MAID OF HONOR SPEECH

FOR

JENNY CHOI

Hello everyone!!! Here we are at Ang and Ashley’s wedding and I can’t imagine being happier or more proud to be here today celebrating this wedding. What a difference three years can make!! Today we’re here honoring two beautiful brides but if we look back even six years, the events that led up to this day are worth noting because they herald true change in our world. Before we look back let’s just say those two happy, beaming, love filled and infectious smiles have been earned and for all of us-family, friends, and colleagues of these two wonderful women, it is really a **privilege** to dance at their wedding.

2009 was quite the year. The world was trying to figure out how to deal with the financial crisis, people were trying to navigate the “new world” of social media, Barak Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States, there was a massive earthquake in Costa Rica…… oh and …. What could have been bigger and more momentous than **ALL of THAT**? Our friend, our sister, our rock… the glue that holds us **ALL** together, Angela, chose to come out to all of us right after she graduated from college. Back then life was different. Leaving school and setting out on one’s own “adult life” is tough enough. To live with the pressure of knowing you need to come out to friends and family is nerve wracking. Back in early/mid 2009 gay marriage was only legal in three states. The times were changing all around us and Angela found the courage to declare who she really was and is. As a testimony to how loving, sweet, kind-hearted and caring she is, everyone embraced her, loved her, and supported her then and we all still do.

In 2011, gay marriage was legal in **six** states. Okay…. that’s progress…. it was also **REAL** progress when Ang met the love of her life, Ashley, that same year. About true love it’s been said, “I knew it was true love because I could be myself around that person. Your true, innermost, authentic self, the stuff you don’t let anyone else see, if you can be that way with that person, I think that’s real love.” I will never forget Ang’s own memorable words on how you know you’ve found the **ONE**. She said we know when we find the right partner when we find joy in the simple things. When you find **MULCHING** enjoyable…. Ladies and gentlemen…. this is what **LOVE** does to the quintessential **CITY** girl… Holiday hostess, birthday wizard, all around event organizer!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

And here we are… some may think we’ve reached the happily ever after…. but in fact It’s the beginning of a fantastic life full of challenges, partnership, situations and solutions. It’s the acknowledgement of one more step on the road to complete marriage equality. … Freedom to marry is now legal in **THIRTY SEVEN STATES** and the Supreme Court will announce their ruling in June. There’s no going back… not on love… not on justice…. not on progress…Thank goodness!!

Ang, you’re the organizer, the party planner, the wrangler, the great hostess and of course **THIS** is your ultimate event, the **ONE** that has really taken your entire life to plan, and I am so thankful to have the privilege of being your maid of honor, so I would like to invite everyone to raise a glass as I propose a toast to you, the former city chick and your wonderful wife:

…. Here’s to love and marriage, health and happiness, truth and justice, for Ang and Ashley. In the spirit of acknowledging the simple life and projects you both cherish, Ang, your greatest **DIY** project has been yourself. You found your essence and revealed your truth and through your honesty and love of yourself and others, you discovered what really matters. You and Ashley are both inspirations to all of us. May the two of you have a long and happy life together and may everyone **finally** be free to be who he or she **really** is. Congratulations! We love you!