GREEK AMERICAN

Weddings

MARCH 7, 2015

The National Herald
www.thenationalherald.com
By Margarita Kallas-Smithe

The Greek American Wedding: A Candid Reflection

If you’re Greek, chances are you’ve attended more than a few Greek American weddings. You usually consist of a heavily decorated restaurant that is followed by a massive dinner reception, dancing, and drinking. A seemingly never-ending process that leaves you with a good sweet tooth. You know which one I’m talking about – the one where you must try to find a mix of both perfect pastry drop cookies (those square-shaped assorted mini cakes and brownies) and quality homemade stuff you take home with you for your morning coffee (diples, baklava, melomakarona, kourabiedes, and kommatia).

Greeks are accustomed to their Greek-American wedding experiences. It’s because they have truly seen something that is unique about a Greek wedding. Of course, it all depends on who is planning the event and how many people are in attendance. Greeks are astonished by their American, Mexican and any other international cuisines. Only babies go to bed hungry, and you don’t even have to ask them to sit on the floor and wait for their first taste of a Greek-American wedding. Again, especially if you’re Greek, chances are you’ve attended more than a few Greek American weddings.

Think about it the next time you’re at a Greek-American wedding. Greek-American weddings are definitely an accomplishment in the Greek-American community. The event can be an outstanding experience for the bride and groom, their families, and their guests. If you’re Greek, chances are you’ve attended more than a few Greek American weddings.
around the dance floor. The only toward the end of the night. The tables and chase other kids exhausted on two combined chairs will be the ones trying to trip (thankfully) falling asleep ex-

thing they will stand still for (for
ding.) The bridal party enters

and the ones eventually (and

y while you dance in circles,

ng down, and they will crawl under

the dance floor is open. People

When the DJ announces

American pop music with a mix of 80s and Michael Jackson,
tunes, but some of us live for

ting (in the shape of swans) that

to wood to carpet

and it's finally time to go home.

the scene. Their dancing time

Greek music resumes, and this

of white Styrofoam boxes.

For those white Styrofoam boxes.

the line from wood to carpet

an ankle when you cross

money-sweeping brooms come

stomach is starting to feel a little

And in case by that time your

second, but you don't want to be

simply must satisfy your sweet

Zeibekiko has just started and

believe the take-home boubounieres filled

take-home boubounieres filled

that serious tsamiko. After a

that's why you try to jam as

That's why you try to jam as

the one seen carrying the lean-

way out. Besides, you have to

tooth, but you don't want to be

swept away. That's why you

sweet table line can be

sweet table line can be

winning bride emerges to save the
day after the wedding, and

maybe for a couple days after

the day after the wedding, and

that's why you try to jam as

the dance floor is open. People

reems in from all sides and the

jump to them in the next level. The

The Greek-American wed-

After a

management of all aspects of the Real Estate Transaction

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sety, and the bagged

several proksenio attempts, the one will join hands, try not to

simply must satisfy your sweet

Greek-American weddings make

American pop music with a mix

to examine what everyone else is wearing,

sweet table line is offic-

dessert. We all know

the Miss Universe Pageant, sud-

The bridal party enters

The Greek-American wed-

At some point, the dance floor

get to examine what everyone else is wearing,

thing they will stand still for (for

different movements. Someone is

bouquet and there's a "friendly"

wine, and people are

people are already looking left and right

f you don't want to be

simply must satisfy your sweet

A great Greek-American wed-

the sweet table line can be

The bride and groom make

The wedding cake slices.

But the party is not over yet.

By the time you cross the line from wood to carpet

Are you looking for a change of scenery? Why not consider our

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The Greek-American wedding can take place in the main room, or in one of the smaller private rooms. The location depends on the couple's preference and the size of the wedding. Traditionally, the bride and groom enter the wedding ceremony accompanied by the bridal party, which includes their parents and other important family members. The wedding ceremony is performed by a Greek Orthodox priest, who conducts the ceremony in Greek, which is the language of the Greek wedding. The ceremony includes various rituals and traditions, such as the exchange of gifts, the breaking of the wedding bread, and the crowning of the bride and groom. At the end of the ceremony, guests are often treated to a traditional Greek meal, which may include dishes such as moussaka, pastitsio, and baklava. The wedding reception is a festive occasion, and guests are often entertained by traditional Greek music and dance, as well as by speeches and toasts given by the bride and groom and their families. Overall, a Greek-American wedding is a vibrant and colorful celebration of love, family, and culture.
Wedding Food Trends

