninth Street  
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*s/ C. Douglas Welty*  
C. Douglas Welty  
*Attorney for Plaintiffs*

# Rachel Arttime Photo

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ALL CANADA, WORLDWIDE

**Email:** rachelarttimephoto@gmail.com

## Corona Virus Policy

I am comfortable shooting CA weddings and I will attend your wedding wearing a mask to insure my couple feels comfortable and safe.

## WEBSITE

<https://www.rachelarttimephoto.com>

## WHAT WE OFFER

I offer any photo needs! I specialize in wedding and engagement photography. My work is fully based on your love and it's unique quirks and qualities. I'll send a questionnaire your way, my biggest hope being that you will thoughtfully fill it out together so that I can get a sense of who you are and who you hope to become as a married couple. These photos shouldn't be worthy of Pinterest – they should be worthy of reigniting memories every anniversary and reminding you of your love in its earliest stage throughout your lives together. I want to do my best to make that happen – SO TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELVES AND LET'S MAKE SOME MAGIC.

## FUN FACT

If you asked any of my close friends, they'll tell you that my current obsession is cowgirls (and New York). It's sorta a funny thing but also a genuine reflection of me in that I love old timey, reckless, gritty romance. I love that it is passionate. I love that it is playful. I love that it all seems do-or-die. Let's make out on a HORSE riding into the SUNSET after a WILD day. Anyways, giddy up, partners. hehe.

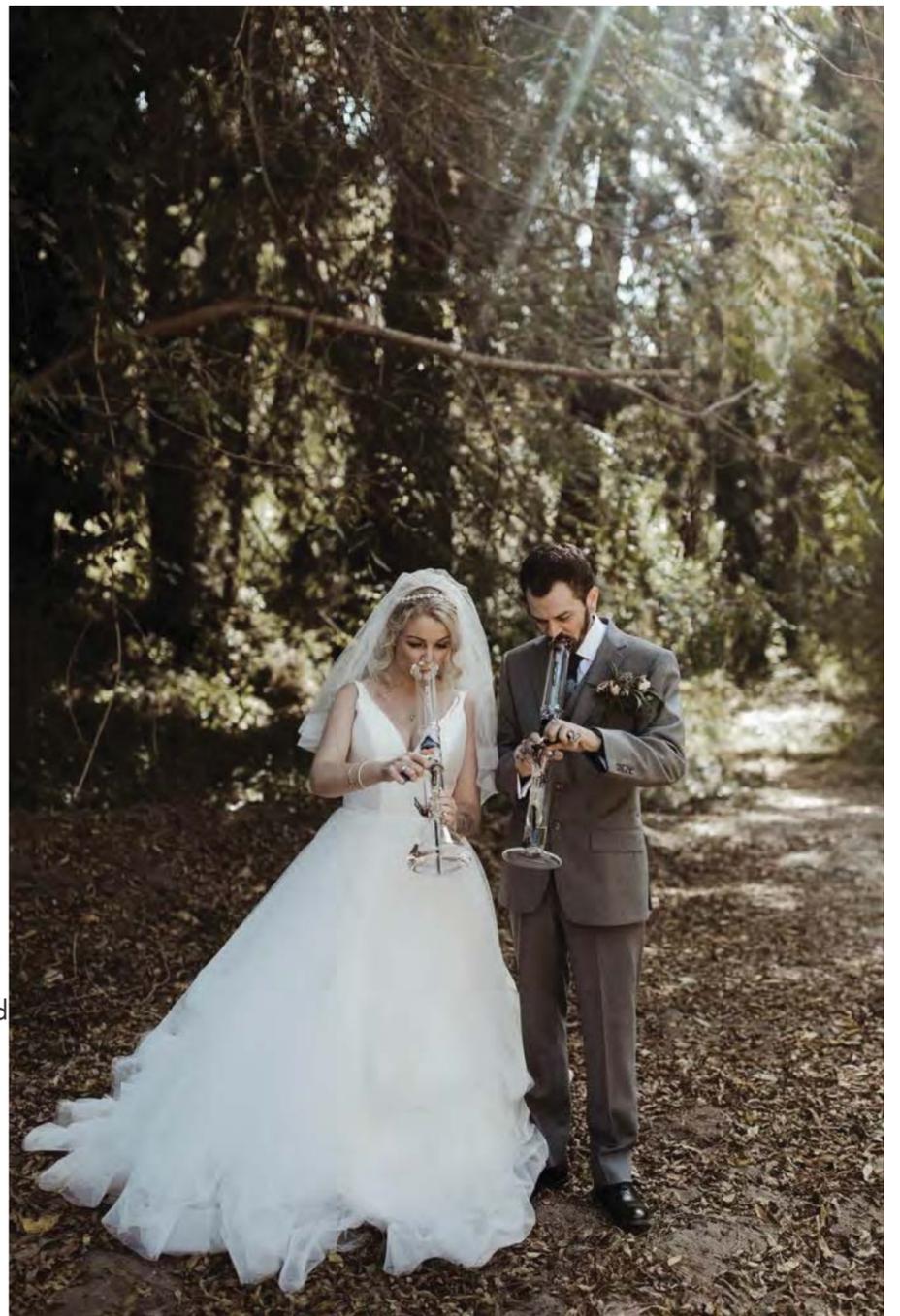
## CANNABIS POLICY

I am open to all things cannabis!

## CONNECT



CONTACT





## Ralis and Katie's Satanic Wedding

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They say the Devil's in the details, well that was certainly the case for Katie and Ralis who planned out and executed their Satanic wedding back in October. Katie was kind enough to talk us through how they put together this unholy matrimony!



**Can you please introduce yourselves, tell us where you're from and where and when you got married?**

We are both in the Los Angeles film industry. Ralis is a special effects makeup artist. I would say he specializes in blood rigging and zombie makeups! He was Marilyn Manson's makeup artist for many years, as well as Slipknot's mask fabricator.

I am a seamstress. I make custom costumes and alter garments for costume designers, as well as manufacture my own designs under the label [Insidious Clothing](#). Together we own a Halloween mask company called [Mad Monster Masks](#). We make two-piece masks that move with your jaw so you can eat, drink, scream, and breathe while wearing the mask.

We moved out of Los Angeles a few years ago so we could grow our business, and we ended up in Yucca Valley (near Joshua Tree National Park). We had our wedding on October 8, 2016, at our half-acre property in the desert.

## And what about the ceremony itself? We're assuming you didn't have traditional vows...

We actually did have traditional vows! Just not traditional in the way most people would think... It was a traditional Satanic wedding, officiated by the Church of Satan. This was the most important thing for Ralis - I got to make all of the decorating decisions, and he was in charge of the ceremony and the food decisions. We didn't have a naked woman for the altar though, and we added the blood at the end, which is not endorsed by the Church of Satan and was almost a reason for them to turn us down! Of course there were a lot of "Hail Satan!"s throughout and I was surprised how many of our guests got into it by the end! Our Officiant, Ruth Waytz, was just amazing and so much fun!

Here are the vows from a traditional Satanic wedding:

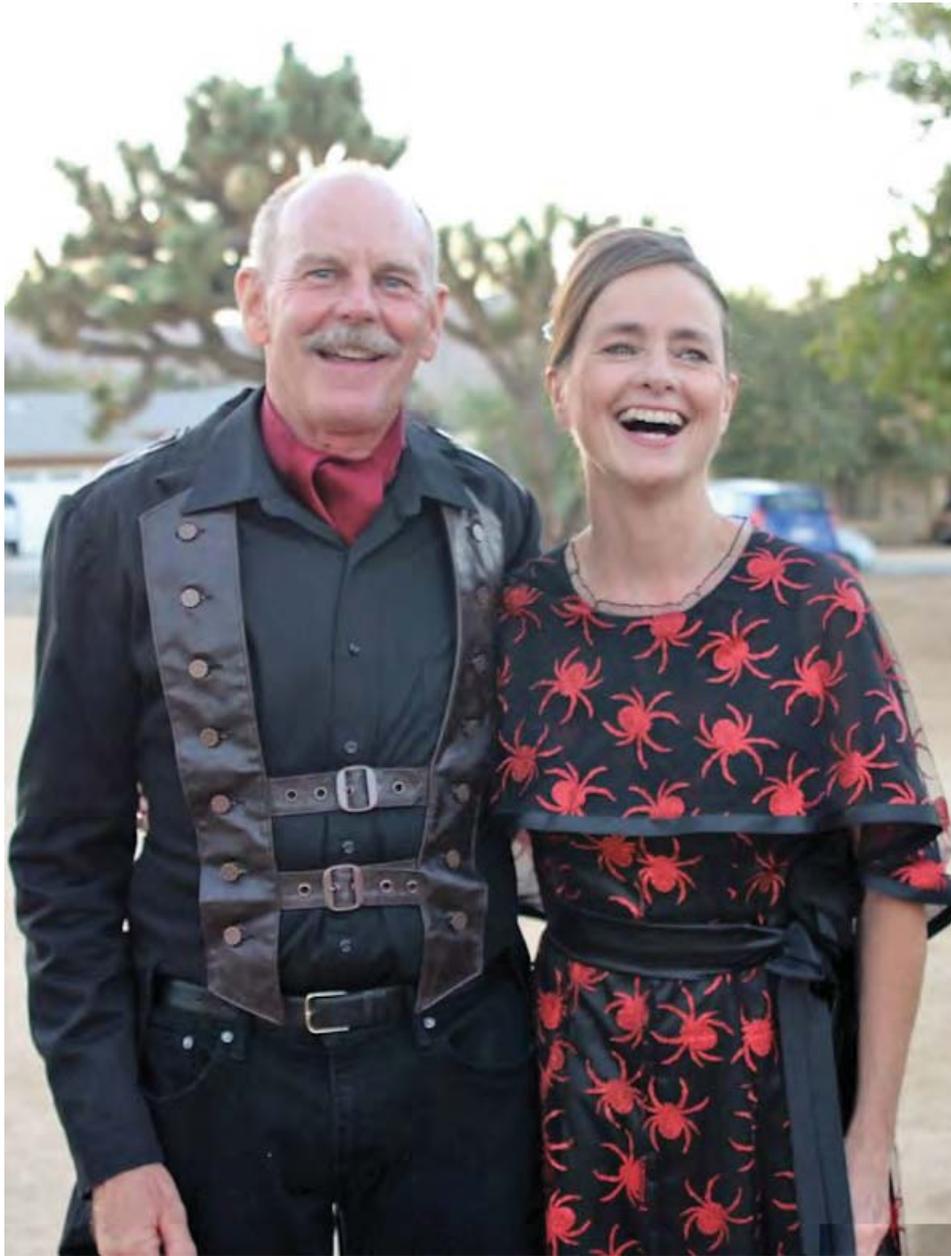
*I desire to live with you just as you are.*

*I choose you above all others, to share my life with me.*

*I promise to always speak the truth to you, to honor and to tenderly care for you.*

*I love you for yourself, in trust that you will become all that you can be, and in turn I promise to be as great as my Nature and Will allow.*

*I will honor this pledge as long as life and love endure.*



## Some of your photos look like movie stills! Do you feel you achieved the mood you were going for?

Our photographer, [Alex Solca](#), was amazing! He did a fantastic job with the photos, and our guests all really liked him too! We met in person to talk about the wedding, and I sent him some inspiration photos of black metal album artwork and noir movie/fashion shots.

In addition to weddings, Alex also shoots metal bands so he knew exactly what to do. He brought lights and a fog machine and back drop and really nailed the fantasy shots before the ceremony. And the shots during and after the ceremony are just so cool!



## Was it difficult to plan your wedding? What was the most stressful part?

We had over a year to plan it, but it was horrifying how quickly the time went by! I started making lists and calendars early on to stay on schedule, but as the day was approaching there were so many little details that got put off and were adding up quickly. My parents stayed with us for a month prior to the wedding and were a huge help tackling everything.

I was the most stressed over the ceremony. When Ralis was determined to have a Satanic wedding, I was worried it would be too serious and too religious. We aren't serious people, we're constantly laughing and goofing around,

and we aren't religious at all. After talking with our Officiant for the first time, my nerves were calmed because she was just like us - a little ball of sunshine with a love for the macabre!



