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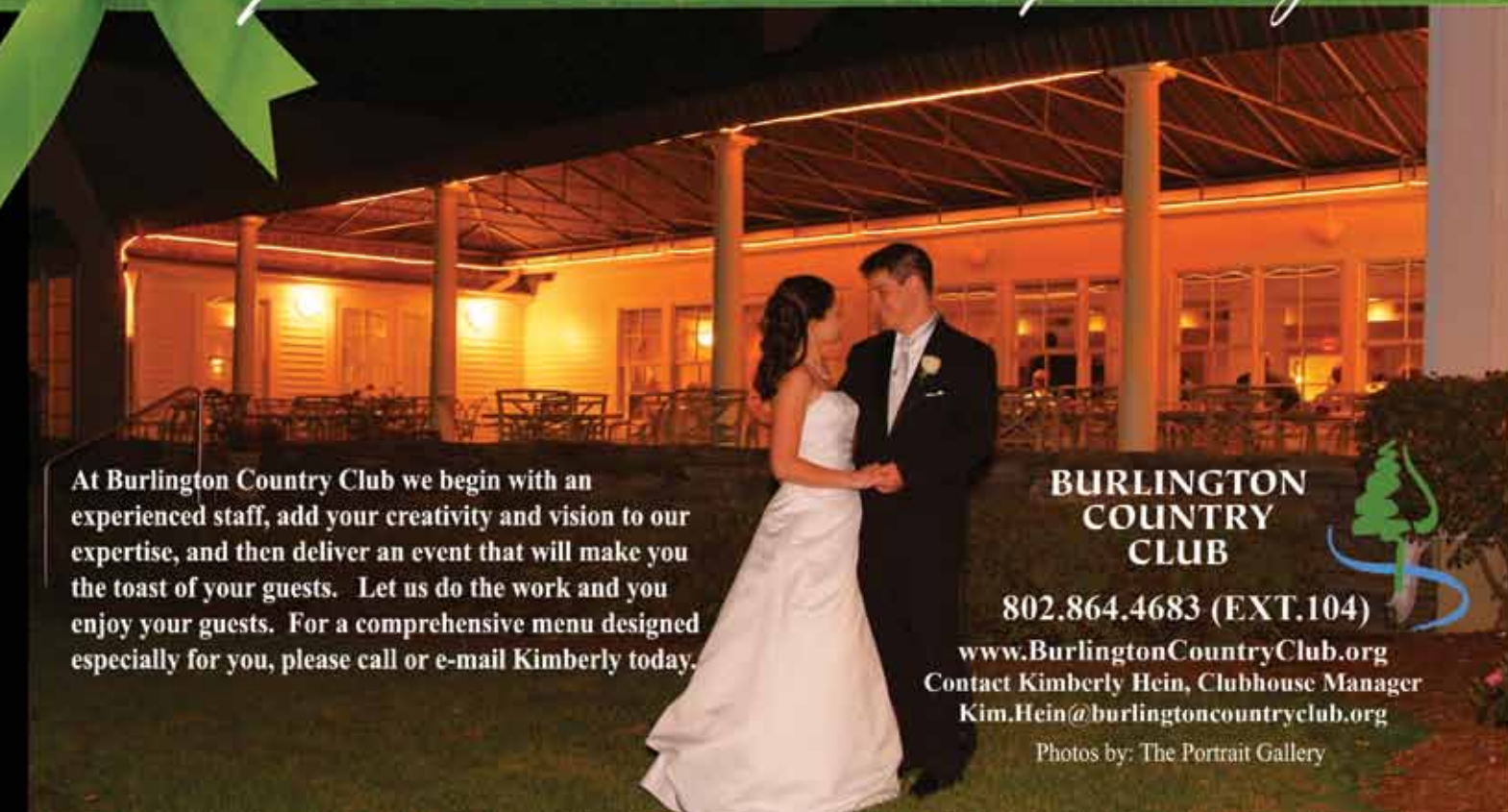
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Spring 2010  
**Vermont  
 Bride**  
 Magazine

**47 DESTINATION  
 WEDDING**  
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 SABRINA (SIKORA)  
 & KEVIN DOMMENGÉ  
*Photography by Justin Cash*



*Photo by RaidenShine Photography*



**28**  
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 SARA (BLOCK) &  
 JUSTIN ZASLOW  
*Photo by Brian Post*

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## Inside Vermont Bride: Staff Notes

Winter has freed its grasp on Vermont as spring brings crocuses and daffodils, the budding of trees and longer spans of daylight. Spring is a time for fresh starts and, of course, weddings! Put the snow shovels in storage, get out the mud boots, take a walk to enjoy the fresh spring air and appreciate the renewal of green to the earth. To help get you in the spirit of green, take a few moments to read Karen Sturtevant's contribution "Eco-Friendly Weddings – Going Green in 2010" on page 74.

What would spring be without love in the air? Be sure to read Love Stories in the brides' own words (in one case, the words of the bride's mother) and take a peek at the responses to the age-old question: **What is Love?** Matt Duffy knows a thing or two about love. He continues to share his thoughts on his new relationship with Lisa in "Matt's P.O.V." on page 36. Amanda Kuhnert, a personal historian, gives suggestions on preserving your wedding story with "First Comes Love." Michael Caldwell takes us inside the challenges of one couple in "Money, Sex, and Power" as we uncover a rekindling that can take place in spring or any season. What complexities are involved when an interfaith couple wishes to be wed by a rabbi? Howard Cohen gives us points to consider in "Interfaith Wedding: How to Find a Rabbi."

You know what they say about the best laid plans. Laurie Boyden shows us the "Best Plans + Imperfection = Perfection!" on page 19. In Spa Corner, Sara Daly advises us on "The Long and Short to Amazing Bridal Hair" and gives information regarding style, trends, pricing, and tips for a positive experience and outcome. As you find your ideal hairstyle you will also have to find your ideal floral style. What's your preference: a hanging cascade of white orchids, a bunch of colorful wildflowers, or an elegant arm bouquet of striking apricot calla lilies? Take our quiz "Your Floral Style" on page 16 to find your just right flowers. If stephanotises are in your bouquet future, read more about these ultimate wedding flowers in a new *Vermont Bride* feature: "Spotlight on Wedding Flowers" on page 47.

Sarah Hart will soon need to find her perfect hairstyle and flowers. She and Eric Karandy will be married this fall and *Vermont Bride* is proud to share their Engagement Announcement. Interested in submitting your Engagement Announcement? Go online at [vermontbridemagazine.com](http://vermontbridemagazine.com). Will Sarah have teenage bridesmaids in her party? Pat Esden gives pointers that every teen bridesmaid and bride should become acquainted with in her article "Hey Teen Bridesmaid," on page 79. We wonder if Sarah and Eric's guest list will be in the dozens or in the hundreds. Carmen Howe shares her thoughts on 'microweddings' and why bigger isn't appropriate for every couple in her contribution "How Not to Offend Friends & Relatives" on page 73.

Looking for merchants that specialize in weddings? Discover why many couples take the scenic drive to **St. Albans, VT** for their wedding needs. This picturesque city welcomes visitors with unique shops, warm hospitality, and an abundance of wedding resources. Pack a picnic and plan a day trip to discover the possibilities in St. Albans on page 59.

Begin thinking of your rehearsal dinner. Will it be formal or casual? Read Chris Francis' ideas in "Relaxed and Casual Rehearsal Dinners" on page 81. As the innkeeper of **Ye Olde England Inne** in Stowe, VT, his insight will be of value to you as inspirations become actuality.

Thinking of possibilities for gifts, favors, and home decorations? Our friends at Danforth Pewter create heirloom-quality pewter in their Middlebury, VT workshop. Classic, beautiful and functional, these artisans make lovely selections of table and guest favors, gifts for everyone including bridesmaids and groomsmen, and accessories to last a lifetime. Treat yourself to a handcrafted picture frame to display your wedding photo for all to see and adore or an engraved wedding cake knife and server set. Read more about **Danforth Pewter** (on page 77) and find out how they can help you to add beauty every day.

**From all the staff, enjoy the spring sunshine, warm air, and this issue of *Vermont Bride*.**



## Vermont Bride

HELPING BRIDES PLAN PERFECT WEDDINGS SINCE 1990

PUBLISHERS:

Vickie Karnes, Steven Karnes



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**ART DIRECTOR:**

E. E. Weems

**SALES/MARKETING:**

Lynn Dreher, Joe Karnes

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:**

Christian Arthur Photography

Larry Asam Photography

Ayer Photography of Vermont

Balentine Photography

Great Impressions

Portrait Studio

Mager Studios

Kim Martin Photography

Olga McVey Photography

Orah Moore Photography

The Portrait Gallery

RaidenShine Photography

Jeff Schneiderman Photography

Stina Plant Photography

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Whipple Photography

Butterfly Studios

Lauren Stagnitti Photography

Justin Cash Photography

Erica Fox

Leslie O'Halloran

Brian Post Photography

Justin Cash Photography

Crystal Young

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:**

Pat Esden

Michael Caldwell

Lauri Boyden

Karen Sturtevant

Teej Weems

Drew Whitney

Sara Daly

Matt Duffy

Christopher Francis

Howard Cohen

Vickie Isham Preseau

Amanda Kuhnert

Sabrina (Sikora) Dommengo

Chelsea (Singley) Kozaczka

Sara (Block) Zaslow

Carmen Howe

**COPY EDITORS:**

Vickie Karnes

Steven Karnes

Teej Weems

Karen Sturtevant

Vermont Bride • P.O. Box 143  
Westford, Vermont 05494

[vtbride@vermontbridemagazine.com](mailto:vtbride@vermontbridemagazine.com)

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*These I Can Promise*  
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I cannot promise you a  
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wealth, or gold;  
I cannot promise you an  
easy pathway  
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change or growing  
old.  
But I can promise all my  
heart's devotion;  
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your tears of sorrow;  
A love that's ever true and  
ever growing;  
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Two souls with but a  
single thought,  
Two hearts that beat as  
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- Franz Joseph von  
Munch-Bellinghausen

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## Entertainment Basics

### The DJ, the Band and Your Wedding Sound

**Choosing music for your wedding** often means choosing between getting a band or a DJ. Each has advantages and it is not unusual for those with a large budget to hire both, but most couples have to go with one or the other in order to keep their costs under control. In your planning consider these points:

#### DJ

- Will typically cost significantly less than a full band.
- Can put any song you want into the set list.
- Can work in small spaces.
- Able to keep the music going without breaks.
- Can work with your reception schedule to keep announcements, introductions, speeches and the dancing moving efficiently.



#### BAND

- Has a dramatic physical presentation.
- A band's energy and personality can get people onto the dance floor that might otherwise remain seated.
- Live music played by musicians has an effect that recorded music does not.
- Even those who won't dance will usually enjoy watching a band.
- A band contains a number of entertainment personalities, not just one.



The music you choose for your **ceremony** often has to cover several movements: the arrival of guests, the processional of the bride's party, the processional of the bride herself, and the recessional. The **reception** may need choices for: introduction of the bridal party, the entrance of the bride and groom, the wedding couple's first dance, a Father/bride dance, a Mother/groom dance, cake cutting, a final dance before the bride and groom exit the reception.

**The DJ/Band gratuity:** Be sure to designate a responsible member of your wedding planning group to give the customary 15% cash gratuity to the musicians or DJ at the end of the evening.

**An "extra" thirty-minutes:** Usually there will be a set time for the reception to end, at which point the DJ or band will pack up and leave. But what if the dancing has finally taken off and now you have to pull the plug? You can negotiate an extra block of time ahead of time that you leave


open to implement depending upon how the evening is going.

#### ALTERNATIVE IDEAS

- If you're putting together a low-budget (or even no-budget) wedding event, you can use a MP3 player hooked up to the appropriate amplification pre-programmed with a list of the music you want to hear. Better: pay a fee for a DJ to set everything up for you to transport to the event and then you just plug-and-play. Give it at least one test run-thru!
- Synchronize the music to play with a visual presentation of your favorite photos or home movies celebrating the bride and groom.
- Place inexpensive disposable cameras or video recorders at each table and have guests record each others comments, wishes for the bride and groom, or general reactions to the event as it unfolds.

— Teej Weems

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## FLOWERS

# Your Floral Style



*What are your preferences?*

By Karen Sturtevant

If I were to walk into your closet, would I find the latest fashions from Valentino, Christian Dior, and Elie Saab? Would I see secondhand treasures from a downtown Burlington shop? Or, would I appreciate timeless classics like a little black dress, white button-downs, and coordinated camisoles and sweaters? Your choice of clothing reveals glimpses of your statement of style. When the time comes to choose your wedding flowers, you will be asked to select the blooms that best reflect your personality and individuality. What are your preferences?

### Take our quiz to find your floral style!

Describe your wedding dress:

- A. Contemporary. No layers of ruffle or tulle, minimum embellishments and lace. Clean lines.
- B. Column (Sheath). Moving around comfortably is as important to you as the look of the dress. You prefer this style over a bulky dress.

- C. Fairytale ball gown. Full skirt, Cinderella-like. Lots of fluff and frill.

### Choose your favorite flowers:

- A. Strong focal flowers: Calla Lilies, Roses, Birds of Paradise, Lilies, Orchids.
- B. Garden flowers: Sunflowers, Zinnia, Dahlias, Heather, Berries, Grasses, Herbs.
- C. Soft and light: Roses, Peonies, Tulips, Cosmos, Sweet Peas, Lilacs.

### Your dream honeymoon:

- A. An island get-a-way: white sands, drinks with umbrellas, endless tanning oil and an all-equipped beach house.
- B. An active adventure: hiking, scuba diving, parasailing, or river rafting. Have backpack and granola, will travel.
- C. A romantic retreat: strolling in museums, art galleries, and gondola rides in Venice. Stopping mid-afternoon for a cappuccino break is a necessity.



### Your reception venue:

- A. The 5-star diamond ball room with crystal, candles, harpist, white linen cloths, silver centerpieces, and an on-site spa.
- B. Refurbished country barn with sheep and horses grazing in the pasture. Post-and-Beam construction and a wide planked dance floor are waiting.
- C. Big, billowy tents staked on freshly mowed grass.



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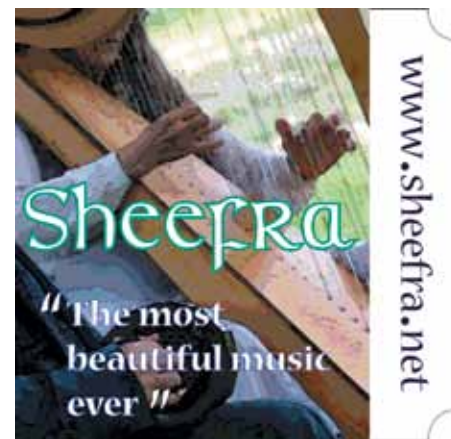



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## Your Floral Style

Continued from page 17



### Describe the creature comforts of your home:

- Minimalism rules. Your home accents have moved with you from college to adulthood. Clean lines, few in number, classic furnishings.
- Love Mother Earth. Nature-inspired pieces, lots of greens and tans, natural fibers and a bunch of wildflowers plunked in a canning jar displayed on your windowsill.
- Cozy Comfort. Big, plush couches and pillows, lots of books and music, an eclectic collection that provides safety and sanity.

**Total your score:** Give yourself 1 point for every A, 2 points for every B, and 3 points for every C.

### 5-8 Points: Simple & Classic

Classic and traditional, your style will stand the test of time. You will find floral bliss with a bouquet of strong accent flowers whether an arm bouquet of striking white calla lilies or roses in one dramatic hue. Foliage can be added or kept to a nominal amount. Minimal and clean, your bouquet will sparkle because of its simplistic natural beauty. Consider centerpieces in basic geometric containers of square glass cubes, cylinder glass vases, and rose bowls. Grouping flowers of the same variety and color creates a dramatic and ascetically pleasing presentation.

### 9-11 Points: Natural & Earthy

If you and your best girls could stop at the local farmers' market on the way to the church and gather handfuls of wildflowers, this would be your ideal nature-inspired bouquet. You love the natural look of herbs, grasses, and the bounty that sprouts effortlessly from Mother Earth. Depending upon the season of your wedding, your florist may be able to source these awe-inspiring blooms from local growers. Your centerpieces, filled with a variety of color and garden flowers, take shape in canning jars, baskets, galvanized pails, and terracotta pots. Containers do not have to match. Variety creates interest and as long as the choices are compatible, the overall look will be realized in a most creative array. Consider growing mint, lemon balm, lavender, and sage and use for added texture and scent.

### 12-15 Points: Romantic & Dreamy

Layers of sweetly scented petals from peonies and the aroma of lilacs make your heart sing. Your

*Classic and traditional, your style will stand the test of time.*

continued on page 20

# Best

By Lauri Boyden

## plans + Imperfections=Perfection!



Planning the perfect wedding, you say? Is there really such a thing as planning the perfect wedding? I believe there is - the perfect wedding that is.

Planning it and having it are two different things.

Top right photo  
Larry Asam Photography.

All other photos  
courtesy of the  
Barn at  
Boyden Farms.



Read on and you will see why all weddings are perfect. The following excerpts are true stories from actual weddings. These weddings - imperfections and all were perfect through and through.

