

OUR WEDDING *album*

WE LOVE WEDDING PHOTOS – AND LUCKY FOR US, HERE AT WELLWED MAGAZINE WE GET TO SEE LOTS OF THEM. SENT TO US BY PHOTOGRAPHERS, BRIDES AND GROOMS, FRIENDS AND FAMILIES, THESE POSED SHOTS AND CANDID SNAPS DOCUMENT MEMORABLE MOMENTS FROM ANOTHER WEDDING SEASON GONE BY.

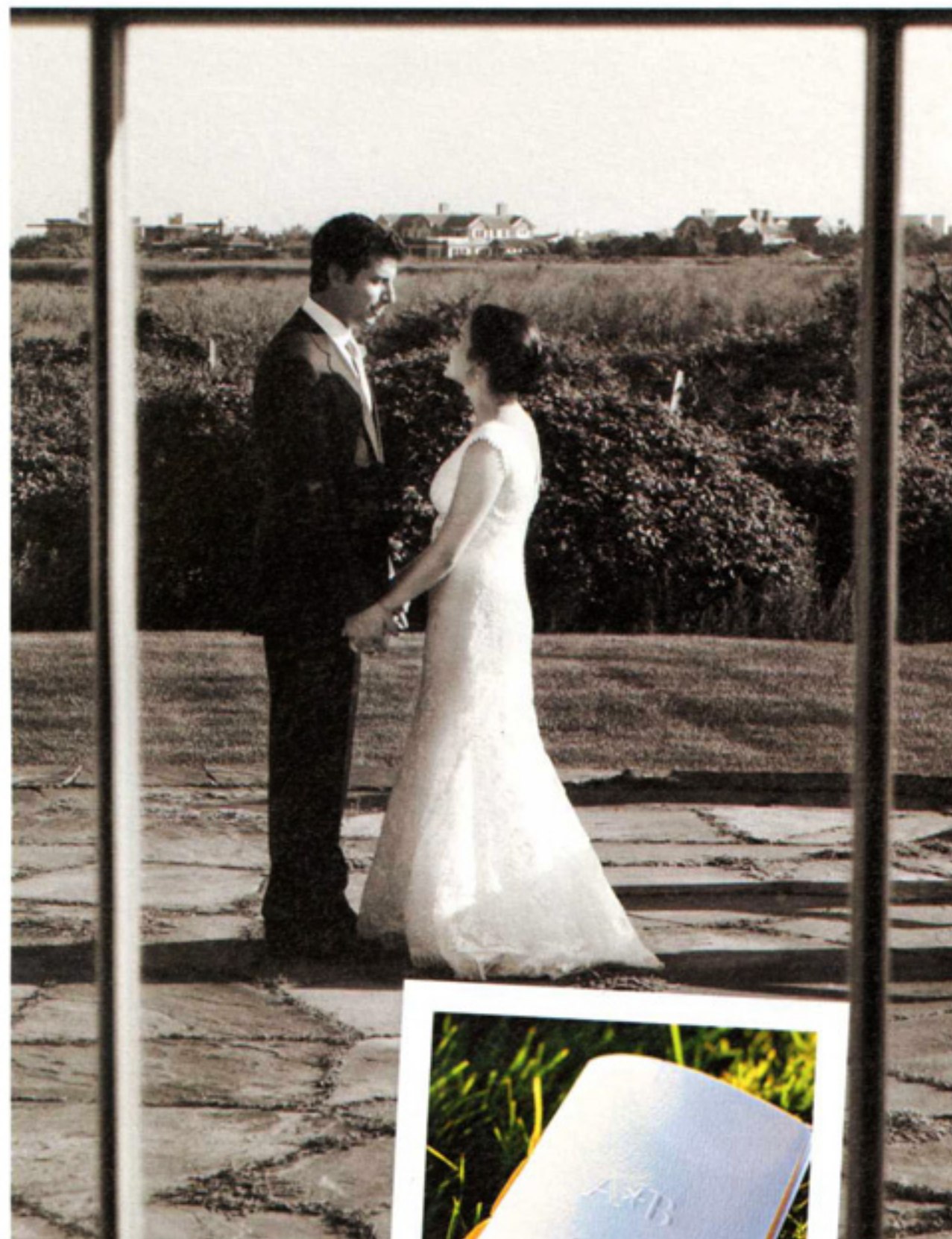
* EDITORS NOTE: *in this space, i like to share some of my favorites with you, our readers. among these photos from last spring and summer's weddings are ones that tell a great story, capture a wonderful mood, or just make us laugh. i hope you'll enjoy them as much as i do, and, who knows, maybe in the next issue will see your photos here!*





SAGAPONACK, NEW YORK

{LOGO DESIGN ABOVE} BETSYWHITE {PHOTOGRAPHY} CHRISTIAN OTTI {RECEPTION SITE} PRIVATE RESIDENCE



INSTEAD OF A FORMAL WEDDING CAKE, THE COUPLE TREATED THEIR GUESTS TO MINIATURE CUPCAKES AND AN ICE CREAM SUNDAE BAR.