Ralis was the most stressed about the blood rig and timing the makeup application. There's a lot that can go wrong, and you only get one shot. Usually he would use compressed air from a fire extinguisher or an air compressor, but it wouldn't have worked for this. So he ended up using a large syringe covered in fake red hair, safety pinned to the back of my dress!

We were also racing against time because of the lighting - we started the ceremony just as the sun set, and by the end we were in pitch black. It was all perfect!



## What was your favourite part of your day?

When my dad walked me down the aisle! That was something I added into the ceremony. We walked to the title track of The Omen (Ave Satani), and Ruth, our Officiant, was saying the Infernal Names. I thought I would be too nervous in front of everyone, but I was so happy and lucky to have such an open-minded family, it was just an amazing, beautiful feeling!

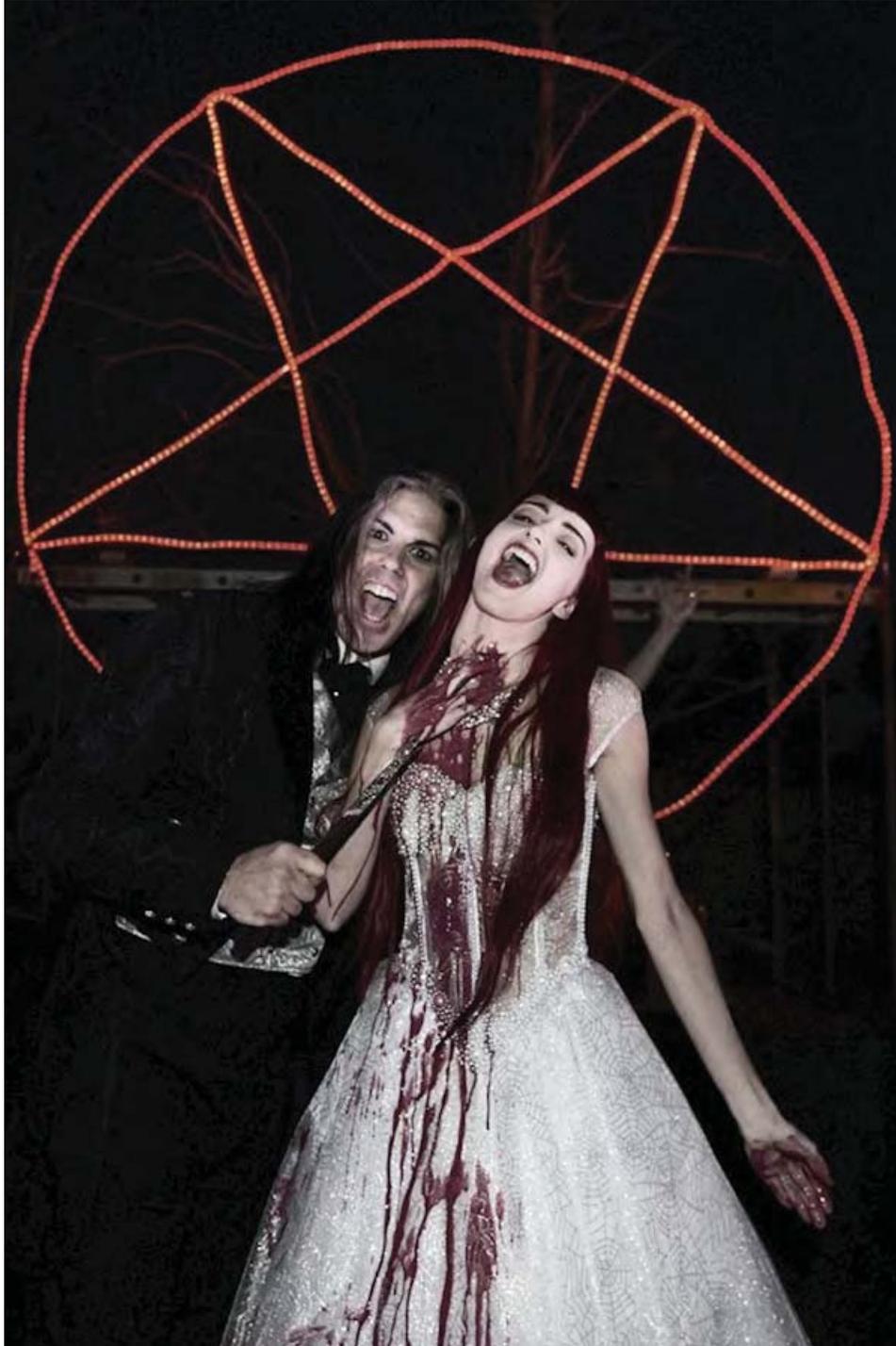


## Do you have any advice for couples who are currently planning an alternative wedding?

Definitely use [The Knot](#) for general information, timelines, and reminders. There is a lot of good advice that you can tweak to your freak.

Your ideas will evolve as you go along so don't be stubborn with your original plan - I planned on not having any flowers but we ended up with fake flowers at each table and a real flower bouquet. I also changed the fabric of my dress after two fittings because the first one wasn't quite right.

Don't be afraid to really do your own thing! It makes your wedding more special and people will appreciate something fun and unusual! No one wants to go to a boring wedding. I have had so many strangers see our wedding photos and remark that it's the only wedding they have ever wished they attended!



Thanks for sharing your incredible day with us!

Thanks also to Alex Solca for his killer photos, you can find his [website right here](#).

TRENDING NOW IN WEDDINGS

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WEDDINGS

## “One Part Wedding, Two Parts Halloween, and One Part Viking Funeral”

You have to see this seriously spooky wedding reception at the Congressional Cemetery.

WRITTEN BY HAYLEY GARRISON PHILLIPS   | PUBLISHED ON **OCTOBER 31, 2018**



All photographs courtesy of Tory Hitchcock Photography.

Kelly Carnes proposed to her boyfriend Ryan Moore in an observatory with skyline views of New York City. But the proposal was more unusual than meets the eye. Instead of producing a diamond ring during the big moment, she went with a custom piece made of meteorite shards and dinosaur bone. If you knew Kelly and Ryan, you'd know that suited them just perfectly. The couple had met a few times before—Kelly often went out dancing on date nights with her ex at Cusbah, a restaurant and club on H Street. Ryan was, as Kelly recalls “the hot bartender.”

Though Kelly was dating someone else at the time, she thought Ryan was so great she tried to set him up with her best friend. Alas, the match didn't take. However a year later, Kelly and Ryan fortuitously bumped into one another during a Brightest Young Things party at the National Museum of American History. Kelly was a CEO of her own company and also does PR and event planning, and Ryan was working at the Department of Justice. As they began to spend more time together, they discovered they shared an interest in all things magical, epic, and unearthly. "It struck me how different she was from everyone else, and how unafraid she was to be herself" says Ryan.

A year later, the couple eloped.... in a way only they could pull off. Jetting down to New Orleans for April Fool's Day, Kelly and Ryan strolled through the French Quarter together, getting their palms read, ducking into seance rooms, and even sipping cocktails at a vampire-inspired speakeasy. The day ended with an intimate wedding ceremony at the New Orleans Pharmacy Museum, in which Kelly, decked out in Harry Potter-themed high-tops, swapped vows with a beaming Ryan. But the day was just a prequel to the couple's voodoo-themed wedding back in DC, which a guest described as "one part wedding, two parts halloween, and one part viking funeral"

In early September later that year, friends and family gathered at the Historic Congressional Cemetery to celebrate Kelly and Ryan's marriage. Guests arrived at the cemetery to be welcomed by a colorful carnival troupe including the all-female drum corps from Batalá Washington, a stilt walker, a juggler, an Edgar Allan Poe impersonator, a violin player, a poet doing readings, body painters, magic tricks from magician Alain Nu, and not one, but two fire dancers.

"I loved seeing everyone's faces as they got out of their Lyfts at the cemetery entrance and were completely wowed by the spectacle," says Ryan.

The newlyweds got in on the antics. Needless to say, they were dressed to impress. Ryan wore a pirate coat with a feather top hat and red leather skull mask, while Kelly awed in a custom-made Marie Antoinette style wig and sugar skull makeup. Her two piece attire paired with her "maids of magic" who wore black dresses with red velvet cloaks, but her outfit had an extra feature. "My dress was crimson red, and was made of two pieces so that I could drop the skirt and run amok in a red sequined jumpsuit all night."

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RELATED

## The Exorcist Lives On in These Creepy Wedding Photos Taken on the Georgetown Stairs



### The Details:

Photographer: Tony Hitchcock / Venue: Historic Congressional Cemetery / Event Coordinator: Swoon Soiree / Invitations: Meg Levine / Florist: Apiary Hospitality / Caterers: Eat & Smile Catering / Bride's Attire: Fashion Irina / Groom's Attire: SilverLeaf, Maryland Renaissance Faire / Makeup: Samantha Trionfo / Tablescaping & Decor: Tinsel Events / Drum Corps: Batalá / Costumed Jugglers & Stilt Walkers: Baltimore Hoop Love / Fire Dancer: Jennifer Miesen, "Inaya Renarde" / Live Band: Black Masala / Live Violin: Humberto Gonzalez / Poet: David Dieudonne / Magician: Alain Nu / Body Painters: Hilary-Morgan Watt, Courtney Sexton / Edgar Allan Poe Impersonator: Tim Beasley / Transportation: Lyft Discount Code / Videographer: Clara Ritger

AD

# CREATRIX PHOTOGRAPHY

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## DALEY & LOGAN // AUSTIN VAMPIRE WEDDING

by Jenna | Jan 11, 2017 | Weddings | 0 comments



Looking for other blogs about Daley and Logan, who had an amazing Austin Vampire Wedding? Check it out [here!](#)

*“On this day, we gather to bear witness to a union that has been sworn before and will be sworn again – a joining of souls older than the flesh that either of them wears. Through endless cycles of lives, Logan and Daley come together and are parted, only to find one another again. These Twin Flames know this truth above all: worlds are born and die. Empires rise and fall. All material things eventually fall to dust, but love itself lives on. and it is enough.”*

The ceremony and vows for Logan and Daley were beautiful, with a Twin Flame candle ceremony, a crowning ceremony, the ring exchange, sealing the whole thing with an epic kiss covered in rose petals. I’m not going to lie, the ceremony made me tear up. The raw emotion on Logan’s face, Daley in all of her gorgeous glory...it was too much at times, overwhelming in it’s perfection. The guests walked into what I called, “a room of blood,” which is fitting for a vampire wedding! The whole mansion was drenched in the color red, creating a surreal experience coming in and out of the room.

I love that Daley and Logan are Twin Flames that have found one another. It's also rare for Twin Flames to even get along and marry, honestly. Unlike soul mates, Twin Flames are the opposites of one another, which can lead to heartbreak. But these two are perfection for one another. Do you think you've found your Twin Flame? Check out [this website](#) to see if you recognize your relationship in any of these signs!

Anyway, once again I want to thank the following professionals for making the day as flawless as possible. Shoutout to Big Dog Pyro for the epic Bride entrance and the rose cannon for the first kiss!

Getting Ready Location: [The Driskill Hotel](#)

Venue: [Texas Federation of Women's Club Mansion](#)

Bride's Cake: [Bakehause Confections](#)

Groom's Cake: [Cakes ROCK](#)

Caterer: [Pascal's Catering](#)

Stationary: [The Pink Tulip](#)

Florist: [Floral Renaissance](#)

Ceremony music: [Terra Vista Strings](#)

Lighting: [Ilios Lighting](#)

Rentals: [Marquee Rentals](#)

Special Effects: [Big Dog Pyro](#)

Armor: [JA Fantasy Art](#)

First, we did a "first touch" around the corner at The Driskill hotel and Daley joked, "you better not have written fart anywhere on this!" Logan laughed and they read their notes for a bit. "I love you," they said to one another and right before we ended the first touch, he said to her, "I wrote donkey fart on the back."

Her reaction was priceless. They know one another so well!



