

## Customized Bridesmaid Dress Makes a Practical Gown

By Emily Fredrix  
 Associated Press

I'm practical. Never dreamed of having a lavish gown. Didn't want to endure a long hunt for bargains.

So four little words from the saleswoman spoke to me: "Bridesmaid dress. In white."

Yes, I'm wearing a bridesmaid dress to my own wedding. It's simple, elegant, relatively cheap and easy. Talk about putting the "bride" in bridesmaid.

When I showed up at my local Macy's bridal salon on my first day of dress shopping, I explained that I wanted something elegant, good for an outdoor summer wedding, at a price that wouldn't rival the liquor bill.

What the saleswoman suggested is a little-known trick that can save hundreds of dollars or more on a wedding dress. Perhaps even better, you can customize your wedding dress however you like it; bridesmaid dresses are usually basic — satin or silk, without the beads, lace and other frills on many traditional gowns.

And at anywhere from \$100 to \$300, there's no traditional price tag either. Get a bridesmaid dress in white, ivory or whatever color you want. Wear it as is. Or glam it up with accessories and have a unique — and cost-effective — look.

It's called a wedding dress hack, I'd later find out. Happy with my plan, I couldn't help looking at the women sorting through the expensive gowns at the store. Why would they want to spend thousands on a dress for one day? They could spend far less, still look amazing and save the rest for their honeymoon or a house. Why didn't I feel their urge to splurge? Was something wrong with me?

Not at all, says Meg Keene, author of "A Practical Wedding: Creative Ideas for Planning a Beautiful, Affordable, and Meaningful Celebration." I simply hadn't bought into the wedding myth, she says.

The myth is why so many weddings keep getting bigger (hello Kardashians) and prices keep going up. Women see the glamour and feel they are supposed to have it, regardless of cost, says Keene, who started the blog "A Practical Wedding" when planning her own nuptials in 2008.

Dresses are among the biggest costs of a wedding, averaging nearly \$1,200, according to The Wedding Report, Inc., which tracks industry spending. And don't forget accessories, headpieces and veils. An extra \$250, please.

The average U.S. wedding now costs more than \$26,000. "There's now this industry around weddings," Keene says. "If the word 'wedding' is attached, people will pay."

It doesn't have to be that way, especially for dresses. There are so many other options: bridesmaid dresses, prom dresses, vintage, renting, borrowing and making.

Women like me who seek out alternatives sometimes



AP lifestyles writer Emily Fredrix poses for a portrait in her wedding dress and homemade sash Monday, April 2, 2012 in New York. For those looking for a practical and economical wedding gown, consider wearing a bridesmaid's dress, in white, and glam it up with accessories and have a unique — and cost-effective — look. (AP Photo/Carlo Allegri)



wonder if they'll look like a bride. But, says Keene, there's no one way to look.

"You remember how your wedding felt, not how it looked," says Keene, who wore a \$250 vintage dress to her wedding.

After deciding that I would customize a bridesmaid dress, I allowed myself one indulgent experience at a designer wedding-gown studio so I could get ideas. After trying on half a dozen pouffy, fancy gowns, I knew that ivory looks just fine on me, a sweetheart neckline works well, and an A-line cut and strapless are both flattering.

I took all that knowledge back to my original salon, to my saleswoman friend. In minutes, I found the dress. The sample was white with a black floral print, but in the mirror

I envisioned myself in ivory. With a deep purple sash, maybe some silk flowers stitched onto it. And maybe some tulle underneath to give me some pouf. It's all up to me.

Final price? The tag said \$205, but after a bridal salon-wide sale of 15 percent off, it was \$174.25, before tax.

Bam. Now I'm planning my accessories. And talking glowingly about my wedding dress rebellion.

The question I get is always the same: "What about your bridesmaids? What are they wearing?"

Bridesmaids? I'm not having any. We've decided to elope.

## Themes Add up to Extra Fun!

Every couple wants their wedding to be memorable. The goal of planning a wedding is to create an experience that everyone will remember for years to come. For some couples, a theme wedding is the best way to accomplish just that.