The Hamptons have always been a special place for Amanda Hurst and Bret Hirsh.

They had their first proper introduction there, during the summer of 2002. Amanda and Bret were both preparing for their junior year of studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and though they'd met casually while at school, it wasn't until a mutual friend invited Amanda to join him for cocktails on Bret's father's boat, moored in Sag Harbor, that Amanda and Bret had a chance to get to know each other. Bret asked for Amanda's phone number, and after a few conversations, dinner, and a movie, they had become a couple.

The Hamptons is also the spot Bret chose for his proposal. On a rainy, chilly Friday afternoon, Amanda drove from New York City to her parents' house to spend the weekend with Bret, who'd told her he would meet her at the beach after a meeting. He was waiting for her and led her to the library, which he told her had just been redecorated. When he opened the door, the room was full of white flowers and glowing candles, a romantic retreat against the cold rain beating on the windows. Bret asked Amanda to marry him, and Amanda, beaming, said yes. He'd hired a chef to cook dinner for them in the library, but Amanda was too excited to eat.

With their romantic history there, it only made sense that Amanda and Bret would celebrate their wedding in the Hamptons. It was not only a sentimental choice but also proved to be the perfect location in other ways, too. Amanda and Bret didn't want a city wedding, but they also didn't want their friends and family to have to travel a long way and spend a lot of money to attend the ceremony. The Hamptons provided the perfect compromise — and a gorgeous location. "It was so special for us to get married in the place where we started our relationship, had our first kiss, and became engaged," Amanda says.

Amanda and Bret wanted to incorporate family traditions into their ceremony, so they used a Kiddush cup that had been a gift from Bret's great-great-grandparents to his great-grandparents on their anniversary. Amanda used her great-great-grandmother's wedding ring for the ceremony, a custom in her family. Instead of having a traditional wedding party, Amanda invited ten of her best friends to help her get dressed, and the women nibbled on snacks and shared happy stories as they helped Amanda prepare. Their parents joined the fun by collaborating on a poem about the couple that they presented together at the reception dinner.







Amanda and Bret were also willing to throw tradition aside when it did not suit their personalities.

Instead of a formal wedding cake, the couple treated their guests to miniature cupcakes and an ice cream sundae bar with creative fixings. ("Nobody missed the cake," Amanda says.) Amanda also fell in love with a particular band but couldn't track down the friend of a friend who'd used them. Despite her nervousness of working with an unknown, Amanda went with her instincts, and the band was a big hit. Her risk paid off, and she received kudos from her friends for the discovery.

Though Amanda and Bret had a large wedding, the fact that they had it at home made the celebration feel warm and intimate. And their wedding made a spot that was already special to Amanda and Bret take on even more meaning. "It's wonderful to have a place that means so much to us, and now, after our wedding, it means even more to us," Amanda says.

featured WEDDING PROFESSIONALS

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTIAN OTH STUDIO
CHRISTIANOTHSTUDIO.COM

{OTHER PROFESSIONALS}

CAKE: JENNY WREN PATISSERIE

CALLIGRAPHY: GAIL BRILL

CATERING: CALLAHAN CATERING

COORDINATION: DAVID REINHARD EVENTS

ENTERTAINMENT: TOTAL ENTERTAINMENT

EVENT RENTALS: CLASSIC PARTY RENTALS

FLORAL DESIGN: STONEKELLY

INVITATIONS: STATIONER'S ENGRAVING

LOGO DESIGN: (ON PAGE 49) BETSYWHITE
BETSYWHITE.COM

AMANDA & BRET'S ADVICE

No. **1** consider having your reception at home if it is a possibility it makes for a more intimate, fun reception.

No. **2** don't worry about abiding by old-fashioned wedding traditions. It's your wedding, and every aspect of the day should reflect the bride and groom's personalities.