By Anna Skamangas-Suard

When I was young and had the chance to attend wedding receptions in the mid-20th century, I was in awe. I couldn’t wait to see the bride’s gown, the color of the bridesmaids’ dresses, the flowers in the bouquet, and the hors d’oeuvres—the reception! The reception was a covered dish dinner served at the rehearsal dinner extremely lavish. On the other hand, I remember attending a wedding in the deep south as a teenager where Chick H.A. was served on the rehersal dinner as a main dish.

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**Hand-Cut Rosemary Garlic Fries**

Serves 4

Ingredients:

- 2 large russet potatoes, skins on, washed, cut into 1 inch wide strips
- 2 sprigs of fresh rosemary (optional)

Directions:

1. Fry patties in hot oil until brown on both sides. Serve two falafels per pita with sides of your choice.

**Guacamole with Toasted Pita Chips**

Serves 6-8

Ingredients:

- 2 ripe avocados
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh dill
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 cup chopped cherry tomatoes
- 2 pita breads cut in half
- Patients of Fresh Seed oil

Directions:

1. Cook the pancakes on 1 side until small bubbles rise to the top. Lightly press the bottom into the pan. Flip the pancake when the bottom side is golden. Place on a plate and repeat until done.

**Pancakes**

Serves 6

Ingredients:

- 3 eggs
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons baking powder
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 2 tablespoons evaporated sugar cane syrup
- 1/2 stick butter, melted

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Place plastic wrap on the surface of the guacamole cover it and to prevent air reaching it.

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Buffalo Meatloaf

Ingredients:
- 1 pound ground pork
- 1 pound ground beef
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice (from about 12 lemons)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients except for the ketchup. Mix together thoroughly. Form into a loaf or place in a bread loaf pan. Place in the oven and bake for 45 minutes or until the meat thermometer registers 165 degrees F. Remove the meat thermometer before serving.

Rustic Recipies

Classic Lemonade

Ingredients:
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 lemons
- Ice

Directions:
In a large pitcher, combine sugar and lemons. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Add ice and stir. This is best served over long drink stemware.

The Fake Cake

Ingredients:
- 6-8 New England-style hot dog rolls
- 2 - 3 tablespoons of softened butter
- 1 medium stalk of celery, finely diced
- 6-8 New Zealand-style hot dog rolls
- Lemon wedges, pickles and lemon or orange twist, for garnish

Directions:
Preheat a skillet. Spread the softened butter on both sides of the hot dog rolls. Place in the skillet and toast for 2 - 3 minutes until light golden brown and crispy. Drain fries on a towel to remove the moisture before frying.

Directions:
Bring the oil temperature up to 350 degrees. Add the par boiled potatoes in small batches, cooking for another 5-7 minutes, or until they are cooked and golden brown and crispy. Drain in a bowl until thoroughly combined. Form into a loaf or place in a baking dish and set aside.

Directions:
Preheat a skillet. Spread the softened butter on both sides of the hot dog rolls. Place in the skillet and toast for 2 - 3 minutes until light golden brown and crispy.
**The Most Romantic Wedding Movies of All Time**

If you are Greek-American and you’ve never seen the film *My Big, Fat Greek Wedding*, you’ve probably been missing out. It doesn’t mean most romantic movies, period; they International Movie Database (IMDb) ranks it #4 in its most romantic wedding movies of all time. Before we reveal which other films made the list, let us remind you that keeping in mind the category name “Most Romantic Wedding Movies” doesn’t mean most romantic movies, period; they must involve a wedding. It also doesn’t necessarily mean best movies of all time, just most romantic. Nevertheless, there is no question that the following movies are definitely in the top tier of all three categories.

Here they are, in reverse order, (IMDb’s top 20)

1. **#20: The Wedding Date** (2005)
   - The film starts Delta Mining as a woman headed back to London for her wedding anniversary. When she arrives, she has an ex who proposed to her, in her new boy­friend (played by Dermot Mulroney).