When it comes time to select a theme, the day the wedding takes place may dictate the theme. For example, if the wedding takes place on Halloween, the ideas for the theme are easy. Many other couples choose a theme that highlights a specific interest

or hobby or something that is dear to them. Here are some popular wedding themes.

\* **Holiday:** The Christmas season lends itself well to wedding planning. The colors (red, green, gold) are already established, and most churches and buildings are already decked out in holiday finery, cutting down on the amount of flowers and embellishments couples need. Because the holiday season is so busy and a popular time for socializing, couples who want to tie the knot during this time of year should send

save-the-date cards well in advance. Another option is to have a "Christmas in July" wedding, featuring the same holiday themes but without the hectic nature of the holiday season.

• **Vegas:** Couples who want to tie the knot in Las Vegas but want to ensure all their loved ones can attend can recreate the magic of Vegas wherever they may be. Casino-inspired games and big buffet meals can make guests feel like they have stepped into a casino on the famed

See Themes on Page W4



A masquerade theme might be an entertaining theme for a couple's nuptials.



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**Mildred G. Morris**

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If you are in contact with former Meadows members who may have lost touch with us and may be interested in receiving this information, or if you have questions, please contact the church office at (434) 296-2791 or <http://www.meadowspc.org/>



## Weddings

### Barnes-Kerr



#### Mrs. James G. Barnes

Miss Reagan Marlene Kerr and Second Lieutenant James Grant Barnes were united in marriage on August 4, 2012, at Grace Episcopal Church in Keswick, Virginia. The six o'clock ceremony was performed by the Reverend Randall H. Haycock. The reception was held at the bride's home in Ivy, Virginia.

The bride, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Stephanie Snell of Charlottesville, Virginia, and Mr. Everett Gibson Kerr of Kansas City, Missouri, is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Wilkie Wood of Charlottesville, Virginia, and Mr. and Mrs. Whitney Edward Kerr of Kansas City, Missouri. She is the great-granddaughter of Mrs. Catherine Elyasevich Colo and the late Mr. Peter Michael Colo of Charlottesville, Virginia. The bride is a graduate of Washington and Lee University and is the chief event planner for Kristin Newman Designs in Charleston, South Carolina.

The groom, son of Ms. Judy Lee Esau of Charlottesville, Virginia, and Mr. and Mrs. James Martin Barnes of Durham, North Carolina, is the grandson of the late Ms. Mary Frances Esau of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the late Mr. William John Esau of Pittsboro, North Carolina, Mrs. Shelby Jeanette Frye of Durham, North Carolina, and Mr. James Carlton Barnes of Durham, North Carolina. The groom is a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College and is an officer in the United States Marine Corps. He is currently stationed in Quantico, Virginia.

The bride was escorted and given in marriage by her father. Erin Gibson Kerr, twin sister of the bride, served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Marguerite Nicole Barnes, sister of the groom, Anne Elizabeth Kerr, Catherine Hunter Snell, both sisters of the bride, Virginia Elizabeth McAlister, Elizabeth Krausnick Malmo, Julie Barlett Sanders, and Mary Frances Weatherly.

Jonathan Roy Price, junior and Thomas Benjamin Price III served as best men. Groomsmen were Campbell Gibson Kerr, brother of the bride, Charles Michael Eberly, Gregory Dean Goodson, Robert Bryson Pike II, and Luke William Wilson.

The couple honeymooned in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, and will be stationed together in December.

### Loya-Berbert



#### Mr. and Mrs. McCoy Loya

It is with great joy that Mike and Tanya Berbert of Salem announce the marriage of their daughter, Helen Samantha, to Thomas McCoy Loya, of Crozet, Virginia. Samantha and McCoy were married on May 26, 2012, in a lovely outdoor ceremony at Old Trail Golf Club in Crozet. The ceremony was performed by dear friend, Mr. David Workman, under a chuppah made from the prayer shawl of Samantha's beloved cousin Steve Eisenberg.