The perfect wedding is the one where the dog stole the entire whole beef tenderloin from the chef's outdoor grilling station and ran off with it. The chef was prepared for such a disaster and had extra tenderloin in his cooler. No one was the wiser and the dog was a happy dog!

The perfect wedding is the one where a family member thought the bridal parties exquisite bouquets would fare best overnight in the refrigerator. The refrigerator temperature unfortunately was too cool for these beauties. The delicate bouquets did not last the night and were terribly wilted by morning. Upon discovering the bouquets fate, they were quickly replaced with alternative flowers, just as lovely.

The perfect wedding is the one where the rented glassware is delivered and does not pass the cleanliness test. A phone call to the Rental Company for replacements and fresh, clean glassware is ready for the exchange. Problem solved and disaster or much dishwashing was averted.

The perfect wedding is the one where the ring bearer is just a little tot. He chooses on that special day, of all days not to cooperate and don the traditional tuxedo. Aside from not dressing, he chooses not to participate in the ceremony at all. His beloved older sister, the flower girl performs both duties and the ceremony is a huge success!

The perfect wedding is the one with the gorgeous bride & groom statue atop the lovely tiered wedding cake. The statue is placed gracefully on the cake by the baker. She finishes fussing with the details and leaves, her job complete. No sooner does she leave than the statue decides to topple over; taking with it much of the cake. We try many tricks to get the statue to stay up and to no avail. The cake is patched and the statue placed innocently on the table in front of the cake. When the time comes for cutting the cake, the excitement of just that task allows the moment to carry on without wonder as to why the statue is on the table and not on the cake as planned.

continued on page 20

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### Best Plans+Imperfections=Perfection!

Continued from page 19



Even the best laid plans can reach a snag. Problems can arise or circumstances may change. Often times, these circumstances are beyond our control.

If you are planning the perfect wedding, be prepared to accept some changes, be flexible and creative with alternative solutions.

At times, as mentioned above the wedding party was never aware of the situation. Having smart vendors, on site staff or family who can quickly help is imperative.

As you start to plan your perfect wedding, take on a casual attitude and roll with the decisions. As your plans begin to gently fall into place, so will the whole occasion and you will find total enjoyment in it. Have faith in your decisions and know that with your best laid plans, the majority of the imperfections may happen whether you know it or not; behind the scenes. Someone will take the reins and control the situation. It could be the chef, the on site staff, or your Aunt Claire who was sworn to secrecy never to mention the missing toasting glasses. Days later you will telephone her to thank her for coming. She will respond "Darling, please you are so very welcome. I wouldn't have missed it for the world. It was the perfect wedding!"



Photograph by Crystal Young

Lauri Boyden is the owner and event coordinator for the Barn at Boyden Farm; Cambridge, VT. Surround yourself in the beauty of Lamoille County farm land and all that a true Vermont Farm has to offer your special celebration. [www.boydenfarm.com](http://www.boydenfarm.com)

The perfect wedding is when you want to make all of the wildflower centerpieces yourself. How wonderful to gather together on this special day and share this task. Half way into this project, you realize you do not have nearly enough flowers. On site staff, family and friends beg, borrow and steal additional wildflowers from any garden or roadside ditch within a three mile radius. The result equals plenty of lovely center pieces just in time for the special day and a newly acquired appreciation for roadside flowers!

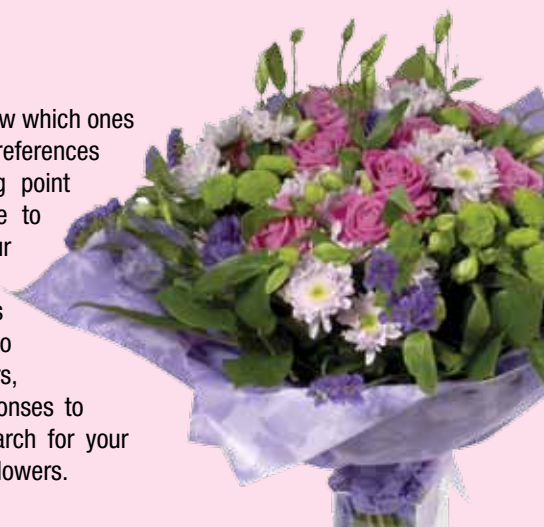
### Your Floral Style

Continued from page 18

preference for the romantic leads you to soft, feminine pallets and delicate ribbon of tendrils and loops. Flowing, cascading bouquets embellished with jeweled butterflies or crystals will give you the dream-like feel of being princess for a day. Think light and airy. Add white pearl pins to the center of your roses - a nice compliment to Mother's pearl bracelet on your right hand. Consider a collar of airy, white tulle around your bouquet and complete the design with tulle wrapped stems. Continue your enchanted theme with guest table centerpieces of crystal vases, lavish compotes, candelabras, and ornate urns overflowing with roses, sweet peas, poppies, and hydrangea.

From our soft, faded pair of Levis to our Doc Martens, we have our favorite attire for workday and weekend. You also have favorite flowers, even

if you don't know which ones yet. Let your preferences be the starting point of your voyage to finding your personal floral style. In this quiz, there are no wrong answers, only right responses to aid in your search for your ideal wedding flowers.



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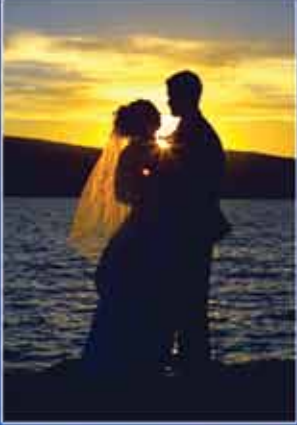


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## White: The Supreme Wedding Color



Photo by Valentine Photography

Elegant white dresses; white cakes; white formal announcement stationary: it all says wedding in a way that transcends every color arrangement and color accessory. Here are ideas on making a dominant white central to your planning:

**Black** is the complement to white in an easy, dramatic way. Use vintage-style back and white stamps on wedding announcements to keep the color theme unified and strong. Add to this with black or grey envelope liners.

**Silver** on ribbons or as metallic string binding together gift boxes shows off white wrapping and detail without competing for attention.

**Clear Glass** place settings on white maintains the cool, clean elegance of formality. Take it even further with sculpted ice settings and silvery stainless-steel plates and bowls.

**Gray and Silver together** as accents make white glow with purity and warmth. The combinations are endless and experimentation can reveal your best choices. Transcending fashion and trends, white is the supreme wedding color.

## Quick Quips and Helpful Tips

### Wedding Invitations:

The most important thing you must do before putting your invitations into the mail is *check them carefully*. A fatal mistake is to approve invitations that contain incorrect information, and are now traveling through the mail system on their way to confuse and mislead your guests!

But besides this obvious item, remember that your invitations are the tone and the style of your wedding all wrapped up into a few sheets of paper. The colors you want, the textures you want (paper comes in many, many formats and produce different feelings when you touch them) all these aspects convey your identity as a couple, and the theme and unique quality of your wedding arrangements.

Most wedding planners have contacts with custom wedding invitation designers, if that is your desire, or with traditional printing establishments that have hundreds of existing styles to use.

But either way, what you want is for your future guests to receive the envelope, and when they open it and look at it they will be able to say, "That's them!"



Image courtesy of RSVP, St. Albans, Vermont | 802-527-1120 | www.rsvpvermont.com

## Tip: WEDDING ADVISORS

A simple rule when hiring a planner or consultant to manage your wedding is to *watch the numbers*. From the beginning, establish your budget range and if your planner repeatedly adds items or surprises you with increased costs, have them explain if the original budget was unrealistic or if they're simply unable to work within your price range. A professional planner knows how to take your numbers and wants and create the best looking (and costing!) event for everyone involved.

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Donna Hart of Newbury, VT is proud to announce the engagement of her daughter **Sarah Jean Hart** to **Eric Karandy**, son of **Robert and Susan Karandy** of Burnt Hills, NY.

Sarah earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music and Psychology from St. Michael's College in 2008. She is employed at Dealer Dot Com as an inside sales representative.

Eric received his Bachelor's degree in Computer Networking from Champlain College in 2006. He is employed as an account manager at Dealer Dot Com.

**Sarah and Eric met three years ago** while he was long boarding down a large hill and she almost hit him with her car. She rushed out to see if he needed to be transported to the hospital and upon asking if he was okay he muttered, "Well, I'm late for work now so you might as well give me a ride." This happenstance meeting led to Eric asking Sarah on a date and never leaving her side. After receiving Sarah's mother's permission, on August 23, 2009 while pretending to investigate a plumbing problem in their Essex Junction condo, Eric, with a gracious bend of the knee proposed to Sarah.

In front of family and friends, **Sarah and Eric will wed on November 27, 2010 at Saint Pius X Parish in Essex Junction, VT** with a reception to follow at **The Essex**. Both families are thrilled they are tying the knot and wish them nothing but love and happiness as they start the next chapter of their lives together.

Photo: Courtesy of Leslie O'Halloran, Makeup: Courtesy of the Makeup Artist Guild



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# Our Love Story

## Sara Block & Justin Zaslow

### How We Met

Who would have imagined that the girl who owned a chocolate store and the boy who managed a fitness center would meet and fall in love? In 2006 my father and I opened a dessert cafe in Philadelphia. Conveniently for me there was a gym on the lower level of the building. Scared of what all of the cupcakes and chocolate would do to my figure (what girl could resist the temptation when surrounded by them every day?), I joined immediately. Justin was at the front desk everyday when I came in to work out. I remember thinking he was extremely handsome and always had the biggest smile on his face. One day we were working out at the same time and he struck up

a conversation with me (his version might be the other way around). We realized how much we had in common and before he left he made sure to get my phone number. After going out on our first date we were pretty much inseparable. And as it turns out, he's a huge chocolate lover!

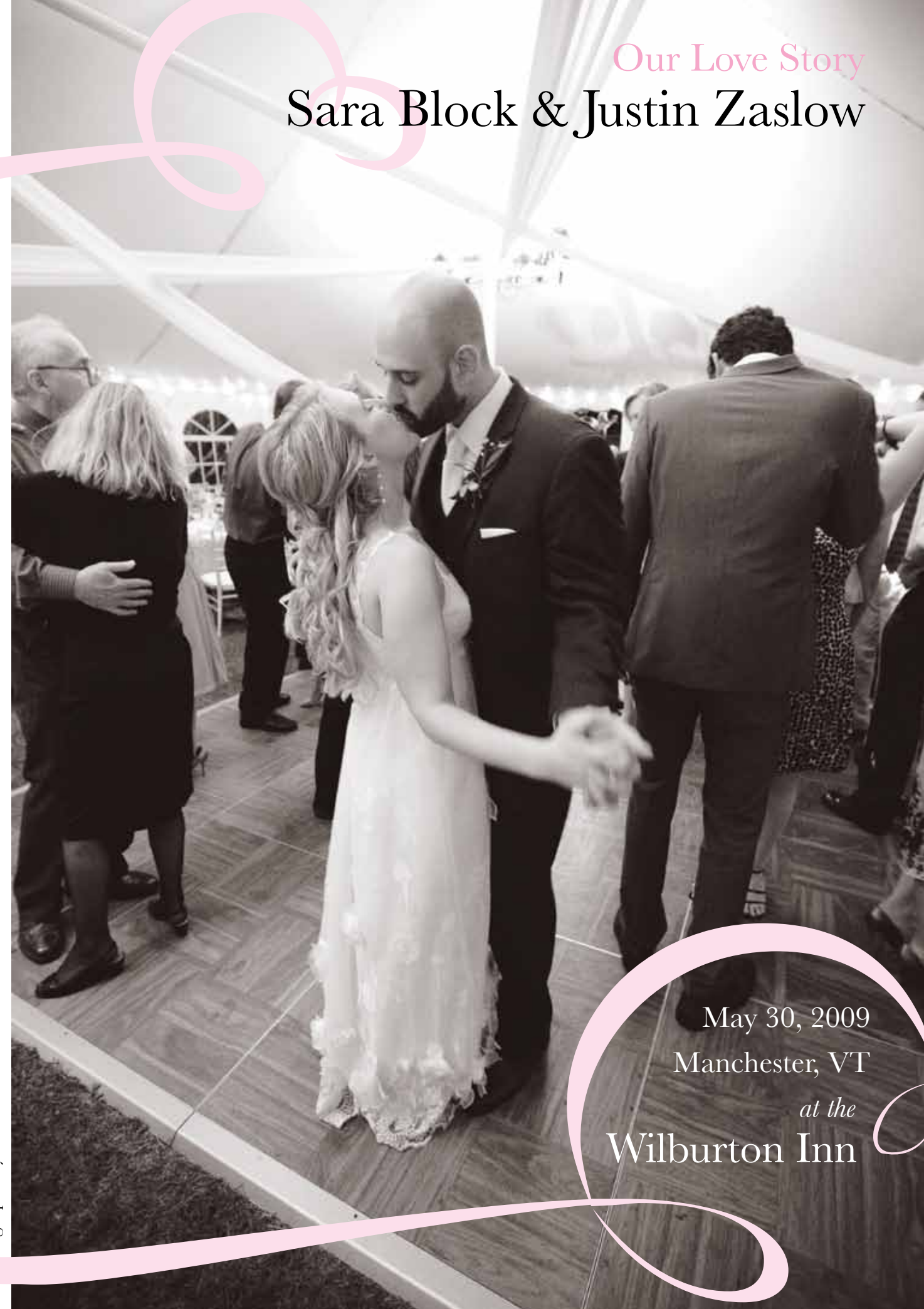


### Our Engagement

One Sunday morning in April 2008 Justin woke me up and said he had a special day planned for us. We were going to eat at our favorite breakfast spot, then going to the Philadelphia Museum

of Art to see the Frida Kahlo exhibit (one of my favorite artists), and later going somewhere special for dinner. After a delightful breakfast we arrived at the museum

*continued on page 30*



May 30, 2009  
Manchester, VT  
at the  
Wilburton Inn

Photographs by Brian Post

Ceremony, Reception and Catering:

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**Love Story: Sara Block and Justin Zaslow**

Continued from page 29




where I promptly checked my coat and wondered why Justin didn't want to check his. He had on a big down vest that he was hiding the ring in and as I later found out, was terrified that I might feel the box. That explained why he had been on edge throughout the museum visit! After the fabulous exhibit we exited the museum. He led me to the side of the steps and got on his knees and asked me to marry him. It was truly perfect. Then he surprised me with having both sets of our parents join us for dinner to celebrate. I loved every second of that day.

**Most Memorable Details**

As soon as we started planning our wedding, we both knew we wanted to make it a weekend long celebration. I fell in love with Vermont when I attended college there at the University of Vermont and knew that it would be the perfect setting for our special day. Justin and I thought it would be a great way to have a destination wedding as well as a great weekend getaway



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for our family and friends, most of whom were traveling from the Philadelphia area.

Our wedding took place on May 30, 2009, at the Wilburton Inn in Manchester, Vermont. It couldn't have been more perfect. Everything from the ceremony to the food to the flowers was

beautiful and amazing. We had a traditional Jewish ceremony overlooking the mountains and a light breeze was blowing through the air. It had rained the entire week but our day was clear and sunny. After the ceremony the party truly started.

*continued on page 33*







Love Story: Sara Block and Justin Zaslow  
Continued from page 31

*One of the most memorable moments was our first dance when I surprised Justin with my brother and my niece performing our wedding song. With him on the guitar and her gentle voice (at the age of 11) the whole tent was quiet and in awe.*



Photographs by Brian Post

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**Love Story: Sara Block and Justin Zaslow**

Continued from page 33



Then came the food and the dancing. At the end of the night no one wanted it to end. It was the best and most memorable day of my life. Thank you to everyone who made it possible!

**Planning Advice to Brides**

My advice to brides-to-be is to remember that your day is truly about being with the ones you love to celebrate the union of you and your husband. It's so easy to get caught up in the small stuff instead of enjoying the planning process. Don't try to take it on all by yourself. Use the help of your family, friends, and vendors. It's much more enjoyable and will keep you from going crazy. Just cherish every moment of it because it will be over before you know it. And don't lose site of the bigger picture; it's all about the celebration of you and your soulmate uniting in the presence of your loved ones and beginning a new life together.



