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WINTER 2011

3 Love Stories

In Their Own Words

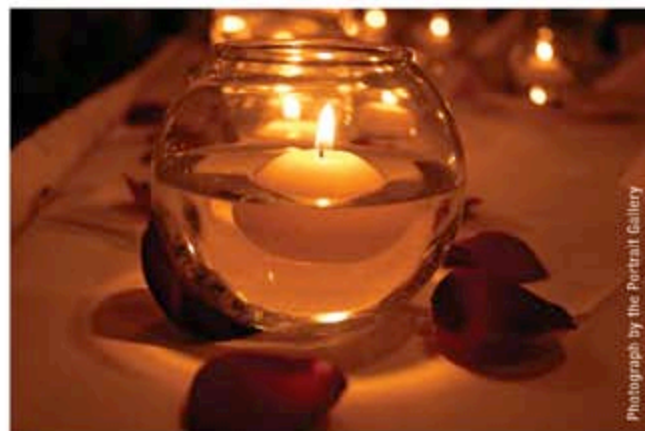
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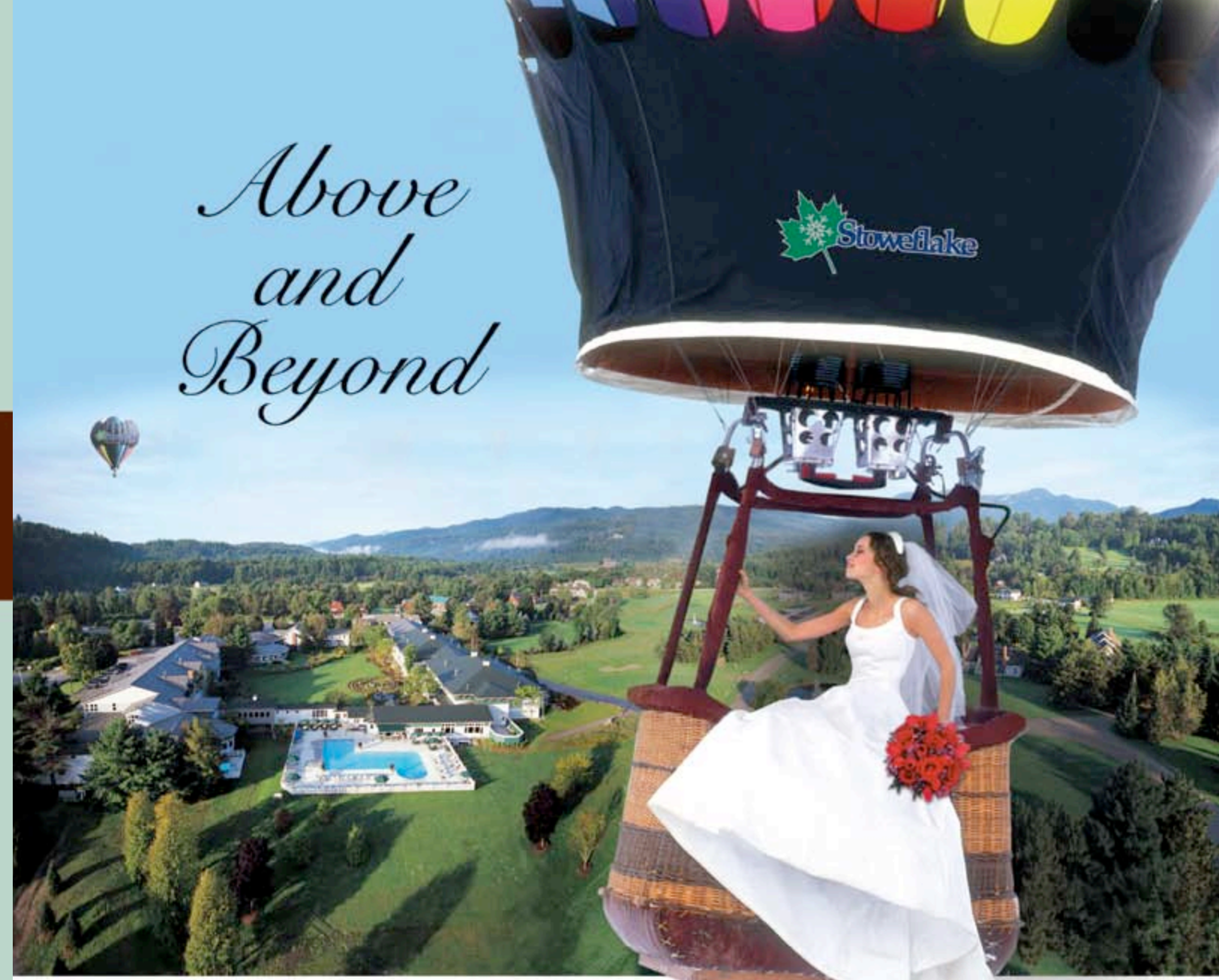


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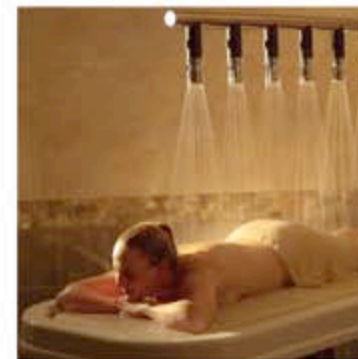
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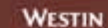


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Jennifer (Hough) & Tony Duda
July 31, 2010
Edson Hill Manor,
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Photo by Larry Asam Photography

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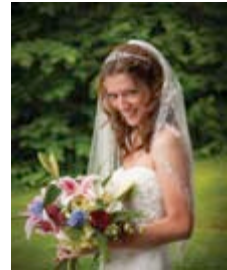
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Inside Vermont Bride: Staff Notes

As winter bears down, we take refuge inside our warm homes and immerse ourselves with projects that are best left for when sunshine is scarce. De-cluttering the cabinet under the bathroom sink, organizing closets to make piles for donation and trying a new recipe are a few pastimes we Vermonters occupy ourselves with when Mother Nature turns white. During your seasonal cleaning frenzy, take a break to browse our pages and find out what our local wedding experts have up their flannel-lined sleeves.

Winter is an excellent time to contact and meet with vendors at wedding expos. Pat Esden tells us how to make the most of these shows with **"Bridal Show Tips"** (page 50). Grant Allendorf of Supersounds DJ Co. turns up the dial with **"How to Choose a DJ"** when wedding planning meets entertainment options, and Kristin Anderson offers **"Stress-Free Thank You Notes"** with tips for getting them done with minimal anxiety.

As the snow flies, take an opportunity to review your insurance policies; individuals and couples have different needs. Patrick Cahoon helps with **"Safeguarding Your Life Together."** What does your financial future look like? Benjamin Nostrand advises the best way to prepare for future goals is to plan and save. Read **"Nuptials and Nest Eggs"** (page 90) and begin your planning today. Continue with CPA, Roger A. Schoenbeck's contribution, **"Marriage Doesn't Have to be a Taxing Time!"** (page 102). Roger gives us a glimpse of challenges and opportunities that can create a future of financial reward and peace of mind.

Rebecca Provost and **Jerry Goulet** along with **Erica Twenge** and **Aubrey Gates** will need to have a plan from insurance to caterer and florist to home buying. We are proud to announce their engagements (pages 79 and 45). Interested in seeing your engagement announcement in *Vermont Bride*? See page 45 for details. **Rachel Connor** and **Tiffany Suitter** with **The Spirit of Ethan Allen III** are ready to partner with couples in planning a unique and memorable reception while enjoying the beauty of Lake Champlain. Read their ideas in **"Getting into the Wedding Spirit"** (page 48).

Is homeownership in your near future? Mortgage consultant, **Jeff Teplitz** is ready to help (page 92) with **"The American Dream is More Affordable than Ever."** Realtor, **Gayle Oberg** tells us to focus

on the aspects that are most important when looking to purchase a house. Find her recommendations (page 94) in **"Focusing on the Details."**

All brides-to-be will find Kim Scofield's make-up tips and Sara Daly's **"A Champagne Toast to Beautiful Nails"** beneficial as their day creeps closer. DIY bride Liz and her groom Eric took command of their wedding day with the backdrop of Stowe's **Ye Olde England Inne**. Innkeeper, Chris Francis was front stage and tells us all about it on page 88.

We have our daytime look, our out on the town look and for brides-to-be, their very best glowing **'I'm Getting Married Look!'** The staff at **Northern Vermont Oral & Facial Surgery** (page 22) know all about helping us look our best by offering a wide range of full body aesthetic procedures including laser hair removal, photo rejuvenation of sun damaged skin,

laser treatment of spider veins, Botox and Dysport cosmetics. The surgeons, Board Certified by both the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the National Dental Board of Anesthesia, offer cosmetic evaluations free of charge.

We're all familiar with the sound of **"Mendelssohn's Wedding March."** Lisa Carlson educates us on the history behind this traditional recessional and Rev. Dr. Michael Caldwell returns with **"Ceremonies: Secular and Sacred"** in **"Your Wedding, Your Way."**

Whom do you snuggle up with when the cold creeps in? Do you still have your favorite childhood stuffed animal? **"Dream Team"** by Kayla Sturtevant will bring a grin to your face as we meet Mr. Cow and Violet. Linda Russell and Joe Crosby from RaidenShine Photography fill us in on the **"Importance and Uses of an Engagement Shoot."** Read their contribution (page 46) and practice your best smile.



Find out why a pair of blue sneakers clinched a love connection with **"Love, Commitment, and Blue Sneakers"** from Karen Sturtevant (page 96). Discover what the clinchers were for our Love Story couples. Very different duos with the same outcomes of devotion and friendship. Their stories begin on pages 27, 58 & 71. Rabbi Howard Cohen has seen his share of devotion and explains two essential elements of the Jewish wedding: the ketubah and huppah in **"Your Jewish Wedding"** (page 97). Our Love Story couples will be interested in **Amanda Kuhnert's** suggestions as she explains the value of preserving our life experiences, including weddings in **"Your Wedding Story — Remembered"** (page 34).

Listening to crackling fires, watching fat, fluffy snowflakes, and tasting winter cuisine warm us like a pair of soft, fuzzy slippers. Susanna Keefer gives us fabulous fare options in her contribution, **"From Grand & Glamorous to Intimate & Cozy, Indulging in the Magic of a Vermont Winter Wedding"** (page 56). Susanna attended our **First Annual Bridal Gala in October**. See the images from inside **The Barn at Boyden Farm** through the camera lenses of Larry Asam and Kim Martin on pages 84 and 87. Be sure to read the Gala wrap ups from Lauri Boyden, Karen Sturtevant and President and Executive Director of the **Miss Vermont Scholarship Organization**, Susan Lackey.

Drape a cozy comforter around your shoulders, settle into your favorite chair, and try an exotic coffee this winter. Indulge in a new book, and continue your reading with this issue of *Vermont Bride*.