Samantha's matron of honor was Elizabeth Craighead Mills and her attendants were Sunny DeButts, Natalie Ellmann, Diana Kemmerer, and Alicia Hylton King. McCoy's best man was Chas Sandridge and his groomsmen were Nick Barrell, Graham Berbert, Chris Jackson and Jesus Morris. Music for the ceremony was provided by Becky Crowder, grandmother of the bride. The readers for the ceremony were Mrs. Ann Eisenberg, aunt of the bride, and Shad Conrad, friend of the groom.

Samantha is a graduate of Salem High School and the University of Virginia School of Nursing with her BSN. She is employed by University of Virginia Health System as a registered nurse. McCoy is a graduate of Western Albemarle High School and is attending Piedmont Virginia Community College majoring in Criminal Justice and Police Science. He is employed by the City of Charlottesville Police Department.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Jamaica at Ocho Rios Resort. They currently reside in Crozet, Virginia, with their pugs, Madi and Otis.

### Operé - Carter



#### Mr. and Mrs. Peter Operé

Cheryl Ann Carter and Peter Operé were married on April 28, 2012, at 4 p.m. at Ash Lawn-Highland near Charlottesville, Virginia, in a joyful ceremony, officiated by Peter Castiglione. A reception and a night of dancing followed.

The bride is the daughter of Flora and Kenneth Carter of Locust Grove, Virginia. The groom is the son of Carrie Douglass and Fernando Operé, currently of Charlottesville, Virginia.

Maids of honor were Ali Adkins and Melissa Duncan and matron of honor was Meagan Hegenbarth. The bridal party included Kaitlin Burket, Erika Lauth, Ashley Carter, sister-in-law to the bride and Camila Operé, sister to the groom.

The best man was Philip Operé, brother of the groom. Groomsmen included Jay Farmer, Tim Pickering, Scott Parker, John Seeds, cousin of the groom, and Mark Carter, brother of the bride.

The welcome was given in three languages by Alicia Lopez Operé, the groom's cousin. Flower girls were Ava and Addison Carter, nieces of the bride. Nephews of the bride and groom, Ryder Operé and Knox Carter played the part of ring bearers and made their way into the wedding procession in a little red wagon. Nuptial music was provided by the bride's friend, Katherine Drew Sigler, singing "Dream" by Priscilla Ahn and Fernando Operé wrote and read a Spanish poem to Peter and Cheryl, the translation of which was read by the best man Philip Operé.

Food was catered by Maya Restaurant of Charlottesville. The fare included flavors from both the bride's and groom's backgrounds, ranging from authentic Spanish food, a southern station, local lamb, and a special Filipino section catered by the bride's mother. The wedding included a flamenco dance lesson for all the guests. Flowers were provided by Lou Hatch.

Both the bride and groom are graduates of James Madison University. The bride works for the Department of Defense as a Human Resource Specialist. The groom works at EMC as a Sales Executive.

After a honeymoon trip to Hayman Island and Sydney in Australia, by way of Napa Valley, the couple currently resides in Arlington, Virginia.

### Craig-Riggs



#### Mr. and Mrs. William Craig

Kristen Holly Riggs and William Daley Craig were married on October 15, 2011, at Tanglewood Farm, home of the groom's grandfather. The Reverend David Washburn officiated the ceremony. A tented reception with dinner and dancing followed on the croquet court.

The bride is the daughter of Cindy Riggs Leopold and Brian Riggs of Charlottesville, Virginia. She is the granddaughter of Grace Riggs and the late Thomas Franklin Riggs of Charlottesville; and of Mary Rexrode and the late DeRay Wilson Fox of Harrisonburg, Virginia. The groom is the son of Samuel and Cindy Craig of Charlottesville, Virginia. He is the grandson of Daley and Dorothy Craig of Charlottesville, Virginia; and of Bobby and Nancy Foster of Brookneal, Virginia.