   - Reese Witherspoon as a woman who moved to New York and found a great boyfriend. But when the baby on the way, an impromptu and you’ve never seen the film 

3. **#18: Anything Goes** (1936)
   - A film starring Anne Hathaway and a school­teacher who likes her best friend, a lawyer (Keanu Reeves) has planned her wedding at the Plaza Hotel. But a catering snafu has both weddings on the same day, and the BFF becomes an operative Douglas’ dangerous task. The children of Albert Brooks are traveling from all over the world, job follows him to the wedding.

4. **#17: Bride Wars** (2009)
   - A film starring Anne Hathaway on Princeton Pl, who just turned 21 and is to be­come Queen of Grenada, except for one little problem, she can’t be queen unless she finds herself a husband.

5. **#16: The Wedding Rink** (1997)
   - Matthew Perry stars as a New Yorker who falls in love and encounters Salma Hayek. One night of passion leads to a baby on the way, an impromp­tu wedding, and a series of events.

   - In this *Murphy’s Law* de­termined to find her soul mate, and according to a Chez board, she loses her name. Now, all she has to do is find him.

7. **#14: Meet the Parents** (2000)
   - A film starring Ryan Reynolds, who is a nervous groom-to-be. But it’s not mar­riageable (there, it’s hearing itself). 26

8. **#13: Four Weddings and a Funeral** (1994)
   - A woman suggests, Hugh Grant and his friends attend a series of social events: four wed­dings and a funeral – and along the way, numerous mistakes.

   - The children of Albert Brooks married, but she doesn’t want to be a “maid” of honor. He agrees, but only because he wants to stop the wedding and win her heart.

   - A film starring Anne Hathaway on Princeton Pl, who just turned 21 and is to be­come Queen of Grenada, except for one little problem, she can’t be queen unless she finds herself a husband.

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13. **#8: The In-Law s (2003 –
   - The film starts Delta Mining as a woman headed back to London for her wedding anniversary. When she arrives, she has an ex who proposed to her, in her new boy­friend (played by Dermot Mulroney).

14. **#7: Monsoon Wedding** (2001)
   - A film starring Anne Hathaway on Princeton Pl, who just turned 21 and is to be­come Queen of Grenada, except for one little problem, she can’t be queen unless she finds herself a husband.

15. **#6: Honeymoon in Vegas** (1992)
   - A film starring Anne Hathaway on Princeton Pl, who just turned 21 and is to be­come Queen of Grenada, except for one little problem, she can’t be queen unless she finds herself a husband.

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17. **#4: Mandy Moore swears to marry his in his family church and his groom-to-be is John Krasinski. A wedding that does this.

18. **#3: Royal Engagement** (2001)
   - A film starring Anne Hathaway on Princeton Pl, who just turned 21 and is to be­come Queen of Grenada, except for one little problem, she can’t be queen unless she finds herself a husband.

19. **#2: Bridal Wars** (2009)
   - A film starring Anne Hathaway on Princeton Pl, who just turned 21 and is to be­come Queen of Grenada, except for one little problem, she can’t be queen unless she finds herself a husband.

20. **#1: My Big, Fat Greek Wedding** (2002)
   - A film starring Anne Hathaway on Princeton Pl, who just turned 21 and is to be­come Queen of Grenada, except for one little problem, she can’t be queen unless she finds herself a husband.

**Wedding Songs Jukebox**

In case you haven’t figured out, you haven’t seen them all, keep this list handy, and turn to it next time it’s movie night. And now, this article’s first paragraph. And now, this list handy, and turn to it next time it’s movie night.

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**Unforgettable (Nat King Cole)**

**You Send Me (Sam Cooke)**

**I Will (Beatles)**

**If (Bread)**

**At Last (Etta James)**

**Wonderful Tonight (Eric Clapton)**

**I Can’t Help Falling In Love (Elvis Presley)**

**How Beautiful Our Bride Is.”**
By Anthe Mitrakos

Greeks love a traditional wedding. Family, friends, music, dance, food, wine and sweets come together in celebration of a Greek Orthodox marriage. And what are some basic customs that make a Greek wedding so special? Here are a few:

1. The Stefana: These are wedding crowns the priest places on the heads of the bride and groom while chanting a verse from Psalm 8. An ancient tradition, the stefana represent victory and symbolize a reward for faithfulness to God. During a wedding ceremony, they are exchanged between the bride and groom's head three times, representing the personal sacrifices each will have to make for the sake of peace and happiness in a life together as a couple.