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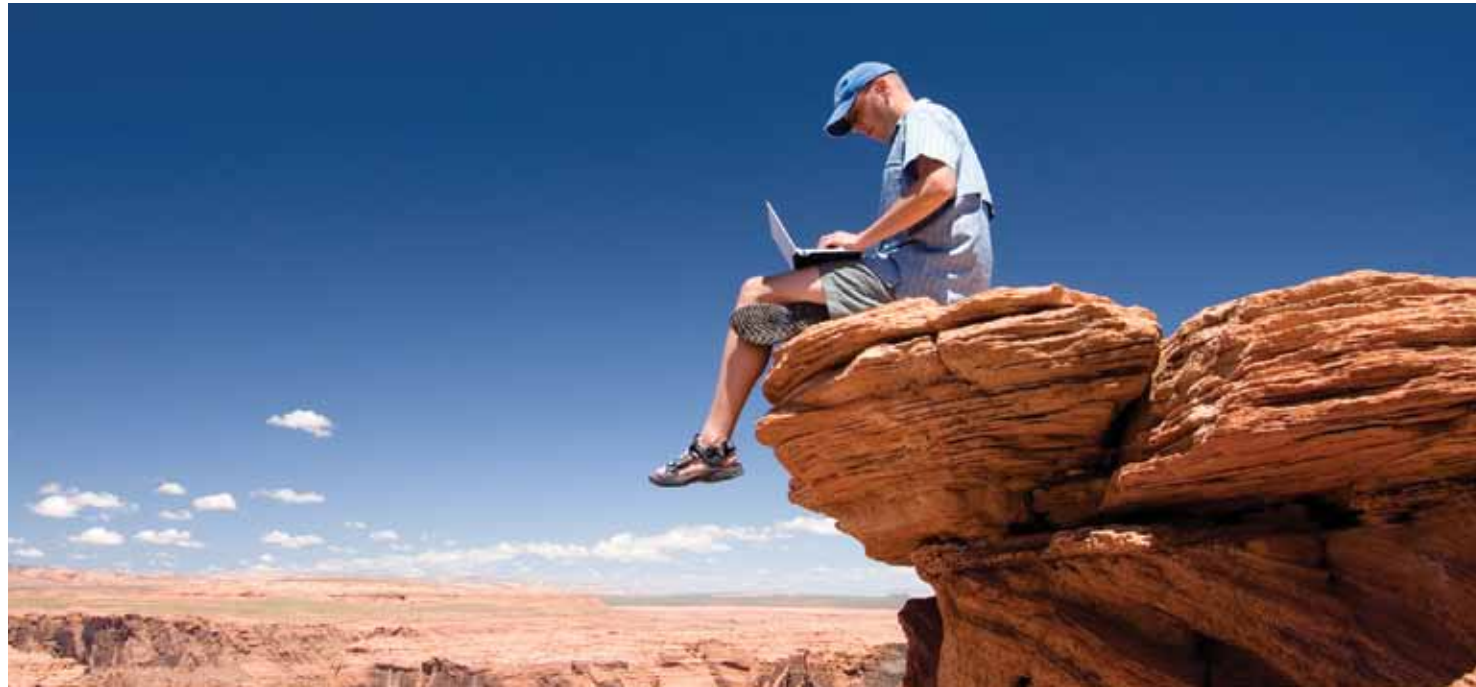
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## MATT'S P.O.V.

**Matt Duffy**, a native Vermonter, now resides in Montezuma, CO. Thanks to the Internet, Lisa found Matt after nearly 20 years. They attended the same middle and high school, and passed each other in the halls thousands of times. What were the odds that they would connect after so many years and living thousands of miles apart? *Vermont Bride Magazine* is following their relationship through Matt's eyes and words.

**"Yesterday we woke in the warmth of each others' arms and eyes knowing he unspoken words behind the smiles didn't need to be shared because he feeling itself was communication enough. Of course words were eventually uttered anyway and were no more or less of a surprise than he colors of sunrise over the mountains reflected off the lake on another yesterday."**



Those words came from me the day before I last saw her. I'd already known it well, but remember acknowledging again the inspiration I get from Lisa. It's never something she tries to do. Things just seem to come out of my mouth or ooze from my finger tips involuntarily with her. To her, for her, about her. I am quite sure they come easy to me because they to me are pure and simple truths.

Plain and simple, like the pain that comes with saying "goodbye for now." The sinking feeling on the way to the airport, our hands tightly clasped the whole way not wanting to let go. The first airport interaction we had was joyous, relieving, comforting and blissful. The forthcoming was surely to be at the opposite end of the emotional spectrum, yet every bit as beautiful as the first.

And it was beautiful. Such a sweet and beautiful, sad goodbye. Right to the edge of the line - the line only ticketed passengers can cross and there we stood as one for

minutes that at once flew by and stood still. Wrapped and comfortable as always in arms, a synchronized heart beat to be split; one entity to be pulled in two.

**Tears.**

**Goodbye for now.**

With continued inspiration, carrying on, there is hope, a dream, and a course of action on the horizon. Once again we just have memories and words to see us through until the next relief...

**"The moon certainly is big and bright tonight. Just like your eyes."**

**Big and bright and shining on me. Bathed in moonlight, in your love...**

**I feel cold without your embrace. Your eyes like the moon shine from far. I want to fly to the moon tonight. To you, my bright shining love."**

What's next for Matt and Lisa? Find out in the summer issue of *Vermont Bride Magazine* available in July!

If you missed the previous Matt's P.O.V., it can be read online or via download at [vermontbridemagazine.com](http://vermontbridemagazine.com)

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# First Comes Love ...

## Capturing the Story Behind the Wedding Day Magic

By Amanda Kuhnert

Your wedding day is the pivotal chapter in a beautiful love story—one that began months, often years, before you ever tried on that perfect bridal gown. Have you ever thought about how you'll preserve the story behind your special day? After all, it's your unique romantic journey that sets your wedding ceremony apart from any other.

I know that amidst the busyness that surrounded my own wedding over a decade ago, I didn't have a spare second to sit down and record my thoughts and feelings about this once-in-a-lifetime experience. And my husband-to-be certainly wasn't keeping a journal! Thirteen years, a house, and two children later, I would love to hear what we might have had to say as we approached this major milestone in our relationship – and lives.

Yes, I have a wedding album and a video of the entire event. I even had my gown preserved in white acid-free tissue paper. But I don't have any record of what was going through our hearts and minds during the months and days leading up to the moment when we said, "I do."

As a personal historian who helps individuals and families share and preserve their memories, I often interview couples celebrating a golden anniversary or milestone birthday. And we always touch on one topic in particular—their wedding day. But after fifty years or so, memories can be a tad bit fuzzy.

Photo by Larry Asam Photography



With the passage of time and the surreal nature of the event itself, it's understandable that decades from now you might not remember all of the details surrounding your engagement and wedding planning, let alone your innermost thoughts, feelings, hopes, and dreams.

But there are steps that you can take today that will boost memory recall later on. Here are a few fun and simple ways to keep those special memories fresh through the years:

- Select photo albums with memo space for writing detailed descriptions alongside your pictures—remember, who, what, when, where! At the very least, consider pasting (on the inside-front cover of the album) a list of key memories, moments, and funny stories from your wedding week.
- Keep a journal chronicling the events leading up to your wedding day, as well as your thoughts and emotions prior to, during, and after the celebration. Some couples even create wedding blogs to share with friends and family. Save hard copies of your posts and place them in a beautifully designed binder.
- Print out and save wedding-related emails. Store them in a folder or binder along with any other special letters and cards. Together, they will tell the story of your engagement in a unique and intimate way.
- Hire a personal historian to help you tell your love story in

your own words. Captured through interviews with the bride and groom (and even friends and family) days before the big event, "your wedding story" can take the form of a digital recording complete with music and photos or a keepsake book to be shared with loved ones or tucked away for your own enjoyment through the years.

Whatever approach works best for you, I encourage you to take the time and make the effort to preserve your love story so that it's as clear in your mind fifty years from now as it is today.

**Amanda Kuhnert**, personal historian and owner of Fourfold Legacy Services, helps couples share and preserve their Wedding Stories through customized interviews that are digitally recorded and combined with music and photos to create a family keepsake.  
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Photo by Erica Fox



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## Your Wedding Your Way

### Money, Sex and Power

by Michael Caldwell, Partnership Center of Vermont

Julia and Ken came to their first session with the wedding coach with some questions about the logistics of their new life together. They started living together when they got engaged. Julia's place was larger than Ken's, so he moved in with her. Pooling their incomes for joint expenses like the electric bill was simple enough. But they had different ideas about long term planning, like how to save for a down-payment on a home, vacations and retirement. Ken's career had been compromised by the economic downturn, so his approach to finances was more frugal. They didn't doubt their decision to get married, but they were somewhat stalemated in their planning for the wedding and the honeymoon.

When the wedding coach suggested that Richard Foster's classic book *Money, Sex, and Power* summarized three basic areas which challenge all couples, they were intrigued. Ken immediately ordered the book, read it, and encouraged Julia to read it. Reading and discussing it together, they began to see how their families of origin shaped different approaches to handling money and decision-making. They began to use Foster's ideas on creating a new "covenant" beyond their old ideas as a basis for a common approach to saving, spending, and decision-making.

What challenged them the most, as it turned out, however, was the shift in their sex life after moving in together. It was Julia's place. She was an introvert. And she had daily and weekly routines that she found difficult to continue around Ken's more extroverted routines with the TV and the radio, for example. They found it difficult to create a life together that accommodated their individual preferences for spending time at home. A joint rhythm for meals, cleanup, and bedtime didn't come easy. Julia became less interested in sex. Ken was frustrated. And they weren't even married yet.

**They were feeling a need for a breakthrough before invitations were sent out. Wedding planning came to a complete halt. Ken called the wedding coach.**

"Sounds like you need more than Foster's book," the coach said to him. "Tell Julia this is not uncommon. All couples have to negotiate this sort of territory at some point or another in their

life together. I encourage you to do that with a marital therapist. Invite Julia to go." And the coach recommended a therapist he knew did good work in the area where they lived.

Julia was not immediately amenable, but agreed to go when he shared how important it was to him. She was not disappointed.

The therapist was not only good; she worked what Ken thought was a minor miracle in one session. A breakthrough came with the therapist's simple disentangling of bedtime and sex. While a lot of couples attach lovemaking with going to bed, it can be a routine of which they quickly tire, especially because even young couples are tired at the end of the day.

The key for Julia and Ken was seeing their lovemaking as something so precious and sacred that they didn't leave it to chance at bedtime. They fantasized together Saturday morning times with coffee and incense as well as after work times with a glass of wine and candles. Something major shifted. They found the spark that originally ignited their lives. Friends asked what was up. Why were they smiling so much? Wedding invitations went out the following week. They contacted the coach to work on their vows.

**Rev. Dr. Michael Caldwell** (whose parishioners call "Rev Michael") runs the Partnership Center of Vermont (www.coachingcenterofvt.com) from his home in North Wolcott, VT.

Along with his ministry in New England's Congregational tradition, he coaches couples preparing for marriage, and officiates ceremonies all over Vermont, indoors or outside.



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Other legal requirements include providing your:

- Legal town of residence
- Place and date of birth
- Parents' names, (including mother's maiden name), and the states where they were born
- Information regarding your race, highest degree of education completed, number of times previously married, and how previous marriages ended.

Proof for information related to the above: birth certificates and/or divorce decrees.

A judge, Supreme Court justice, assistant judge, justice of the peace, or any licensed or ordained minister residing in Vermont and recognized by the state can perform the marriage ceremony.

### To obtain a copy of your Vermont Marriage Certificate:

- Upon purchase of the license, arrange with the town clerk to send you a certified copy of the marriage certificate as soon as the marriage is recorded. The cost is \$10.00 (in addition to the \$45.00 cost of the license).
- Two weeks or more after the ceremony, a request, in person or in writing, may be made to the office of the town clerk from which the license was purchased.
- Six weeks or more after the ceremony, a request, in person or in writing, may be made to The Vermont Department of Health Vital Records Unit. You will receive a copy of the original marriage certificate embossed with the town or state seal and signed and dated by the appropriate official. This certified copy is considered acceptable for all legal purposes.

For more information, please contact: **The Vermont Department of Health Vital Records Unit** 108 Cherry Street P.O. Box 70 Burlington, VT 05402 (802) 863-7275 (802) 439-5008



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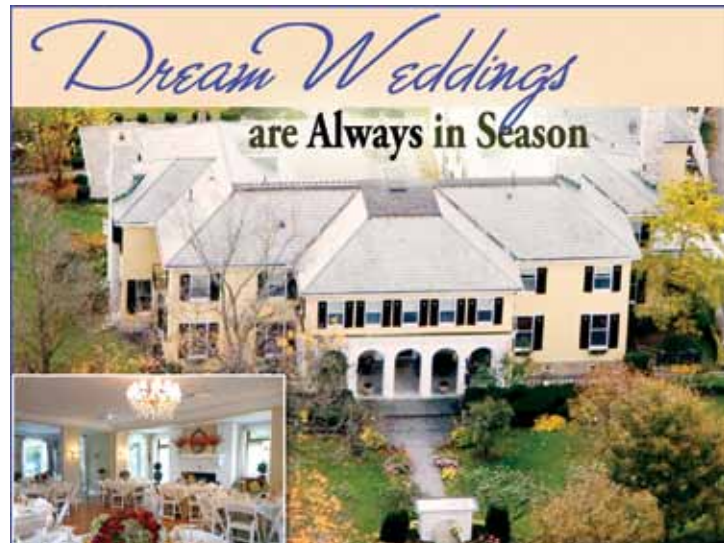

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# Spotlight on Wedding Flowers

By Karen Sturtevant



## Stephanotis

Botanical Name: *Stephanotis floribunda* (stef-ah-NO-tis-flor-ih-BUN-duh)

Common Names: Madagascar Jasmine, Bridal Veil, Hawaiian Wild Flower, Floradora.

Colors: Stephanotises are available in white only with vines of leathery, dark green leaves.

## Availability

Stephanotises are available year round with peaks being in summer and autumn. Florists purchase in boxes of 25, usually without the vines. Most purchased travel from Madagascar and subtropical regions of Africa and Asia with some being grown domestically. Several weeks' notice is usually needed for growers to ensure availability, especially during winter and spring.

## Description

Approximately 1" – 1 1/2" in diameter, these plump, waxy, star-shaped flowers are highly scented and widely sought focal flowers for bridal bouquets. The fragrance is similar to true jasmine, *Jasminum officinate*. Stephanotis is a member of the Asclepiadaceae family.

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## Spotlight on Wedding Flowers

Continued from page 45

### Meaning

'Marital Harmony,' 'Desire to Travel,' and 'Good Luck.'

### Design Ideas

Adorn Stephanotis by adding pearl pins (white or colored), crystals, or rhinestones in the center of the star cluster. This is especially effective if the bridal gown has details of pearls or beading. The groom may choose to wear an elegant boutonniere of Stephanotis. It can also be used as an accent with another flower such as a rose, orchid, or gardenia.

### Long Life

After harvesting the grower will remove stems and pack these fragile flowers in airtight containers with moistened tissue to keep humidity high. As they are shipped without stems or a water source, upon arrival the florist will soak the flowers in room temperature water allowing hydration and then store in a cooler with high humidity at a temperature of no lower than 42° F.

### Name Game

The genus name Stephanotis has Greek origin, made up of two words: "stephanos" meaning crown and "otis" meaning ear or crown of ears referring to the five ear-like attachments to the staminal crown at the flower's center.

### Uses

Bouquets, boutonnieres, corsages, hair accents, cake decorations and sewn or wired on veils.



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## Cover Bride

### Vermont Bride Magazine

### Spring 2010



### Our Love Story:

# Sabrina (Sikora) & Kevin Dommengue

### THE BEGINNING

“Each morning when I wake up, I ask myself what can I do to make Kevin happy today? And then I do it.” This was my daughter's response when I asked the key to her long term relationship with her

*continued on the next page*

Photographs by Justin Cash







Continued from page 49

then-boyfriend, Kevin. It seemed simple enough, and yet I realized Sabrina had discovered a truth at age 19 that somehow eluded me still at 47 years old. She understood that in order to love someone truly and deeply, you must put their needs before everything and everybody – before even one's own self.

As a single mother, I certainly understood that mindset as it applied to my child, but I'd never been able to practice it in other relationships. Sabrina has opened my eyes and demonstrates every day how a basic tenet in life can have such a profound and lasting impact.

Sabrina Sikora and Kevin Dommenghe share the kind of love story that most of us simply dream of or read about. In 2003, Sabrina's professional modeling career took her to NYC for the summer. She lived with another transplanted Maconite and model, Melany Ziglar Lynch. The two girls became inseparable and remain best friends today. Melany proudly claims credit for introducing Sabrina and Kevin – who was best friends himself with Melany's then-boyfriend/now-husband, Tim Lynch. The four enjoyed each other's company that summer, but the love story didn't begin until a few months later.

Sabrina and Kevin began a long distance relationship, Kevin working in New York City and Sabrina jointly attending classes at Wesleyan College while modeling in the New York/Atlanta markets. I could always tell when Kevin would call – Sabrina's face would completely light up and her voice would change! I knew long before she told me that she was in love with this man, that this was different. After more than a year of this arrangement, Sabrina moved to New York to pursue both modeling – and Kevin – permanently!!

#### THE JOURNEY

Sabrina and Kevin have enjoyed a five year courtship all the while deepening their love, cementing their loyalty and making lifelong memories. Both share an avid love of travel and learning about new cultures. Their adventures have taken them to St. Lucia, Bali, Thailand, Vietnam, China, and Australia! With each new voyage, they immerse themselves in the people, the culture, the customs and the cuisine. At year four, Kevin was offered the opportunity to transfer to Hong Kong his company. After careful consideration and many long talks, they made the move and now reside in the largely ex-pat area known as MidLevels.

Not having friends nor family in the country, they had only each other to rely on and that has served to make their bond even stronger. There was no doubt in my mind that, if they could handle a relocation of this magnitude and be so continuously supportive of each other, they were perfectly suited and would one day marry. The first time I visited the couple in Hong Kong, I was still tickled to see Sabrina rush to the door at the end of the day, her face aglow and chirping "BOYFRIEND!!"