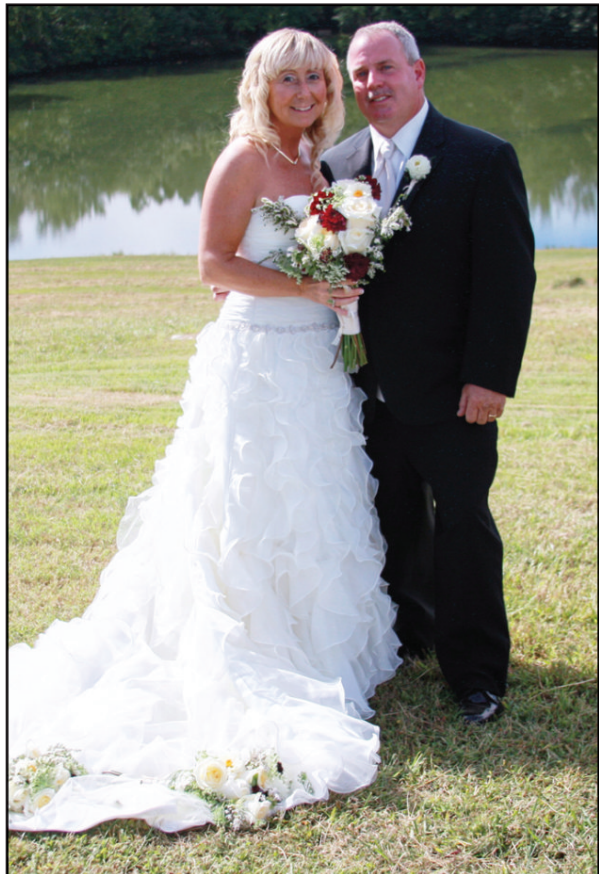
Kate Mason of New York, New York, served as the maid of honor and Molly Wicks Pickard of Raleigh, North Carolina, served as the matron of honor. Bridesmaids were friends Carlee Ullery Shifflett of Charlottesville, Virginia, Lauren Lightfield of Cincinnati, Ohio, Lynette Guirard Shifflett of Charlottesville, Virginia, and Lynn Cannon of Bethesda, Maryland.

Brice Craig served as his brother's best man. Groomsmen were Brad Jones of Richmond, Virginia, Leigh Townsend of Charlottesville, Virginia, Sean DeWitt of Denver, Colorado, and Brian Riggs of Charlottesville, Virginia.

After a honeymoon to Jamaica, the couple resides in Crozet, Virginia.

## Engagement

### Burkholder-Weisser



#### Mr. and Mrs. Chris Burkholder

Debbie Weisser and Chris Burkholder were united in marriage on September 15, 2012, at Dover Foxcroft Farm. The ceremony was officiated by pastor Brandon Ives. The reception followed at Dover Foxcroft Farm. Matrons of honor were Michelle Palumbo and Jeannie Reese, best friends of the bride. The best men were Brian Burkholder, son of the groom, and Bob Burkholder, father of the groom. Debbie was escorted by her brother, Marc Weisser. The flower girl was Samantha Hawley, daughter of the bride, and the ring bearer was Parker Snoddy, nephew of the groom.

A brief honeymoon was taken in the Florida Keys.

### Carroll-Dixon



#### Stephanie Carroll and Brant Dixon

Miss Stephanie Carroll, daughter of John Carroll of Atlanta, Georgia, and Denise Ferrari of Ashburn, Virginia, is engaged to be married to Brant Dixon. He is the son of Susan Dixon of Charlottesville and the late Kenneth Dixon.

The bride-to-be graduated from Turner Ashby High School and Bridgewater College. She is employed by Drs. Record and Record Optometrists in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The future groom graduated from Albemarle High School and Methodist University. He is employed by JW Sieg Wines in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The wedding is planned for June 22, 2013, at Trump Winery in Charlottesville, Virginia.



# Weddings

## Barton-Fisher



### Mr. and Mrs. Cody Barton

Hannah Marie Fisher and Michael Cody Barton were united in marriage on Saturday, May 19, 2012, in the Vesper Garden at CrossRoads Camp and Conference Center in Lowesville, Virginia. The Reverend Lance King officiated the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Fisher of Earlysville, Virginia. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Jewel Huff and the late Mr. Everette Huff of Earlysville, Dr. Mary Alice Fisher of Charlottesville, Virginia, and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Fisher, also of Charlottesville.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Chris Barton of Thornton, Colorado. He is the grandson of Mr. Jerry M. Barton and the late Mrs. Barbara S. Barton of Crain, Texas; and the late Mr. and Mrs. James T. Hyatt of Brighton, Colorado.