2. The Martyrika: These are witness pins distributed after wedding (and baptism) ceremonies to all guests in attendance at church. Martyrika are small lapel ribbons usually decorated with a cross and sometimes personalized with the couple’s names and wedding date.

3. The Bride’s Shoes: Before the bride takes her walk down the aisle at church, it is customary for her closest unmarried friends and family members to jot their names down on the sole of her shoe! At the end of the night (after much dancing around), the bride reveals the names that have worn off and those that remain. Depending on what the girls have decided on beforehand, either the first name to wear off or the last remaining will indicate the lucky girl who will get married next.

4. The Koufeta: No Greek wedding is complete without these hard sugar coated almonds! Koufeta are placed on the wedding tray along with the wedding stefana. The sweetness of the koufeta is meant to symbolize the sweetness of a life together. After the wedding ceremony, the koufeta are served in odd numbers to those in attendance in a boubouniera. The odd number mix represents the indivisibility of the bride and groom as a couple. After the wedding, it’s a longstanding tradition for single women to place a koufeto underneath their pillow when they sleep. It is said that that night, they will see the man they are destined to marry in their dreams!

5. The Lambades: These are candles, symbolizing the light of Christ, used during the wedding ceremony. Two large lambades are placed by the altar table, while two smaller ones are carried by the newlyweds toward the end of their wedding ceremony when the priest leads the couple around the table three times. This circle is meant to represent eternal marriage.

6. The Boutsounes: These are favors (also offered at baptisms, bridal showers, and engagements). The boutousouna is a tradition with both Greek and Italian roots that’s meant to serve as a gift to visitors who are invited to the wedding. In most cases, the typical boutousouna usually consist of five or seven individually wrapped koufeta attached to some sort of trinket or keepsake.

7. The Stefanothiki: This is a box that wedding stefana are placed in for safe keeping after the wedding ceremony. The box usually also contains an icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Many couples traditionally display their stefana and stefanothiki in their bedrooms or at the entrance of their homes.

Greek Wedding Basics

The National Herald, March 7, 2015

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3. The Bride’s Shoes: Before the bride takes her walk down the aisle at church, it is customary for her closest unmarried friends and family members to jot their names down on the sole of her shoe! At the end of the night (after much dancing around), the bride reveals the names that have worn off and those that remain. Depending on what the girls have decided on beforehand, either the first name to wear off or the last remaining will indicate the lucky girl who will get married next.

4. The Koufeta: No Greek wedding is complete without these hard sugar coated almonds! Koufeta are placed on the wedding tray along with the wedding stefana. The sweetness of the koufeta is meant to symbolize the sweetness of a life together. After the wedding ceremony, the koufeta are served in odd numbers to those in attendance in a boubouniera. The odd number mix represents the indivisibility of the bride and groom as a couple. After the wedding, it’s a longstanding tradition for single women to place a koufeto underneath their pillow when they sleep. It is said that that night, they will see the man they are destined to marry in their dreams!

5. The Lambades: These are candles, symbolizing the light of Christ, used during the wedding ceremony. Two large lambades are placed by the altar table, while two smaller ones are carried by the newlyweds toward the end of their wedding ceremony when the priest leads the couple around the table three times. This circle is meant to represent eternal marriage.

6. The Boutsounes: These are favors (also offered at baptisms, bridal showers, and engagements). The boutousouna is a tradition with both Greek and Italian roots that’s meant to serve as a gift to visitors who are invited to the wedding. In most cases, the typical boutousouna usually consist of five or seven individually wrapped koufeta attached to some sort of trinket or keepsake.

7. The Stefanothiki: This is a box that wedding stefana are placed in for safe keeping after the wedding ceremony. The box usually also contains an icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Many couples traditionally display their stefana and stefanothiki in their bedrooms or at the entrance of their homes.
The Choir steps after each story:

Glory to You, O our God,

F. That we may be found labor of your hand,

M. Glory to You, O our God,

F. That is why, after the story, let us pray to the Lord.

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Christ, so let his wives be also subject, in everything, to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So doffs should husbands love their own wives. 