A clever & beautiful wedding by the DIY Bride at Ye Olde England Inne
By Chris Francis
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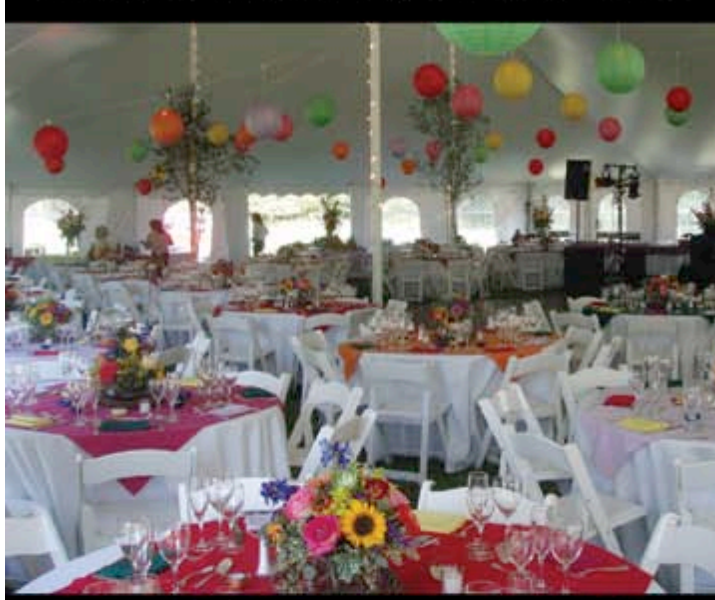
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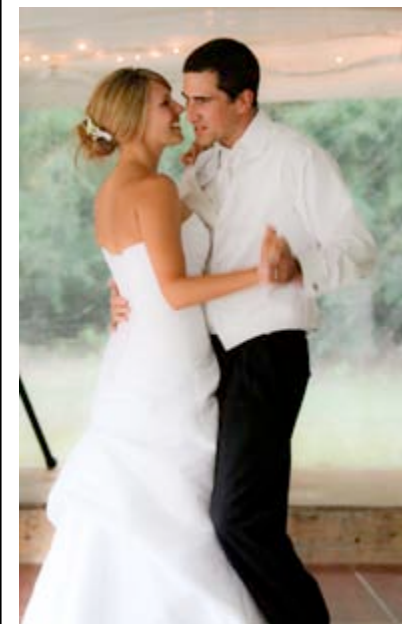


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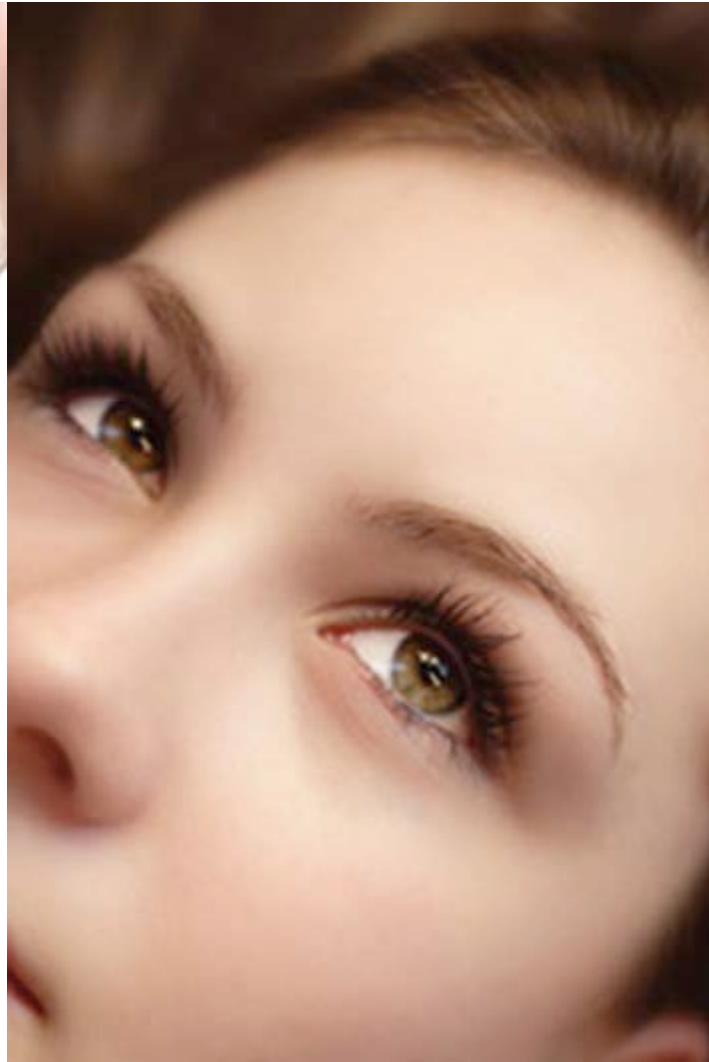
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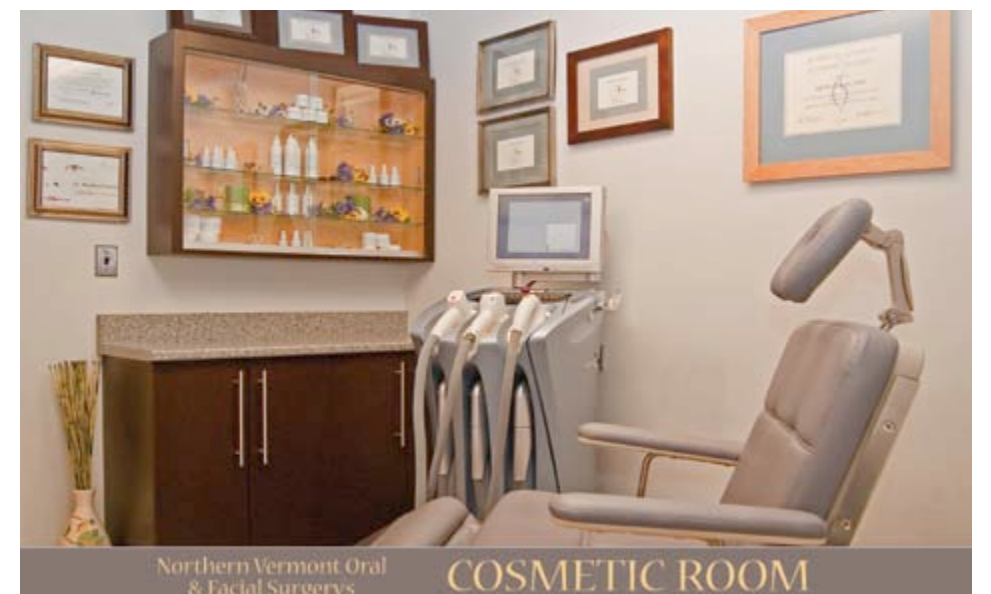
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Photo: The Portrait Gallery

Jennifer
(Hough)
&
Tony
Duda



We were two complete strangers; they were two determined match makers, when does that ever go right?

It was the first of July, and we all found ourselves at the Rusty Nail in downtown Stowe, VT. I was there with some friends, and had just received my drink when I saw them approach our table out of the corner of my eye.

They were arguing about Michael Moore's newest film, they appeared to be a couple, and I had never seen them, when the female, blonde and about my age, turned to me and said, "What do you think about the film?" Unbeknownst to me, they were scheming something, and I had just taken the bait. I engaged them in conversation, when a third party approached the table. They introduced him as Tony, he introduced himself as a tennis instructor. This was ironic and unfortunate for him, as I had already been approached by another such "tennis pro" that evening. Consequently, "Tony" did not find me too kind, nor did I find Tony too interesting.

continued on page 28

July 31, 2010
Edson Hill Manor, Stowe, VT

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Love Story: Jennifer (Hough) & Tony Duda

Continued from page 27

What I did not realize was that Tony's friends Jennifer and Kevin were on a mission and would stop at nothing. When Jennifer discovered I was a teacher, they knew they'd struck gold. Jennifer worked in the schools as well she said and we should get together. Could she have my phone number?

The next morning, I awoke to a message on my cell phone. It was Tony asking did I want to go boating on Lake Champlain with him. I partly realized I'd been duped and Jennifer had given him my number, but I accepted, mostly out of intrigue. Hours later, I found myself on Lake Champlain with Tony and his friend Kevin trying to start his friend Mike's boat. The fact that the boat wasn't his, that it had inches of rain in the bottom to bail out, and that we amused ourselves instead with the paddle boat made the afternoon magical. That afternoon, as we floated inside inner tubes together, he reached across to grasp my hand while I laughed. In that moment, we connected, to Kevin's secret delight.

Our Engagement:

Four years later, we were living in St. Petersburg, FL. It was a Saturday, and I was taking a major exam that day. I called Tony when I left the test site and explained I wasn't sure if I had passed, "It could go either way," I said. He asked if I would still like to go to the beach later like we had planned. "Sure," I said, "right after a nap." When I awoke, Tony reminded me we would get some dinner after sunset, so I got ready. We left a half an hour or so before sunset, headed towards Clearwater Beach. We parked and padded out on the sand, sandals in hand. We stopped to look at the sunset and Tony, standing behind me with his arms around my waist, said with emotion in his voice: "You know you're my best friend." When I turned to him, he went down on one knee... after we established we were now fiancés, we stopped a couple to take a photo; Tony had remembered the camera. When it was discovered our batteries were dead, the two demanded their teenaged daughter hand over hers from her camera. "They need them more," her father said. We laugh about it still.

The Planning:

When it came to planning our big day there were a few elements that were important to us, besides the fact that we celebrate in Vermont. First, we had to decide on a venue. We decided that since our guests were traveling so far already, it was important to find a venue to hold the ceremony and the reception in one place and that in addition the site had great views for guests and photographs. Our research took us to Edson Hill Manor in Stowe. Edson Hill has the feel of a private mansion. The manor is set up off a meandering dirt road surrounded by quiet, a horse farm, and a private lake. The grounds are impeccable, with rolling green spaces, a meadow, gardens, and most importantly a "weather weapon," a large

continued on page 28

That afternoon, as we floated inside inner tubes together, he reached across to grasp my hand while I laughed. In that moment, we connected...



Photography:

Larry Asam Photography

Venue and Catering:

Edson Hill Manor

Wedding Planner:

Billy O'Neil, Edson Hill Manor

Floral Designer/Flowers:

Juliet O'Neil, Edson Hill Manor

Music:

Peak Entertainment

When it came to planning our big day there were a few elements that were important to us, besides the fact that we celebrate in Vermont.

Love Story: Jennifer (Hough) & Tony Duda

Continued from page 28

white tent complete with rustic stone flooring. Meeting Billy O'Neil, the owner and proprietor, clinched the decision for me. He was knowledgeable and professional and explained his planning services were included with the booking. I still say that our wedding at Edson Hill exceeded my expectations. The food was amazing: from the grilled salmon, to the tender roast beef, and the setting was both majestic and romantic. The slate dance floor surrounded by blooming flowers in the summer and lit with tiny white lights was just enchanting that night.

The natural beauty of Vermont in the summer is such that I realized when it came to the flowers, I wanted arrangements that complimented the environment, without competing with it. I also knew that I didn't want traditional flowers like roses in the bouquets or on the tables. I had envisioned flowers you might find in a cottage garden. Juliet O'Neil, Billy's wife, brought my vision to life.

For the ceremony she offered a larger copper stand to fit two large hanging plants and she arranged bunches of white hydrangea with moss to mark the chairs. This lent just the right amount of romance to the ceremony. For the tables she designed arrangements that mimicked my bouquet, a selection of purple and white sweet pea, lisianthus, lavender and hydrangea with scented geranium leaves all snug in antique looking moss pots.

It was equally important to us that we find a talented photographer to capture our special day for us. Local referrals led us to Larry Asam. I met Larry at his home in Waterbury, and after being in his house for only minutes and looking at his photographs, personal and professional, I felt completely at ease and inspired to hire him.

Our guests haven't stopped talking about how beautiful the pictures are, and how easy he and his wife Kim were to work with.

What took the cake—literally, WAS the cake! Again, local referrals led me to Michelle Hines, of The Cakery, located in Jamie's on Main in Stowe. Michelle's cake (a carrot cake with white chocolate cream cheese icing) was so delicious, that even self-proclaimed "carrot cake haters" devoured every last morsel (to their date's chagrin).