*continued on the next page*



*Sabrina and Kevin began a long distance relationship, Kevin working in New York City and Sabrina jointly attending classes at Wesleyan College while modeling in the New York/Atlanta markets. I could always tell when Kevin would call – Sabrina’s face would completely light up and her voice would change!*



## Love Story: Sabrina (Sikora) and Kevin Dommengo

Continued from page 49

### THE PROPOSAL

Throughout their travels, Kevin and Sabrina had discussed one day visiting India. She was even more excited at the prospect after reading “Shantaram” by Gregory David Roberts and imagining the vivid description of Indian landmarks and its people. Meanwhile, Kevin secretly collaborated with his father, Michael Dommengo, to locate the perfect ring for his bride-to-be. For seven months prior to the India trip, Kevin and his family kept the proposal hidden from Sabrina and everyone else! He was beyond nervous hiding the engagement ring at their apartment in the bathroom ceiling in Hong Kong and subsequently transporting it to India for the big moment!

On November 10th, 2008 while visiting the Taj Mahal, Kevin asked Sabrina to take a photo of him standing in front of the “ultimate wedding gift.” As she focused the lens of her camera, Sabrina realized Kevin had dropped out of the frame and saw that he was now down on his knee holding a ring out to her! Everything that happened in the next 10 minutes is a blur. Sabrina can’t remember to this day exactly what he said to her – only that she was crying, Kevin was beaming, that she was shaking violently with emotions that had overtaken her. And she said yes.

At about 2 a.m. on a Sunday morning, I received a joyous, tearful phone call from Sabrina and Kevin sharing their news. They were engaged!! By the end of the phone call, I was crying too! And before rolling over to try and go back to sleep – which was useless, by the way – I had texted our family and dearest friends to include them in this celebration in the middle of the night!

### THE ENGAGEMENT

Eleven months sounds like ample time to plan a wedding... and it is, when that wedding is local!! Imagine now the monumental challenge it becomes when the bride and groom reside in Hong Kong, the bride’s family resides in Georgia, the groom’s family resides in New Jersey, and the wedding is in Vermont!!

Thank heaven for email, for the internet, for Skype, for professionals who deliver what they promise to, and for Sheila Burks, the wedding planner for Hildene ([www.Hildene.org](http://www.Hildene.org)). Sheila was indeed a Godsend, guiding Sabrina long distance in selecting the florist, caterer, cake bakery, and a myriad of other service providers who pulled the event together with the greatest of ease and absence of drama! Sabrina couldn’t have been in better hands than Sheila and even though Sabrina was worlds away from Middle Georgia, she still found a touch of the South in Manchester, VT as



Sheila has ties to the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center! We knew then that a red velvet wedding cake was not outside the realm of possibility!

**Sabrina’s attitude of “I want this to be a fabulously fun party where a wedding happens to take place” created a calm yet elegant air to the planning.**

And Sabrina gave the professionals room to do what it is they do so well. Nancy Bishop was given free reign to design floral arrangements built around Sabrina’s silver service, and the bridal party bouquets were Nancy’s own vision of bounteous fall colours and textures. The Lily and The Rose catered a feast that was to die for from succulent sushi hor d’oeuvres to triple-cut lamb chops served in martini glasses to a trio of desserts including a chocolate bomb, apple crisp and tiramisu! Justin Cash Photography ([www.justincashweddings.com](http://www.justincashweddings.com)) was confirmed to shoot the wedding because of his journalistic approach. All Sabrina was truly concerned about was that their guests savour a magnificent meal and to have a band they could kick up their heels to! I’d say Mission Accomplished!!

### WHY VERMONT?

When Sabrina first mentioned Vermont as a possible location for the wedding, my first thought was “why NOT Vermont?” Kevin and Sabrina wanted to exchange their vows outdoors in a place that held special significance in their lives. Macon was Sabrina’s heart, but not Kevin’s and vice versa for New Jersey. For the last several years, they vacationed in the Manchester area and the region is one of Kevin’s favorite for outdoor winter sports. In fact, the couple loves the area so much, they bought a home with the intention

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## Love Story: Sabrina (Sikora) and Kevin Dommengo

Continued from page 51

of one day settling the area. From the first time I visited Manchester in the spring of 2009, I instantly fell in love and knew this was the perfect locale. I could only guess how colorful and brisk a fall wedding there would be! After a trip to the Hildene, I was sold! Or it could have been those "Moose Crossing" signs that did it for me...

### THE GEORGIA BAR-B-QUE

Sabrina and Kevin realized early that not everyone would be able to make the trek to Vermont. How to solve that dilemma? Why, what better way than to have a down home Southern BBQ? I had to laugh at first – Sabrina mentioned that she wanted to have something "very Southern" here in Macon to celebrate with everyone and to introduce out-of-towners to our City. My mind immediately started searching for historic Macon landmarks that might be able to accommodate a party. When Sabrina threw out the Fish 'N Pig as an option, I realized that while my thoughts went to Southern architecture, hers went to Southern cooking!!! And when it comes to Southern cooking, the Fish 'N Pig wins hands down. Plus, you have to love their logo, no? So on September 13th, friends and family alike gathered for a spread at the restaurant and ate like there was no tomorrow, while enjoying pontoon boat rides on the placid Lake Tobesofkee!

### THE REHEARSAL DINNER

In light of the upscale feel of a five-course culinary feast for the wedding, the rehearsal dinner by comparison was casual and earthy – something uniquely suited to the Green Mountain region of Vermont. Enter Johnny Seesaw's! The history of this rustic eatery is well worth the reading ([www.johnnyseesaws.com](http://www.johnnyseesaws.com)). The restaurant is a favorite of the couple – frequented by Kevin for many years while snow-skiing in the area during his formative years. Attendees dined on local trout, the house specialty - pork roulade, and scrumptious prime rib. The first tinges of crisp fall weather blew in during the wedding week and guests to Johnny Seesaw's were treated to the fireside ambiance created by the circular fire pit located in the heart of the venue.

After a satisfying meal and rousing toasts, guests retreated to the The Equinox for a "Welcome to Vermont" pre-wedding bash! As Maconites reconnected with one another and overseas visitors renewed their spirits, guests huddled together outside under winter wraps around the glowing fire tables! Inside, a bluegrass band was jamming and drinks were flowing around the bar until the wee hours of the morning.

### THE GOODY BAGS

Sabrina spent a great deal of time and imagination when considering what items to include in the "goody bags" that each guest would receive upon check-in at their respective hotels. In keeping with an overall "green" theme, she selected unbleached canvas shopping bags. Each bag was imprinted with the outline of a tree and "Vermont 9.19.09". Inside, guests were

treated to maps of the Manchester area, brochures introducing major tourist attractions, restaurants and shopping, locally grown Honey Crisp apples, a mouth watering variety of fudge, a bottle of Vermont Maple Syrup (carry-on size, of course!) and several other small perfectly packable items! Since all guests were traveling to Vermont for the wedding, Sabrina was mindful of the fact that guests not be inconvenienced when it was time to return home. At the same time, they have a wonderful memento of the wedding that will be useful each time they make a trip to the grocery store!

### SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

In keeping with tradition, Sabrina incorporated an antique "D" initial pin affixed to the skirt of her gown. She also wore a vintage birdcage veil for some of the photos and an antique dressing gown from the 1920's while getting ready. During the reception, she wore an antique mink stole from the 1940's that had her married name monogrammed on the lining.

As a wedding gift, Sabrina received from Kevin a beautiful pair of diamond stud earrings (brought to her by Kevin's brother, Scott). Sabrina covered the something borrowed area with a pair of rhinestone shoe clips... which she informed me sweetly that I will not be getting back from her! And the "blue" category? Well, that would have been her garter!

### THE WEDDING

The morning of September 19th dawned clear and crisp – you couldn't have had a lovelier day for a wedding if you'd ordered it up! Sabrina had reserved the bridal suite at The Wilburton Inn and staged hair/makeup at this location. It was surprisingly calm and serene getting ready. I arrived early so that Sabrina and I could have some mother/daughter time before the bridesmaids converged. When I arrived at her room, Sabrina was positively glowing – a word I have used many times to describe her in the months leading up to the wedding. She was simply radiant, as if some internal light was emanating from her. I have never seen anything like it before. She smiled widely at me when I entered her room and gushed "Marrying Kevin is the easy part!"

The feeling in the air was happy and relaxed the entire day. I alternated between joy in seeing this lovely wom-

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## Love Story: Sabrina (Sikora) and Kevin Dommonge

Continued from page 53

an so ready and prepared to take this major step with Kevin to teary-eyed nostalgia as I remembered all the happy times my baby girl and I shared during her childhood. I take great comfort that Kevin and Sabrina have had all the “right” talks leading up to this day – where to live now, where to settle later, how to raise their children, what expectations they have of each other, how household chores and finances will be handled. It was refreshing to see this chapter of their lives regarded with such a solemn commitment to one another.

The bridal party arrived at Hildene in early afternoon – ladies were staged upstairs in a bedroom and gentlemen staged at an outbuilding. Artful coordination was exercised during pre-wedding photos to make certain Kevin and Sabrina did not see one another. The florist distributed bouquets to the bridesmaids and Matron of Honor. This was the first we’d seen them and they were a perfect complement to fall colors of the gowns. Sabrina’s bouquet contained sprigs of rosemary, a tradition for Polish brides that stands for remembrance of where one has come from. She also honored the tradition of

having a penny in her shoe. And the names of all the single women in attendance were written on the bottom of Sabrina’s shoes – supposedly whomever’s name is the last remaining will be the next to marry! Furthermore, Sabrina and Kevin honored their deceased loved ones with a lovely tribute in the wedding program and during the ceremony.

At last, the attendants filed out to the instrumental strains of Alan Jackson’s “Remember When” followed by Sabrina and me to “I Will.” If you’ve never listened to the words of these two songs, I promise they’ll bring tears to your eyes with the tenderness of the message. Walking Sabrina down the aisle was the greatest honor and blessing of my life. Every second of single parenthood was worth it to share that minute or two with my daughter, hearing her express how excited and happy she was to finally marry Kevin, feeling the warmth of her hand in mine on a crisp Autumn day, and being able to say “I love you” to my child one last time before handing her off to Kevin. It was the most bittersweet moment and one that I will remember forever. Her wedding, I’m sure, will become my “Happy Place” – a place my mind returns to any time I need a smile, some comfort or just a reassuring thought.

The ceremony was beautiful and simple. The sun was beaming in a clear blue sky, the temperature in the upper 50’s while the sacrament was administered on an overlook to Battenkill Valley. Sabrina was precious throughout the ceremony – caressing Kevin’s hands, rubbing his arm, reaching out to touch him and even instinctively leaning forward at one point to kiss him prematurely.... He pulled away just before the kiss landed on his lips and the audience laughed! She even bounced at times with sheer joy and excitement. I’ve never seen anyone so thrilled to get married! It was endearing and I felt like those of us fortunate enough to be there were treated to a rare and special glimpse of how much this couple love one another.

Lindley Wood delivered a heartfelt reading chosen by Kevin and Sabrina – she struggled to keep her composure (unsuccessfully I might add) throughout. The moment was tender and real – a word I would use to highlight the entire ceremony. Every single moment of this event was unique to Sabrina and Kevin and reflected their personalities. After Reverend Wayne Bell pronounced them husband and wife, they kissed and walked back down the aisle to “Signed, Sealed, Delivered” by Stevie Wonder!

### THE HONEYMOON

So what’s the best way to recover from international travel and a whirlwind week of pre-wedding festivities? After spending their wedding night in the bridal suite of The Wilburton Inn in Manchester, Vermont, Sabrina and Kevin embarked on their honeymoon in Bali, Indonesia. They spent 10 glorious days in paradise basking in the sun, feasting on Balinese delicacies, immersing themselves in the local culture, and savoring their first days as husband and wife. They even made friends with a few resident primates and took surfing lessons! It was the perfect way to cap off an intense year of wedding planning and kick off their new life as Mr. & Mrs. Dommonge!

### Bridal Party

**Bride:** Sabrina Marie Sikora  
*now* Sabrina Marie Dommonge  
**Mother:** Laurie Sikora  
**Grandmother:** Barbara Sikora  
**Groom:** Kevin Michael Dommonge  
**Parents:** Michael and Penny Dommonge  
**Grandmother:** Jean Berry  
**Matron of Honor:** Melany Z. Lynch  
**Best Man:** Scott Dommonge (Kevin’s brother)

**Bridesmaids:** Lesley Hall (friend of bride)  
Lindsey Dommonge (sister of groom)  
**Junior Bridesmaids:**  
Paige Dommonge (sister of groom)  
Brooke Dommonge (sister of groom)  
**Reader:** Lindley Wood (friend of Bride)  
**Ushers:**  
Steven Tanner (friend of bride)  
Anthony Fratta (friend of groom)



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# Sabrina's Top 10 Tips for Brides

By Sabrina (Sikora) Dommonge



Photograph by Justin Cash

same shade of mauve. Now days you can play up your style and let your personality shine through!

At our wedding, all of the printed materials were different yet they all had a central theme of traveling. The Save The Dates were photo postcards and the seating cards were vintage movie posters of places that we had visited together. We also had a tree logo that was used on everything from cocktail napkins to welcome bags to thank you notes. All five of the bridesmaid dresses were different styles and colors, as were their bouquets, but they all went together. The centerpieces were all different as well. I had found several pieces of vintage silver at antique stores. The florist filled the silver tea pots, vases, champagne buckets, and pitchers with fall colored blooms. Have fun and let your imagination run wild! It also makes for much more lively photos!

thing from how you met, to photos, to hotel information, and your registry on the site. This was a big help to us as we are based in Hong Kong and had guests traveling in from California and Australia! Our website was a great tool for everyone and answered all their questions. I had the site printed on business cards and included these in all invitations and thanks you's! I later had the site name forward to our website where the photos were posted.

## 7. Treat the weary travelers well!

As soon as guests arrived at their respective hotels, they were greeted with an overflowing goody bag. I had reusable unbleached canvas totes with "Vermont 9.19.09" imprinted on them. The bag was stuffed with maps, fudge, breath mints, maple syrup, granola bars, and a personalized welcome note. Everything was packable for the flight home including the syrup which was less than 3 oz. for those flying with only carry on bags!

## 8. Stick to your budget.

With the current state of the economy, it is important to do some number crunching and see what you really can afford. There are so many ways to be creative and save money without sacrificing your vision. Getting yourself into debt from the wedding is no way to start a new life together. Write out all of your must-haves and then see how there may be less expensive yet comparable alternatives and save yourselves the stress when the balance comes due!

## 9. Make the Name Change easy!

www.MissNowMrs.com offers an affordable, convenient way to streamline the name change process. For around \$30 you can get all of the forms needed to become the new you properly.

## 10. Have Fun! Relax! Smile!

This is the most fun-filled, loving day of your life. Everyone is there to see you and your other half get married. That is the main event. Take a deep breath and let the day happen as it will. Enjoy it all because it flies by in a blink. You can cry if you feel the need, but remember to smile while you take it all in. You are getting married! Congratulations!

## 1. Have an open mind.

You may have a vision of how you want the overall event to go, but keep some flexibility in your plans. You never know when a great idea will hit you that you can incorporate. Also, it is a big day where there are a lot of players at work. Little things can get forgotten or go wrong. Don't let it bother you. This is a day for you to show all the loved ones in your life just how important your fiancé' is to you.

## 2. Try bartering for goods and services.

If you have a skill that others may find useful, put it to work! I bartered for my bridesmaid dresses by modeling for the company who made them. As long as the value for the services is equal, then there should be no reason why you shouldn't give it a go!

## 3. Mix and Match to show your style

Gone are the days when the tablecloths, bridesmaid dresses, and flowers were the

## 4. Get a great photographer.

This is a biggie for me and I realized just how right I was after the wedding was over and done with. Once that big day has passed, all you have left is the photos. Vermont has some incredible talent! Check out the websites, meet the faces behind the lens and choose who you click with. They will be over your shoulder all day and night, so you want someone fun who shares your vision.

## 5. Wear comfortable shoes

This is an important one. You will be standing more often than not and the last thing you want to be thinking about is the blister that is forming on your little toe. Put some gel insoles in, break them in before hand, and then dance the night away!