## RELATED POSTS

- [Chapel Dulcinea Elopements](#)
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TAG: STYLED SHOOT

Home / styled shoot



DESTINATION WEDDINGS, INSPIRATION  
COLORFUL TROPICAL WEDDING  
STYLED SHOOT INSPIRATION

Kirsten Ott Palladino, 2 months ago  0  4 min 

This colorful tropical wedding styled shoot inspiration features a real same-sex couple whose Playa Del Carmen, Mexico, wedding was postponed from April to July because of covid-19.

INSPIRATION

NEW ORLEANS INDUSTRIAL  
WEDDING INSPIRATION SHOOT

Kirsten Ott Palladino, 3 months ago  0  1 min 

Alex and Devin share their love in a styled New Orleans industrial wedding inspiration shoot.



INSPIRATION

# MODERN ROMANTIC FALL WEDDING INSPIRATION IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Alaina Leary Lavoie, 7 months ago 🗨️ 0 🕒 1 min 🔖

This styled shoot features modern and romantic fall wedding inspiration with lots of red in the color scheme and vintage details.



INSPIRATION

# MODERN WEDDING INSPIRATION INFLUENCED BY ARTIST KATSUSHIKA HOKUSAI

Alaina Leary Lavoie, 8 months ago 🗨️ 0 🕒 2 min 🔖

This modern wedding styled shoot was inspired by "The Great Wave off Kanagawa" by Katsushika Hokusai with a blue, white and gold color scheme.



INSPIRATION

# ROMANTIC VANCOUVER ELOPEMENT INSPIRATION

Kirsten Ott Palladino, 5 months ago 🗨️ 0 🕒 1 min 🔖

A romantic, dreamy elopement styled shoot in Vancouver, British Columbia



INSPIRATION

# FLORAL BOHEMIAN ELOPEMENT INSPIRATION AT JOSHUA TREE

Alaina Leary Lavoie, 8 months ago 🗨️ 0 🕒 1 min 🔖

Jesus and Tommy were part of this romantic, floral bohemian elopement styled shoot at Joshua Tree National Park in California.



INSPIRATION

INSPIRATION

## CHIC TROPICAL WEDDING INSPIRATION IN SAINT PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

Alaina Leary Lavoie, 11 months ago  0  1 min 

This wedding inspiration at Sunken Gardens in Saint Petersburg, Florida, features a real LGBTQ+ couple, Harry and Chase, who got married a few years ago.



INSPIRATION

## TEAL AND ORANGE FALL WEDDING INSPIRATION IN LAKE MARY, FLORIDA

Alaina Leary Lavoie, 11 months ago  0  1 min 

This fall wedding inspiration features Steph and Stephanie, a real couple who had been dating for less than a month when they posed for this.



ENGAGEMENT, INSPIRATION

## SUMMER CITRUS WEDDING INSPIRATION AT HISTORIC POST OFFICE

Alaina Leary Lavoie, 10 months ago  0  2 min 

Justin and Brandon are a real couple who were married a few months before this styled shoot with a summery citrus-inspired theme.



ENGAGEMENT, INSPIRATION

## THIS STYLED SHOOT TURNED INTO A REAL PROPOSAL IN THE MOST ROMANTIC WAY

Alaina Leary Lavoie, 11 months ago  0  5 min 

While Ali and Cait were participating in this styled ballet-inspired shoot in Dallas, Texas, Ali proposed to Cait for real.



INSPIRATION

## MONOCHROMATIC COUNTRYSIDE DOUBLE WEDDING INSPIRATION

Alaina Leary Lavoie, 12 months ago  0  1 min 

# DOUBLE ENGAGEMENT INSPIRATION IN THE ARIZONA CACTUS GARDEN

Alaina Leary Lavoie, 12 months ago 0 1 min

This early summer double wedding inspiration features real couples and takes place at the Arizona Cactus Garden at Stanford University.



INSPIRATION

## PINK FEMININE FLORAL GARDEN WEDDING INSPIRATION

Alaina Leary Lavoie, 1 year ago 0 1 min

This feminine and floral garden wedding was inspired by LGBTQ+ couples whose stories don't fit into traditional weddings, and featured vintage decor.



INSPIRATION

## SHADES OF ORANGE WARM THIS VIRGINIA ELOPEMENT INSPIRATION

Monochromatic colors and organic beauty were the inspiration behind this styled shoot featuring two real married couples.



INSPIRATION

## TIMELESS AND ROMANTIC VINTAGE LIBRARY WEDDING INSPIRATION

Alaina Leary Lavoie, 1 year ago 0 1 min

This timeless, romantic vintage wedding inspiration features a real couple at the Library at the Fairmont Empress in Victoria, British Columbia.



INSPIRATION

## RUSTIC, MOODY FARM WEDDING INSPIRATION IN PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA

Alaina Leary Lavoie, 1 year ago 0 1 min

This rustic and moody farm wedding inspiration features two real LGBTQ+ couples for a fun and beautiful shoot in rural Virginia.

Alaina Leary Lavoie, 1 year ago 0 1 min

Michael and Martin's Virginia elopement inspiration was based around shades of orange.

1 2 3 NEXT



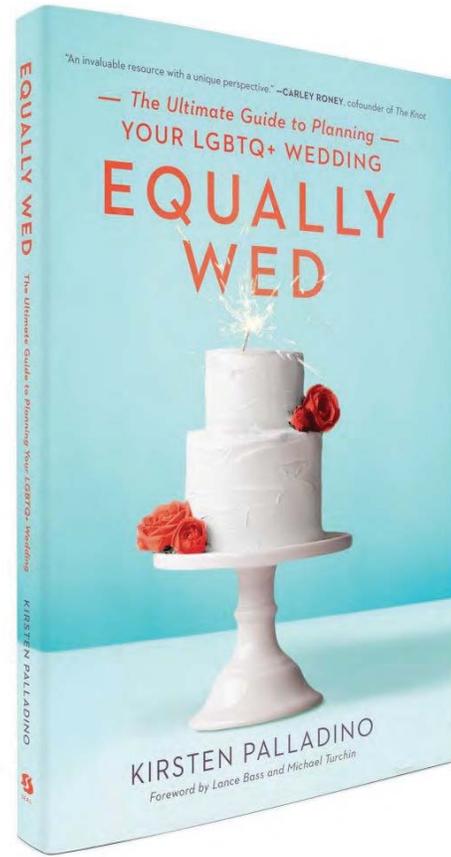
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## ABOUT US

### Who We Are

Equally Wed is an international online LGBTQ+ wedding magazine, book and education resource for LGBTQ+ couples and LGBTQ+ inclusive wedding professionals. Within our inspirational content, we focus on wedding planning, real weddings and engagements, marriage equality news and spotlights gay-friendly LGBTQ+ inclusive wedding vendors. Our content and founders have been featured in or on media outlets such as The New York Times, Washington Post, NPR, CNN, Pop Sugar, Glamour magazine, The Knot, Huffington Post, Curve magazine, The Advocate magazine, Autostraddle, A Practical Wedding, NPR, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune and AP News.



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OCTOBER 31, 2017 (/BLOG/THE-EXORCIST-WEDDING-STYLED-SHOOT-FREDERICKSBURG-PHOTOGRAPHER)

# The Exorcist Wedding Styled Shoot // Georgetown Photographer // Washington, DC (/blog/the-exorcist-wedding-styled-shoot-fredericksburg-photographer)

STYLED SHOOT (/BLOG/CATEGORY/STYLED+SHOOT)

## The Exorcist Wedding

What an excellent day for an exorcism...

Something about this bride is a little off. While there's no projectile vomiting or head spinning, the levitation is still enough to scare off the guests (and the groom). Good thing Regan has her demons to keep her company.

This Exorcist wedding takes advantage of the real-life Exorcist stairs in Georgetown, where Father Karras meets his untimely death, and it's quite easy to say that the setting is just as creepy in real life as it is in the movies. Don't take our word for it, though; see for yourself.

## Amazing Vendors

Coordination, Design: Bella Giornata Events & Planning  
(<https://www.bellagiornataevents.com/>)

Photography: Bakerture Photo & Video  
(<http://www.bakerture.com/>)

Dress: Ava Laurene Bride  
(<https://www.avalaurenne.com/>)

Cake Designer: Bijou's Sweets Treats  
(<http://www.bjoussweettreats.com/>)

Floral Designer: Blushing Blooms  
(<http://www.blushingbloomsva.com/>)

Decor: The Silver Stag Revival House  
(<https://www.facebook.com/thesilverstagvintagerevival/>)

Decor: Medusa's Attic  
([https://www.facebook.com/Medusas-Attic-282876598886123/?hc\\_location=ufi](https://www.facebook.com/Medusas-Attic-282876598886123/?hc_location=ufi))

Invitations: Twila & Co. (<http://www.johnnahetrick.com/>)







## **UCLA**

### **Other Recent Work**

#### **Title**

LGB Families and Relationships: Analyses of the 2013 National Health Interview Survey

#### **Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3q07q209>

#### **Author**

Gates, Gary J

#### **Publication Date**

2014-09-01

# LGB Families and Relationships: Analyses of the 2013 National Health Interview Survey



the  
Williams  
INSTITUTE

October 2014

by Gary J. Gates

## Executive Summary

The addition of a sexual orientation identity measure to the 2013 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) offers a new data source to consider characteristics of families and explore differences among those led by same-sex and different-sex married and unmarried couples and LGB individuals who are not married or cohabiting. These analyses consider differences and similarities across these groups with regard to demographic characteristics including gender, age, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, geographic location, and child-rearing.

The analyses suggest that there are an estimated 690,000 same-sex couples in the United States. Approximately 18% of whom, or more than 124,000, reported that they were married. If estimates of married same-sex couples are derived only from the portion of 2013 that followed the US Supreme Court ruling in *United States v. Windsor* and are not based on data collected prior to the ruling (which effectively provided for federal recognition of the marriages of same-sex couples), then the estimate of married same-sex couples increases to 130,000.

Other key findings from the analyses include:

- An estimated 4 in 10 LGB adults (40%) reported either being married or in a cohabiting relationship with a partner compared to 6 in 10 non-LGB adults (60%).
  - Among women, more than half who identified as lesbian (51%) were married or in a cohabiting partnership compared to 57% of non-LGB women. Among bisexual women, the comparable figure was 32%.
  - Just over a third of gay and bisexual men (35% and 34%, respectively) were coupled compared to 63% of non-LGB men.
- A higher proportion of same-sex couples lived in the West when compared to different-sex couples (32% v. 23%, respectively) while a lower portion lived in the Midwest (12% v. 23%, respectively). Among those not in a couple, LGB individuals were less likely than their non-LGB counterparts to live in the Midwest (15% v. 22%).
  - Married same-sex couples were much more likely than their different-sex counterparts to live in the Northeast (39% v. 17%, respectively), where marriage for same-sex couples was the most widely available in 2013. An estimated 12% of married same-sex couples lived in the South compared to 38% of their different-sex counterparts.
  - Unmarried same-sex couples were more likely than their unmarried different-sex couple counterparts to live in the West and less likely to live in the Midwest.
- Those in same-sex couples and LGB individuals who were not part of a couple were generally younger than their different-sex coupled and non-LGB counterparts, respectively.
- Same-sex couples were twice as likely as their different-sex counterparts to be inter-racial/ethnic (19% v. 9%, respectively).
- Those in same-sex couples, particularly married same-sex couples, and LGB individuals who were not in a couple were more likely than those in different-sex couples and non-LGB individuals, respectively, to have a college degree. Two-thirds of individuals in married same-sex couples (66%) had a college degree.
- An estimated 19% of same-sex couples and LGB individuals who were not in a couple were raising children under the age of 18 in the home.
  - An estimated 30,000 children under age 18 have married same-sex parents while 170,000 have unmarried same-sex parents.
  - Between 1.1 and 2 million children under age 18 have an LGB parent who is not part of a married or unmarried couple.

## Introduction

Substantial demographic research exists focusing on analyses of cohabiting same-sex couples identified in US Census Bureau data (Black et al. 2000; Gates and Ost 2004; Gates and Cooke 2010; Baumle 2013; Kastanis and Wilson 2013). Unfortunately, the Census Bureau data do not provide a very accurate way to identify married same-sex couples (O’Connell and Feliz 2011; Gates and Steinberger 2009; Cohn 2014). Comparisons of demographic and geographic characteristics among those in married and unmarried same-sex couples along with lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) individuals who do not have a spouse or cohabiting partner are relatively rare.