Memorable Moments:

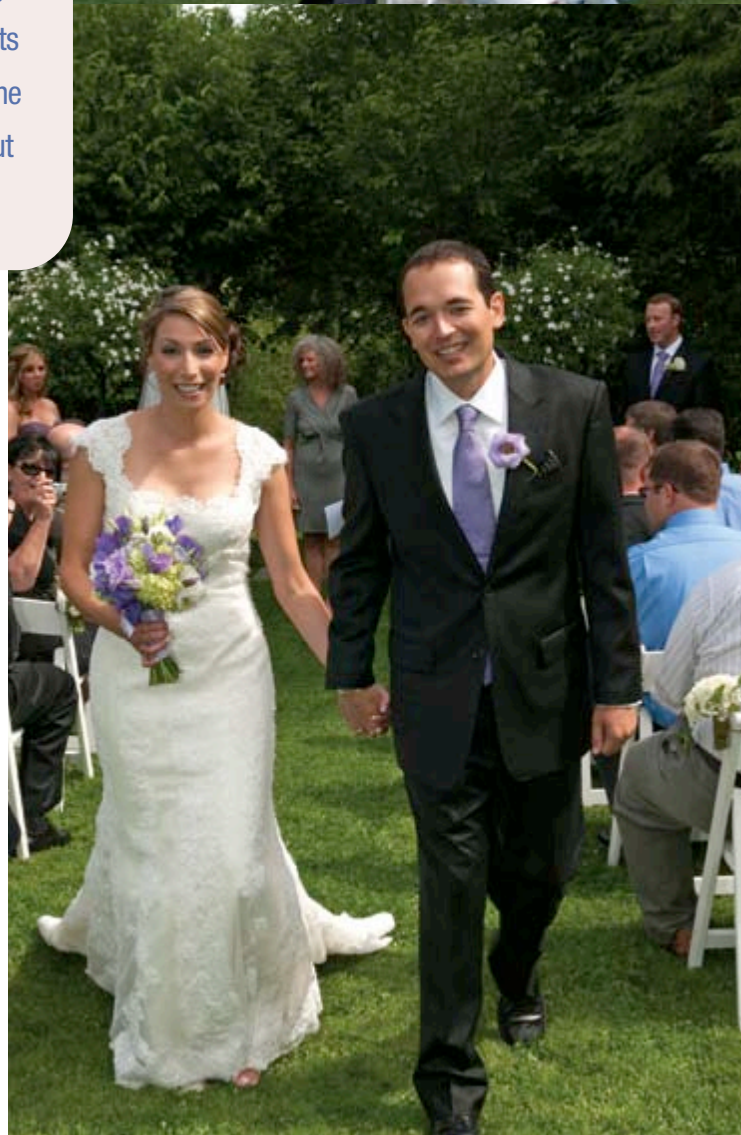
We had a special guest book-box with cards inside for guests to write special wishes that we plan to read on our 10-year anniversary.

Our Justice of the Peace, Mitzi Speer, gave us such an incredibly unique ceremony that fit our personalities. Guests complimented us, saying it was the "perfect length" and "so original." She really cared that the day felt like ours.

Our friends Sam and Laura Henderson drove all the way from Florida to celebrate our big day with us, and to sing our first dance song for us: "You'll Accompany Me" by Bob Seger. They were accompanied by our friend Ken Defoor on the guitar. It was a moment we will never forget.

Billy O'Neil was generous enough to allow our party access to the downstairs bar and patio area for our after-party. It was wonderful for us that we could continue to celebrate even after the D.J. had stopped playing.

continued on page 32



The natural beauty of Vermont in the summer is such that I realized when it came to the flowers, I wanted arrangements that complimented the environment, without competing with it.



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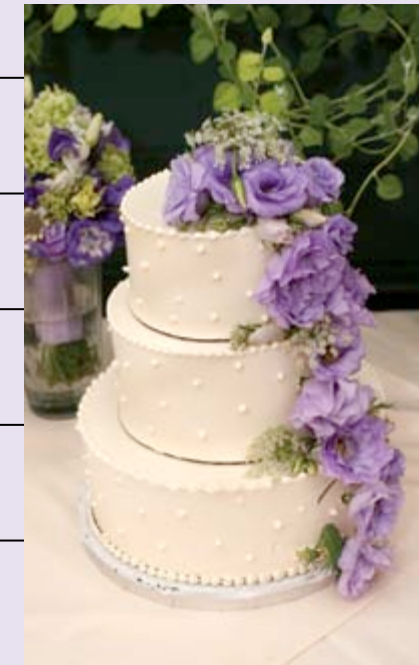
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Planning for your wedding can be a challenging time. Planning for a wedding out-of-state can be just exasperating. When I began planning for my wedding in Vermont from Florida the first thing I did was research Vermont bridal magazines online. My research brought me to *Vermont Bride*. They were the most thorough and user-friendly resource I found. My mother began sending me the magazines regularly and the magazine was truly instrumental in nearly all my decisions, including finding my photographer and venue. Thank you *Vermont Bride!*



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Love Story: Jennifer (Hough) & Tony Duda

Continued from page 30

Advice for Future Brides:

Definitely plan in advance! Tony and I took care to tackle most of the details BEFORE the week of the wedding, so that we could enjoy our time with everyone in Vermont and relax!

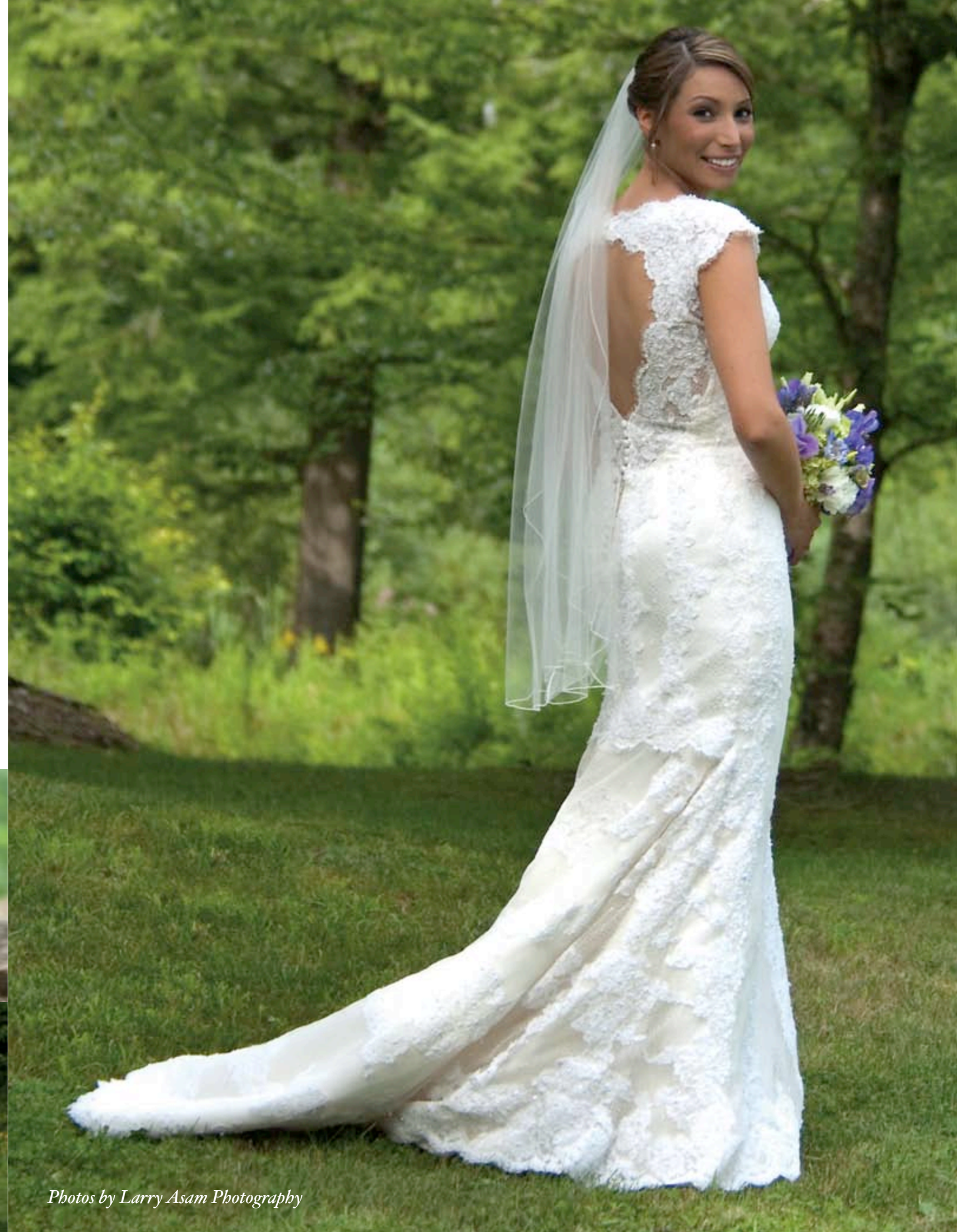
We even had a memorable "lake day" on Lake Champlain where we gathered with friends that we hadn't seen in years.

Also, be sure to choose competent vendors, chances are, everything will not go as planned on your big day, but you can prevent mishaps by choosing vendors you are confident can get the job done the way you want it, and sometimes spending more is worth it to ensure your piece of mind. Billy O'Neil, Larry Asam, and Michelle Hines are three vendors I would confidently recommend to even the most discriminating bride.

The End:

For Tony and me, our story came full circle when we found ourselves in Stowe, VT, on July 31st, 2010, listening to our best man, Kevin, engage the crowd with the story of how we first met, of how he and Jennifer conspired to bring us together that one night at The Rusty Nail.

The same story even I hadn't learned...until Tony and I were together three years! We met in Vermont as strangers, and despite match making odds, six years later, in the town where we first met, were pronounced husband and wife.



Photos by Larry Asam Photography

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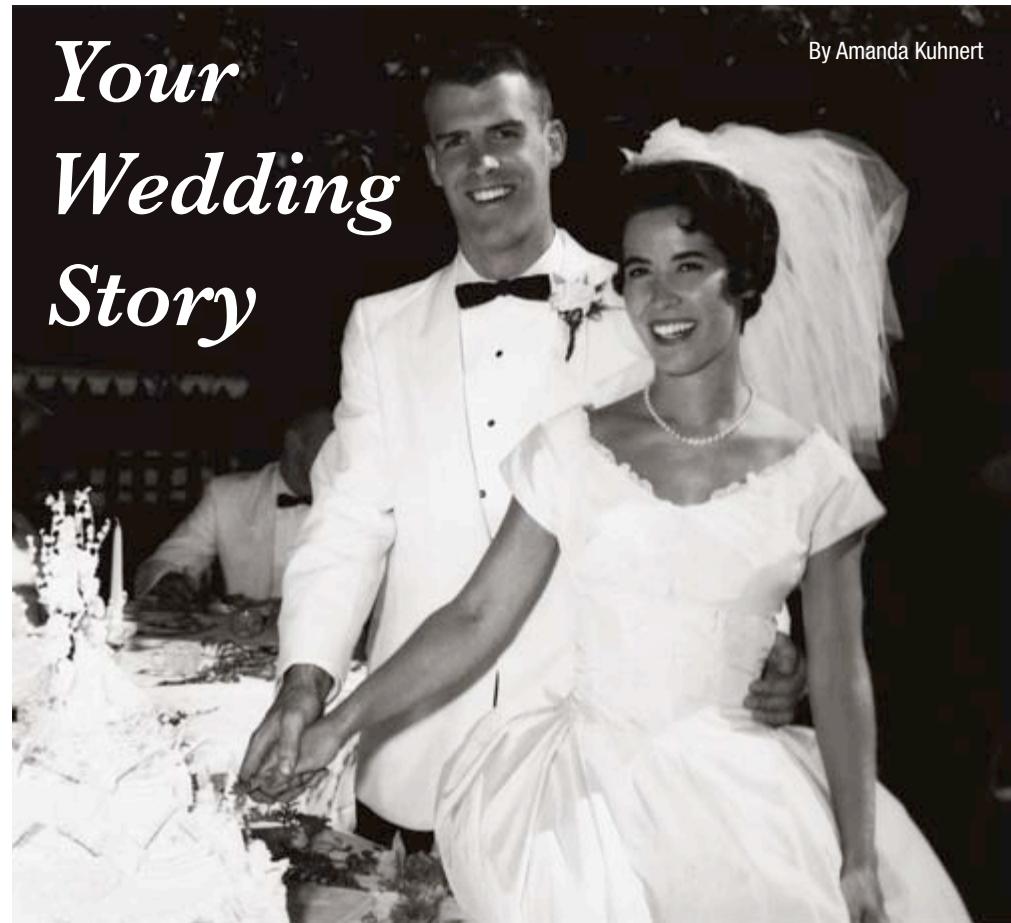
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Your Wedding Story

...Remembered

Tell me about your wedding day.” “Ghee” And then there’s often a long pause followed by a smattering of memories, like the name of the church or where the reception was held. When you’re in the midst of planning the most important day of your life, it’s hard to believe that one day, in the not-so-distant future, you may not be able to dig up too many details about the day you said “I do.” But I talk to men and women all the time who’ve had this happen to them. The wedding day memory card has been wiped clean.

Some of them have more vivid memories about their first day of grade school than they do about the day they got married. Why is this? I have my theories.

