

MODERN LUXURY

PREMIERE ISSUE!

# Brides

NORTH SHORE

## WEDDED BLISS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

*A meant-to-be couple ties the knot at a romantic retreat in Lake Geneva.*

By Kristin Larson  
Photography by David Witig Photography

Jane Youwisch and John Tough's love story started off like a Craigslist "Missed Connections" posting, before becoming a couple, the two study met several times throughout their lives, beginning in college. "Duke University isn't a very big school—there's only 6,600 students—so it's surprising that we didn't run into each other there," says Youwisch.

Although they had a few mutual friends, the two remained strangers even after their 2007 graduation. From there, Youwisch, a Wisconsin native, decided to move back to Chicago to begin her marketing career, while Tough, who was born in Toronto and raised in Connecticut, also coincidentally moved to the Windy City to pursue business opportunities.

Their parallel paths finally crossed in March 2009, during an associated Golden Apple Foundation just their first "official" meeting pretty much right away. After a three-year courtship of rock concerts and many sea Lake Geneva, Wis., Tough on her family's boat in Seamus began planning their Wisconsin County.

A year later, the couple kicked off their September wedding weekend with a welcome cruise for 216 guests aboard the historic Lady of the Lake steamboat, where everyone enjoyed beers and bites while taking in the gorgeous views of the Wisconsin waters. The next day, the two wed at Lake Geneva Country Club. Youwisch walked down the rose-banked aisle in a stunning ivory Vera Wang gown, which was the first time that Tough

got to see his fiancée transformed into a bride. "I just felt complete happiness," he says. "She was beautiful."

After the touching ceremony, which included their aunts and nephews as the flower girl and ring bearers, guests continued into the tented cocktail hour and reception. Wedding coordinator Hope Weiss set the scene for a rustic yet romantic fête, complete with hanging crystal chandeliers and long wooden farm tables topped with golden candleabras. John Hensel from EMER Design created custom and black-and-blue floral centerpieces using garden and majestic roses as a strategic substitute for the bride's favorite bloom. "We knew gardens weren't going to be in season, so John did a good job of finding a rose that could give a similar look," says Youwisch.

The music-loving couple wanted to keep their guests dancing between dinner courses, so bandleader Don Cagan played everything from The Beach Boys to Robin Thicke's infectious hit, "Blurred Lines"—twice. "One of John's friends really liked that song, so he took it upon himself to ask the band to play it again for me. I was laughing when one of the band guys came to find me so I wouldn't miss 'my request,'" she says.

The festive evening ended with guests donning special flip-flops and sunglasses, and sipping on find mac-and-cheese bites and a DIY smores bar. For Youwisch and Tough, it was the perfect way to celebrate their love. "We're really grateful to everyone for making it happen—it was a dream come true," says Youwisch.

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### JANE & JOHN

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**NOT HERE:** From top: The couple's dog, Lady, served by her best friend after the ceremony; the gift from the bride, the bride's first wedding ring; the bride's first wedding ring; the bride's first wedding ring.

## Stella Mikhail



**IN GOOD FORM:** Custom from top left: The elegant glass settings featured custom resin by Elizabeth Greco. In the middle, the bride's gown and hair, the bride's gown was from Vera Wang Chicago and her bridesmaids wore Rustin Gurnee by James Lane Braxton. The groom's tuxedo was a beautiful collection of items. The rustic, elegant reception tent featured hanging crystal chandeliers and floral table runners of rising sun.



- THE LIST**
- CELEBRATION: Reception - Lake Geneva Country Club
  - WEDDING PLANNER: Hope Wala Consulting
  - HMR & DECOR: HMR Designs
  - INVITATION SUITE: Elizabeth Greco
  - CAKE: Sweet Food Chicago
  - TENT: Partyline-HDO Productions
  - FLOWERS: Frost Chicago
  - ENTERTAINMENT: Cagan Music
  - VIDEOGRAPHY: I Do Films
  - BRIDAL GOWN: Vera Wang Chicago
  - BRIDESMAID DRESSES: Rustin Gurnee by James Lane Braxton
  - DRESSER: Caroline Sheen, The Wedding Dresser
  - HAIR: Patti Campbell & Beth Ann Wai-Morris
  - STELLA MIKHAIL