The addition of a sexual orientation identity measure to the 2013 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) offers a new data source to consider characteristics of families and explore differences among those led by same-sex and different-sex married and unmarried couples and LGB individuals who are not married or cohabiting. These analyses consider differences and similarities across these groups with regard to demographic characteristics including gender, age, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, geographic location, and child-rearing.

## Data and methodology

Table 1 presents details of the NHIS data used in these analyses. It is a publically-funded survey conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The survey samples families in the US and collects information on all members of those families, including their relationship to a reference person identified in each family. It is this information that allows for identification of families led by married and unmarried same-sex or different-sex couples. An adult-only sample (drawn from the family respondents) includes a question that allows respondents to describe their sexual orientation identity.

Analyses include descriptions of family characteristics (e.g., region of residence, child-rearing) and characteristics of individual adults (e.g., age, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, sexual orientation identity). Estimates use weighting procedures provided by the NHIS that allow for population estimates and interpretation of findings to be considered representative of families and the adult population (aged 18 and older) in the US.

In charts and figures that compare estimates between same-sex and different-sex couples or LGB and non-LGB adults, differences that are statistically significant are shown in **boldface** while differences that are not statistically different are shown in *italics*.

**Table 1. Survey characteristics.**

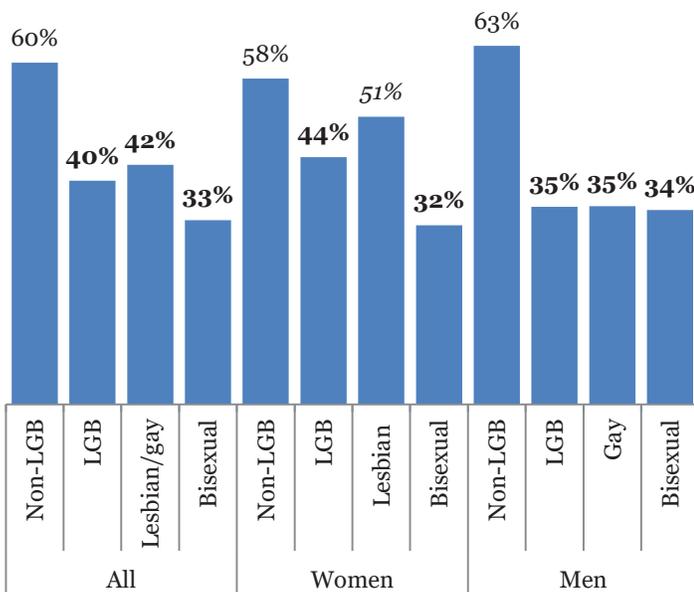
| Survey  | Survey sponsor  | Data collection mode   | Sample characteristics   | Sexual orientation identity question (asked of adult sample)  | Total sample size   | LGB and couple sample sizes   |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| <a href="#">National Health Interview Survey (2013)</a> | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics | Computer-Assisted Personal Interview conducted in the home. Respondents in the adult sample (aged 18 and older) provide their response to the sexual orientation identity question to an interviewer who then enters the response into a computer. | The NHIS includes three samples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative sample of families residing in the US</li> <li>• Representative sample of the population of the US in those families (all ages)</li> <li>• Representative sample of adults aged 18 and older</li> </ul> | Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesbian or gay</li> <li>• Straight, that is, not gay</li> <li>• Bisexual</li> <li>• Something else</li> <li>• I don’t know the answer</li> </ul> | Families: 42,321<br>Population: 104,520<br>Adults: 34,577 | Individuals:<br>Lesbian/gay: 571<br>Bisexual: 233<br>Heterosexual: 32,546<br>Non-coupled LGB: 548<br><br>Couple families:<br>Same-sex unmarried: 179<br>Same-sex married: 44<br>Different-sex unmarried: 2,599<br>Different-sex married: 19,284 |

### Marriage and cohabitation

The NHIS data allow for identification of the gender composition of couples among those who say that they are legally married or in a cohabiting partnership.

An estimated 4 in 10 LGB adults (40%) reported either being married or in a cohabiting relationship with a partner (see Figure 1) compared to 6 in 10 non-LGB adults (60%). However, coupling patterns differed by sexual orientation and gender.

**Figure 1. Percent of adults who are married or in a cohabiting partnership, by sex and sexual orientation identity.**



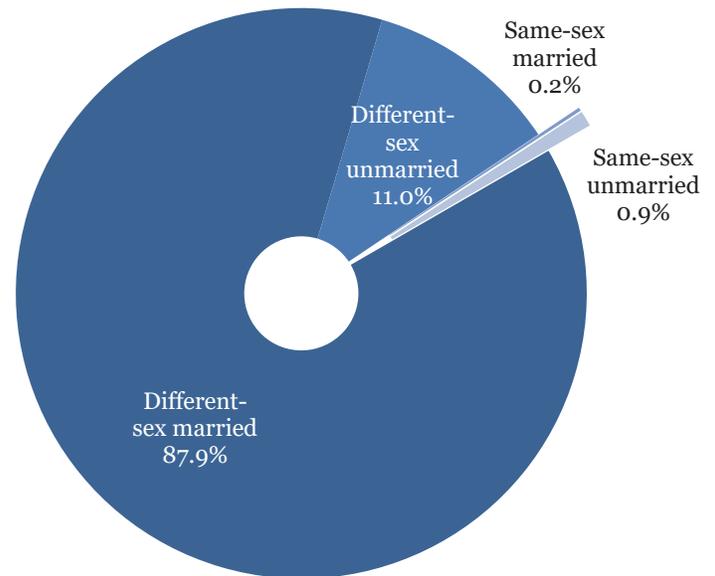
Among women, more than half who identified as lesbian (51%) were married or in a cohabiting partnership compared to 57% of non-LGB women, a difference that was not statistically significant. Among bisexual women, the comparable figure was 32%. Just over a third of gay and bisexual men (35% and 34%, respectively) were coupled compared to 63% of non-LGB men.

Just over half of the families in the US (52%) were led by a co-residential married or unmarried couple. Of families led by a couple, approximately 1.1% of the couples were same-sex (see Figure 2). This implies that there are approximately 64.6 million families in the United States and more than 690,000 same-sex couple families. Figures from Census 2010 showed approximately 650,000 same-sex couples in

the United States at that time (Gates and Cooke 2011).

Of the estimated 690,000 same-sex couples in the United States, approximately 18%, or more than 124,000 same-sex couples, reported that they were married. It is important to note that the NHIS data collection occurred throughout 2013 and in June of that year, the US Supreme Court issued its ruling in *United States v. Windsor* which effectively provided for federal recognition of the marriages of same-sex couples. It is possible that the prospect of federal recognition and the many benefits and protections that accompany that recognition could have prompted many more same-sex couples to marry in the latter part of the year.

**Figure 2. Couples in the 2013 NHIS, by gender and relationship status.**



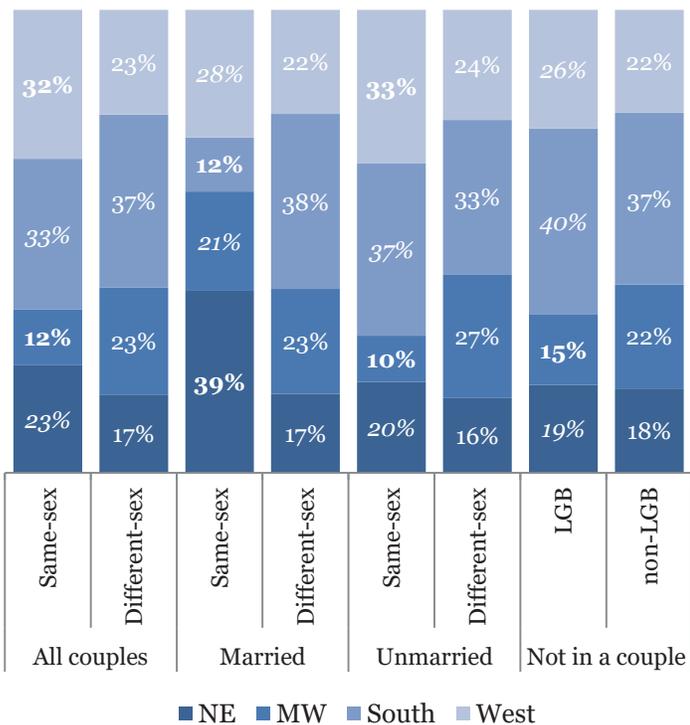
Among respondents who were surveyed prior to the *Windsor* decision (from January through June, 2013), approximately 17% of same-sex couples indicated that they were married. Among respondents who were surveyed in the second half of the year (July through December, 2013), after the Supreme Court ruling, the estimate was 19% of same-sex couples who were married. While the difference in these estimates was not statistically significant, it is notable that the proportion of married couples among different-sex couples (94%) did not vary at all in the two halves of the year.

If the estimate from the latter half of the year represents a more accurate assessment of the portion of same-sex couples who are legally married, then the figure may be closer to 130,000. These estimates would also imply that approximately one in ten (approximately 13,000) married same-sex couples may have gotten married after the *Windsor* decision.

### Region of residence

Comparing individuals in same-sex couples to different-sex couples, the analyses suggest differences in the geographic distribution across regions in the US (see Figure 3). A higher proportion of same-sex couples lived in the West when compared to different-sex couples (32% v. 23%, respectively) while a lower portion lived in the Midwest (12% v. 23%, respectively).

**Figure 3. Region of residence, by relationship status and sexual orientation.**



Differences in this pattern when comparing same-sex and different-sex married and unmarried couples to each other highlight the likely impact of regional variation in laws regarding availability and recognition of marriages for same-sex couples. In

2013, the Northeast was the region of the country where marriage for same-sex couples was the most widely available for the longest period of time. Not surprisingly, married same-sex couples were much more likely than their different-sex counterparts to live in this region (39% v. 17%, respectively). The South represents the region where residents were least likely to live in a state where marriages of same-sex couples were legal. Only 12% of married same-sex couples lived in the South compared to 38% of their different-sex counterparts.

Like same-sex couples more generally, unmarried same-sex couples were more likely than their unmarried different-sex couple counterparts to live in the West and less likely to live in the Midwest. Among those not in a couple, LGB individuals were less likely than their non-LGB counterparts to live in the Midwest (15% v. 22%).

### Age, race/ethnicity, and educational attainment

Among those in couples, individuals in same-sex couples were, on average, more than five years younger than those in different-sex couples (see Table 1). However, the difference in average age between individuals in married same-sex and different-sex couples was not statistically significant. Among unmarried couples, those in different-sex couples were nearly five years younger than those in same-sex couples. Among those who were not in a couple, LGB individuals were, on average, more than seven years younger than non-LGB individuals.

The analyses do not show significant differences in the portion of those in same-sex and different-sex married couples who were non-white nor were there significant differences in that characteristic between LGB and non-LGB individuals who were not in a couple. However, among unmarried couples, those in different-sex couples were more likely than their same-sex counterparts to be non-white (37% v. 24%, respectively).

Same-sex couples were more likely to be interracial/ethnic than their different-sex counterparts. Among all couples, same-sex couples were twice as likely as their different-sex counterparts to be interracial/ethnic (19% v. 9%, respectively). When couples were separated by marital status, the differences in the proportion who were interracial/ethnic were not statistically significant for either married or unmarried couples.