As a personal historian, my job is to help individuals and families tell their story — wedding stories, birth stories, even complete life stories. So it’s always interesting to me what events people remember — and what they don’t. Of all the life-story memories, wedding days are oftentimes the fuzziest 30, 40, or 50 years later.

Here’s what I think are the culprits:

Stress. There’s no denying it. Weddings can be stressful. And when the body and mind are tense, nothing really “sticks.” Studies show that even short-term stress affects memory. Ever had a hectic day at work, and you suddenly can’t remember where you put your car keys? Bingo.

Busyness. The days and weeks leading up to your wedding are a little hectic, to say the least. Serious wedding planning is not for the faint of heart. And when you’re super busy, you can’t absorb what’s going on around you. Momentary thoughts and reflections are quickly replaced by another urgent matter on the to-do list. The memory bank is full.

Emotions. A lot of women describe themselves as being “in a fog” on their wedding day. Not in a bad way. Just in a surreal kind of way. Ever woken up after an intense dream, and five minutes later can’t remember it? I think wedding days can be like that.

To keep wedding day amnesia from happening to you, it’s important to take a “time out” to reflect and absorb the experience. It’s extremely powerful when a couple sits down together to tell their unique love story. What a gift amidst the hoopla of wedding planning to take some time to share with one another — and friends and family — the events, emotions, and thoughts that led up to this special day. When a couple celebrating their

continued on page 101

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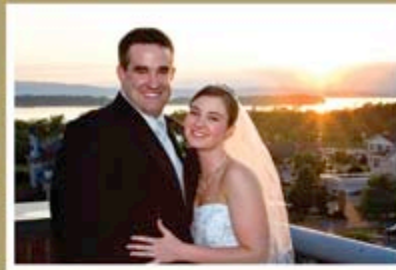
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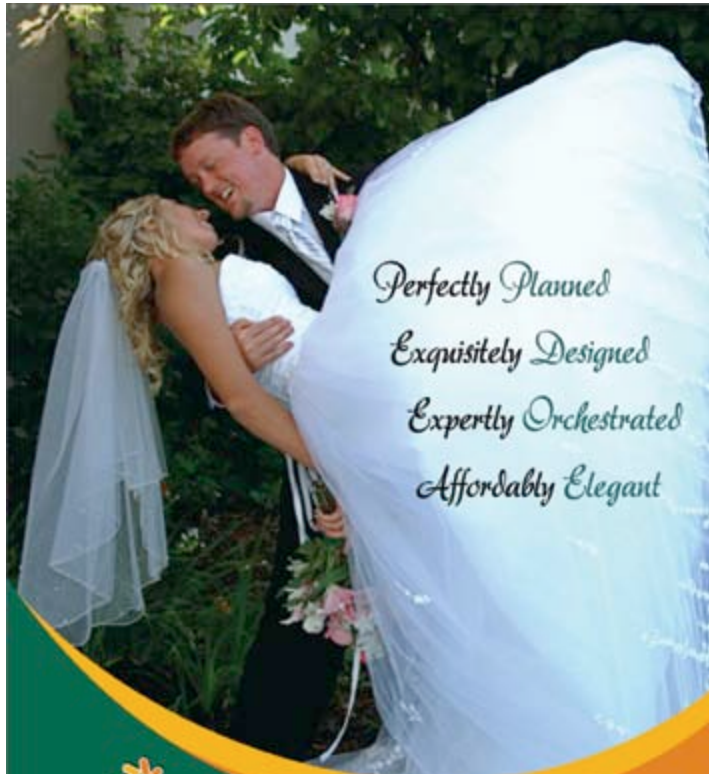
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By Kim Scofield



Pictures are worth a thousand words. You want all those words about your wedding photos to be great. If you're not planning to hire a professional make-up artist, doing your own make-up for your wedding and the photos can be tricky. With some do's and don'ts, I'll help you have the perfect wedding photos.

Kim Scofield is the owner/stylist of **Purple Sage Salon & Spa**, located at 4 Carmichael Street, Unit 109, Essex Jct., VT. 802-879-1160 www.purplesagesalonspa.com. Be sure to look for Kim's next article on how to have a drama free visit to the salon in *Vermont Bride's* spring edition.

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Do's

- Go heavy. The camera has a way of washing you out.
- Focus on one feature (i.e. eyes or lips). Most brides choose their eyes.
- Match your foundation closely to your skin tone.
- Conceal any imperfections with a concealer that is lighter than the foundation.
- Use lighter matte colors.
- Use liner from center to outer edge of your eye. This opens the eye.
- Use waterproof liner and mascara or have your lashes tinted before the big day and use clear mascara.
- Use the same color lip liner and lip stick.
- Use liner over the whole lip, then apply lipstick. It will last longer kiss after kiss!
- Carry a small make-up bag, include powder, lipstick, foundation and liner for touchups.

Practice before, have a friend take some photos, You'll be able to see if your choices are right. Play and have fun!

Don'ts

- Be too light with your make-up.
- Be afraid to cry.
- Make your eye liner too heavy. It can make you look tired.
- Use shimmer shadow. It makes you look sweaty in photos.
- Go too heavy with concealer.
- Go too dark with foundation.
- Make your lip color too dark.
- Use any shimmer make-up!

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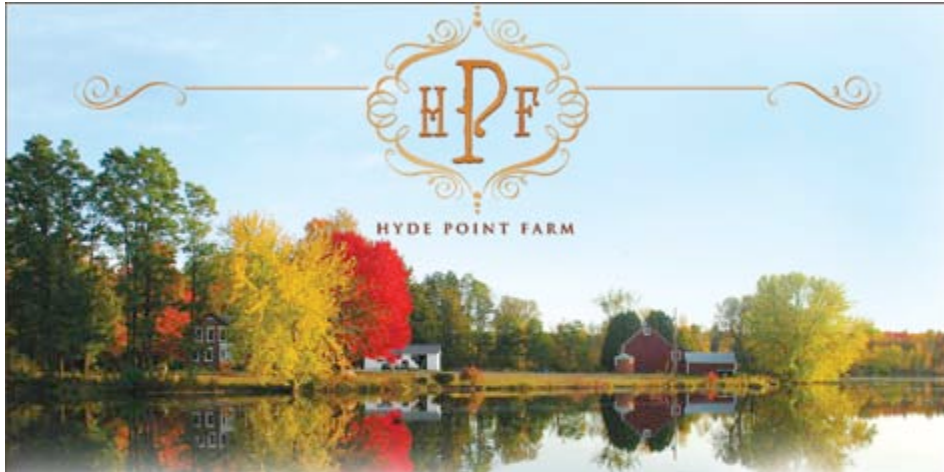


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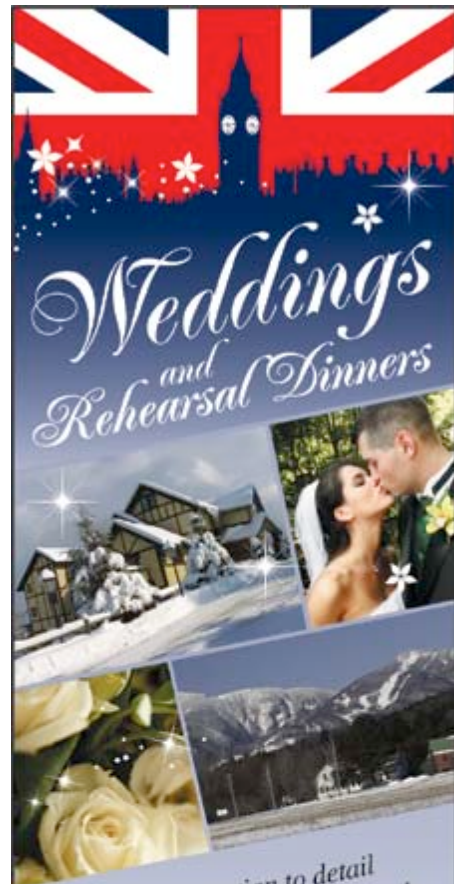
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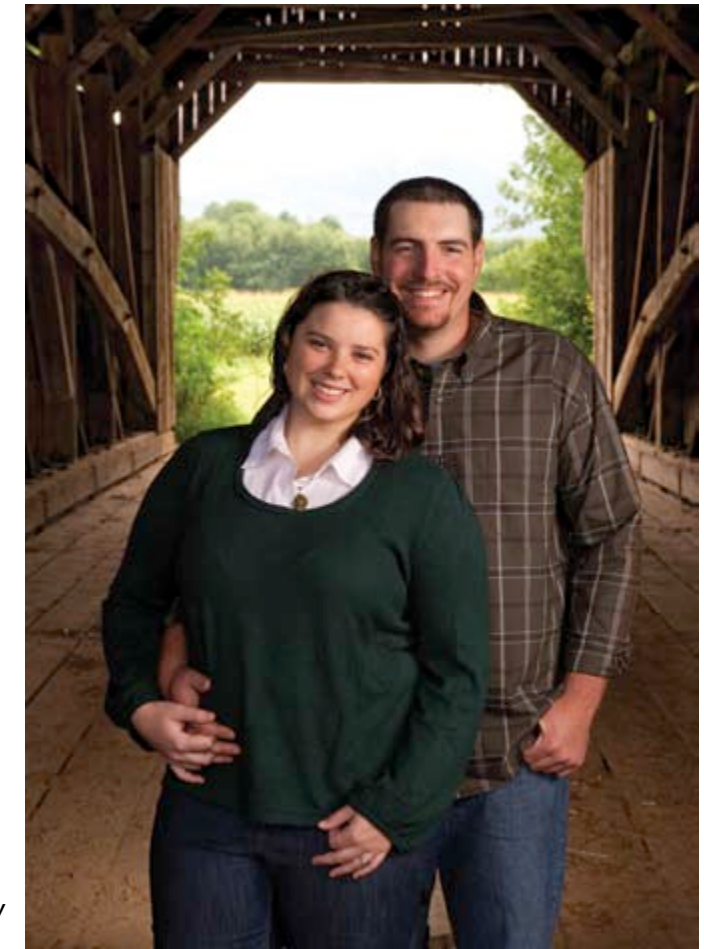
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Importance and Uses of an Engagement Shoot

By Linda Russell & Joe Crosby

Are you undecided whether or not to have an Engagement (E-Shoot) done? Before you decide, be sure to read about some of the reasons for having one done professionally.

Through the years, we have discovered that when an E-shoot is done, the entire wedding experience is enhanced. There are several reasons for this. First and foremost, is for both you and the photographer to gain knowledge – not only knowledge of photography, but also of each other. You will discuss desired poses, uniqueness and or challenges of your chosen venue, your personal style, your proposed timeline, and many other things. This is also a great opportunity for rapport building with your photographers and to overcome any camera shyness that you two may have. Remember you will be spending most of your wedding day with your photographers (on average 8-10 hours of your day)

-- during this time they are capturing your every move. It is key to begin building this important relationship early in the process. By interacting with your photographers at your formal shoot, you will not only gain knowledge about posing, lighting, angles, and many other things, but you will also exchange ideas about your dreams and expectations for your special day.

Unlike the engagement shoot of the past, today there are multiple uses for the images. An E-shoot, as referred to by most photographers was historically done to capture a single image to be sent to the newspaper. However, today the usages are only limited to your photographer's skill and your imagination! One popular use is in a "Save-The-Date" announcement. These announcements can take on a variety of shapes and styles – they can range from a small post card, to a note card, a bookmark, or even a 4x6 refrigerator magnet.

This is an area where you can use your own creativity and go to one of the many websites that offer these products or use your photographer's expertise to create a unique card for you and order it through their printers. Sometimes one favorite image and three or four smaller images are combined for a unique look on the card/magnet. The use of digital imaging has opened up a whole new world to the brides of today.

Another popular idea is to use a 5x7 or 8x10 image in a large signing mat where the guests will write messages and sign for you to frame later. If using the 8x10 size, you can again be a little less traditional and ask your photographer to compose a collage with two or three images so you get more use of the many great

images taken at your E-shoot. If you have one absolute favorite, but want to be unique, ask for special edging or other effects to be applied or have it converted to black and white. Using a signing mat requires a little forethought for the day of the wedding – decide ahead of time where and how the large matted photo will be displayed so people will see it and sign it, and remember to purchase the right pens to use for signing the special matte surface – usually fine point permanent pens.

