

It's About Time

By **David Ertischek**/ Staff Writer

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Love is triumphant. We are finally getting married in Massachusetts!

So reads the greeting page on It's About Time's Web page, a gay wedding planning company run by two local women.

"We both do this full time now," said Bernadette Smith of Roslindale. "I quit my full-time job in June to concentrate on this."

Both Smith and her business partner, Lisette Garcia of Jamaica Plain, are still working at part-time jobs, but their main focus now is on It's About Time.

"It's been great. In the first year, we completed 14 weddings. This year, we have 10 so far," said Garcia.

It's About Time is service that provides their clients with things such as a step-by-step guide to getting a marriage licenses; information for out-of-state couples; and making the arrangements for getting the right cake, candles and/or flowers.

One of the more important aspects that the company provides to same-sex marriages is making sure that all of the vendors working at the party will be comfortable and cool with a same-sex wedding. Smith said they've compiled a list of venues and vendors who said they would not want to participate with a same-sex marriage or vice versa.

The company has its own Web site at www.itsabouttimeweddings.com, but can also be found by typing in gay marriage on Web search engines. The company has also garnered national attention, being featured in the Washington Post and the New York Times.

One thing that surprised the ladies was the amount of out-of-state clients and inquiries they've received.

"Most people know their marriage won't be recognized," said Bernadette, regarding out-of-staters. "It's more of a statement."

"The whole act of being recognized as a married couple is what we find the most interesting with out-of-state couples," added Garcia.

One of the more interesting options they've set up was for a recent wedding which will have more than 30 kids. Because so many children are scheduled to attend, Garcia and Smith arranged for a juggler and other children's entertainment to work at the wedding.

But on May 17, the anniversary of the legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts, Smith and Garcia will be attending a GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocate Defenders) event at the Fairmont Copley

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Hotel.

"We didn't help organize it," said Garcia. "Not yet."

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Check them out at www.itsabouttimeweddings.com.

One year later... it's still about time for marriage planners