**Table 1. Age, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, by couple type and relationship status.**

|                 | Age                |                 | Non-white         |                | Inter-racial/ethnic |                | College (age 25+) |                |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
|                 | Same-sex           | Different-sex   | Same-sex          | Different-sex  | Same-sex            | Different-sex  | Same-sex          | Different-sex  |
| All couples     | <b>43.9</b>        | 49.0            | <b>24%</b>        | 29%            | <b>19%</b>          | 9%             | <b>49%</b>        | 34%            |
| Married         | <b>46.5</b>        | 50.5            | <b>23%</b>        | 28%            | <b>13%</b>          | 8%             | <b>66%</b>        | 36%            |
| Unmarried       | <b>43.3</b>        | 37.2            | <b>24%</b>        | 37%            | <b>21%</b>          | 16%            | <b>45%</b>        | 22%            |
| Not in a couple | LGB<br><b>37.1</b> | non-LGB<br>44.3 | LGB<br><b>35%</b> | non-LGB<br>38% | LGB<br>N/A          | non-LGB<br>N/A | LGB<br><b>40%</b> | non-LGB<br>26% |

Those in same-sex couples and LGB individuals who were not in a couple and were aged 25 and older were more likely than those in different-sex couples and non-LGB individuals, respectively, to have a college degree. This is particularly true among married individuals. Two-thirds of individuals aged 25 and older who were part of a married same-sex couple (66%) had a college degree compared to just over one-third of those in married different-sex couples (36%). Among those not in a couple who were aged 25 and older, 40% of LGB individuals had a college degree compared to 26% of their non-LGB counterparts.

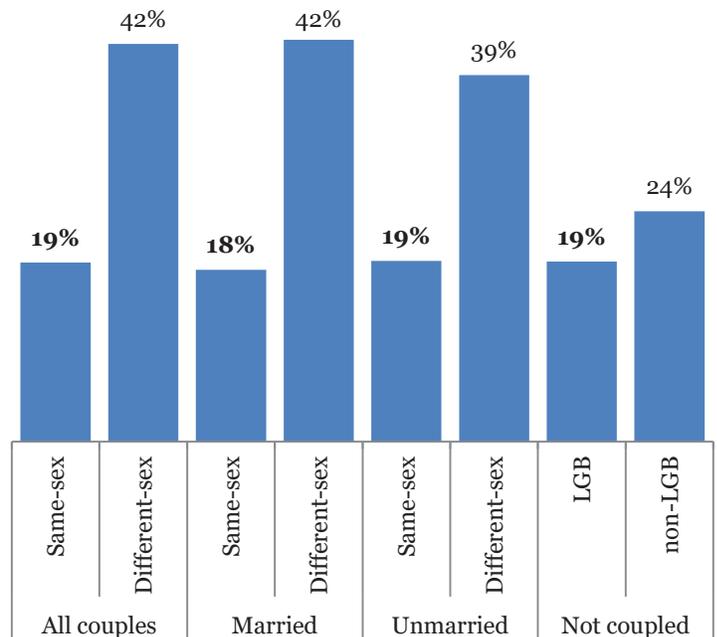
An estimate for the number of LGB individuals who were not in a couple and raising children depends on what figure is used to estimate the overall proportion of LGB adults in the population. The estimate of LGB-identity among adults in the NHIS was 2.2%, which implies approximately 5.2 million LGB individuals (Gates 2014). If, consistent with the NHIS findings, 60% of these LGB individuals are not married or partnered, then the analyses would suggest that nearly 600,000 LGB adults who are not in a couple are raising more than 1.1 million children (on average, this group reported 1.9 children in the home).

### Raising children

An estimated 19% of same-sex couples observed in the NHIS data were raising children under the age of 18 in the home (see Figure 4)<sup>1</sup>, lower than the 42% of different-sex couples who were raising children. The portion of LGB individuals who were not in a couple and reported raising children was also 19%. Among same-sex couples, similar portions of married and unmarried couples were raising children (18% and 19%, respectively).

Assuming the NHIS estimate of 690,000 same-sex couples, these figures imply that approximately 131,000 same-sex couples are raising children in the US. Among same-sex couples with children, there was an average of 1.5 children in the home, suggesting that nearly 200,000 children under the age of 18 are being raised by same-sex couples. Of these children, approximately 30,000 have married parents while 170,000 have unmarried parents.

**Figure 4. % Raising children under the age of 18, by relationship status and LGB-identity.**



<sup>1</sup> Analyses of the 2011 American Community Survey found the same estimate for child-rearing among same-sex couples (Gates 2013).

Data from the Gallup Daily Tracking survey suggest that nearly 4% of adults identify as LGBT, implying that there are an estimated 9.5 million LGBT adults in the US (Gates 2014). Like the NHIS data, the Gallup data also show that about 60% of LGBT identified adults are not part of a married or unmarried couple.<sup>2</sup> If the NHIS figures regarding relationship status and child-rearing are applied to the Gallup estimate, it would mean that more than a million LGBT adults who are not in a couple are raising approximately 2 million children.

These calculations suggest that the estimated number of adults in the US who are raising children under age 18 and are either in a married or unmarried same-sex couple or are LGB-identified and not in a couple is between 862,000 and 1.26 million. The estimates for the number of children being raised either by a same-sex couple or a non-coupled LGB parent are between 1.3 and 2.2 million.

In considering the total extent of parenting among LGB adults, it is important to consider that some LGB parents are raising children as part of a different-sex couple. This is particularly true for bisexual parents. Among bisexual adults with children, 51% were married with a different-sex spouse, 11% had a different-sex unmarried partner, and 4% had a same-sex spouse or partner. Among adults who identified as gay or lesbian and were raising children, 18% had a different-sex married spouse and 4% had a different-sex unmarried partner.

Among all LGB-identified adults, regardless of relationship status, NHIS analyses suggest that an estimated 23% were raising children under age 18 (20% among lesbians and gay men and 31% among bisexual men and women). Applying that figure to the NHIS and Gallup estimates of the size of the LGB and LGBT populations, respectively, implies that between 1.2 and 2.2 million LGBT adults in the US are raising from 2.0 to 3.7 million children.<sup>3</sup>

## Discussion

The 2013 NHIS data provide a rare opportunity to consider relationship and family status along with sexual orientation identity within the framework of a population-based survey. Many of the findings in

these analyses are consistent with other research. These similarities include estimates of the number of same-sex couples, the proportion of those couples who are raising children, and demographic patterns with regard to age, race/ethnicity, inter-racial and ethnic coupling, and educational attainment.

Because of challenges associated with the measurement of same-sex couples in US Census Bureau data, estimates of the number of married same-sex couples in the US or their geographic distribution are difficult to obtain. Such estimates are further complicated by a legal landscape where the availability of marriage for same-sex couples across states is changing rapidly, as well as likely rapid changes in the number and location of married same-sex couples.

The NHIS data confirm that married same-sex couples live throughout the country, including in many states where their marriages may not be recognized. More than one in ten (12%) reported living in the South, where only Maryland and Washington, DC recognized their marriages.

The estimate of approximately 124,000 married same-sex couples (or the 130,000 estimate derived by using only data from the second half of 2013) offers evidence of substantial change in the last few years.

As of 2010, Badgett and Herman (2011) estimated that about 50,000 same-sex couples had married in the US. A survey conducted in that same year by the Williams Institute suggested that the total number of married same-sex couples in that year (including couples married outside of the US) may have been as high as 80,000. Even under an assumption using the conservative estimate of 124,000 marriages, these figures suggest that the population of married same-sex couples in the US has grown by more than 50% in only three years.

<sup>2</sup> Author analyses of Gallup Daily Tracking Survey data, Jan-Jun 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, neither the NHIS nor Gallup data allow for a separate assessment of parenting among the transgender population.

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## About the author

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## About the Institute

**The Williams Institute** on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Public Policy at UCLA School of Law advances law and public policy through rigorous, independent research and scholarship, and disseminates its work through a variety of education programs and media to judges, legislators, lawyers, other policymakers and the public.

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# GALLUP®

JUNE 22, 2017

## In U.S., 10.2% of LGBT Adults Now Married to Same-Sex Spouse

BY JEFFREY M. JONES



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### STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Percentage married to same-sex spouse up from 7.9% two years ago
- Sharp decline in same-sex domestic partnerships
- LGBT men more likely to be married than LGBT women

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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Two years after the Supreme Court ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that states could not prohibit same-sex marriages, 10.2% of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) adults in the U.S. are married to a same-sex spouse. That is up from

7.9% in the months prior to the Supreme Court decision in 2015, but only marginally higher than the 9.6% measured in the first year after the ruling.

Marital Status of LGBT Americans

|                                  | <b>Pre-Obergefell<br/>decision</b> | <b>Year 1, Post-Obergefell<br/>decision</b> | <b>Year 2, Post-Obergefell<br/>decision</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
|                                  | <b>%</b>                           | <b>%</b>                                    | <b>%</b>                                    |
| Married to same-sex spouse       | 7.9                                | 9.6   | 10.2  |
| Living with same-sex partner     | 12.8                               | 10.1  | 6.6   |
| Single/Never married             | 47.4                               | 49.9  | 55.7  |
| Living with opposite-sex partner | 4.8                                | 5.0   | 4.2   |
| Married to opposite-sex spouse   | 14.2                               | 13.6  | 13.1  |
| Divorced                         | 7.1                                | 6.4   | 5.4   |
| Separated                        | 2.5                                | 2.2   | 2.1   |
| Widowed                          | 2.8                                | 2.9   | 2.2   |
| Sample size                      | 4,752                              | 11,588                                      | 12,832                                      |

Dates: Pre-Obergefell (Jan. 28-June 26, 2015); Year 1, Post-Obergefell (June 27, 2015-June 19, 2016); Year 2, Post-Obergefell (June 20, 2016-June 19, 2017)

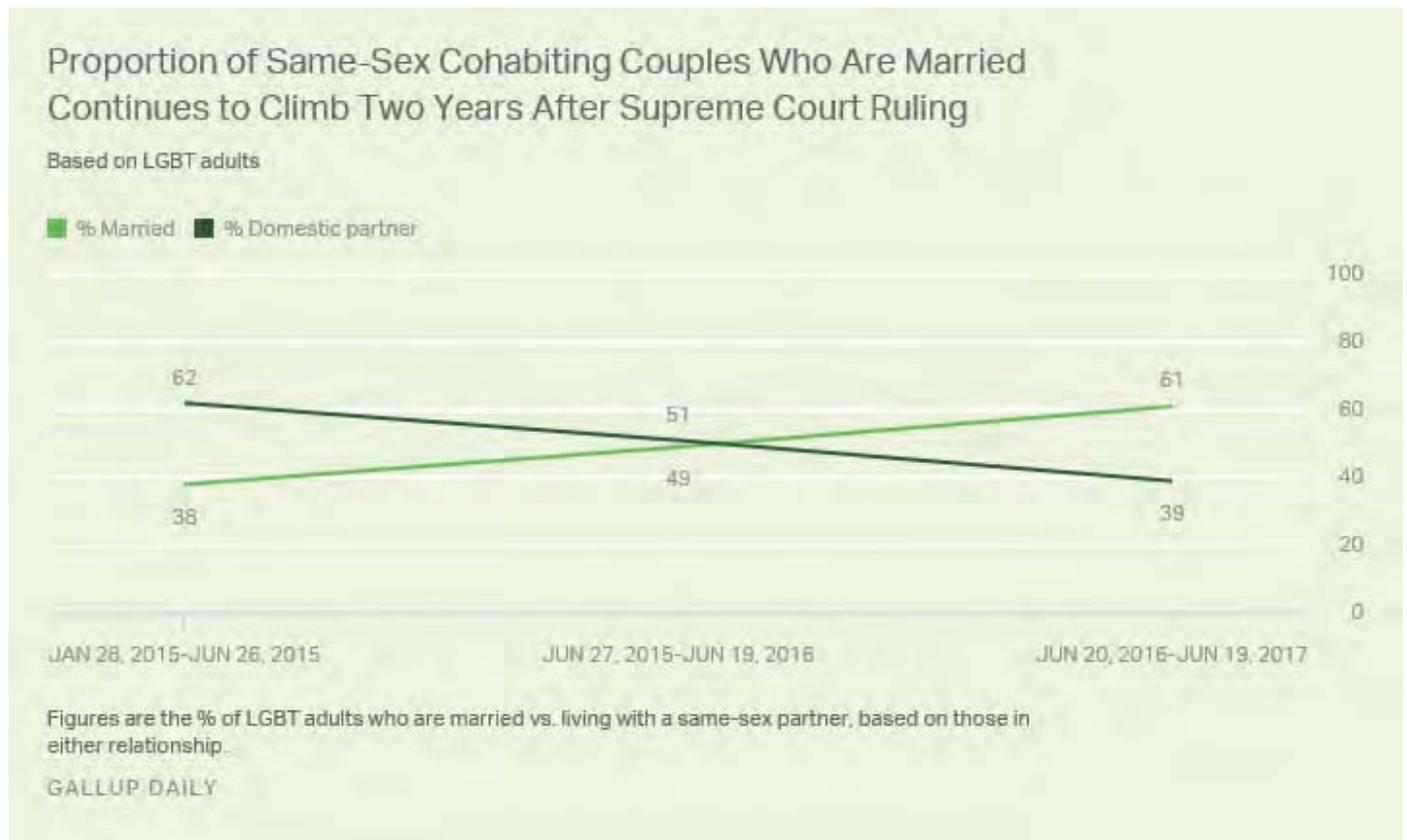
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On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court issued the *Obergefell* decision. As would be expected, the number of same-sex marriages has increased, though the rate of increase has slowed.