Your photographer can also be a great resource for creativity and to collaborate on ideas. Perhaps you want an 8x10 or 11x14 image displayed on the sign-in table.

This can again be a single image or it can be a unique collage using anywhere from 5 to 10 your favorite images from the E-shoot.

It is typically then framed and displayed next to the guest book and later hung on the wall and cherished for a lifetime. If you decide upon this option, be sure to have a frame stand, as most larger frames holding collages are meant for hanging, not standing on a table.

What about a photo guest book? This functional book not only gives your venue a personalized uniqueness while allowing you a way to utilize 10-15 images from your

E-shoot. The trend seems to be catching on -- it gives the guests something to look at, and chat about while the formal wedding shoot is taking place.

Still other uses are emerging all the time – many printing companies can use an image within the design of the invitation making your invitation even more personal. Images can be used and imprinted on wedding favors such as coasters, wine glasses, beer steins, mugs, and many other mediums. Take the time to explore the options and talk to your photographer about their suggestions – use their experience and combine it with your individual style.

After becoming engaged, the sooner you choose to have your E-shoot done, the more advantage you gain. It will give you time to use these images in many different ways to enhance your wedding day with personal details.

The RaidenShine Photography team consists of two dedicated photographers that have a passion about wedding photography, quality and customer service. Joe Crosby and Linda Russell are award-winning photographers in their own right and combine to make a great team. They have the winning combination of many years of practical, creative and technical experience. Continually learning and staying ahead of the curve makes their work stand out and

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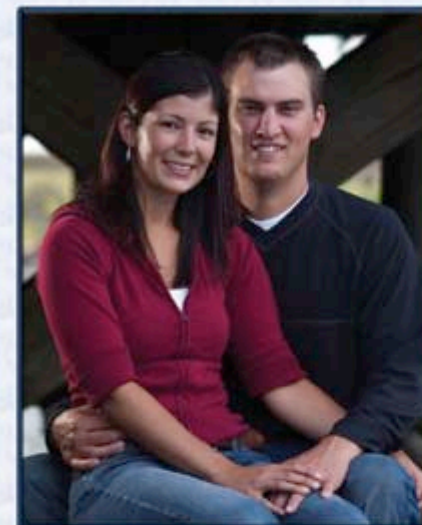
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By Rachel Connor and Tiffany Suttler

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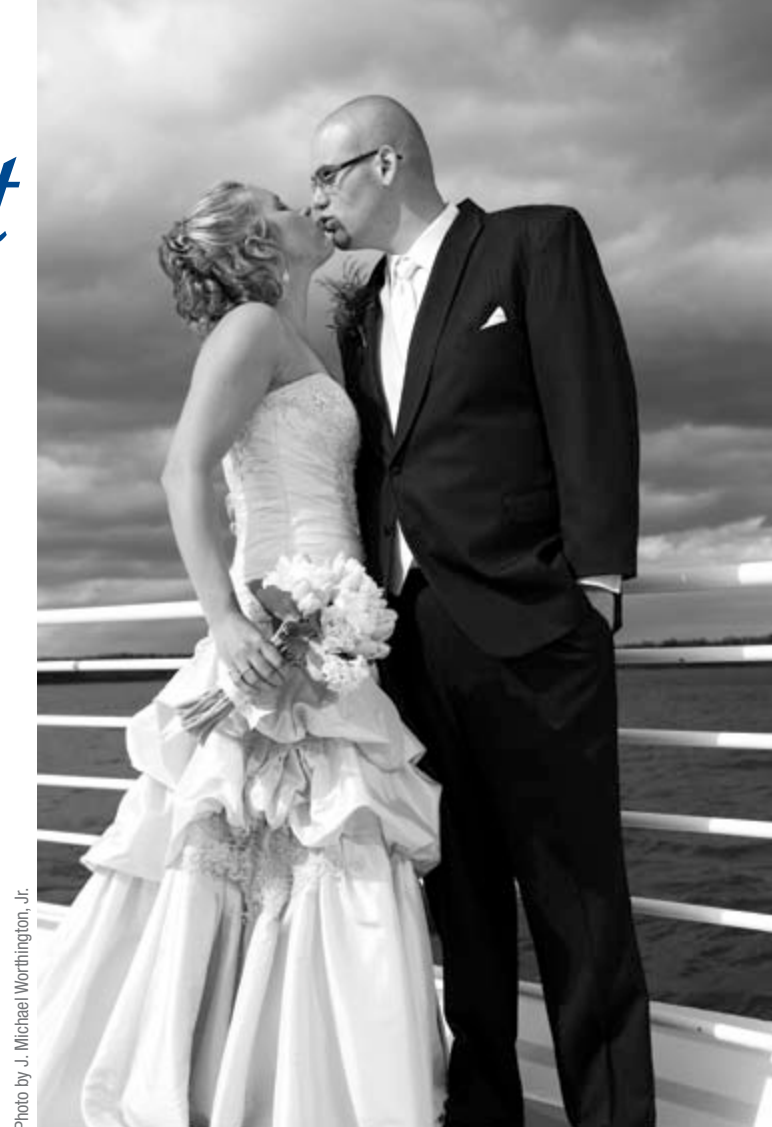


Photo by J. Michael Worthington, Jr.

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Bridal Show Tips: How to avoid stress and HAVE FUN

By Pat Esden

Attending a bridal show is a great way to learn about wedding vendors, but shows can be overwhelming instead of fun if a couple isn't prepared.

The time to attend a show is as soon after the engagement as possible, and before the couple has booked all their wedding vendors. In fact, if a bride and groom haven't chosen their wedding date, the couple could attend a show and ask travel agents, caterers and reception facilities if they offer discounts during particular times of the year, and pick their wedding date based on that information. This can amount to a major savings.

If a couple has already set their date and done some of their wedding planning, then they'll want to make a list of what is still needed. This way they won't spend too much time talking to one vendor about a detail they don't need information on and forget to check out something major.

Brides in particular will want to wear comfortable shoes and clothing. It's nice to look good at a show, but a bride needs to remember she'll be on her feet and in a crowd for hours. Also she'll want to eat before she goes. It's no fun to have to leave halfway through a show because of a grumbling stomach.

A bride or couple will want to avoid bringing people to the show who might want to leave early. Don't coerce men into attending a bridal show—including the groom. Many grooms do go to shows, but others simply aren't that into it.

Also, older family members and children may find a show too tiring. Groups of more than two or three friends can cause problems, when some want to stay and others are finished. Having to leave early may prevent a couple from seeing all the vendors, and also they may miss a runway show, cake tasting—or the grand prize drawing. The grand prize is traditionally drawn at the end of the show and the bride or groom has to be present to win. And the chances of winning something at a bridal show are good.

In order to win prizes a couple will be expected to fill out forms, sometimes with each vendor. The easy way to prepare for this is to have cheap address stickers or a custom made stamp with the bride or groom's address, phone number and email on them. Though things like stickers are a timesaver, a couple

should be careful not to bring too many items to the show. All they'll really need is the address labels, a cell phone so they can take photos and notes, and a wedding folder to put business cards and brochures in. Carrying anything else will make it hard to pick up and handle things like wedding bouquet samples, dresses, tuxedos and photo albums, or try on jewelry or to crawl into limos—not to mention sampling food and drinks.

Also try and get to the show early. It's a good way for a couple to make sure they don't miss anything and it may give them a chance to talk to vendors before the show becomes crowded. Once the show does become busy, try not to hog vendors or block booths so other couples can't look. If a couple has already booked a vendor who is at the show, they should be considerate and smart by not spending a lot of time talking to them. There is a good reason for this. If a bride that the vendor has already booked starts talking about details of her wedding, these ideas may unintentionally be forgotten by the vendor in the show's hubbub. This is a time for new couples to learn about the vendor, not an extension of consultation time. However even vendors that a couple have already booked will be delighted to have them look at the samples they have bought in order to get a better idea of the couple's taste and style.

When talking to new vendors and looking at their booths, a couple should make notes of things they want to remember and take photos of items they particularly like. It's much easier for a couple to keep track of things as they look at them than to try and recall them later. The other thing most brides forget is to introduce themselves as a bride to the vendor. During the show, vendors see hundreds of people. Often they can't tell who is a bride, who's a bridesmaid, or a runway show model wasting time, or even another curious vendor. Also, vendors can sometimes think a mother or even a grandmother of the bride is actually the bride—a simple introduction can save the vendor and the bride from embarrassing assumptions.

One of the high points of the day will be the runway show. But a bride shouldn't get lost in simply watching the gorgeous dresses swoosh by. To get the most out of a show she should look at the colors and note how they flatter or take away from the models' skin tones and hair colors.

In order to win prizes a couple will be expected to fill out forms, sometimes with each vendor. The easy way to prepare for this is to have cheap address stickers or a custom made stamp with the bride or groom's address, phone number and email on them.



Photo by Larry Asam Photography

And which styles flatter the models' body types and which don't. Then she should consider how these colors and styles would look on herself and her attendants. If a bride watches how the models walk, she can often tell if they are comfortable in the dress or not. This will give a bride a clue as to problems which might arise from certain dress styles and show which styles are the most comfortable.

Once the show is over and a couple goes home, they will want to discuss the vendors. If there are vendors that the couple wants for their wedding, they should phone the vendor as soon as possible and book them. After all, a couple can get wonderful ideas at a bridal show, but finding the perfect vendors and professionals to book for their wedding should be the real goal. So plan ahead, get to the show early, but most of all have fun and enjoy the experience.

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, VT, she sees the yearly changes in wedding styles and is familiar with the time-honored traditions and in tune with the new conventions.

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Spotlight on Wedding Flowers: Calla Lily

By Karen Sturtevant



Photo by Great Impressions Portrait Studio

of 10 and large callas in bunches of 5 or 10. Upon receipt, the stems are recut and placed in a solution of floral preservative. Stored in a high humidity cooler with a temperature between 36 and 38 degrees Fahrenheit, callas have exceptional vase life lasting between 7-14 days. Handling should be done by the stem as the delicate flower bruise easily.

Name Game: The calla lily is a perennial flowering bulb in the genus of twenty-eight species originating in the marshlands of South Africa. Although called a lily, the calla is not a true lily and is also known as arum, trumpet, and pig lily.

Uses: Large callas make elegant arm bouquets.

Mini callas are used in bouquets, corsages, and boutonnieres. Their pliable stems allow for incredible creativity with centerpieces and cake decor.

Botanical Name: Zantedeschia. Named for the Italian physician and botanist, Givonnai Zantedeschia.

Availability: Calla lilies are available year round from growers in the United States, South America, New Zealand, Holland, and Africa. South Africa is where the calla lily originated. Blooming time is late spring.

Description: Large and mini calla lilies. Funnel-shaped flower with thin spadix growing from center. Mini callas come in several colors: pinks, purples, creams, whites, oranges, reds, yellows, and several bicolored variations.

Large callas are available in white, cream, and green only.

Large callas grow between 20"-30" in height with leaves reaching 1 1/2" in length. When fully open, blooms can span over 5" in diameter.

Mini callas are dainty and petite with flowers ranging from 2"-5" in diameter on thinner stems.

Meaning: Calla comes from the Greek term for beauty.