The bride and groom met while she was attending the University of Colorado in Boulder and while he was attending the International School of Culinary Arts at the Art Institute of Colorado.

The bride was escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents. She wore a ruffled, strapless silk finished ivory taffeta gown with asymmetrical draping and taffeta covered buttons, and a bustled semi-cathedral train. The bride's bouquet was a beautiful stemmed arrangement bound with twine of white ranunculus, green and white parrot tulips, green hydrangeas, white anemone, and English ivy from the family garden, which originated from the bride's mother's bridal bouquet 30 years ago.

Miss Jenny Lavrenchik of Hagerstown, Maryland, best friend of the bride, was maid of honor. The bridal attendants were Mrs. Rebekah Keathley of Bealeton, Virginia, sister of the bride; and Miss Brittany Barton, of Thornton, Colorado, sister of the groom. The bridesmaids' dresses were teal in color and they carried a colorful stemmed bouquet of blue delphinium, green and white parrot tulips, green hydrangea, and white ranunculus.

Miss Sadie Keathley, the bride's niece, served as the flower girl and carried a green and white pin-wheel.

Mr. Matt Benson of Minot, North Dakota, friend of the groom, was best man. Groomsmen were Mr. Chris Johnson, of Fort Collins, Colorado, friend of the groom; and Mr. Brian Patterson, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, friend of the groom.

Ushers were Mr. Ben Bartlett, of Crain, Texas, cousin of the groom; and Mr. Brett Fitzgerald of Charlottesville, Virginia, cousin of the bride.

Master Owen Keathley, nephew of the bride, was the ring bearer and carried a Bible that belonged to the bride's late grandfather, Mr. Everette M. Huff.

Guest book and program attendant was Garrett Tomaine, a cousin of the bride.

Readers during the ceremony were Chris Johnson, friend of the groom; and Dan Keathley, brother-in-law of the bride. The wedding director was Laura Tomaine, aunt of the bride. The music iPodist was Trey Tomaine, uncle of the bride.

The celebration continued following the ceremony at a reception and dance held in Hunt Hall on the Camp property. The wedding cake was beautifully decorated to match the detailed rouching on the bride's wedding dress. Also displayed on the cake table was the cake topper from the 1953 wedding of the bride's maternal grandparents.

A rehearsal dinner, hosted by the groom's parents, was held at The Briar Patch Restaurant in Amherst, Virginia.

The couple honeymooned in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic for a week following the wedding. They are both currently employed by and reside at CrossRoads Camp and Conference Center in Lowesville, Virginia.

## Pryor-Rosson



### Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Pryor IV

With their feet in the sand and waves of the Atlantic Ocean at high tide, Susan Rosson and Edward Pryor were united in marriage on September 15, 2012, in Nags Head, North Carolina. Susan is the daughter of Mrs. Judy Rosson of Stony Point and the late Edwin Rosson. Edward is the son of Mr. E. Marshall Pryor III of Keene and the late Nancy Pryor. Susan and Ed are natives of Albemarle County and graduates of Albemarle High School. An informal gathering to honor the new Mr. and Mrs. Pryor was held at the Rosson beach cottage in Nags Head. They will make their home in Canton, Georgia.

## Mossman-Gessert



### Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Palmer Mossman

Catherine Jane Gessert and Alexander Palmer Mossman were married on July 21, 2012, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Healdsburg, California. The Reverend Dr. P. Richard Owen officiated, with the bride and groom surrounded by family members and friends from many places.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Charles Gessert of Birmingham, Alabama; and the granddaughter of Mrs. Conrad R. Lam of Detroit, Michigan and the late Dr. Conrad R. Lam and of Mr. Robert A. Gessert of Frederick, Maryland, and the late Mrs. Catherine Gwosden of Akron, Ohio.