## 6. Create a wedding Website

www.Ewedding.com offers free sites that you can personalize. You can feature every-



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Invitation photo courtesy of RSVIP



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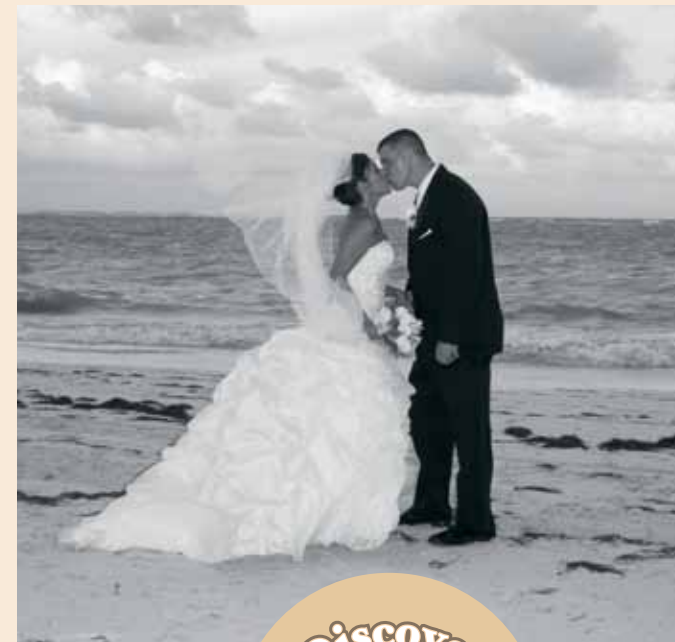
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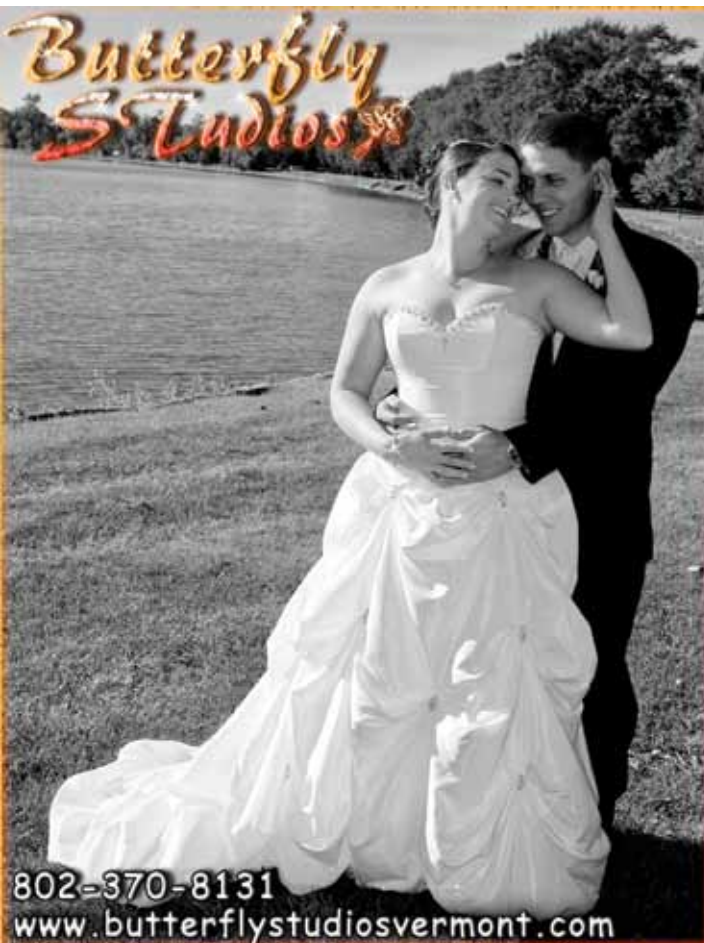
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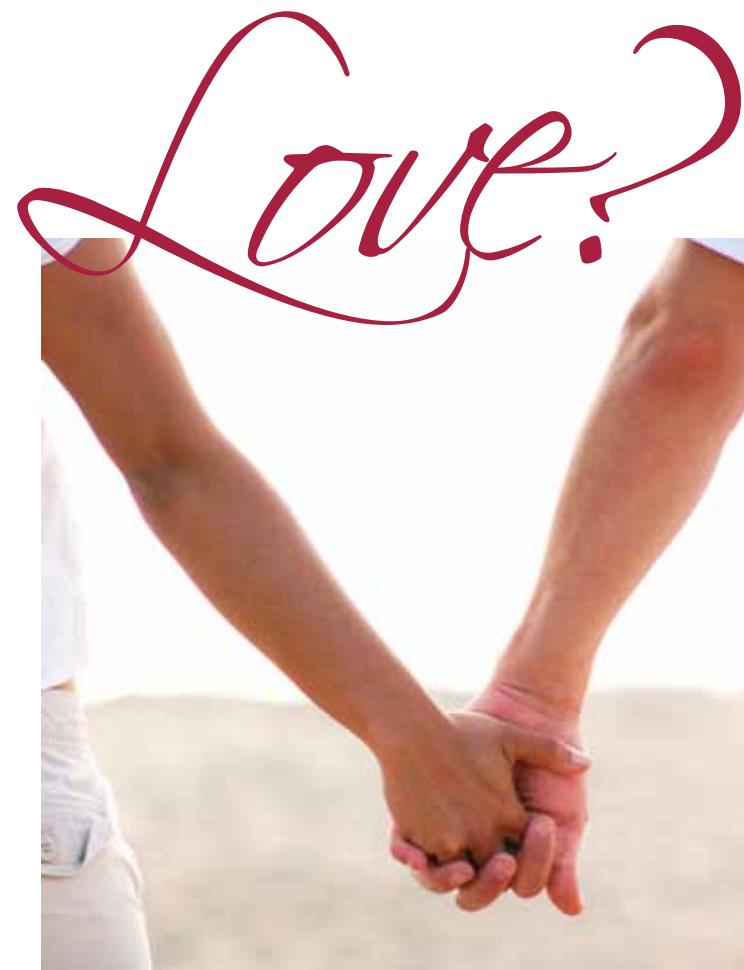


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# What is

Here are some of our favorite answers from the young and not-so-young. *What's your Answer?*

- "All you really need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."  
Charles Schulz
- "A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person."  
Mignon McLaughlin
- "With our love, we could save the world."  
George Harrison
- "A loving heart is the truest wisdom."  
Charles Dickens
- "There is no greater happiness for a man than approaching a door at the end of a day knowing someone on the other side of that door is waiting for the sound of his footsteps."  
Ronald Reagan
- "We can only learn to love by loving."  
Iris Murdoch
- "Where there is love there is life."  
Mahatma Gandhi
- "You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."  
Dr. Suess
- "Love is what makes you smile when you're tired."  
Terri, age 4
- "Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other."  
Karl, age 5
- "Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday."  
Noelle, age 7




- "I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones."  
Lauren, age 4
- "When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you."  
Karen, age 7
- "Once I'm done with kindergarten, I'm going to find me a wife."  
Tom, age 5
- "No one is sure why love happens, but I heard it has something to do with how you smell. That's why perfume and deodorant are so popular."  
Jan, age 9
- "If you want to be loved by somebody who isn't already in your family, it doesn't hurt to be beautiful."  
Jeanne, age 8
- "You learn it (to kiss) right on the spot when the gooshy feelings get the best of you."  
Doug age 7



Photograph on page 64 by **Jeff Schneiderman Photography**.

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and  
Andre  
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## Love Story: Chelsea (Singley) & Andre Kozaczka

continued from page 67

### How we met:

Our love story begins at a semiconductor manufacturer located just miles away from where I grew up – IBM. With a greater appreciation of Vermont, I moved back after college for work. Similarly, Andre relocated from Massachusetts to Vermont for a job after his college years. We had many mutual friends and coworkers which allowed our paths to eventually cross.

During our first time out for dinner together I remember being so comfortable around Andre and we never ran out of things to talk about. We talked and laughed and before we knew it the restaurant was closing down. One date quickly turned into him cooking me dinners, helping me with my graduate school homework, driving cross country to friends' weddings, meeting each other's families, finishing my basement together, adopting kittens, taking a whirlwind trip to Ireland, and that was just the beginning

### Our engagement:

Andre, being very proud of his Polish heritage, had enjoyed many trips to Krakow when he was younger. We decided to visit Poland together for 10 days in April 2008 so he could share this experience with me. I had been secretly hoping that this was the trip where he would ask me to be his wife but I didn't want to get my hopes up.

One evening, after waking from a nap, we decided to go on a stroll to find a restaurant for dinner. As we were walking through the medieval square in Krakow, referred to as the Rynek, the clock struck 8 o'clock and a trumpet appeared in the west window of the basilica towering above us. I had heard this tune several times over the past few days as it is an hourly historic tradition in Krakow. As the trumpet began to play, Andre interrupted my jetlagged mumbling by turning to me and opening a box. I immediately snapped out of my daze, realizing the question that he was asking me to which I replied "of course."

We called our parents that night to tell them of the news, news that they were anxiously awaiting to hear, already knowing Andre's plan. I couldn't contain my excitement. Andre would laugh as I told him how I was going to be "the best wife ever."

### Most memorable details:

Andre and I decided to have an outdoor reception at my parents' house in Jericho. This was extremely personal to me as it was the only house I had ever lived in growing up and had countless memories there. Since we were having an outdoor wedding at

a residence, we had to plan every detail as no 'coordinator' existed as with typical venues. Needless to say it was a LOT of work. The entire week leading up to the wedding we spent setting up. Together with our families and close friends, we hung over 200 lit paper lanterns from the ceiling of the tent, baked and frosted 225 cookies, and tackled all of the other countless wedding preparations. Those days are so memorable to me because everyone came together to help and everything just seemed to fall in place.

The day was finally here and so many details made it perfect. Our flower girls and ring bearer melted hearts, speeches hit home, our friend Jeanne sang during our ceremony as well as during our first dance, the L.C. Jazz Band got everyone out of their seats, and our

loved ones were there to celebrate it all with us.

One of the most exciting moments of the night was when we were introduced into our reception tent. The ground was so wet, beginning to get muddy from constant summer rainfall compounded with 225 guests. When we were announced as Mr. & Mrs. Kozaczka, Andre surprised me by scooping me up, carrying me into the tent, dancing with our bridal party, and everyone went wild.

Unfortunately, Andre's father had passed away six months before our wedding after a three year battle with cancer. While we knew he'd be there watching over us, we wanted to make sure that we kept his memory alive at our edding. From a candle and a prayer at our ceremony, to our programs, to the homemade ribbon



continued on page 70

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**Love Story: Chelsea (Singley) & Andre Kozaczka**  
 continued from page 69

cookies presented with a favor donation to Dana Farber Cancer Research, there were many details throughout the day that made us smile in remembrance of him.

Finally, one of the most memorable details was something people normally take for granted – the weather! With an outside reception, we were definitely paying attention to the forecast the week leading up to our wedding.

We had come to terms with it; we were accepting the reality that it was going to rain on our wedding day. We bought umbrellas for the bridal party to ensure a couple of outside photos. It poured the evening of the rehearsal dinner and going into Saturday, there was an 80 percent chance of rain. To our surprise, when we walked out of the church for the first time as husband and wife, there was nothing but sun and a bright blue sky, which lasted for the rest of the evening. Andre and I know that the sunny skies on our wedding day were his father's gift to us.



**Planning advice to brides:**

When choosing vendors, listen to your gut. Having a great working relationship with your vendors can make the planning process so much better.

Don't hesitate to delegate! So many people will ask you how they can help, take them up on it. They really want to help you.


Try your hardest to say hello to every guest. At the beginning  
*continued on page 72*



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**Love Story: Chelsea (Singley) & Andre Kozaczka**

continued from page 71

of the reception make the rounds to all the tables. Being torn in different directions, we missed several tables and regretted it. We wanted everyone to know how much we appreciated their love and support.

Take a couple of minutes throughout the day to spend with one another. Absorb it all, celebrate together and imprint

the memory.

Don't stress about things that are not exactly the way you imagined. No one will even notice.

Never stop dating. Monsignor Lavalley spoke about this during the homily at our wedding and we took it to heart. Make time for each other and don't forget what all the planning is really for – a marriage.

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Presentation Cake:  
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Invitations:  
**Truly Noted**

802-373-4547 | 4 Valley's Edge, Jericho, VT | www.trulynoted.net

Wedding Planning Resource: **Vermont Bride Magazine**

802-879-3157 | P.O. Box 143, Westford, VT | vermontbridemagazine.com

**Additional Professionals:**

Groom's Cake: Deborah Singley, homemade by mother of the bride

Transportation: Classic Limo Service

Rentals: Rain or Shine Tent & Events

Portable Toilet Rentals: P&P Septic

Flowers Purchased: Central Market Florist

Flowers Arranged: Laura Deslaurier, bride's long time friend

Centerpieces: Potted orchids from Home Depot

Band Entertainment: Little City Jazz Band

Jewelry: Tacori for the bride (out of state jeweler),

Family heirloom for the groom

Makeup: Independent MAC Artist and friend, Candy

Kuerth

Wedding Gown: Fiori Bridal

Groomsmen Attire: Mens Wearhouse

Favor: Donation to Dana Farber Cancer Institute

# How Not to Offend Friends & Relatives When They Aren't Invited to Your Wedding

By Carmen Howe

Sometimes bigger is not always better and a couple may opt for a small ceremony, or what I like to refer to as a "microwedding" when they decide to get married. This is what my husband and I did. When we were deciding on what kind of wedding we wanted, the thought of a wedding with fifty or more people seemed daunting. Neither one of us likes crowds of people. As we would be paying for the wedding ourselves we weighed what it was we really wanted. My husband doesn't dance and I didn't want to participate in traditional wedding events like tossing the bouquet. Also, we weren't the typical couple getting married for the first time. By the time the ceremony would occur, we would be in our mid-thirties.

**As we would be paying for the wedding ourselves we weighed what it was we really wanted.**

We had been together for over six years and had our own home together for a few years as well. Our families had known each other for over twenty years, so we didn't feel we needed a big ceremony for everyone to get acquainted. We finally decided on a small ceremony with immediate family only, which amounted to thirteen guests, and then a dinner afterwards. When we finally made that decision, we were concerned with how family and friends not included in the big day would feel.

*We wanted to help them understand our decision and let them know that we wanted something intimate and it had nothing to do with wanting to leave them out.*

Once we decided on a wedding date, we sent engagement announcements to those invited to the wedding and to friends and family we thought would have expected to be invited. We told everyone that an intimate ceremony was planned on our wedding date and that although we would not be having a traditional wedding event we wanted to share the good news. Our hope was to give friends and family, in a courteous way, plenty of time to adjust to the plans of a tiny ceremony instead of a large event. We had over a year to let people know at other family gatherings that we simply wanted an intimate wedding and were not leaving anyone out because we did not want them there, but because we wanted something untraditional with immediate family only.

**I had decided on having a matron of honor and told her not to have a bridal shower for me because of the possibility that some potential guests would not be invited to the wedding.**

Nevertheless, my future mother-in-law and sister-in-law decided to throw me a shower to welcome me to the family. Many people who weren't coming to the wedding came to the shower, happy that my future husband and I were doing what we wanted. The shower was a great opportunity for all of us to celebrate the marriage. Etiquette advisors say that it is common for those attending the bridal shower to be invited to the wedding. In my case, everyone was just happy to be at the shower and celebrating the formal merging of two families that had been merged emotionally for years.

As long as you have supportive friends and family, they will accept whatever makes you happy, especially when you make it clear to them that your wedding is not about leaving

anyone out but keeping something intimate for yourselves.

**When you help your loved ones understand that you are doing what makes you happy then everyone will be happy for you in return.**

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By Karen Sturtevant



# Eco-Friendly Weddings: Going Green in 2010

**W**e've all changed our lifestyle due to the way we care about the environment. We turn off water when brushing our teeth, lights (powered by energy efficient bulbs) are clicked off when we leave a room, we return empty cans and don't think twice about separating plastic from cardboard. We're doing our part to preserve Mother Earth. For couples choosing to further this cause as part of their wedding, they get two big green thumbs up. Our favorite frog Kermit said: "It's not that easy bein' green." If Kermit ever got his willpower energized and popped the question to Ms. Piggy, he would have realized that going green doesn't mean sacrificing style or panache. It's easier than he imagined. These thoughts empower all of us to make decisions that will have positive, rather than destructive, impacts on our planet. The following are some ideas to consider when wedding planning meets environmentally conscious thinking.

## The Gown

If wearing your mother's gown isn't an option, consider shopping secondhand and vintage clothing stores. With some alteration and modification, a diamond in the rough dress from bygone days could become elegant and distinctive. We know a bride that purchased her gown for \$99.00 at a vintage clothing store and

looked like a million dollars on her wedding day. If you are purchasing new, look for designers that use sustainable fabrics. Hemp, hemp blends, organic silks, and cottons are nature-friendly rather than factory-friendly options. Pay it forward and consider donating your gown to a charity or secondhand shop.

## Jewelry

Consider purchasing jewelry made from recycled metals and stones. Visit estate sales and vintage shops to find pieces that can be resized or reset. If a diamond is in your future, ask the right questions to be sure the stone was acquired in a 'conflict free' manner.

## Ceremony and Reception

State parks, beaches, outdoor gardens, and backyards are not only earth friendly, but natural, picturesque venues for ceremonies and receptions. Save on electricity consumption and let the solar power provide the ambiance. If opting for an indoor site, ask about energy efficient appliances and biodegradable products. Restrooms should have hands free dryers, natural soaps, and lotions. Silverware and china should be used over throw away plastic and paper ware. Holding the ceremony and reception in the same location eliminates the need for additional travel and carbon emissions.

## Become a Locavore

By supporting your neighborhood florist, jeweler, formalwear shop, caterer, and baker you are making an investment in the local economy which benefits us all. These businesses make their livelihood by serving you, the discerning consumer. With more people leaning toward environmentally conscious decisions, businesses are more than happy to accommodate specific requests and may offer

*If opting for an indoor site, ask about energy efficient appliances and biodegradable products. Restrooms should have hands free dryers, natural soaps, and lotions.*

fresh alternatives that you hadn't considered. Visit local vendors and you will find that many are as passionate as you regarding sustainable practices.