Long life: Florist buy mini callas in bunches

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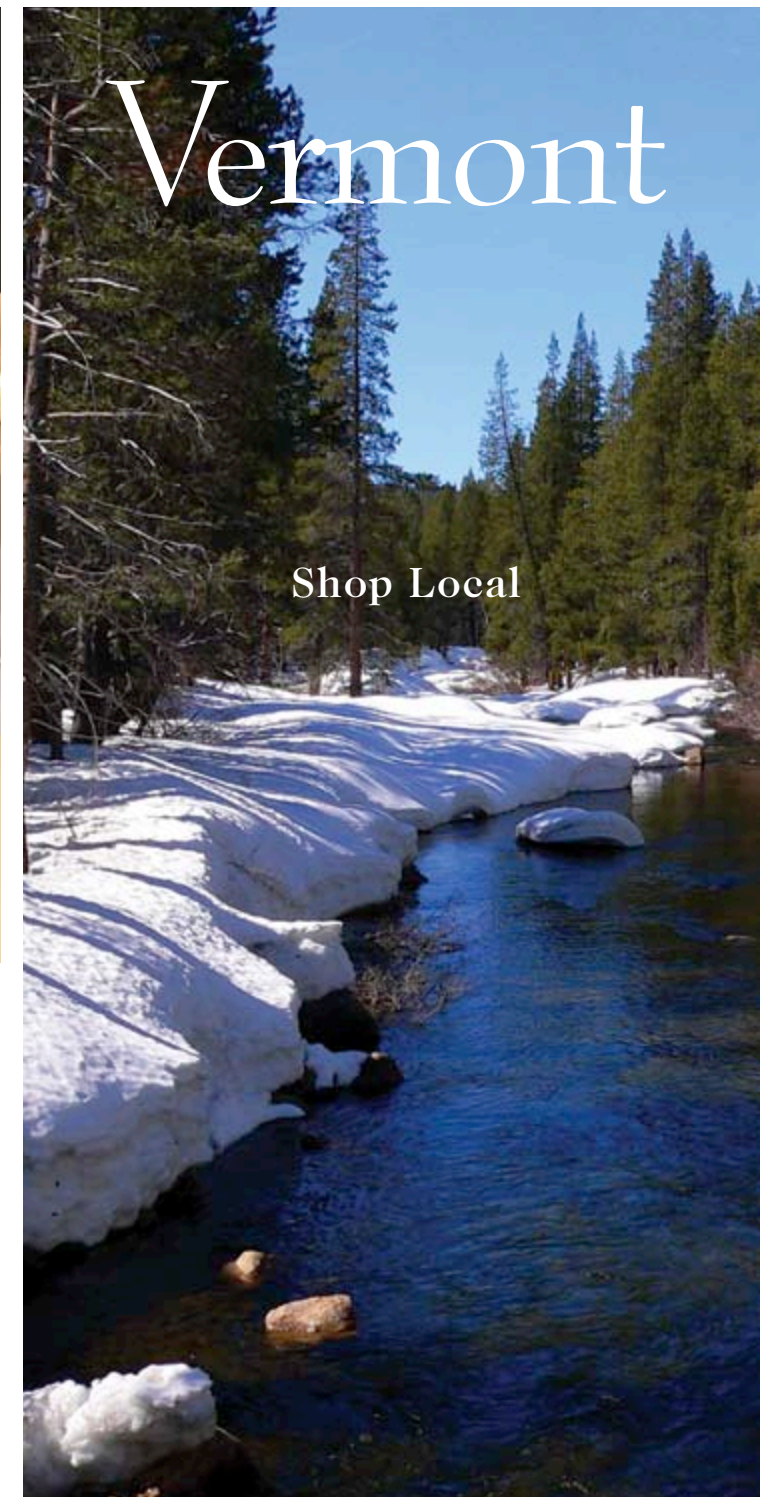
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Your Wedding Your Way

CEREMONIES: **Secular and Sacred**

by Michael Caldwell, Partnership Center of Vermont

A Protestant pastor went to his old Jewish rabbi friend for counsel after a tricky pre-marital session with a couple ambivalent about prayers in their wedding service.

"They're asking me to officiate because the bride's parents want clergy and they're paying for most of the wedding."

"Puts you in a tough spot."



"I'm concerned about them, not me. I suggested if their faith is unclear that they get clarity on that before they get married, but they say they're set on the date."

"How do they describe their religious orientation in their own words?"

"She says she's spiritual but not religious. He says he's an agnostic, had a bad experience growing up in the Church, and cringes when he hears 'God' in a prayer at other weddings they've attended."

"Sounds like she's open to the invocation of God's blessing on their marriage, even if she's not clear on which spiritual community she relates to. He may be the key to figuring this out, especially if he's got mixed feelings about her parents' footing the bill and therefore calling the shots."

"Bingo. Wished I'd pinpointed that in the session."

"Sometimes a guy like that can have a breakthrough if he sees contemporary prayers that are less wordy and avoid the overly pious tone of a lot of traditional prayers. I'm thinking of the Wedding Prayer of Robert Louis Stevenson."

"So, maybe suggest a prayer like that to them and see where it goes?"

"Yeah, put them in the driver's seat. If they take ownership of the language instead of feel like it's imposed, then they may be more open to a ceremony that has the dimension of the sacred in it. And if there's an opening, then you've helped them not close the door to welcoming the sacred in their lives, which can deepen for a lot of couples when the miracle of their first child comes along. And you've given them responsibility for where it goes from there."

"Otherwise, I bow out and suggest a justice of the peace for a secular service."

"Ultimately, yes, they need to decide whether their wedding – and their lives – will include God or not. Working on the ceremony is a microcosm for that. But slowing down the process instead of pushing it may help."

"I'll let you know what happens..."

Lord, behold our family here assembled.

We thank you for this place in which we dwell,

For your love which unites us,

For the peace accorded us this day,

For the hope with which we expect the morrow,

For the health, the work, the food,

The bright skies that make our lives delightful,

And for our friends in all parts of the Earth. Amen.

Wedding Prayer, Robert Louis Stevenson

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.

Contact Michael for a free consultation at 802-888-5811 michael.caldwell.75@alum.dartmouth.org Website: www.coachingcenterofvt.com

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Did you know?
 The average cost of a wedding in the first half of 2010 was \$23,876.00^a
 In 2009, there were 2,152,000 U.S. weddings.^a
(See page 111 for footnotes)

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From Grand & Glamorous to Intimate & Cozy, Indulging in the Magic of a Vermont Winter

By Susanna Keefer

Wedding

For a growing number of brides, the intimacy and warmth of a Vermont winter wedding is becoming increasingly appealing.

If summers in Vermont tend to be short, overflowing with commitments and erratic weather wise, winters are pretty much guaranteed to be long, slower moving and cold, creating the perfect opportunity to scale down that lavish and extravagant summer affair into a smaller, more intimate celebration that truly reflects you.

You are more likely to secure your first choice of location, caterer and entertainment during the winter months and the outdoor activities of skiing, snowshoeing, sledding and ice skating can make for a truly magical and fun filled weekend for your guests.

With Vermont overflowing with romantic and charming inns and lodges, there are plenty of choices for the most discerning of brides. Just picture your chosen inn complete with a roaring fire, already seasonally, yet tastefully decorated to fit into the winter wonderland outside of your window.

Winter weddings conjure up images of glamour in deep jewel tones of sapphire, ruby, emerald, gold, silver, midnight blue and cranberry and of food flavored richly in spice and rewarding in comfort.

Deciding on a style and menu for your winter wedding feast is the first decision and the one which will set the tone for the whole event.

If your budget allows and your circle of friends are self proclaimed “foodies,” then a tasting menu is a very sophisticated and elegant way to celebrate your nuptials. Anywhere from five to seven courses, each hand-picked to represent a different aspect of your journey together and each perfectly paired with wine or another chosen libation.

If you are looking for something a little less formal, the intimacy and interaction of a family-style served meal can create a wonderful shared experience for you and your guests. Through uninhibited mingling, new friendships are formed as steaming platters of hearty roasted meats and delectable sides are passed. No need for expensive centerpieces here, let the food star as your table décor, easily complimented by floating candles, icy crystal glassware and sweet smelling balsam pine sprigs.

Who says that you have to provide a full meal for your wedding guests? This is the ideal season to share your love of winter sports, and celebrate your union on the slopes.

Consider hosting an after-ski tea party, a cocktail reception or a tapas feast all of which save big on the wedding day menu costs.

Interactive stations of comfort food at your wedding are another great lower budget choice and a sure winner during the colder months in Vermont. Soup shots of lobster bisque, spicy Thai lemongrass with shrimp,

Photos courtesy of Susanna's Catering

Deciding on a style and menu for your winter wedding feast is the first decision and the one which will set the tone for the whole event.



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Waterfront Catering Group

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Wetherbee's Catering

800-974-6102
wetherbeescatering.com

lightly curried butternut squash and apple or cream of tomato with grilled cheese nibbles will warm your bodies and still allow plenty of room for more delicious food.

A mini pot pie station coupled with a mashed potato bar is incredibly comforting and always popular.

By incorporating other mashed roots and spicy international toppings, you will be adding fantastic color and flavor, therefore, taking your mashed potato bar to dizzying new heights while totally impressing your guests.

Other great choices for winter weddings are maple glazed ham, duck, pheasant, Cornish game hen and the always appealing beef tenderloin. Complement these rich meats with tangy fruit relishes using seasonal favorites like cranberries, pomegranates and figs.

As short as our summers and our growing seasons are in Vermont, our dedicated and talented farmers are still able to produce an incredible array of produce which lasts throughout the winter. Flexibility is key if you want to source your menu locally. Concentrate on Vermont's fabulous cheeses, meats, breads, beers, specialty goods and storage heirloom roots and you'll have yourself a wonderful feast.

Exotic spices and other global ingredients are the key

to creating that extra special flair in a winter wedding menu as they add such a richness of flavor. A simple braised meat dish can be glorified into an intensely flavored worldly feast by incorporating just the right blend of heat and spice.

There is no better way to end your special meal, however it started, than with a sinful rich winter dessert perhaps a chocolate fountain, a caramel fondue or a display of local truffles, some rolled in cacao, some dusted with gold leaf and some tossed in



coconut. Cherish your love and celebrate the magic of a Vermont winter wedding.

Susanna's Catering provides exceptional globally inspired cuisine and unparalleled service to events of any size throughout Vermont. Contact Susanna at 802-635-9094, info@susannascatering.com
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Vermont Bride Magazine

Winter, 2011 Cover Bride

July 18, 2009 at the

Stowe Mountain Resort,

(SPRUCE PEAK BASE LODGE)

Stowe, VT

Photography
(Don) Whipple Photography

Reception
Stowe Mountain Resort

Tuxedos
Needleman's Bridal & Formal

Ceremony
Stowe Community Church

Ring
Perrywinkle's Fine Jewelry

Video Photography
Video Vermont

wedding resource
Vermont Bride Magazine

Adam and I started dating in the summer of 1998. It was the summer before our senior year of high school. Adam and I made a connection with each other even before we started dating.

My father passed away in the summer of 1997; Adam and a friend sent my twin sister and me flowers. I remember reading the card and thinking wow that was nice, I hardly know him. Now when I think about one of the worst times of my life, Adam was there supporting me and we were not even together.

Adam and I stayed together through our senior year of high school, I went to UVM and Adam stayed in Newport. He continued to work as a landscaper. After about a year in Newport, Adam decided to attend a tech school in Connecticut. Once Adam graduated he moved to Burlington and we lived together as I finished my degree. When I graduated from college Adam and I decided to take a trip across country. We spent about 2 months traveling across the U.S. in a 20-foot camper. It was probably one of the best decisions we ever made. After we got back from our trip I started my teaching career in South Burlington and Adam started his own small business.

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Maryanne

(Azur)

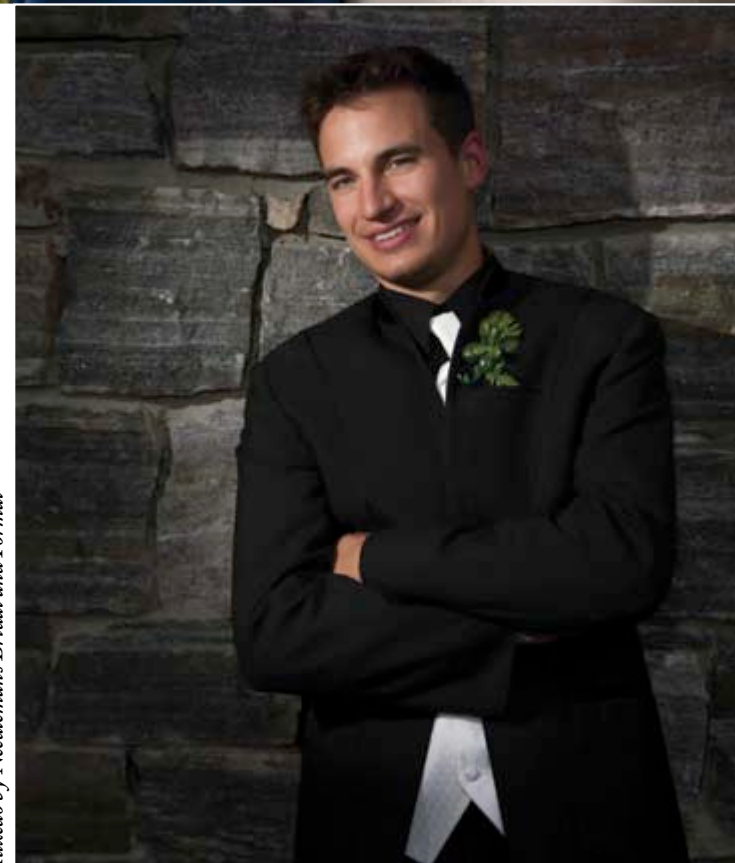
&

Adam

Routhier

Planning our wedding was one of the most fun things that we did together. The first person that we booked for our wedding was our photographer Don Whipple. Adam and I both agreed that our pictures were one of the most important parts of a wedding because they last forever.