As the percentage of LGBT adults in same-sex marriages has increased over the past two years, the percentage in same-sex domestic partnerships has fallen sharply from 12.8% before the Supreme Court ruling to 6.6%.

About half of the decline in same-sex domestic partnerships can be explained by the increase in same-sex marriages. The rest of the decline could mean that others formerly in same-sex domestic partnerships may have stopped living together, or no longer consider a same-sex cohabitant as a "partner."

As a result of these shifts, Gallup estimates that 61% of same-sex, cohabiting couples in the U.S. are now married, up from 38% before the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in June 2015, and 49% one year ago.



An increasing percentage of LGBT adults now identify their marital status as single or never married. That has always been the dominant status among LGBT individuals, but has increased from 47.4% to 55.7% over the last two years.

LGBT Americans are still more likely to be married to an opposite-sex spouse (13.1%) than a same-sex spouse (10.2%), but the gap is narrowing. According to prior research on LGBT identification, roughly half of those who self-identify as LGBT are bisexual,

helping explaining the high proportion of LGBT individuals who are married to opposite-sex partners. Gallup's question does not probe specifically for whether LGBT individuals are lesbian or gay or bisexual or transgender.

The results are based on Gallup Daily tracking interviews since Jan. 28, 2015, when Gallup first asked lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) individuals who indicated they were married or living with a partner if their spouse or partner was the same sex or the opposite sex.

Overall, 4.3% of U.S. adults identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, according to Gallup's latest estimate from its June 2016-June 2017 tracking data. That is up from 3.9% a year ago and 3.4% in Gallup's initial estimate in 2012.

### Same-Sex Marriage More Common Among Men, Older LGBT Adults

Currently, 11.4% of LGBT men versus 9.3% of LGBT women say they are married to a same-sex partner. Also, the marriage rate among older LGBT adults is higher than it is among younger adults.

Marital Status of LGBT Americans, by Gender and Age

|                                  | <b>Men</b> | <b>Women</b> | <b>18-29 years old</b> | <b>30-49 years old</b> | <b>50+ years old</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
|                                  | <b>%</b>   | <b>%</b>     | <b>%</b>               | <b>%</b>               | <b>%</b>             |
| Married to same-sex spouse       | 11.4       | 9.3          | 3.3                    | 14.4                   | 18.1                 |
| Living with same-sex partner     | 7.4        | 6.0          | 3.8                    | 8.9                    | 8.9                  |
| Single/Never married             | 56.6       | 55.0         | 77.2                   | 42.4                   | 32.3                 |
| Living with opposite-sex partner | 3.0        | 5.2          | 5.5                    | 4.1                    | 1.8                  |
| Married to opposite-sex spouse   | 13.2       | 13.1         | 6.2                    | 18.4                   | 19.3                 |
| Divorced                         | 4.6        | 6.1          | 2.1                    | 7.1                    | 9.8                  |
| Separated                        | 1.4        | 2.7          | 1.3                    | 3.2                    | 2.3                  |
| Widowed                          | 2.0        | 2.4          | 0.5                    | 0.9                    | 7.1                  |
| Sample size                      | 6,789      | 6,043        | 4,340                  | 3,641                  | 4,777                |

June 20, 2016-June 19, 2017

GALLUP DAILY

Notably, even older LGBT adults are most likely to identify their marital status as single -- 32% say they have never married. This indicates that many LGBT adults, even at older ages when marriage may be more feasible or desirable than it is for younger adults, are remaining single. By comparison, 11.3% of non-LGBT adults age 50 and older have never married.

## Implications

Same-sex marriages are becoming increasingly common, and same-sex domestic partnerships less common, for LGBT Americans. In the first year after the Supreme Court ruled states could not prohibit same-sex marriages, the percentage of LGBT Americans who were married grew nearly two percentage points. In the second year since the ruling, the growth has continued, but at a diminished rate. This suggests an initial burst in the number of same-sex marriages came in response to the legal changes. Now, with those legal changes further in the past, the growth in same-sex marriages may be slower.

However, growth in the rate of same-sex marriages is likely to continue. Younger adults, many who may not be in a position to marry regardless of their sexual identity, are disproportionately likely to identify as LGBT. As they age, their life situations may change and they may want to get married. Also, as future generations of LGBT adults come of age, having grown up in a time when there were no legal restrictions on same-sex marriage and greatly reduced societal norms against it, they may marry at higher rates than LGBT Americans in generations before them.

*These data are available in [Gallup Analytics](#).*

*Editor's Note: A correction was made to the estimated proportions of LGBT adults in cohabiting same-sex couples who are married (from 67% to 61%) or living with a partner (from 33% to 39%).*

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted June 20, 2016-June 19, 2017, on the Gallup U.S. Daily survey, with a random sample of 352,851 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. For results based on the total sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error is  $\pm 1$  percentage point at the 95% confidence level.

For results based on the total sample of 12,832 lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender adults, the margin of sampling error is  $\pm 1$  percentage point at the 95% confidence level. All reported margins of sampling error include computed design effects for weighting.

Each sample of national adults includes a minimum quota of 70% cellphone respondents and 30% landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas by time zone within region. Landline and cellular telephone numbers are selected using random-digit-dial methods.

Learn more about how the [Gallup U.S. Daily](#) works.

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SOURCE: Gallup <https://news.gallup.com/poll/212702/lgbt-adults-married-sex-spouse.aspx>

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## OUR WORK STYLE:

We are laid back and blend into your event without being in the way or making the whole day feel like a photo shoot. We will be chatting it up with your guests so we're not just that creepy person with a bunch of camera gear, and telling your mom how fab she looks in her new outfit.

**We won't overly direct you, interrupt what is naturally happening, or put you in weird awkward poses.**

We also realize how important it is to whole-heartedly trust the person standing in front of you with a camera, asking you to just be yourself. We are here for you, and will enthusiastically support the two of you through this entire process. You can let your guard down around us, and just enjoy your wedding day.

Your expressions will be natural and reflect who you *really* are. We believe the best images are created when your personality gets to shine through an already incredible moment, and we will be right there to capture the magic.

**YOU WANT TO LOOK AMAZING, BUT ALSO LIKE YOURSELF.  
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.**

# SHAWNEE

**OWNER + PHOTOGRAPHER**

CAPRICORN. ENFP. GRYFFINDOR.



**Hi I'm Shawnee! I'm a queer feminist photographer with a big heart and a no-fuss kinda attitude.**

I've been documenting weddings for over 10 years, and feel completely at home when surrounded by a ton of strangers having the time of their lives. I live in Richmond, Virginia with my partner Brooklyn and our crew of animals.

When I'm not photographing rad folks in love, you can find me: exploring the world with friends and checking off a new destination on my [travel list](#), photographing badass babes in my [body positive boudoir studio](#), playing D&D and getting real nerdy, or cuddling with all my loves around the fireplace and watching Netflix. I love a good audiobook (hello Harry Potter!) and am always looking for an excuse to throw an elaborate themed party.

I want you to look back on your wedding photos and remember more than just the pretty details (but don't worry, I'll get those too). I look for the emotion in moments, and follow the action of the day - from the nervous excitement, to the overwhelming joy during your first look, and all the people you love so much in one place dancing their hearts out (I'll be right there on the dance floor with them!).

I support and appreciate all kinds of relationships and celebrations, and will travel wherever your ideal moment will be taking

place.

Let's make some magic together! ❤️

# CARLY

## PHOTOGRAPHER

SCORPIO. ENFJ. GRYFFINDOR.



Hi babes, I'm Carly! I love love. When I photograph your wedding day, I experience the overwhelming, exalting, glorious abundance of two people in love. It feeds my heart and through photography, I celebrate, create, and foster more love in the world.

**My motto is "I give a fuck." I champion the diversity of love.** I work hard to cultivate a trusting and fun relationship with my couples. I am a guide, helping two people navigate a happy and sometimes bonkers day. I encourage my couples to celebrate the details of their day, whether it's raining, the flowers are wrong, or there's a wild family member. It's all a part of their story. I put my everything into creating wedding photographs that show real moments from your day, moments that transform into heirlooms for you and your family.

I have the laid back vibe of a Californian with the hustle of a New Yorker. My hugs are legendary and I get shit done. I love bright colors, huge roller coasters, and perfect hi5s.

I photographed my first wedding in 2009 and I love it more each year.

I live in sunlit Los Angeles with my partner and a snaggletooth street cat named Penny. When I'm not photographing humans in love, you can find me scuba diving with squid, making art in a Nevada desert, or right here in LA discovering the magic in gold spray paint, smoke bombs, and googly eyes 😊

# JULIE

## PHOTOGRAPHER

LEO. ENFP. SLYTHERIN.



Hi y'all, I'm Julie! I'm a weirdo, all about that positive mental attitude, and loving those around me whole-heartedly!

I live in Richmond, Virginia with my pug Nola! When I'm not photographing awesome couples you will find me: out taking pictures at the punk/metal/bluegrass/rockabilly shows, roller skating and bowling with my friends, snuggled up with Nola, or going on some type of adventure. I'm a sucker for roadside attractions, and always ready to plan my next cross country trip.

**I'm passionate about storytelling, and creating beautiful and unique images**

**that fully capture all the emotion and action of your wedding day.** From the smallest detail to the craziest dance party, I'll be right there with you. I want you to be able to look back at your photos and be reminded of all the love, excitement, and passion you felt on that day!

I love getting to know my clients! I like to develop a stronger bond than just being another service provider on your wedding day. Things sometimes get hectic, but having a photographer that you are comfortable around and can trust (and also have a blast with) makes it that much more enjoyable! I'm a lover of love and can honestly say I have the raddest job in the world!

I can't wait to create with you! Stay Posi 🍷

# JUSTIN

## PHOTOGRAPHER

CAPRICORN. INFJ. RAVENCLAW.



Hi there! I'm Justin, the guy always behind the lens (and occasionally on the dance floor).

I live in NYC but am always up for traveling to work with wonderful folks. When I'm not photographing weddings you can probably find me at a local drag performance, catching the latest Broadway show, or on a



trip to Disneyland with my wonderful husband.

Joy is what motivates my work. **I'm here for hearty belly laughs, outrageous dance moves, and quiet sweet moments.** I

want for you to look back at your wedding photos for years to come, and remember all the love that surrounds you, and how much fun everyone had!

I'm slightly obsessed with campy horror films and drag performers, and will forever be belting out showtunes in the shower.

I can't wait to work with you! 🌈

# ALISON

## STUDIO MANAGER

ARIES. INFJ. HUFFLEPUFF.



Hello friends! I'm Alison, the behind-the-scenes babe for Shawnee and CO living in Richmond, Virginia. I'm just your typical type A perfectionist here to make sure everything is looking good from our Instagram feed to your wedding album. The hardest part of my job is picking out only a handful of photos from your day to be featured on the blog because wowza, our couples are the cutest!