## Menu and Dessert

Partnering with your caterer you will be able to offer your guests the best local, organic and seasonal products; produce and meats from local suppliers are far healthier and tastier than those trucked from the west coast – not to mention the carbon footprint savings. Visit farmers' markets to get an idea of local offerings and share these ideas with your caterer. Maple syrup presented in a variety of glassware make fantastic, local favors. Carman Brook Maple Farm and VT Mountain Syrup (located in the Resource Guide section of Vermont Bride Magazine) are experts at these sweet treats. Consider free-range poultry, eggs and beef – the taste difference is remarkable. If fish is on the dinner menu, avoid commercially raised and those high in mercury. Wild salmon and tilapia are excellent choices; stay away from dolphin harming tuna.

Local wineries, including Boyden Valley Winery, offer a wide variety of white and red wines along with exquisite dessert wines. Look into donating any leftover food to local food shelves or soup kitchens. This is a good job for the best man and maid of honor.

## Décor

Candles add sparkle and elegance for a reasonable price. Produced from petroleum, paraffin candles have taken a second seat to more earth friendly choices like soy and beeswax. Excellent choices for their longer, soot free burn time and renewability, soy and beeswax candles are sure winners – they also make great favors.

*Leave the streamers, confetti, balloons, disposable cameras, and polyester at the discount store. Being dumped in a landfill to putrefy for years is far too hefty a price to pay for all of us – especially when there are friendly alternatives. Put on your green thinking cap and come up with your own socially conscious touches.*

Consider the most natural choice of decoration for your reception: plants. From the showy banana tree to the bushy Boston fern, these natural



Photo by E. Weems

air purifiers are attractive and affordable options. Claussen's Florist & Greenhouse offer Vermont's largest selection of indoor foliage for sale or rent. With a delivery and pick up service of an extensive variety of sizes and species, they can enhance the look and feel of your wedding day. Ask about wicker pot covers and bows to match your décor.

Potted plants and herbs, tree seedlings, seashells, driftwood, and fruit make original, imaginative table centerpieces. They can also double for

*continued on page 76*

## Wedding Word Scramble

Have some fun with this brain-teaser. Each word relates to weddings. Can you unscramble before your brain becomes scrambled? Look for answers in the summer 2010 issue. Good luck!

- TQOBUEUS \_\_\_\_\_
- NDPMROAE \_\_\_\_\_
- LRHREEASA NRENDI \_\_\_\_\_
- SENTDR \_\_\_\_\_
- TTNDNSEAOII DGWNEID \_\_\_\_\_
- NTCASEC \_\_\_\_\_
- BORINB \_\_\_\_\_
- TAPLE HAPT \_\_\_\_\_
- ELSAI NERRUN \_\_\_\_\_
- EUODXT \_\_\_\_\_

(These are the answers to the Winter 2009-2010 issue word scramble: Did you figure out the Wedding Word Scramble for winter? first dance, cake, favors, flowers, kiss, diamonds, guests, honeymoon, photographer, gift registry)

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### Eco-Friendly Weddings

Continued from page 75



favours. Homemade jams, honey, relish and maple syrup in glass containers given as favours are sweet reminders of the day. Making donations to established charities including The Sierra Club Foundation and World Wildlife Foundation in names of guests have become popular. If you consider making donations in lieu of favours, choose one or two that are dear to your heart. Your guests will find this refreshing and personal, and isn't being personal what your wedding day is really about?

### Stationery

Your stationery supplier will be able to offer options that include soy and vegetable based ink, recycled, cotton or linen paper and paper embedded with flower seeds for invitations and other stationery essentials.

### Flowers

Local florists will have connections to regional sources that provide vibrant blooms especially for you. If working with local suppliers is important to you, mention this in your search for a florist and he/she will be able to start sourcing which flowers you are interested in. Particularly with flowers, having second and even third choices are important as there are many variables in Vermont's short growing season. What to do with the flowers at the end of the reception? The appreciation received from a nursing home, respite house, or hospital will be gratifying beyond words.

From shoes and jewelry to cufflinks and containers, going green is not only fashionable, it's commonsensible. Having a wedding that is carbon neutral free is virtually impossible, but knowing that you are proactive in choosing constructive alternatives is a huge step in making your wedding truly fulfilling.

Begin looking at the world through green tinted glasses and know that small changes can, and do, make big impacts on our planet and our daily lives. Kermit would be proud.

**By supporting your neighborhood florist, jeweler, formalwear shop, caterer, and baker you are making an investment in the local economy which benefits us all.**

*Vermont Bride Magazine* is proud to recommend the following professionals whom are mentioned in our Eco-Wedding article by Karen Sturtevant.

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#### Carman Brook Farm

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 thefolks@cbmaplefarm.com  
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#### Claussen's Florist & Greenhouse

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 retail@claussens.com |  
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[left] Photos by Jeff Schneiderman Photography

# Hey, Teen Bridesmaid

By Pat Esden

**B**eing asked to serve as a bridesmaid is a great honor, but it is also a responsibility that shouldn't be taken lightly, especially by younger teens.

The financial responsibility can be particularly difficult for a young teen. Unless the teen has an income, a parent will have to pay for items associated with being a bridesmaid including the bridesmaid dress, new underclothes, shoes, gifts for the shower and wedding, transportation to the wedding . . . and, if the wedding's out of town, perhaps even a hotel room. If the teen doesn't have a driver's license and a car, then a parent may have to drive the teen to attend pre-wedding planning sessions, dress fittings, showers and rehearsals. For these reasons and others it is important that a young teen consult their parents before accepting the honor of being a bridesmaid. Even if parents agree, a teen should be one hundred percent sure they want to be a bridesmaid or should graciously decline the invitation. It's better to say no when first asked than back out after the dress is ordered.

**Once a young teen has agreed to serve as a bridesmaid, a great next step is to search on the internet for a list of bridesmaid duties, choose a couple that are appealing and suitable, then volunteer to do them.**

Often times a bride gets caught up in the hustle and bustle of wedding planning and may forget to directly ask the bridesmaids to help—or may feel uncomfortable telling people what she needs help with. So, if a young teen is specific about what they would like to do and are capable of doing it will be a great relief to the bride.

There are many prewedding duties that are suitable for young teens, such as volunteering to address wedding invitations and stuff them into envelopes, helping make favors and baskets for out of town

guests. Asking the maid of honor if she needs help with the shower or anything else is not only polite, it is expected.

A young teen should go with the rest of the bridesmaids when the dresses are chosen—this is one of the high points of being a bridesmaid, as is choosing hairstyles and shoes. Some brides allow the bridesmaids to help choose dress colors and style, some do not. The important thing for a young teen to remember is to tactfully speak up if the dress style makes you uncomfortable or does not fit well, but remember color and style are ultimately up to the bride. Resist any urge to argue. This is the bride's day not yours.

**As the wedding day approaches, a young teen needs to pick her dress up from the bridal shop in time to have it altered if necessary. She should try the dress on with the underwear she intends to wear on the wedding day and make sure it doesn't show.**

Pick up several pairs of pantyhose that work with the dress and tuck an emergency pair in a formal bag that matches the bridesmaid dress. Shoes should be tried on and stretched. Practice walking in them. These all seem like common sense, but everything a young bridesmaid can do to prepare herself ahead of time will eliminate stress on the wedding day, so all the attention can focus on the bride instead of a bridesmaid's last minute dilemma.

Generally, young bridesmaids are invited to the bridal shower, but a young teen should not feel slighted if she isn't invited to the bachelorette party. Often bachelorette parties involve drinking and older guys. The last thing the bride needs is to have a bridesmaid get in trouble for underage drinking or caught in a compromising position with a guy. If a teen is invited to a bachelorette party, resist temptation and stick to the no drinking alcohol and no flirting with older guys rule. These

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Photograph by Mager Studios, from the Jen and Justin Twombly wedding. See the full love story and photos online at [www.vermontbridemagazine.com](http://www.vermontbridemagazine.com)

## Hey, Teen Bridesmaid

Continued from page 79

rules also apply at the rehearsal dinner, during the ceremony and the reception, all of which a teen bridesmaid will be attending.

During the rehearsal, listen to all the instructions—this will make the wedding day much less stressful. On the wedding day, a teen bridesmaid should focus on making the day as

easy and wonderful for the bride as possible. Independence and cooperation are the keys to doing this. Get out of bed and ready to go early. Be sure to get to the hairdressers on time. If you don't regularly wear makeup or go to a hairdresser, don't complain or refuse to be made up. The truth is that makeup will make you look better in photos as will a hairstyle that coordinates with the other bridesmaids'.

Do everything you can to help the bride and maid of honor. Ask if they need anything, like water, a snack or Kleenex. The wedding day is a time of high emotions and often small details go astray, like the ring bearer's pillow being left in the limo. If a teen notices something is being forgotten, speak up. Do anything you can to lend moral support and make the day stress free for the bride.

When it comes to the ceremony, follow all the instructions that were given at the rehearsal and resist the urge to fool around or giggle.

Take a deep breath, and when it's your turn to walk down the aisle do it slowly.

Once the wedding is over, help gather up things like the unity candle and any stray possessions that the bride might forget. A teen bridesmaid can quickly scan the pews or chairs and gather any items that guest have left behind, such as cell phones or cameras. But don't forget that you are expected to stand in the receiving line with the rest of the bridal party.

*Independence and cooperation are the keys to doing this. Get out of bed and be ready to go early.*



At the reception, a teen bridesmaid most often will sit with the other bridesmaids, though the bride may make other seating arrangements. The teen should take part in the formal parts of the reception, such as the toast, the bouquet toss and first-dance sequence, but after that she is free to socialize with other guests.

Above all a young bridesmaid should remember that whether the bride is a family member or a friend, don't let wedding stress lead to petty arguments. Be understanding and forgiving. Weddings last one day, but the friendship between a bride and bridesmaid can last a lifetime.

**Pat Esden:** Pat has worked in the wedding industry for over twenty-five years. As a master floral designer and owner of Esden Florist in Fairfield Vermont, she sees the yearly changes in wedding styles and is familiar with the time-honored traditions and in tune with the new conventions.

GETTING READY

# Rehearsal Dinners

## Keep it Relaxed & Casual, A Wonderful American Tradition

By Chris Francis



**T**his wonderful American tradition started more than 50 years ago being first attested in 1953.

It was originally a time for the wedding party and their spouses or significant others to share a meal following the rehearsal for the following day's ceremony.

Traditionally hosted by the parents of the groom the night prior to the wedding the dinner has more recently evolved to include out of town guests who are also welcomed to this pre-wedding party. Nowadays it is not unusual to include all guests attending the wedding particularly at a destination location.

Subsequently the function of this pre wedding party has changed somewhat and now serves as an effective tool to 'Break the ice' providing a great opportunity for the two families and the wedding couples various friends to meet and interact in a friendly and relaxing environment.

Introductions are made with ease and informality.

Destination weddings offer so many exciting opportunities to plan a unique, memorable and a very special weekend celebration that is officially launched with the 'rehearsal'.

This event should not conflict with the arrangements of wedding day itself so avoid hosting the two events in the same setting or property.

Make sure the menu suits your style but does not share any similarities with the wedding meal. In your planning remember to make sure the chef is aware of any special dietary needs or allergies your guests may have.

Keep it casual and be imaginative avoid the 'cookie cutter' type of arrangement. Any Inn or restaurant that wants your business and claims to host such evenings should be enthusiastic and provide ideas and guidance to make this important dinner special

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## Rehearsal Dinners

Continued from page 81

in its own way. Do not settle for the mundane, look for innovative ideas with a sense of the occasion with fun and flair.

Avoid the ordinary. We have all been to rehearsal dinners that are hosted in the somewhat routine situation involving a couple of tables in a standard restaurant setting. You can dine this way anytime.

Country Inns are often very well equipped to provide a venue that is truly special and some of them actually specialize in such events.

A great example of this is Ye Olde England Inne in Stowe. Here couples have four very popular location options to select from each with a distinctive atmosphere and clearly defined personality of its own.

The Copperfields Room is reminiscent of a lovely old coaching Inne with low ceilings, hand-hewn beams and Tartan rug.

Bluff House Hall a truly magnificent room with a ceiling that soars to thirty feet and features an enormous inglenook fireplace at one end and a glass walled alcove at the other.

The poolside setting is another pretty option, candlelit and surrounded by beautiful gardens its very serene.

More than 100 guests can gather in the magnificent boathouse a post and beam structure with racing sculls set in the rafters above. Rather like a huge tent the sides can be drawn back completely for the views that surround.

So let your imagination loose as you consider your options. It takes little to avoid the ordinary and the benefits of a little creative thought are huge as you launch your weekend of celebrations.

Casual themes for the meal are definitely the way to go be it a clambake, pig roast, barbeque, buffet, plated dinner or grazing stations. Once again you are limited only by your imagination.

Beverages should be selected to compliment the theme you select. You may consider to welcome guests with an 'Icebreaker Punch' both alcoholic and virgin. This adds a thoughtful welcoming element with a touch of class.

In the winter make it mulled.

Its during this rehearsal dinner that a few speeches may be made to both welcome guests and introduce the wedding principles, family Matriarchs, Patriarchs

and wedding party members.

Small gifts are often distributed to the bridal party members at this time by the bride and groom in anticipation of the services these close friends and family members will be performing the following day.

If entertainment is planned. Choose wisely as this gathering is really focused upon meeting each other and as such the environment should not embarrass conversation with intrusively loud music.

Ensure you book your venue well in advance properties are in high demand for such weekend events.

Christopher Francis has been Innkeeping at **Ye Olde England Inne** in Stowe since 1983.

Most recently he was honored as the Stowe Business Person of The Year 2009

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## Quick Quips and Helpful Tips

### Hints for wedding planning:

• **Have a groom's cake** designed and shaped to showcase his interests: muscle cars, golf, computers, or sports. Based on tradition, the groom would serve pieces to bridesmaids. That night, while the piece was safely boxed and under her pillow, legend reveals the woman would dream of her future husband.

• **Fun cake toppers:** Disney characters, flowers, toys from childhood, monogrammed Swarovski crystal, a framed picture, glass figurines, mirror, sugar crystallized fruit, or ivy sprigs cascading (that can later be rooted to become a houseplant).

• **Have an espresso/cappuccino bar.**

• **Offer an ice-cream bar** with jimmies, sauces of chocolate, strawberries and caramel, cherries, whipped cream, peanuts, candy pieces, and crushed cookies.



# The Long and Short to Amazing Bridal Hair

**Perfect bridal hair compliments and completes your personal wedding style.** Not only does the ideal hairstyle accessorize and enhance your beautiful features, it also offers you a chance to create a dramatic sophisticated look as your bridal image.

*By Sara Daly*



**A**pril Desabrais, Cosmetologist and Owner of Manestream Salon in Middlebury, Vermont offers these bridal hair tips after years of experience with wedding hair for brides, grooms, and attendants.

## Deciding Your Style

There are many considerations when choosing a hairstyle that will work for you. The first and most important is to be realistic with what your hair can do. If you have fine hair, a thick full updo may be more difficult. The setting and formality of your wedding should be taken into consideration. Is the wedding inside or outside? What does your dress look like? Is it strapless, or what type of straps does it have? Are you wearing a veil? Are you wearing a tiara? Where is the veil going to sit? Do you plan to take the veil off after the ceremony? Check to see if the style you have chosen is age appropriate. Does the hairstyle compliment your attitude? Looking through wedding magazines and cutting out photos of what you like are extremely helpful to stylists.

## Hair Preparation

It is not necessary to grow your hair out for a year prior to your wedding! Trim your hair a half inch every three months for healthy hair that is easier to work with. If you are interested in a different cut, please cut your hair a month before the wedding. You may decide that hair extensions would help you

create the perfect look. Talk with your stylist about extensions 6-8 weeks prior to your wedding date so that she can color match your hair and get you started on the process. Extensions are a fantastic way to create volume and length in a fun non-permanent fashion. If you color your hair, schedule all color services 2 weeks prior to the wedding day.

## Consultation

The consultation is everything: it is a chance to decide how to style your hair on the date! Most salons require a bride to have one or more consultations before the wedding as a practice run. Tips for your consultation include:

1. Come in with shampooed, dry, clean hair.
2. No waxes, hairspray, or gel in your hair.
3. Wear a button up shirt.
4. Bring a camera to take photos from every angle.
5. Bring veils and headpieces.
6. Bring photos of styles you prefer.
7. Bring a friend.
8. Have fun!

The first consultation is a test run to see which styles you prefer and what you feel comfortable in. The second consultation will show you a finished product including placement of your veil.

*continued on page 84*

## Current Hair Trends

The loose, romantic look is popular now according to Ms. Desabrais. She has seen many brides asking for the half up/ half down, slightly wavy style. There has also been a resurgence of brides incorporating braids into their styles. The sleek sophisticated updo with a side bang has never gone out of fashion.

## Grooms

Although not as apparent, the groom's hair cut is essential. Men should have their hair cut 1-2 weeks before the wedding, not the day before. Men should not try a new style a day before the wedding. Products are a must for men on the wedding day. If men have been using a camouflaging color, this should be done 2 weeks prior to the event.