Don Whipple is more than a photographer; he is a wedding coordinator. Our day turned out to be a dream come true because of all the hard work Don did to personalize our wedding.



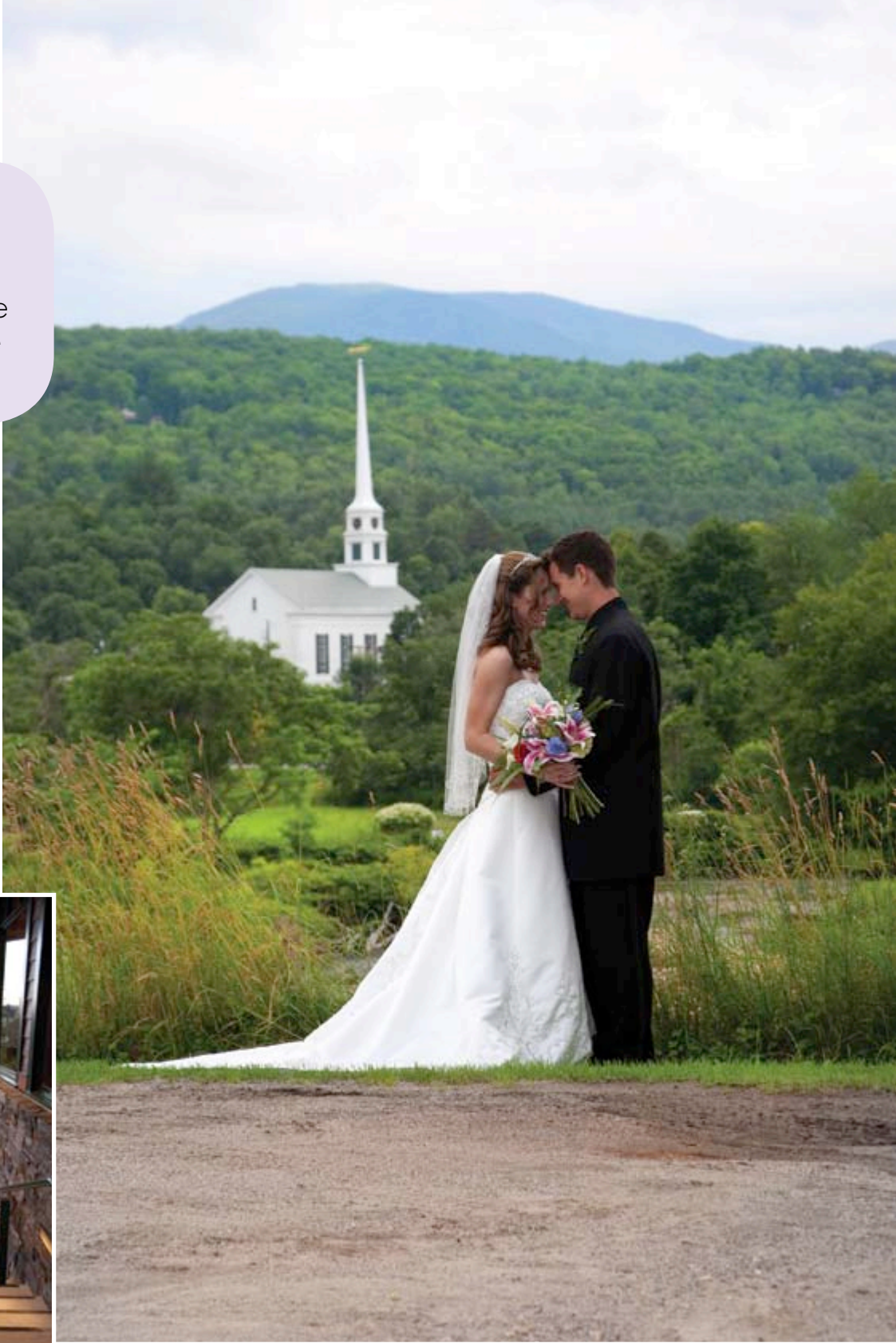
Tuxedo by Needleman's Bridal and Formal

continued on page 62



As he handed me the box I heard a clanging sound and I knew it wasn't a ring because of the sound I heard. When I opened the box there was a beautiful hand-painted Christmas bell. Adam told me that it was our first Christmas ornament for our new house that we had recently bought.

In December 2007 we got engaged. I thought that after 10 years he would never surprise me when proposing, but he did.



Love Story: Maryanne (Azur) & Adam Routhier

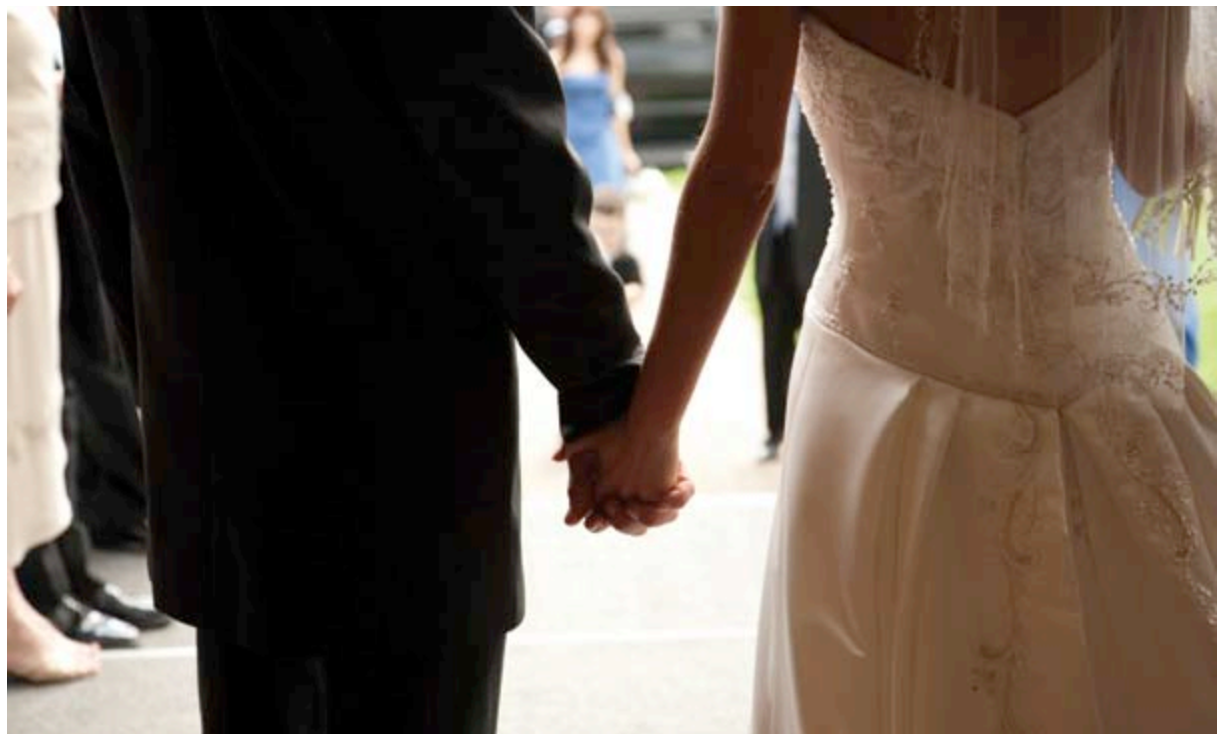
Continued from page 61

In December 2007 we got engaged. I thought that after 10 years he would never surprise me when proposing, but he did. It was the night of December 23 and I was busy wrapping Christmas presents because the next morning we had to travel to the Northeast Kingdom to spend the holidays with our families. Shortly after Adam got home we exchanged our own Christmas gifts for each other. Adam handed me a box that was about the size of a coffee mug. As he handed me the box I heard a clanging sound and I knew it wasn't a ring because of the sound I heard. When I opened the box there was a beautiful hand-painted Christmas bell. Adam told me that it was our first Christmas ornament for our new house that we had recently bought. I was amazed to see all the details painted on the bell. As I lifted it to take a closer look I tipped the bell just right and saw the ring hanging from the inside of the bell. Adam had cut out the bell's clapper and replaced it with my engagement ring. The clanging that I heard when

he handed me the box was actually my ring ringing the bell. Adam then told me that he designed the ring himself and drove in a snow-storm to ask my mom permission to marry me.

Planning our wedding was one of the most fun things that we did together. The first person that we booked for our wedding was our photographer Don Whipple. Adam and I both agreed that our pictures were one of the most important parts of a wedding because they last forever. Don Whipple is more than a photographer; he is a wedding coordinator. Our day turned out to be a dream come true because of all the hard work Don did to personalize our wedding. He did site visits before our wedding day so that he knew everything about our venue and the surrounding areas. Don's excellence didn't stop after the event. When he presented our wedding albums to us they were breathtaking because of the way he arranged them to tell our story.

continued on page 64



From the moment we saw the Base Lodge we fell in love with the Vermont architecture and landscape.



Photography by Don Whipple of Whipple Photography





Love Story: Maryanne (Azur) & Adam Routhier

Continued from page 63

We wanted an indoor wedding reception and a place that our guests could stay and enjoy the night with us. As we looked for places we fell in love with Stowe.

Adam and I went to the Inn at the Mountain and met with Calais Lovejoy the person in charge of weddings at the Mountain. Everything turned out to be what we were looking for and Calais helped us get all of details figured out so that we could have a Vermont style destination wedding.

Sandra Brown from Starr Styles (located at Sola Salons in Williston, VT) did an amazing job with the entire bridal party's hair and makeup. She listened to what each girl wanted and did their styling so that everyone felt comfortable and beautiful. She truly made me feel beautiful on the inside and out.

We got married at the Stowe Community Church and had our reception at the Spruce Peak Base Lodge. At the time we booked it, the reception site was not finished being built yet, but as soon as we saw the artist's drawing of what the place would look like we knew it was right for us and fell in love with its beauty.

It had a wide open space, many windows, amazing views, beautiful wood architecture, and the stone work was breathtaking. When the room was finished, we knew

that we had made the right decision for our wedding. Our wedding was the first wedding that was held in that venue. From the moment we saw the Base Lodge we fell in love with the Vermont architecture and landscape. The entire staff catered to our guests and our wedding party. Spruce Peak was the perfect place to have a wedding in Vermont. We were completely impressed on how everything ran with such ease, it seemed as if they have been doing weddings for years.

It was such a great feeling to be with family and friends after everything was finished.

Another great thing about the Inn was that we were able to rent the entire Inn so that our family and friends could stay there with us. The Inn also has this amazing little bar called the Fireside Tavern and this is where we had our after party.

When the reception was finished all of our guests were shuttled from the reception to the Inn. It was such a great feeling to be with family and friends after everything was finished and heard all the amazing little stories that happened at our wedding. Everything about our wedding was a dream come true! A day later we went on our honeymoon to a Sandals resort in St. Lucia.

As we think about our wedding, the things that are most dear to us are all the special parts our families had in our wedding. They helped us in so many ways from financial support, homemade centerpiece boxes, the cake, dress alterations, and all the other little details that made our wedding truly special.

Seeing everything that was done for us by our family and friends is something that Adam and I will never forget.

Featured *Vermont Bride Magazine* professionals:

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How to Choose a DJ

Seriously consider how important the DJ is and budget accordingly. If entertainment is such an important element of your event make sure you invest in an excellent DJ.