I wished to mention that my son has ever been His Zion, but my master is Christ, as Jesus does the church, because we are members of his body. You must know that I shall not leave her, and my master and she shall be parted to be in the sea, and the sea shall be parted to be in the land. I shall not leave to mock Christ and the church, because each one of you loves his souls as himself, and he who loves not so does not respect his master.

Priest: Peace be to you who hear. And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now do the same to the surrounding area."

He who loves his wife loves himself. To his own self For no man ever hates his own soul. As we forgive those who trespass against us, so shall our Father forgive us, if we forgive others. And account us worthy, O Lord, of the Kingdom of Heaven. For Yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Priest: Peace be to all. Choir: Amen.}

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A Frank Conversation about Interfaith Marriage

The response, by Fr. Charles Joannides, begins: “From an Orthodox perspective, marriage is a spiritual act, as well as a legal one. It is also a transformational act, as it changes the nature of the two partners. For these reasons, in the Orthodox Church, the couple’s religious and spiritual journey is of utmost importance. For these reasons, for centuries Orthodox Canon Law has regulated interfaith marriage.

How many know what makes a marriage Orthodox? It is not a wedding ceremony, but a spiritual act. How many Orthodox couples know that their union is a spiritual act? How many Orthodox couples know that their union is a transformational act? How many Orthodox couples know that marriage serves to: 1) sanctify the couple and their union, 2) establish a new family unit, and 3) fulfill the couple’s religious and spiritual journey.

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Wedding Costs: Stick to Your Guns, but No Hard Feelings

By Constantinos E. Scaros

Continued from page 5

Bridal Package

$399

Includes:
- 1 Bride’s Bouquet
- 3 Bridesmaid's Bouquets
- 2 Corsages
- 5 Boutonnieres

We Can Customize Your Floral or Silk Arrangement

*Other Packages Available For Budget-Friendly Budget

We make your wedding festive and unique with our floral and silk arrangements. Choose from a variety of styles and colors to match the theme of your big day. Whether you prefer a traditional bouquet or a statement piece, we have the perfect arrangement to enhance your special occasion. Contact us today to learn more about our customized designs and how we can help you make your wedding day truly unforgettable. 

Ceremony Package

$299

Includes:
- 2 Alter Arrangements On Stands
- 8 Pew Bouquets, Flowers & Bow

Reception Package

$399

Includes:
- 10 Table Centerpieces

When planning your “big, once-in-a-lifetime, absolutely want this” for any part of your wedding. Instead, re- place it with the almost-in-the- impossible “I really want this,” because at least, there is room for that. If you absolutely need a live band? They’re more expensive than a DJ who, in turn, is more expensive than some good quality prerecorded music. You can have this with all these expenses, but you can’t have more. The answer is to get rid of again more enough—you won’t mind it for one afternoon. We could go on and on with examples, but the point is—the more flexible you are, you are less likely to be disadvantage, unfair, or over the top. In all cases, if you do happen to get the best deal, we’ve not to mention for Plan B.

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ABOUT THE HANOVER MANOR
For over 35 years, the Hanover Manor has been providing catering services for celebrations of all kinds. The Hanover Manor has experience coordinating events ranging from weddings to private events to corporate conferences.

WEDDING SPECIALIST
Our professional staff is known for creating weddings with unforgettable moments and memories. If you are looking for the perfect wedding venue, look no further. Our experienced and knowledgeable staff will guide you.

CORPORATE EVENTS
If you’re looking to host your corporate event or conference here in New Jersey, you’ve found the perfect place. Our facility can accommodate small and large parties with customized menus of your choice.

PRIVATE EVENT HOSTING
The Hanover Manor is New Jersey’s premier venue for any event ranging from romantic and breathtaking weddings to fun and memorable proms, sweet 16’s and bar/bat mitzvah celebrations.

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE SINCE 1977
Here at the Hanover Manor, we treat every guest like a special friend focusing on service, quality, and professionalism.

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EXPERIENCE the Crest Hollow Difference: Take a look at us now.

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GRAND WINE AND LIQUOR

A perfect celebration deserves the perfect bottle!