## Bridesmaids

The bride is the captain of the hair team. Although many brides give their attendants the ability to choose a style, a bride should be given the choice to recommend a style that better suits the setting and feel of a wedding. Most bridesmaids do not have a consultation, but are encouraged to have one if they are having a more difficult style, or if added decorations such as fresh flowers are being used.

## Children

The bride should be the one deciding what hairstyle her flower girl is wearing. Many flower girls mirror the bride's style, for example they each have a tiara. Children do not typically have consultations. They should arrive at the salon with shampooed, dry hair. Children are restless, so letting them go first can get them done and happy.

## Moms

Many mothers of the bride and groom state they do not need to have their hair done, and then regret that decision when they get to the salon with their daughters. The suggestion we

*Choosing your bridal look is an opportunity to show your natural beauty and your personal style.*

give is to book your mom and plan it for her. She will be so pleased and will feel wonderful for the photos. Ms Desabrais recommends a simple shampoo and blow dry, or perhaps a quick set to make her hair shine. Don't forget Grandmas too! Some of the most fun we have had with makeup and hair has been for the grandmothers of the bride.

## Where to Have your Hair Done

It is recommended that you choose your stylist based on many factors, but your first choice should be the stylist you have seen regularly. Many brides are coming to Vermont and do not have a relationship with a salon and need guidance. We recommend you search a wedding directory such as the one in Vermont Bride to see which salons can cater to wedding hair. They will be able to see you and your attendants in less time if they have more stylists. Ask for referrals from wedding consultants, or at a spa, florist, or photographer. It is recommended that you have your hair done in a salon or spa as the stylists work best in their environment with their tools. Lighting, mirrors, electrical outlets, and access to materials are important during a high-energy affair such as a wedding. And as a plus, is usually less expensive to have your hair done at the salon then to have them travel to you.

## Price

Prices for hair vary by salon. The average price for bridal

hair is \$100 and up for the bride and \$50 and up for attendants. Consultations may or may not be added into the price. Ask the salon what their policies are so that you understand their pay structure. Deposits are generally required, and often you pay prior to the wedding day to ensure a smooth day without stress. The bride's mother often pays for the group as a wedding gift. Otherwise, it is common for individuals to pay for their hairstyle. Expect to pay \$500-\$1000 for 6+ attendants and the bride.

*Whether you choose a simple classic design or an edgy modern look, your Vermont hair stylists are ready to enhance your natural beauty.*



Featured Wedding Professionals for all your Hair Care needs. *Vermont Bride Magazine* is proud to recommend the following:

**Hair Loft Design Center SALON & SPA**  
802-524-2146 | St., Saint Albans, VT  
See our ad VermontBrideMagazine.com

Our purpose and philosophy are to bring you, our guest, an array of beauty services from head to toe... for Your Mind, Body and Soul.

**Moon Studio Day Spa**  
802-985-9949 | Shelburne, VT  
moonstudiodayspa.com

At Moon Studio Day Spa, our mission is to create a sanctuary for healing, wellness and beauty for women and men.

**Total Body Salon**  
802-253-9969 | Stowe, VT  
See our ad VermontBrideMagazine.com

Total Body Salon is a Full Service Bridal Salon located in Stowe Vermont. Let Us Care for You on Your Special Day!

**The Essex**  
**Vermont's Culinary Resort & Spa**  
800-727-4295 | Essex Junction, VT  
VtCulinaryResort.com

We offer the essence of Vermont in a tranquil environment of warm woods and natural stone, rich traditional Vermont hospitality, and, above all, the expertise of our extraordinary spa staff.

**The New You Salon**  
802-864-3700 | Colchester, VT  
thenewyousalon.org

Our elegant full service salon will provide you with relaxed and peaceful atmosphere for the most important day of your life.

**Colonial Styling Center, Inc**  
802-524-5630 | St. Albans, VT  
CSC.VermontBrideMagazine.com

We offer you a special place where you are honored, pampered, relaxed and may enjoy services designed to work for you and your individual needs.

**Vermont Bride Magazine is also proud to recommend the following professional spas. The goal of these highly trained and qualified experts is to rejuvenate your mind, body, and soul in a calm, serene surrounding.**

**The Essex Resort & Spa**  
800-727-4295 | Essex, VT  
www.vtculinaryresort.com

**The Equinox Resort & Spa**  
800-362-4747 | Manchester, VT  
www.equinoxresort.com

**Hair Loft Design Center - Salon & Spa**  
802-524-2146 | St. Albans, VT  
See our ad VermontBrideMagazine.com

**Lumina (Med-Spa)**  
Nancy Carlson Fisher, MD: 802-861-0200  
So. Burlington, VT  
www.nancyfishermd.com

**Moon Studio Day Spa**  
802-985-9949 | Shelburne, VT  
www.moonstudiodayspa.com

**Waterfalls Day Spa**  
802-388-0311  
Middlebury & Vergennes, VT  
www.middleburyspa.com

For more information regarding the above Spa Services, please visit Vermont Bride's website @ [www.vermontbridemagazine.com](http://www.vermontbridemagazine.com).

**Sara Daly** is a Physical Therapist, Massage Therapist, and Certified Manual Lymph Drainage Therapist. She is President of Waterfalls Day Spa in Middlebury, Vermont and Waterfalls at Basin Harbor Club on Lake Champlain. She is a frequent contributor to Vermont Bride Magazine and was featured in the Sept/Oct 2009 edition of Massage Magazine.

## Vermont Bride's Discussion Forum

**Q. We would really like money instead of wedding gifts. How do we let people know?**

**Lisa, Colchester**

**A.** Never should the request be printed on invitations. Guests will ask your family and bridal party where you are registered and that is a good time for them to relay your wishes. You should register for gifts even if you prefer cash over a can opener anyway; sometimes in addition to money. Guests will understand and honor the gift of money over the gift of product if they know in advance. Use your inner circle as a billboard and ask them to spread the word.

**Q. I can't decide between my sister and best friend, can I have two maids of honor?**

**Kendall, Jericho**

**A.** Why not? This is your wedding! To set them apart from the bridesmaids, choose different dresses (color, length, or style). Having co-maids of honor means double the assistance in sharing tasks (choosing flowers, gown shopping, writing invitations, etc.). Compose a few special words to be printed in the program as to why you chose these two particular women. When it comes time to walk the aisle, each takes an arm of the best man. When it's time for dancing, each has their time in the spotlight, hand in hand with the best man.



**Q. We've picked out our Invitations. What are Save-The-Date-Cards and do we need them?**

**Kelsey, South Hero**

**A.** Although not mandatory, Save-The-Date-Cards are recommended. Different from Invitations, Save-The-Date-Cards are sent to guests 5 – 6 months prior to the wedding and act as a reminder to record this important date in their daily planner before other appointments take over. Be casual and just state the facts (who, when) with 'Formal Invitation to follow,' – keep it simple. Postcards, photos, stickers, magnets, and note card paper all work well.

**Q. We don't want everyone lined up at a head table. What are other seating alternatives?**

**Lynn, Burlington**

**A.** You and your new husband can share the reception sitting with parents or enjoying each other at your own sweetheart table. The sweetheart table could be placed in the center of the room, being surrounded by family and friends – a charming sentiment. The wedding party (with their dates) can be seated among the group of friends they would be sitting with had they not been in the wedding.

**Q. I'm planning our wedding and it's a second marriage for both of us. I don't see myself in a trailing white gown or veil. What's appropriate?**

**Lori, Essex**

**A.** If a full-length white gown isn't your forte, wearing a simple, yet elegant cocktail-length dress may be more to your liking. Keep the veil in the display window and opt for a simple comb or pin with flowers. Anything goes and if you have your eye on a special dress that you ordinarily wouldn't purchase, consider splurging for this occasion.

White is no longer taboo with second weddings. Wear whatever makes you feel beautiful – **this is your day after all!**

By Howard Cohen

## How to find a Rabbi

It is often said, "Love is blind." This could not be truer than when it comes to religious differences. Unfortunately for many couples, this love that "blinds" religious differences can be a problem when looking for a clergy person to officiate at a wedding.

**Congratulations, you have decided to get married. As you already know the decision to wed is not made lightly. God willing, you will live a long and happy life with your beloved.**

It is often said, "Love is blind." This could not be truer than when it comes to religious differences. Unfortunately for many couples, this love that "blinds" religious differences can be a problem when looking for a clergy person to officiate at a wedding. In this article I will explore some of the issues an interfaith marrying couple may encounter if hoping to have a rabbi perform the wedding.

**Interfaith marriages represent a special challenge to the Jewish people.**

Orthodox and Conservative Judaism respond to intermarriage by prohibiting their rabbis to officiate at interfaith weddings, period. This is non-negotiable for them. Though some Orthodox and Conservative rabbis will meet with the couple and share their concerns and/or make a connection so as to be able to work them in the future, they still will not officiate at the wedding. Other rabbis, or their secretaries, will simply turn the couple down. To be sure, there are more or less compassionate ways for the rabbi to say no. In any case, do not be offended when an Orthodox or Conservative rabbi says no to your request: it is not personal. Renewal, Reconstructionist and Reform rabbis are empowered, however, to decide for themselves whether they will officiate at an interfaith wedding.

**In short, knowing the rabbi's affiliation before you ask if she or he is available can prevent a lot of unnecessary hurt feelings.**

Assuming the rabbi contacted is not Orthodox or Conservative, there are still reasons why she or he may not agree to officiate at an interfaith wedding. A common reason is that the ceremony is

scheduled for a time when weddings are traditionally prohibited, for example the Sabbath and holidays. Another reason is that the couple intends to incorporate religious symbols and language from the non-Jewish partner's religious tradition. A third reason may be that the couple is seeking a rabbi only to make Aunt Sadie or Mom happy and they themselves do not care if they have a Jewish wedding.

And then there is co-officiating, this is when clergy members from different faiths officiate together. There are Reform and Renewal

rabbis who co-officiate but Reconstructionist rabbis are prohibited from doing so. There are many reasons that are considerably less support for co-officiating, which are complex and beyond the scope of this article. Suffice it to say, the reasons are never personal. Rabbis put a lot of thought into whether or not to officiate or co-officiate at interfaith weddings long before you call. Whether seeking a rabbi to officiate or co-officiate it is definitely possible to find someone who will do it. The key is to do a little homework and determine the rabbi's affiliation before calling.

**Howard was a congregational rabbi for 12 years here in Vermont.** He left pulpit work to run a small wilderness guiding business called Burning Bush Adventures (BBA) which he started as a rabbinical student. BBA offers dog sled trips in the winter and canoeing trips in the summer. He also has a private pastoral counseling practice and does freelance rabbinic work. In his spare time he is chaplain of the Bennington Fire

Department, as well as an active volunteer firefighter. Howard lives in Bennington, VT with his wife, three children and cat Daphne. He was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and is a member of both the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and Ohalah: The Association of Rabbis for Jewish Renewal.



...a Jewish wedding is more than just an event. It is a learning and growing process.

**ALTERATIONS**

**The Sewing Basket**  
802-476-8389 | Barre, VT  
802-878-7181 | Essex Jct, VT  
802-778-9311 | Montpelier, VT  
Jagarden@aol.com  
See our ad vermontbridemagazine.com

**BEAUTY & WELLNESS**

**Colonial Styling Center, Inc**  
802-524-5630  
146 N Main St., St. Albans, VT  
CSC.VermontBrideMagazine.com

**The Essex Resort & Spa**  
800-727-4295 | Essex, VT  
www.vtbrinaryresort.com

**Hair Loft Design Center SALON & SPA**  
802-524-2146  
387 Lake St., Saint Albans, VT  
See our ad vermontbridemagazine.com

**Makeup by Kathryn**

802-355-4583  
kcannata@gmail.com  
myspace.com/kathryncannata  
See our at VermontBrideMagazine.com

**Mary Kay**

802-425-3768  
valmullin@gmavt.net  
marykay.com/valmullin

**Moon Studio Day Spa**

802-985-9949  
4070 Shelburne Rd, Shelburne, VT  
moonstudio@myfairpoint.net  
moonstudiodayspa.com

**Nailz & Makeup Artistry by Sue**

802-527-5157  
429 Lake Rd., St. Albans, VT  
ksvideography@yahoo.com  
ksvideovermont.com

**The New You Salon**

802-864-3700  
127 Porters Point Rd., Colchester, VT  
Thenewyousalon@aol.com  
thenewyousalon.org

**TOTAL BODY SALON**

802-253-9969  
394 Mountain Rd, Stowe, VT  
See our ad vermontbridemagazine.com

**■ Cosmetic & Aesthetic Services**

**LUMINA**

Nancy Carlson Fisher, MD  
802-861-0200  
1775 Williston Rd., So. Burl. VT  
nancyfishermid.com

**Laser Therapy of Vermont**

Noelle Thabault, MD, LLC  
368 Dorset St. Suite 2, So. Burl. VT  
802-862-7555 &  
215 Stratton Rd., Rutland, VT  
802-775-2700

**Northern Vermont**

**Oral & Facial Surgery**

802-872-3593 | Essex Jct., VT  
802-524-0490 | St. Albans, VT  
802-223-2364 | Berlin, VT  
802-473-4150 | St. Johnsbury, VT  
nvos-vt.com

**■ Oral & Facial Surgery**

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**Oral & Facial Surgery**

802-872-3593 | Essex Jct., VT  
802-524-0490 | St. Albans, VT  
802-223-2364 | Berlin, VT  
802-473-4150 | St. Johnsbury, VT  
nvos-vt.com

**■ Spa Services**

**Equinox Resort & Spa**

800-362-4747  
3567 Main St., Rt. 7A  
Manchester Village, VT  
spa@equinoxresort.com  
equinoxresort.com

**The Essex Resort & Spa**

800-727-4295 | Essex, VT  
www.vtbrinaryresort.com

**Hair Loft Design Center**

**SALON & SPA**  
802-524-2146  
387 Lake St., Saint Albans, VT  
See our ad vermontbridemagazine.com

**LUMINA**

Nancy Carlson Fisher, MD  
802-861-0200  
1775 Williston Rd., So. Burl. VT  
nancyfishermid.com

**Moon Studio Day Spa**

802-985-9949  
4070 Shelburne Rd, Shelburne, VT  
moonstudio@myfairpoint.net  
moonstudiodayspa.com

**Waterfalls Day Spa**

802-388-0311  
14 Court House Square, Middlebury, VT  
waterfallsdayspa@gmail.com  
middleburyspa.com

**BRIDAL SHOPS**

**China Rose Bridal**

802-879-7274  
11 Audry Lane, Westford, VT  
See our ad VermontBrideMagazine.com

**Needleman's Bridal & Formal**

Toll free: 800-924-Gown (4696)  
St. Albans, Newport, Burlington, &  
Barre VT  
needlemansbridal.com

**BRIDAL GOWN PRESERVATION**

**The Sewing Basket**

802-476-8389 | Barre, VT  
802-878-7181 | Essex Jct, VT  
802-778-9311 | Montpelier, VT  
Jagarden@aol.com  
See our ad vermontbridemagazine.com

**CAKES & PASTRIES**

**Bakery at Junior's** (Junior's Italian)

802-655-5282  
85 So.Park Dr., Colchester, VT  
juniorssvt@hotmail.com | juniorsvt.com

**Delicate Decadence**

**Cake Boutique**  
802-479-7948  
15 Cottage St. Barre, VT  
finecakes@verizon.net  
DelDec.vermontbridemagazine.com

**Fischer's Fancies**

802-598-9699  
info@fischersfancies.com  
fischersfancies.com

**Gourmet Provence**

802-247-3002  
37 Center St, Brandon, VT  
info@cafeprovencevt.com  
cafeprovencevt.com

**La Brioche Bakery & Café (NEC)**

802-229-0443  
89 Main St., Montpelier, VT  
neciding@neci.edu | neciding.com

**Snaffle Sweets**

802-434-2400  
2921 East Main St., Richmond, VT  
snaffle.sweets@gmail.com  
snafflesweets.com

**CATERING**

**The Abbey**

Toll-free: 800-696-4748  
212 VT Rte 105 Enosburg Falls, VT  
Rachel@abbeygroup.net  
abbeygroup.net

**Black Tie Catering**

802-864-2433  
131 MAIN ST., Burl., VT  
chefkelly@souzas.org | souzas.org

**Café Provence**

11 Center Street, Brandon, VT  
rbchef@cafeprovencevt.com  
cafeprovencevt.com

**Chow Bella**

802-524-1405  
24 N. Main St., Saint Albans, VT  
chow@chowbella.us | chowbella.us

**Jeff's Caters**

802-524-6135  
65 Main St., Saint Albans, VT  
jeffsmaineeseafoodrestaurant.com

**Junior's Long Island Catering**

**Company.** (Junior's Italian)  
802-655-5555  
85 South Park Dr. Colchester, VT  
juniorssvt@hotmail.com | juniorsvt.com

**Kosher Cravings**

800-303-0107  
howardfleisher@charter.net  
See our ad vermontbridemagazine.com

**Michele's Fine Dining**

On & Off Premise Catering  
800-303-0107  
5131 US Ave., Plattsburgh, NY  
howardfleisher@charter.net