The groom is the son of Mr. Donald P. Mossman III of Princeton, New Jersey, and of Mrs. Elizabeth Palmer Mossman of Charlottesville, Virginia. He is the grandson of Mrs. George C. Palmer II and the late Mr. George C. Palmer II of Charlottesville, Virginia, and of the late Mr. and Mrs. Donald P. Mossman II of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Kevin Daniel Gessert, brother of the bride, served as man of honor. Bridesmaids were Martina Boty Bill, Preston Zirkle Hendrickson, Natalie Paige Johnson, Sara Frieden Novak, Elizabeth Bosshardt Pittman, Whitney Elizabeth Quinn, Anne Smith Stephenson and Susan McKenzie Williams. Sara Greenleaf Mossman, sister of the groom, served as best woman, and groomsmen were Benjamin Sean Birnbaum, Andrew Eric Draznin, William Jackson Gordon Jr., William Redmond Hereford, Aaron Calman Weiss Lasker, Samuel Bullard Madden, Morgan Charles Ellis Manoff, George Nelson Palmer and William Matthew Palmer, cousins of the groom.

The rehearsal dinner, hosted by the family and maternal grandmother of the groom was held at Arista Vineyard. The reception, dinner and dancing, hosted by the Gessert family, were held in Healdsburg, California, at Barndiva.

Mrs. Mossman is a graduate of Mountain Brook High School and graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia where she was a member of Chi Omega sorority. She received her MBA from the University of California (Berkeley). She is employed with Beacon Capital Partners in San Francisco, California.

Mr. Mossman is a graduate of Rippowam-Cisqua School in Bedford, New York, Woodberry Forest School, Virginia, and Union College, where he was a member of Psi Upsilon Fraternity and the Men's Varsity Lacrosse Team. He is employed with Teucer Winery in Napa, California.

The bride and groom reside in Sausalito, California.

# Event Planning

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# Wedding

## Lazarevich-Layman



### Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lazarevich

Laura Elizabeth Layman and Peter Thomas Lazarevich were united in marriage on Saturday, July 14, 2012, at Christ Episcopal Church, Charlottesville. The Reverend Dr. Libby Gibson performed the ceremony. The bride is the daughter of Steve and Alice Layman of Charlottesville. The groom is the son of Mio and Alyce Lazarevich of Sterling, Virginia.

Presented in marriage by her father, the bride was attended by her sister, Martha Louise Layman, as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Alison Lazarevich Carr, Hali Lacy Hagerich, Megan Rotz Scrafano, and Katie Hickey Walders. Nathaniel Johnson was best man. Groomsmen were Michael Carr, Zachary Snee, Jonathan Sang Ho Park, and Matthew George.

Christina and Lindsey Butchko, cousins of the bride, served as greeters at the wedding. Aina Arnold, Godmother of the bride, and Tom Lazarevich, uncle of the groom, were the readers at the ceremony. A large group of friends of the bride served as choir and were directed by Dr. Patrick Walders, formerly of James Madison University and now Director of Choral Activities, San Diego State University. B. Michael Parrish, friend of the bride, served as organist on the newly renovated E.&G.G. Hook organ.

The bride is a graduate of James Madison University. Laura is the choral director at Patriot High School, located in Prince William County. The groom is a graduate of Virginia Tech. Pete is employed by William H. Gordon Associates as a civil engineer. The couple currently resides in Chantilly, Virginia.

## Masons Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



### Mr. and Mrs. Denis Mason

Denis and Vera Mason (Felstead) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 6, 2012. The couple was married on October 6, 1962, in London, England. They have been residents of Charlottesville for 47 years and are both retired. The couple have four children and four grandchildren.

Your loving children, Peter Charles, Nigel and Sharon, Lorraine, and Janette, along with countless other family and friends celebrate their wonderful and memorial day with you. We wish you many more enjoyable years together.

*"A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person."*  
—Germaine Greer

# Anniversaries

## Lippers Celebrate 30th Anniversary



### Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Lipper

Dr. Maurice and Beth Lipper celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on October 1, 2012.

The former Beth Gochberg and Maurice Lipper were married in Richmond, Virginia, and have resided in Charlottesville, Virginia, for 25 years.