When I'm not turning 1s and 0s into emails and blog posts, I spend my free time watching embarrassing reality TV, splashing

around in the James River, playing Pokémon and eating delicious vegan comfort food. 🍷

**THINGS THAT MAKE US RIDICULOUSLY  
HAPPY:**

- Feminist weddings
- Non-gendered wedding parties
- Fun vibrant colors
- Creating our own traditions
- Exploring new cities
- A really good hug
- Breaking it down to the hits



**READ WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY:**

[Catalyst Wed Co - Keeping it real with Shawnee C](#)

[A Practical Wedding - How to get killer photos when you hate having your picture taken](#)

[A Practical Wedding - This is the queer feminist photographer you want for your wedding](#)

[A Practical Wedding - Shawnee C has genderless posing on lock](#)

**Shawnee was a guest on the amazing [Super Gay Wedding Podcast!](#)**

We talk about all sorts of things, including queering up your wedding, the gendered bullshit of

the color pink, sheep shearing, and living forever by drinking more wine.

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Weddings + Elopements









**shawnee\_custalow** • Follow  
Richmond, Virginia

**shawnee\_custalow** Happy Lesbian Visibility Day! We see you, we are proud of you, and we will always be there to support your love ❤️ Your identifiers may change over time, maybe they already have. I went from identifying as "straight" as a teenager, to bisexual after I couldn't deny my attraction to women any longer, to a 100 % lesbian after spending many a night at the local lesbian bar, and then realized that queer is for sure the term that fits best for who I am and who I love. Who knows if that will change as more time passes, as I learn more about myself, and as new identifiers are created and embraced. All this to say, that these terms can be

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**shawnee\_custalow** • Follow  
Richmond, Virginia

night at the local lesbian bar, and then realized that queer is for sure the term that fits best for who I am and who I love. Who knows if that will change as more time passes, as I learn more about myself, and as new identifiers are created and embraced. All this to say, that these terms can be so important and grounding in finding yourself in this huge world and the LGBTQ+ community. We love that there are so many ways to describe ourselves, our identities, and our love, and that it is always evolving for the better ❤️ #lesbianvisibilityday #queerlove #queerweddingphotographer

19w

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*Because Love Can't Wait*

Congratulations on being engaged ! :)

Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Same Sex, Black, White or Straight it doesn't matter to me what label you want to put on it or simply no label at all. I love being a wedding photographer and in addition I believe in equality for all!

So, with that being said if you are looking for a LGBTQ wedding photographer you have come to the right place. I have been photographing same sex marriages for years! In fact my first Lesbian wedding was over 10 years ago before marriage was even legal.

Since that time I have photographed hundreds of LGBT weddings. My main coverage area is Virginia, Maryland, Washington D.C. and North Carolina but I love to travel so we go all over for any type of ceremony. [Click here to see complete weddings](#)

If you are interested in our wedding collections they may be seen [HERE](#)

Please feel free to [contact me](#) and be sure to connect with us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to see our behind the scenes on wedding days.





### WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING

Crystal was a great photographer for our wedding! She's definitely LGBT friendly and has some cool rainbow umbrellas to use as props in your pictures - if that's your style. Our friends and family were all very impressed with the number of photos she took and shared with us - and they're all great shots! We would absolutely recommend her to others. - Kelsey and Shannon - Baltimore, Maryland

When I got engaged, I knew who I wanted to take our engagement pictures and also photograph our wedding. I contacted Crystal and asked her if she would be willing to come to Gettysburg, PA to take our engagement pictures and she was more than happy to drive 4 1/2 hours to our farm to capture my 'farmer fiancé' and I in the cornfield, in our sunflower field and on our combine. On the day she drove up to take our pictures, it was a really hot and humid August day. She walked around the farm with us snapping pictures and was willing to do whatever we wanted. She did an amazing job capturing who we were and was patient with us when we changed outfits. We also hired Crystal to also photograph our wedding the following September. We filled out a questionnaire beforehand so she knew exactly what kinds of pictures we were wanting her to take. A few days before our wedding, she called and made sure everything was on schedule and letting us know what time we would expect her to arrive at the wedding. My fiancé and I did a 'First Look' before the wedding and Crystal was so professional and everything went so smoothly. I can't begin to say how satisfied we are with our wedding pictures!! They were absolutely beautiful! She took pictures of all the little detailed things! I would highly recommend Crystal if you are looking for a photographer! - Chrissy and Dave - Gettysburg, PA

[Read more reviews here.](#)

### CONTACT US





## MATT & GREG'S FALL JEWISH WEDDING | KING FAMILY VINEYARDS

Matt & Greg had a gorgeous Jewish wedding at **King Family Vineyards**. The leaves and fall colors were at their peak and we couldn't have asked for a better weekend to celebrate the nicest couple.



We loved how they incorporated the fall leaves into their decor, making everything very colorful! The theme was evident from the save the date through the invitation, and when you walked in the door at King Family Vineyards!



III

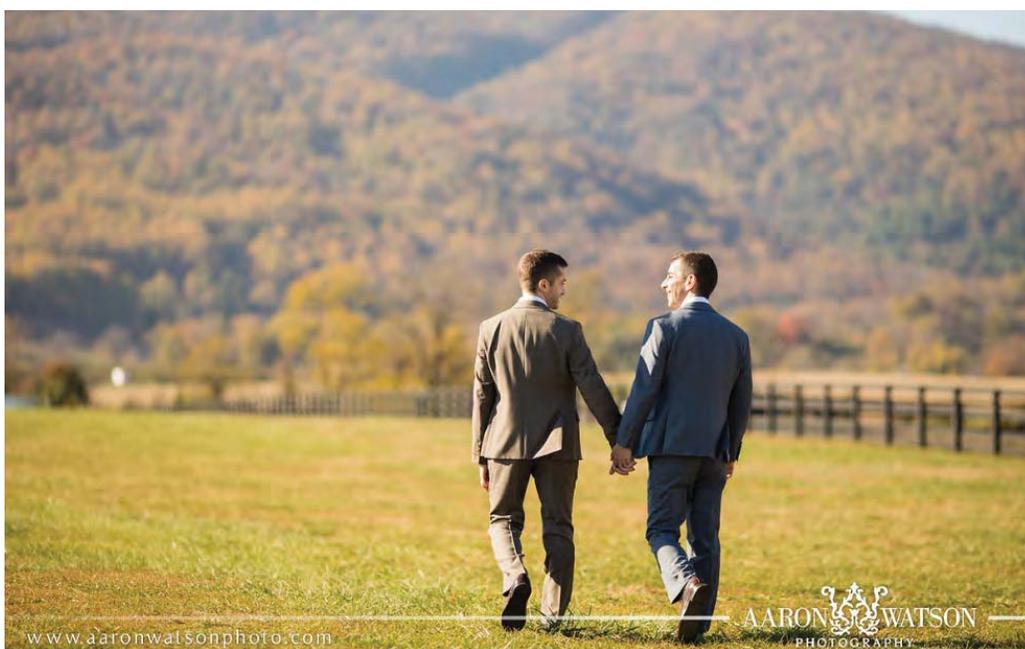




Matt & Greg make for the cutest couple! We love being same-sex wedding photographers, as we support all love! Being a part of their special day was truly a joy!



AARON  WATSON  
PHOTOGRAPHY



Fall weddings at **King Family Vineyards** are amongst our favorite.  
The views of the mountains are pretty magical!



Aaron Watson Photography is a gay wedding friendly studio, located in Charlottesville, VA. We support all types of marriage, and especially equal rights for our LGBTQ community. If you are looking for same-sex wedding photographers, please be sure to contact us!

Vendors:

Photographer: **Aaron Watson Photography**

Venue: **King Family Vineyards**

Catering: **The Local Catering** | Helen Osinga

Rentals: **MS Events**

Officiants: Rabbi Vanessa Ochs & Rev. John Forrest Douglas

Ceremony Music/DJ: **John Garland**

Transportation: **Easy Riders**

Grooms Attire: **Indochino**

« CRISTINA & BRIAN'S FALL RICHMOND VIRGINIA WEDDING  
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2016 – AARON WATSON  
PHOTOGRAPHY »

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434-202-8031

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INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION OR READY TO BOOK? [CONTACT ME HERE!](#)

# FIRST SAME SEX WEDDING CEREMONIES IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA | VIRGINIA SAME-SEX WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

OCTOBER 6, 2014

*It was an amazing moment today when scrolling through my newsfeed on Facebook just after 10am. I began to see the social media blow up over The US Supreme Courts decision to refuse to hear cases from Oklahoma, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin and Indiana! With this historical move Same-Sex marriage has been legalized in the State of Virginia where the first marriage ceremonies were performed today!*

*I was able to stop by The General District Courts in Fairfax, Virginia where the first same-sex ceremony was performed in Fairfax County!*

*I snapped an iPhone shot of some of the supporters just outside the courthouse!*



*I am so excited to capture the many upcoming same-sex ceremonies and weddings in Virginia! If you know anyone getting married I would love to have the honor of capturing their day!*









*find your way around*

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SENIOR PORTRAITS CLIENT ACCESS

BASED IN  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

•  
AVAILABLE  
WORLDWIDE

## BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN ENGAGEMENT – SAME-SEX WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

VIRGINIA SAME-SEX WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER –

BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN ENGAGEMENT –

You know, I have to start this saying that google needs to see keywords for my people to find me. I hate to distinguish my beautiful couples by terms like “Virginia same-sex wedding photographer”. It feels so debasing. Love is love. Love who you love. I photograph all types of love. Defining it by such narrow language seems so limiting to me and my beautiful couples!

ANYWAY, on to the non-SEO stuff...

I like to spend a little time getting to know my couples before heading up to the mountains. Usually, when we finally get situated, it is windy and difficult to hear each other. My style relies on building relationships, getting to know my couples and bringing out the beauty that I see within them as a couple, but also individually. I learn so much about each person and it helps make everyone feel more relaxed on their wedding day. While I don't like the word “pose”, I do like to help couples feel relaxed and comfortable in front of the camera. That definitely requires a little pre-session mini shoot!

Once we drive the drive and hike the hike, everyone is ready for some Blue Ridge Mountain twirling, dancing and snuggling! The fog was starting to roll in, making the experience even more magical! My favorite part of this engagement session (besides my fabulous couple) were Cami's amazing red shoes. And, how about that green flowing gown?

(If you haven't checked out the first part of our session, check it out here: Camie and Jess at the Mudhouse )





---

## CAMIE AND JESS || COFFEE SHOP CROZET ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Coffee shop engagement.... (We were at the fabulous Mudhouse here in Crozet) mountain top engagement... snowy call-off-work-day engagement.... I adore these two. Their loves of cats immediately makes them kindred spirits but their kind souls make them friends for life! We had a fantastic time just hanging out together and I can't wait for their wedding this September. I know it is going to be every bit as incredible as they both are. A little sad that their fur babies probably won't be cats of honor. 😊

















# BOB UPDEGROVE PHOTOGRAPHY



## FAITH - POLITICS - PHOTOGRAPHY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2010

### Photography 101: Session 06

I feel like I am constantly learning information that is new to me when it comes to photography. That is to be expected because, for one thing, I have never taken a photography course, so all of my photography knowledge has come from trial and error and reading. But I am also learning new things because modern cameras are able to do things today that they were not able to do years ago. Sure, the basics are all still there: shutter speeds, f-stops, exposure; but today's cameras are essentially very sophisticated dedicated computers. What they can capture, how they can capture it, and how you can pull and craft the image after capture is just amazing. So I am constantly learning how to best make all of that happen with my camera, and with my flash.

As I mentioned in [Session 05](#), flash photography is probably one of the most frustrating aspects for photographers, and that includes me. Inconsistent and unsatisfactory results are my two biggest problems. Much of the reason for these problems is that locations and conditions change. What worked in one area of the room may not work in another area that is just 15 feet away. Or what I am shooting in one area may be different than what I am shooting 15 feet away. So it is difficult to give tips for shooting flash that will work in all circumstances. Below I will offer some techniques that I use when shooting flash. I would encourage you to try these out, shooting multiple times with different settings and flash position, all in an effort to see what works and what doesn't.