**Souzas Churrascaria**

802-864-2433  
131 MAIN ST., Burl., VT  
chefkelly@souzas.org | souzas.org

**State Street Catering**

802-229-6788  
8 State St., Montpelier, VT  
carol@statetreetcatering.com  
statetreetcatering.com

**Waterfront Catering Group**

802-658-3663  
1712 Shelburne Rd. So. Burl. VT  
gary@vermontspecialoccasions.com  
vermontspecialoccasions.com

**Wetherbee's Catering**

800-974-6102  
467 Depot Rd. Colchester, VT  
WFW06@comcast.net  
wetherbeescatering.com

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**■ DJ's - Entertainers**

**Corey Neil Gottfried**

802-893-7685  
PO Box 2022 Colchester, VT  
corey@lincotentertainment.com  
lincotentertainment.com

**Gerry Lawrence**

802-655-7534  
PO Box 5547, Essex Jct., VT  
gerry@accurtepayroll.com  
See our ad VermontBrideMagazine.com

**HP Entertainment**

802-862-5082 (c/o Hector Cobeo),  
70 Pleasant Ave, Burl, VT  
info@hpbands.com | hpbands.com

**Peak Entertainment**

802-888-6978  
email@peakdj.com | peakdj.com

**Supersounds DJ**

802-899-2823  
PO Box 214 Underhill, VT  
sounds@myfairpoint.net  
supersounds.com

**FINANCIAL PLANNING**

**THE VERMONT AGENCY**

802-864-6819  
354 Mtn View Dr, Suite 200 Colchester, VT  
Vermont\_Agency@nlvmail.com  
vermontagency.com

**■ Musicians**

**Classic Consort**

802-849-6900  
PO Box 67 Fairfax, VT  
clarcell@classicconsort.com  
classicconsort.com

**Green Mountain Swing**

802-229-9496  
davidcarkeet@gmail.com  
greennountainsswing.com

**HP Entertainment**

802-862-5082 (c/o Hector Cobeo)  
70 Pleasant Ave, Burl, VT  
info@hpbands.com | hpbands.com

**Lisa Carlson**

802-229-9901  
lisa@lisafute.com | lisafute.com

**Love That Duo**

802-899-2833  
17 Metcal View, Underhill, VT  
charlottebrodie@comcast.net  
lovethatduo.com

**Sheefra**

802-223-9103  
PO Box 522, Montpelier VT  
tim@sheefra.net | sheefra.net

**Vermont Symphony Orchestra**

802-864-5741 (ext. 11)  
2 Church St., Suite 19, Burl, VT  
rebecca@vso.org | vso.org  
Toll-free: 800-VSO-9293

**FAVORS**

**As the Crow Flies**

802-524-2800  
58 N. Main Street, St. Albans, VT  
asthecrowflies@together.net  
asthecrowfliesvt.com

**Boyden Valley Winery**

802-644-8151  
64 Vt Route 104, Cambridge, VT  
info@boydenvalley.com  
boydenvalley.com

**Carman Brook Farm**

888-84-maple (6-2753)  
1275 Fortin Rd, Swanton, VT  
thefolks@cbmaplefarm.com  
cbmaplefarm.com

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**Cake Boutique**  
802-479-7948  
15 Cottage St. Barre, VT  
finecakes@verizon.net  
DelDec.vermontbridemagazine.com

**Danforth Pewter**

800-222-3142 (x249)  
Workshop & Store, Middlebury, VT  
info@danforthpewter.com  
danforthpewter.com

**The Kitchen Store**

**At J.K. Adams**  
Dorset, VT (Store)  
Toll-free: 866-362-4422  
Waterbury, VT (Store)  
802-560-4116  
thekitchenstoreonline.com

**Snaffle Sweets**

802-434-2400  
2921 East Main St., Richmond, VT  
snaffle.sweets@gmail.com  
snafflesweets.com

**VT Mountain Syrup**

802-888-5811 (Michael Caldwell)  
1830 Morey Hill Rd, North Wolcott, Vt  
mcaldwel@vtlink.net

**X-PRESS**

Toll-Free 800-870-9788  
73 Pond St., Stowe, VT  
thexpressink.com

**FINANCIAL PLANNING**

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802-864-6819  
354 Mtn View Dr, Suite 200 Colchester, VT  
Vermont\_Agency@nlvmail.com  
vermontagency.com

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**Betty's Flower Basket**

802-524-4146  
46 N. Main St., St. Albans, VT  
bettyflowerbasket@yahoo.com  
bettyflowerbasket.com

**Claussen's Florist & Greenhouse**

800-287-2361  
187 Main St., Colchester, VT  
retail@claussens.com | claussens.com

**Esden Florist**

802-827-6160,  
Route 36, Fairfield, VT  
See our ad VermontBrideMagazine.com

**Howards The Flower Shop**

800-371-5715  
81 N. Main St., St. Albans, VT  
info@howardstheflowershop.com  
howardstheflowershop.com

**JEWELRY**

**Eaton's Fine Jewelry**

802-524-4055  
30 North Main St., St. Albans, VT  
service@eatonsjewelry.com  
eatonsjewelry.com

**Peck's Flower Shop**

800-540-2336  
27 Winter St, Morrisville, VT  
brownpfs@pshtift.com  
pecksflowershop.com

**Uncle George's Flowers**

800-624-0099  
638 S Main St. Unit 7, Stowe, VT  
unclegeorgesflowers.com

**Village Green Florist**

802-879-7980  
60 Pearl St., Essex Jct., VT  
jenmikell@myfairpoint.net  
thevillagegreenflorist.net

**Wildflower Designs**

802-253-6303  
232 Mountain Rd, Stowe, VT  
wildflowerdesigns@live.com  
wildflowerdesignsstowe.com

**GIFT'S & BRIDAL REGISTRIES**

**As the Crow Flies**

802-524-2800  
58 N. Main Street, St. Albans, VT  
asthecrowflies@together.net  
asthecrowfliesvt.com

**Bayberry Cottage**

802-527-8256  
85 N Main St., Saint Albans VT  
sharus1@comcast.net  
bayberrycottagevt.com

**Boyden Valley Winery**

802-644-8151  
64 Vt Route 104, Cambridge, VT  
info@boydenvalley.com  
boydenvalley.com

**Danforth Pewter**

800-222-3142 (x249)  
Workshop & Store, Middlebury, VT  
info@danforthpewter.com  
danforthpewter.com

**The Kitchen Store**

**At J.K. Adams**  
Dorset, VT (Store)  
Toll-free: 866-362-4422  
Waterbury, VT (Store)  
802-560-4116  
thekitchenstoreonline.com

**Edson Hill Manor**

800-621-0284  
1500 Edson Hill Rd, Stowe, VT  
info@edsonhillmanor.com  
edsonhillmanor.com

**Equinox Resort & Spa**

800-362-4747  
3567 Main St. Route 7A,  
Manchester Village, VT  
Reservations@equinoxresort.com  
equinoxresort.com

**Essex Resort & Spa**

800-648-4944  
River Rd. Manchester Village, VT  
wilbuinn@sover.net | wilburton.com

**Edson Hill Manor**

800-621-0284  
1500 Edson Hill Rd, Stowe, VT  
info@edsonhillmanor.com  
edsonhillmanor.com

**Travel N Leisure PLUS**

802-324-9997  
travelnplus@gmail.com  
travelnleisure.com

**INVITATIONS**

**The Party Store**

802-878-1571 | Essex Jct., VT  
802-773-3155 | Rutland, VT  
603-543-1795 | Claremont, NH  
nafparty@aol.com | thepartystores.com

**Holiday Inn Burlington**

802-419-6218  
1068 Williston Rd, S. Burlington, VT  
ashelychaffee@innvermont.com  
hiburlington.com

**LiIac Inn**

800-221-0720  
53 Park St., Brandon, VT  
innkeeper@lilacinn.com  
www.lilacinn.com

**Middlebury Inn**

800-842-4666 (ext. 280)  
14 Court Square Middlebury, VT  
weddings@middleburyinn.com  
middleburyinn.com

**JK Jewelry**

802-985-9909 | 2989 Shelburne Rd.,  
Shelburne Bay Plaza, Shelburne, VT  
info@jkvt.com | jkvt.com

**Katies Jewels**

802-229-4353  
4 State St., Montpelier, VT  
katiesjewels8@aol.com  
katiesjewels.com

**Precious Things Jewelers**

# The Vermont Bride Magazine Accommodations at a glance information guide

Facility	Maximum Party	Catering Provided	Choice of Caterers	Guest Rooms on Premises	Separate Area for Ceremony	Months to Plan Ahead	Reception Area Outside	Dance Floor
Abbey	200	Y	N	N	Y	1-6	Y	Y
Arlington Inn	200	Y	N	Y	Y	3-6	Y	Y
Back Inn Time	150	Y	Y	Y	Y	3-6	Y	Y
Barn at Boyden Farm	No Limit	N	Y	N	N	1-12	Y	Y
Brandon Inn	200 +	Y	N	Y	Y	3-12	Y	Y
Burlington Country Club	200	Y	N	N	Y	6-12	Y	Y
Cafe Provence	200	Y	N	N	Y*(7)	6-8	Y*(7)	Y*(7)
Capitol Plaza Hotel & Conference Center	350	Y	N	Y	Y	9	N	Y
Catamount Country Club	200	Y	Y*(8)	N*(9)	Y	3-6	Y	Y
Chow Bella	150	Y	N	N	Y	3-6	N	N
Dancing Sail Banquet Room	200	Y	N	N	Y	3-12	Y	Y
Echo at Leahy Center	750	N	Y	N	Y	3-6	Y	Y
Edson Hill Manor	300	Y	N	Y	Y	8-12	Y	Y
Equinox Resort & Spa	350	Y	N	Y	Y	3-6	Y	Y
Essex Resort & Spa	250	Y	N	Y	Y	8.12	Y	Y
Golden Eagle Resort	50	Y	Y	Y	Y	3-6	N	Y*(10)
Hampton Inn	300	Y	N	Y	Y	1-60	Y	Y
Hilton Burlington Hotel	500	Y	N	Y	Y	6-12	Y	Y
Holiday Inn Burlington	130	Y	N	Y	Y	1-6	N	Y
Jeff's Restaurant	150	150	Y	N	N	3	N	Y(4)
Junior's Italian	50	Y	N	N	Y	3	N	N
Lilac Inn	130-250	Y	N	Y	Y	3-6	Y	Y
Michele's Fine Dining	150	Y	N	N	Y	3-6	N	Y
Middlebury Inn	125	Y	N	75	Y	6-9	Y	Y
Montgomery House Inn	30(12)45(13)	Y	Y	Y	Y	1-6	N	Y(4)
Mountain Top Inn & Resort	300(16)	Y	N(17)	Y	Y	3-12	Y	Y
Old Lantern	350	N	Y	N	Y	2-6	Y	Y
One Federal Restaurant and Lounge	220	Y	N	N	Y	3-6	Y	Y
Ponds at Bolton Valley Resort	400	Y	N	Y	Y	1-12	Y	Y
Souza's Churrascaria	60	Y	N	N	N	3-6	N	N
Spirit of Ethan Allen III	500	Y	N	N	Y	3-6	Y	Y
Stables & Inn At Pego Hill Farm	150	Y	N	Y	Y	6-12	Y	Y
Stowe Inn	85	Y	N	Y	Y	6	Y	Y
Sunset Ballroom	225	Y	N	Y	Y	3-6	Y	Y
Super-8 Burlington Hotel	75	Y	Y	Y	N	6-12	Y	Y
Tourterelle Inn, Dining & Events	200	Y	N	Y	Y	3-12	Y	Y
Tabor House Inn	250	Y	Y	Y	Y	3-6	Y	Y
Trapp Family Lodge	100 <sup>12</sup> 500 <sup>13</sup>	Y	N	Y	Y	4	Y	Y
Vermont Inn	200	Y	N	Y	Y	6-12	Y	Y
Waybury Inn	200	Y	N	Y	Y	6-12	Y	Y
Ye Olde England Inne	140	Y	N	Y	Y	6-12	Y	Y

Notes: 3) Catering arrangements can be made upon request. 4) Arrangements for a dance floor rental can be made. 5) Arrangements for a wheelchair accessible portable restroom can be made. 6) Off-site catering available November-April. 7) An Offsite premise can be arranged - please call for details. 8) Subject to extra fees. 9) Will assist making arrangements with local Hotels (Shuttles Available). 10) This is provided as a rental item. 11) Optional for smaller functions. 12) indoor capacity 13) outdoor capacity 14) Call for details 15) Note: Additional Cost 16) Max Party Size is 300 (tent) and 100 (inside) 17) Possible exceptions depending upon the season. \*PLEASE NOTE, WITH REGARD TO SEVERAL OF THE ABOVE LISTED PARTY SIZE (CAPACITY) NUMBERS, THESE CAN EASILY BE INCREASED WITH THE OPTION OF A TENT RENTAL. Be sure to inquire for availability.

## Bridal Resource Guide for Spring 2010

Continued from page 89

**Souzas Churrascaria**  
802-864-2433  
131 MAIN ST., Burl., VT  
chefkelly@souzas.org | souzas.org

**Spirit of Ethan Allen III**  
802-862-8300  
348 Flynn Ave., Burlington, VT  
spirit@soea.com | soea.com

**Stables & Inn at Pigeon Hill Farm**  
802-933-2719  
286 Montgomery Rd., E. Berkshire, VT  
pigeonhill@pigeonhillfarm.com | pigeonhillfarm.com

**Stowe Inn**  
800-546-4030  
123 Mountain Road, Stowe, VT  
hello@stoweinn.com | stoweinn.com

**Sunset Ballroom - Waterfront Catering Group**  
802-658-3663  
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gary@vermontspecialoccasions.com  
vermontspecialoccasions.com

**Super 8 Burlington**  
802-985-8037  
2572 Shelburne Rd. Shelburne, VT  
sales@super8vt.com | super8vt.com

**Tabor House Inn**  
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taborhouseinn@gmail.com | taborhouseinn.com

**Tourterelle Inn, Dining & Events**  
802-453-6309  
3629 Ethan Allen Hwy, New Haven, VT  
info@tourterellevt.com | tourterellevt.com

**Trapp Family Lodge**  
800-826-7000  
700 Trapp Hill Rd, Stowe, VT  
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**Vermont Inn**  
800-541-7795  
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relax@vermontinn.com | vermontinn.com

**Waybury Inn**  
800-348-1810  
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info@wayburyinn.com | wayburyinn.com

**Wilburton Inn**  
800-648-4944  
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wilbuinn@sover.net | wilburton.com

**Ye Olde England Inne**  
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englandinn@aol.com | englandinn.com

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**Apollo Limousine**  
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info@apollo-limo.com | apollo-limo.com

**Burlington Limousine & Car Service**  
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265 Aviation Ave., So. Burlington, VT  
limo@sover.net | burlingtonvtlimo.com

**Middlebury Transit**  
800-388-1002  
P.O. Box 423, Middlebury, VT  
transit@middlebury.net | middleburytransit.com

**Notch Above Tours**  
800-639-2367  
P.O. Box 367, Jeffersonville, VT  
info@notchabovetours.com | notchabovetours.com

**Vermont Chauffeured Transportation**  
800-388-0150  
limo@limovermont.com | limovermont.com

**TENTS & RENTALS**  
**Celebration Rentals**  
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86 Park St, Brandon, VT  
celebrationrent@aol.com | celebrationrentvermont.com

**Champlain Valley Tent Rentals**  
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champlainvalleytentrentals.com

**Classy Potty's - Portable Restroom Services**  
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classypotty@yahoo.com | classypottyvpweb.com

**Claussen's Florist & Greenhouse**  
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**Weddings, Tents & Events**  
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**VIDEOGRAPHERS - WEDDING VIDEOGRAPHY**  
**KS Videography**  
802-527-9795  
429 Lake Rd, St. Albans, VT  
ksvideography@yahoo.com | ksvideovermont.com

**Time Capsule Video Productions**  
802-524-3633  
rlarocque@timecapvideo.com | timecapvideo.com

**WEDDING COORDINATORS - EVENT PLANNERS**  
**VT Weddings by Kim**  
802-988-4730  
275 Cemetery Rd, North Troy, VT  
info@vtweddingsbykim.com | vtweddingsbykim.com

**Wedding Story Services**  
**Fourfold Legacy Services**  
802-371-9777  
amanda@fourfoldpress.com | fourfoldlegacy.com

**WINERIES - VINEYARDS**  
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802-644-8151  
64 Vt Route 104, Cambridge, VT  
info@boydenvalley.com | boydenvalley.com

### More Tips

- **Charm and hand-made** beaded bracelets or monogrammed heart shaped lockets make lovely attendant gifts.
- **Open bar too expensive?** Limit the choices to champagne (for the toast), 1 choice of red, white, and blush wine, and 2 choices of beer. Also offer bottled water and soft drinks.
- **Write your own vows.**

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Watch for our Summer issue coming in July 2010

### Quick Quips and Helpful Tips

#### Fun Groomsmen gifts:

- Lottery tickets
- Gifts cards for pizza and DVD rentals
- A burned CD of his favorite artists
- Homemade cookies, scones, cake, pie, candy
- A Junk bucket complete with chips, beers, peanuts, corn nuts, salsa, nachos and a *Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition*.
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