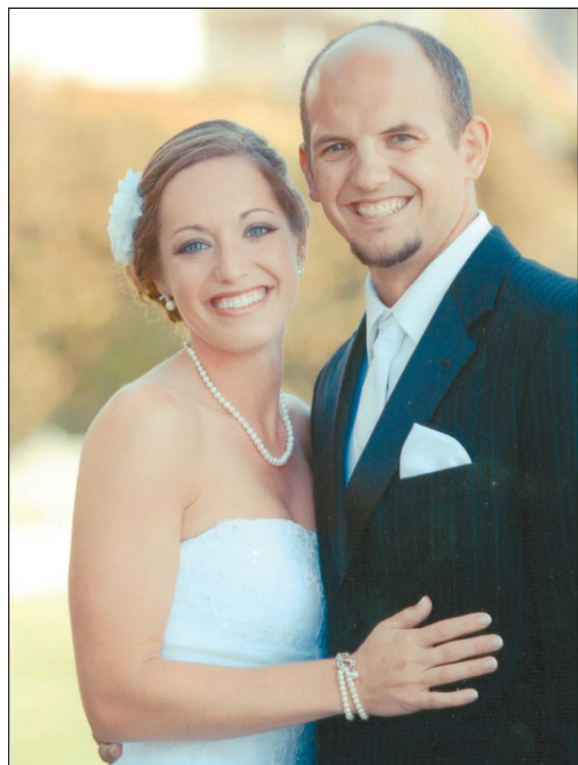
He is employed by the University of Virginia Department of Radiology and she is employed by Greene County Public Schools.

They have five children and eleven grandchildren

## Did You Know?

- \$22,000 is the average amount spent on a traditional American wedding
- A total of \$72 billion is spent on weddings annually in the U.S.
- \$19 billion is spent buying presents at wedding gift registries
- The average amount spent on a bridal gown is \$800
- David's Bridal accounts for 20% of all bridal-gown sales, and that percentage is increasing
- The average ring costs \$2,000

## Shadis-Varon



### Mr. and Mrs. Adam Shadis

On August 11, 2012, in a beautiful beach ceremony in Santa Barbara, California, Adam Joseph Shadis and Mary Bridget Varon were united in marriage.

The bridal party consisted of Rebecca Rodmyre, the bride's sister and matron of honor; Heidi Probach, the bride's best friend and maid of honor; Andre Moody, the groom's brother and best man; and Chris Ruffin, the groom's best friend and co-best man. Mason Rodmyre, the bride's nephew, was the ring bearer.

The reception was held at the Hyatt and was hosted by the bride's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Lyons (Clare). The rehearsal dinner was held at Casa Las Palmas and was hosted by the groom's mother, Ms. Michelle Jenkins.

The groom is a graduate of The Covenant School and Christopher Newport University. The bride is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University. The couple met when they both attended Cat Tales in Spokane, Washington, where they earned their zoo keeping certifications. Most recently, the groom was employed by Shambala Preserve in Acton, California, as an exotic feline caretaker. The bride was most recently employed at Delta Animal Rescue in Acton, California, as a veterinarian technician.

In lieu of a honeymoon, the couple will be travelling to Capetown, South Africa, for three months while volunteering in wildlife conservation programs. During that time, they will consider their next adventure...

## Themes

Continued from Page W1

Vegas strip. In addition, an Elvis impersonator is essential to a Vegas wedding.

- TV show: Some couples elevate certain television shows to cult status. Whether it's "Friends" or "Star Trek," popular television shows have been transformed into festive wedding themes. Whether the idea is to go daring and exchange vows in costume or simply name reception tables according to characters or show locations, couples can include a little television fun into the event.

- Fairytale: Many men and women envision a fairytale wedding complete with horse-drawn carriage and the "happily ever after." This is what makes Disney properties as well as the various castles around the world popular backdrops for wedding events. Those planning a fairytale wedding need only look to favorite stories or movies for their inspiration.

- Interest or passion: Love to climb mountains? Avid about scuba diving? Couples who share a particular interest can include elements of this sport or hobby into their wedding. Invitations and decor can hint at the theme, and then special activities can further enhance it. Fish bowls as centerpieces may call to mind underwater adventures, while surfboard-shaped invites may set the scene for a beachside party.

Theme weddings can add an extra spice to the festivities and incorporate couples' interests into the event — making it even more special.



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