If you have not read [Session 05](#) yet, or it has been awhile, I would encourage you to read it now and then come back to this. For now, I would recommend staying in TTL mode with your flash. If you only have a pop up or built in flash, you will be limited in what you can shoot with that flash, and might consider getting a good external flash. Some pop up flash units do have some flexibility in them. You can't move them, but you might be able to adjust how much flash power is coming out of the flash. Check your camera manual for more info on that. If you are limited to a pop up or built in flash, you

### KEEPING IT SIMPLE

Give me a Diet Coke or a nice tall glass of iced tea, and I am one happy guy. Yeah, it doesn't take much. I like keeping things simple and uncomplicated. That is the way God created me. It is probably what draws me so much to the beach. It doesn't get much simpler than the beach: some sand, lots of water, and all the time in the world to just daydream. It is also what draws me to photography: a camera, a subject, and a little bit of my own creativity. I love capturing an awesome image. So what do I do to add some confusion and angst into my life? I follow politics. I have my opinions, and I like having a tool for expressing those opinions. It's also nice to have a vehicle for sharing my relationship with Jesus. So give me a Diet Coke, or a nice tall glass of iced tea (with lots of ice and lots of refills), and I'm sure we could talk for hours. I might need a bathroom. Yeah, definitely will need a bathroom.

Visit my website:

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

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will need to be no further than maybe 12-15 feet from your subject for that flash to have any affect. And because the flash is so close to the camera, you have a greater chance for redeye. Bottom line, don't expect super results from a pop up flash. I find them helpful for outdoor photography though when you need a bit of fill in flash (more on that in a later post). The tips below are geared for external flash units.

Probably the least flattering light you can use comes from placing the external flash on the camera and pointing the flash head straight toward your subject, so you want to find ways to provide additional light to the subject without pointing the flash directly toward the subject from the camera. One way to do that is to use a flash bracket. A bracket will elevate your flash a short distance above the camera. This separation gives a better result than having the flash directly on the camera, simply by putting the light on a different plane than the camera. But there are two problems with using a bracket: 1) they are cumbersome to carry around, and 2) they can still produce a shadow, depending on how far your subject is to a wall or other object behind them. I used to use a bracket all the time when shooting film. I just don't see the need for most cases anymore.

Probably the best way to modify your flash is to bounce it. There are basically two ways to bounce a flash that is attached to the flash shoe on your camera: 1) using some kind of flash modifier, or 2) aiming the flash toward a wall, ceiling, or some other kind of object. A flash modifier is a piece of equipment that attaches to your flash head. It could be as simple as a piece of paper, or a translucent molded plastic, or some kind of fabric. If you are not using a plastic "dome" of some kind, you usually want to use something that is white. Some people will use a white card, attached to the flash with a rubber band. The flash is pointed up toward the ceiling, with the card on one side of the flash (away from your subject). When the flash goes off, the light bounces off the ceiling and then back down toward your subject. Some of that light is also bounced off the white card and toward the subject. That is basically the whole concept of bounced flash: the light from the flash is bounced off a larger area and then back toward the subject, wrapping the subject with a softer light.

If I am in a room with a low white ceiling, I will usually bounce the flash toward the ceiling. If I am close to a white wall I might choose to bounce the flash off of that wall. Sometimes I might be in a room with pillars in the room, so I will stand near that pillar and try to bounce the flash off of it. If I am in a room with high ceilings or a dark ceiling, I will rely on some kind of modifier on the flash, usually a small plastic modifier.

Keep this in mind, anytime you use a modifier or bounce your flash you are diffusing the light; or in other words, you are throwing less light onto your subject. With TTL your camera and flash will try to throw out more light in order to illuminate your subject. This will potentially drain your flash batteries quicker or take longer for the batteries to bounce back between images. Or you might need to play around with your shutter speed and f-stop in order to pull in more ambient light so the flash is not carrying the full load. Or you can adjust the flash exposure compensation (see flash manual).

The whole point of this tutorial is not to give a full blown instruction manual on flash photography. My main objective to get you thinking about how to use your camera and your flash in ways that you maybe have not tried before. Most people throw a flash on their camera, point it straight ahead, and go at it. Others point their flash in all kinds of directions because they see other people doing it, but they have no idea where or why they are pointing the flash in that direction. To me it is amazing how much light gets transmitted toward the subject when you bounce the flash correctly. The best thing you can do is think it through, visualizing how the light will behave if you point it in one direction versus another direction.

I would recommend googling "flash modifiers" and looking through some of the other articles and products that are out there. One word of caution: I have a bag full of modifiers that I have bought over the years, thinking each one was THE one. In the end I end up not using any of them all that often, usually going back to the plastic dome that

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came with my flash (Nikon sb900). Generally speaking though, I like the Lumiquest products.

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resolution, that being a Fine quality file. I always recommend that people set their image quality to the highest resolution possible. You can always resize an image downward if you need to, but if you shoot with the image quality of Basic, you end up with an image that has been severely compressed and degraded right out of the camera. There is very little you can do with this kind of image, other than email it or look at it on your iphone. If your photos ultimately don't mean anything to you, then set it at whatever image quality you want. But if you are shooting images with the intent to save and archive and possibly do something with them, then by all means shoot at the Fine image quality.

Now all the previous info had to do with jpg files. On most serious cameras you will also have the option to shoot a Raw file. A raw file is a data file. In a sense all images start as a raw file. When you have your camera set for jpg, you are telling your camera to take all the information, interpret it on its own, then spit out a compressed jpg file. With a raw file, you are asking the camera to just save all the captured data and not to process it. With a raw file you will end up with a great deal more information. In fact a raw file will end up being several times larger than a fine jpg file. Personally I like having all that information. If I am going to spend time composing important shots, I don't want to randomly lose important information from each image. Raw files not only keep all the information, but it keeps that information separate. A jpg file, when it gets compressed, basically mixes the exposure information with the white balance information and all the other information. So when you open the image in Photoshop to tweak it, when you change the exposure, you are also affecting the white balance. With raw, when you change the exposure, that is all you are affecting.

So what do you do with a raw file, and why would I want to shoot raw files over jpg? I guess I should first of all say that there are many professional photographers who shoot only jpg, and they are fine with that, and that is fine with me. It seems though that there are more and more photographers who are shooting raw files. I think beyond having more information to work with, the main reasons people shoot raw is because it gives them more control in the processing decisions of an image, and they feel they can sort through and edit images quicker with a raw software program than they can with jpg files. Of course if your idea of shooting again is simply point and shoot, you probably don't want to mess with your photos after they have been captured. So jpg would make more sense. But if you want more control and plan on going through your images to edit anyway, then raw might make more sense.

There are several raw software programs on the market today. Probably the most widely used are either Adobe Camera Raw (found in Photoshop), Adobe Photoshop Lightroom or Apple Aperture. Adobe Camera Raw and Adobe Lightroom are essentially the same engine. Lightroom is specifically geared for photographers, is raw specific, and is not just a raw processor but also good for managing your images, composing slideshows, and printing. Aperture likewise is a full featured program. I personally use Lightroom. I find it the more intuitive program, with more flexibility to fine tune your images. There are plenty of places online where you can learn more about these programs. You can also download a 30 day demo to try it out.

I am a big fan of raw files. Raw processing has been the focus for many photographers today. Some are able to do all their image work within a raw program and never need to open it up in Photoshop. If your camera has the ability to save your image files as raw, give it a try. Most higher end cameras give you the ability to save your images as both raw and some form of jpg, so you can have both worlds. Don't be afraid of raw. Give it a try.

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# BOB UPDEGROVE PHOTOGRAPHY



## FAITH - POLITICS - PHOTOGRAPHY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2010

### Photography 101: Session 07

One of the great things about digital photography is the Menu on your camera. Most point and shoot photographers don't want to mess with details. They just want to point and shoot. So the menu is more of a menace than a help. But inside the menu is a host of settings and preferences that can enhance your photo shooting experience. I'll try to cover some of more important items that you should pay attention to within your camera's menu, starting today with Image Quality. Your camera manufacturer might have a different name for this, but basically it is where you choose the compression level of jpg: usually something like Fine, Normal, and Basic; as well as whether you want to shoot jpg vs raw.

Most people have a familiarity with jpg files. Jpg is what we usually use for getting prints, posting photos online, or emailing to each other. A jpg file is a compressed file. In other words, you take a photo with your camera, your camera takes all the information associated with that image: the exposure, white balance, sharpness settings, saturations settings, etc; and then the camera's built in computer interprets that information, determining which information should be saved and which should be discarded. In the end you have a processed image. Now depending on what setting you had for image quality, your final image will either be lightly compressed (Fine) to heavily compressed (Basic). The primary difference between these settings is the physical size of the file. Depending on your camera, a Fine image file might be 3-5 mb in size, while a Basic might just be around 250-500 kb in size. These settings came in handy when memory cards were only 250 mb in size; but today with cards of 8-32 gb in size, there is no excuse for shooting anything less than Fine.

The "Fine" setting retains the most information your camera can give you with a jpg file. The more information you have (the less compression) translates into an image that you can than print larger. If you plan on bringing the image into Photoshop or some other image program to play with, you definitely want to use an image with the highest

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Give me a Diet Coke or a nice tall glass of iced tea, and I am one happy guy. Yeah, it doesn't take much. I like keeping things simple and uncomplicated. That is the way God created me. It is probably what draws me so much to the beach. It doesn't get much simpler than the beach: some sand, lots of water, and all the time in the world to just daydream. It is also what draws me to photography: a camera, a subject, and a little bit of my own creativity. I love capturing an awesome image. So what do I do to add some confusion and angst into my life? I follow politics. I have my opinions, and I like having a tool for expressing those opinions. It's also nice to have a vehicle for sharing my relationship with Jesus. So give me a Diet Coke, or a nice tall glass of iced tea (with lots of ice and lots of refills), and I'm sure we could talk for hours. I might need a bathroom. Yeah, definitely will need a bathroom.

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# BOB UPDEGROVE PHOTOGRAPHY



## FAITH - POLITICS - PHOTOGRAPHY

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2010

### Photography 101: Session 04

Before I go any further, I mentioned depth of field a couple times in previous sessions. Depth of field is another function of aperture, as well as the focal length of your lens. Macworld recently posted an [excellent article](#) that describes depth of field in a much better way than I ever could. I would highly recommend taking the time to read through it if you are interested in learning more about this important tool.

So before we leave the subject of exposure, which has been our subject for the first three sessions, we need to go over one more exposure function in your camera. By now you should know that your camera has a built in exposure meter. This meter will analyze the lighting within the scene as you point your camera toward your subject. Based on that light, your camera will determine what it believes to be the proper exposure (if you have it set to one of the auto exposure modes). It will also tell you in manual mode, but you have to manually make the aperture and shutter speed selections. But depending on your subject, the auto exposure can be fooled. There are ways to control how your exposure meter is reading the light.

Your camera might give you up to three different ways to meter a scene: 1) multi-segment, 2) center weighted, and 3) spot metering. Multi segment usually divides up your meter into 5 or 7 sections. When you point your camera toward your scene, the camera is actually making calculations based on the lighting it reads in each of those 5 or 7 sections, and then averages them out into a proper exposure. This, in most cases, is what I would recommend you set your meter to. It is probably the safest setting. Center weighted takes the exposure reading based on what is in the center circle of the viewfinder. Let's say you have a person in the shadows with brightness all around them. Since the person is the important part of the image, you might want to use center weighted metering, point your camera with the person in the center, and take your exposure based on the light that is falling just on that person. Your meter is ignoring all the other light in the scene. In this situation the person would then be more properly

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exposed, but all the bright area will get blown out. The third metering method, spot metering, refines the metering even further. The metering is based on a smaller "spot" in your viewfinder. If you wanted to meter the light falling right around a person's eyes, you could use spot metering to get your meter reading from that small of an area (depending on how close you are and what lens you are using), getting a more precise reading.

I shoot mostly in multi-segment metering, largely because I am always afraid that if I change it to spot I might forget to turn it back, potentially giving me exposure readings that I don't want. As I say this though, I keep thinking I don't utilize these other metering options as much as I should.

One more consideration that fits this discussion: most d-slr cameras have a button near the trigger button that allows you to lock in an exposure. If you are using spot metering or maybe even center-weighted, and the area you want to meter is not in the center of your viewfinder, you might want to point your camera so that the area you want to meter has the spot on it, and while you are taking your reading (by holding down the trigger button half way), you hold down this exposure lock button. That keeps your metered exposure reading locked in while you recompose your scene. You need to keep that button pressed while you shoot your image.

Next session will get into something different: indoor photography and flash.

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