By Grant Allendorf

Selecting the right DJ can be confusing. At last count there were over 100 DJs in VT, all promising they will do a good job. So how do you pick the right one for you? This article will provide some guidance and advice to make your selection easier.



Grant Allendorf is the owner of Supersounds Entertainment (www.supersounds.com), Video Memory and Green Mountain Photobooth (www.greenmtphotobooth.com). Supersounds has been voted Vermont's #1 DJ Service. Contact Grant at supersounds.entertainment@gmail.com

The best and easiest way to find a DJ you'll like is to hire one you've already seen. If you've been to a wedding or a party where the DJ was great, find out who he or she was. If you didn't get a card, ask the host or manager. They should have the information readily available on file. If you haven't seen a good DJ recently, ask your friends. Your friends' taste in music is probably similar to yours. Maybe they have been to a function that you missed. If the first two suggestions don't work, your job gets a bit tougher. I suggest calling several reputable banquet facilities or caterers in your area and talk to the people in sales. Conversely, if you are thinking about a particular DJ that is not on anyone's list, please be very cautious. If you are still looking, you might go to the Yellow Pages. Look under Disc Jockey, Music and Entertainment. Call them and have them send you promotional materials and DVDs.

It is imperative that you see the DJ in action on a DVD. You want to know exactly who your DJ is before you hire them! So many times someone promises you someone and you might get the 18 year old that has done one wedding. Our company provides 2-3 video clips at weddings so clients can select the person they want. Next, Google them or search for VT Wedding DJs or whatever you are looking for. They should have organized, well laid out websites. Some will have on-line video demos where you can see different DJs in action. Again, make sure you see the actual DJ in action before hiring them.

How do you tell which one is best? Probably the worst way to choose a DJ is by price alone. Prices in New England range from \$200.00 to over \$2,500.00 for 5 hours. That is quite a difference and it would be very tempting to choose the cheapest

alternative. If that is all you can afford then you have no choice. There is a reason that some DJs cost more than others; they are usually worth it. More expensive DJs tend to be more experienced DJs. They charge more because they have a lot of jobs. They have a lot of jobs because they have a good reputation. Generally, DJs on the low end of the price scale are new to the business and are trying to get established. There is more risk hiring a less experienced person and you may not want this level of risk at an important, once in a lifetime event.

If they have been in business for 10-15 years and are on the low end of the price scale, that is cause for concern. Why does someone with experience not command experienced pay for what they do? Some DJs have a lot of experience, but perhaps not the kind you, or anyone else, is looking for. I have heard of a person planning a \$50,000.00 wedding, hiring a \$300.00 DJ and wondering why everyone left after the meal. I have also seen weddings with very modest budgets (\$2,000.00-\$6,000.00) hire an excellent DJ for \$1,000.00-\$1,500.00 and have a superb event because of the entertainment.

The strength of the DJ will determine the strength of the party. Great DJ, great party! So so DJ, so so party! Don't try to save money on your event by searching for the cheapest. Trim back on something, but not your entertainment. I realize that everybody has a budget, but you can determine where you want to put your money. If entertainment and dancing are important to you, you might want to spend a higher percentage of your budget on entertainment.

...your DJ should want to do your wedding or special event. Enthusiasm is another good sign of a professional DJ.

If your total wedding budget is \$20,000.00, (all aspects including food, dresses, tuxes, flowers, venue, transportation, etc.) what percentage should you spend on the DJ: 5%, 10%, 15%? Ten percent is \$2,000.00 on entertainment. Does the entertainment account for 10% of your event? If you spend 5%, you are looking at a \$1,000.00 DJ.

Many people I have spoken to say the DJ or entertainment is 50%-60% of the event. Seriously consider how important the DJ is and budget accordingly. If entertainment is such an important element of your event make sure you invest in an excellent DJ.

Quality equipment is a sound investment and a must in the special event business. I remember a banquet manager telling me about a large wedding in Morrisville, VT. More than 300 people were in attendance. During the second dance song, the DJ's amp malfunctioned; he had no backup equipment, so he packed up and went home. After months of planning, the reception was over almost as soon as it had started. Having quality backup equipment ensures that you event will have music as long as you want. Make sure the DJ doesn't just own backup equipment, but will bring it to the job. Get it in writing or you may find out the hard way.

Make sure that your DJ has music on a reliable high quality format. Music today must be in a digital form either with CDs or MP3s. Some say the sound of MP3s is poor; this simply isn't true. MP3s seem to be the most popular with DJs nationwide and most DJs have libraries in the 20,000-30,000 range. MP3s sound fantastic if clear versions are recorded initially and many of the world's finest club DJs spin MP3s. If the sound of a MP3 were poor, the iPod would have gone out of business long ago.

Today, most DJs use traditional CD players, laptops, and digital media controllers. Supersounds has chosen digital media controllers because

continued on page 68

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How To Choose A DJ

Continued from page 67

of their reliability. You have music on a hard drive (2 backup hard drives at every job) and you have the media controller. With a laptop you have so many things that can cause the computer to lock up and you must have a backup laptop for every laptop you bring to an event.

While videotaping weddings around VT, we have documented proof of laptops locking up and emitting loud noises that were unable to be silenced by the DJs. We have experienced none of these issues with digital media players. Supersounds also has a full backup mini disc system of music incorporated into each system in the event of the digital media player being effected by fluctuations in power at a banquet facility.

If a DJ is sick or in an accident, what will happen to your event? At Supersounds we have a DJ on call every weekend who can step in at a moment's notice. Make sure your DJ has a similar plan! Also, can you reach your DJ the day of the wedding or the day before? Insist that your DJ or company have cell phones. Your company should have emergency cell phones and pagers listed on their answering service. Most don't and you must have access to the DJ and company to cover any last minute details.

Another important consideration is to have an emergency generator for your event. Last year (2009) there was a major power outage in Vermont on a Saturday. Five of our 12 weddings were affected and 4 of the events had backup generators and no problems arose.

One did not and their event had to be moved to an Inn down the road. If there is not any power for your DJ then your event is over. Besides the disappointment and embarrassment of having zero music after months of planning and anticipation, you will still have to pay for the services of the photographer, DJ, caterer, florist, etc.

A wise decision would be to rent a small generator (2000 watts or larger) to have just in case. It could be the best \$75.00-\$100.00 you have ever spent!

Finally, your DJ should want to do your wedding or special event. Enthusiasm is another good sign of a professional DJ. Enthusiasm and good communication skills are essential elements in hiring a competent DJ.

I hope I have raised some questions that might not have been considered by the prospective client when hiring a DJ. My philosophy in wedding and event planning is to make sure you have everything in writing and have planned for a variety of situations. If you do this you will not have any unpleasant surprises on the day of your event.

Congratulations, and happy wedding planning!

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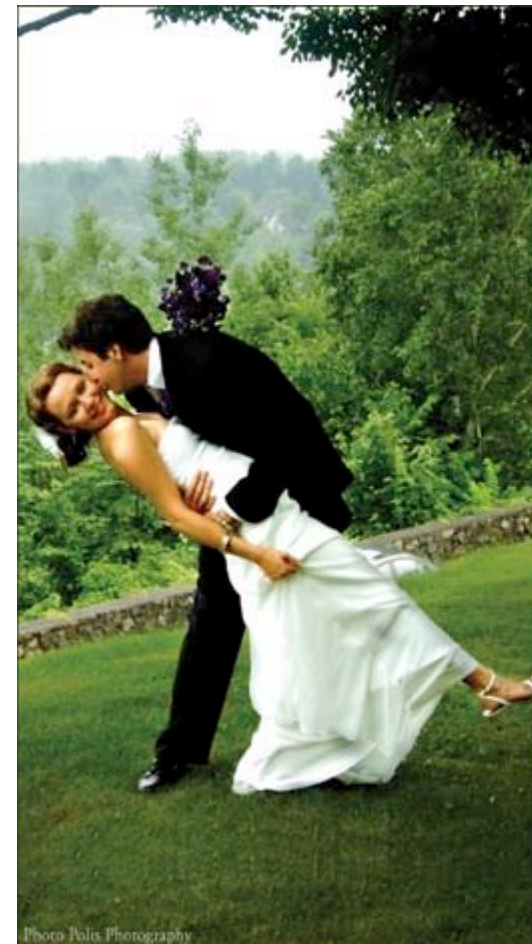


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Stress-Free Thank You Notes

Ten Tips for Minimizing Angst and Getting Them Done

By Kristin Anderson

The ceremony is over and you're excited about starting life as a married couple. But as you look around at all the beautiful gifts you've received, it hits you: your wedding to-do list is still unfinished. You need to write thank you notes acknowledging every treasure.

The thought of writing a personal and heartfelt note might overwhelm you. Instead, take a deep breath and relax! Writing thank you notes doesn't have to be drudgery, and it can even be fun. Here are ten tips that will help you easily accomplish this final task.

Make a note of those who have helped you. As you collect color swatches and look for invitations, keep a list of people who go out of their way to assist you in the preparations. It may be your maid of honor, your mother or the florist. Jot down a few words next to each name when you experience a moment you want to remember. This may not seem as important as choosing the right wedding cake, but it will make writing thank you notes much easier when you have specific things to thank people for.

Keep track of specific gifts. Create a list of every gift you receive at each engagement party and shower.

Keep track of specific gifts. Create a list of every gift you receive at each engagement party and shower. Ask your maid of honor to write down a brief description and ask her to be specific, because in your excitement of opening presents you might not remember which platter Aunt Sally gave you.

If you have a spreadsheet for keeping track of invitations, create an extra column and write the gift next to each one.

Save your brain cells. When planning a wedding, it can seem like as soon as you make one decision, another one pops up demanding to be dealt with. One decision that doesn't have to be stressful is figuring out which thank you cards to use. If you ordered printed invitations, most likely you'll be able to get notes to match. Decision over. Or, if that doesn't work for your personality or budget, consider simple cards monogrammed with your initials. An added benefit, you'll also be able to use these for other notes in the future.

Stock up on extra cards. It isn't necessary that every thank you card to be identical (it isn't as if your recipients will be

comparing notes!), but if you're buying your cards in bulk, be sure to buy plenty of extras. Proper etiquette says that you send a card for each gift received, which means you'll need two cards for the person who sends you both a shower gift and a wedding gift. Plus, you're almost guaranteed to receive gifts from unexpected well wishers.

Create a writing station. Setting up a designated area for writing notes is a great way to eliminate stress. You won't have to search for the notes, pens, stamps, gift list, etc., they'll be right in front of you when you need them.

Get help. Yes, traditionally brides are responsible for writing thank you notes, but this is one tradition that we'd be happy to see fall by the wayside. More and more often, grooms are pitching in to help with the task. Turn it from a chore into a fun endeavor by sharing stories about the people to whom you're writing notes.

Don't reinvent the wheel.

It's okay to follow the same general outline for each note, so don't put pressure on yourself to craft a note that will be passed down from generation to generation. A typical note starts with a salutation, includes a line thanking the giver for the gift by name, follows with a line about how you'll enjoy the gift, and closes with a repeat of thanks for thinking of you or for joining you on the special day. Want a template you can follow? Do a quick search on the Internet for "sample wedding thank you note" and you'll find hundreds of great examples.

More and more often, grooms are pitching in to help with the task. Turn it from a chore into a fun endeavor by sharing stories about the people to whom you're writing notes.

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Ariana (Giust) & Jamie Fallon

May 30, 2010

Ceremony:

Guillian's family backyard,
Burlington, VT

Reception:

The Spirit of Ethan Allen III,
Burlington, VT

www.soea.com

Photos:

Doug Todd Photography

www.dtpwedding.com

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Our Love Story:

Ariana (Giust) and Jamie Fallon

Jamie and Ariana lived in the same tiny town of Skagway, Alaska during 2004. They were brought back to Skagway for a friend's wedding during May 2005.

Surprisingly Ariana and Jamie never met each other during those two years. Apparently the time was not right. Fortunately another Skagway reunion was planned for Thanksgiving 2006, in the unlikely place of New York City. Monica (maid of honor) convinced Jamie and Ariana to travel into the city for the festivities. This time, the cosmos were aligned and targeted on midtown Manhattan for their delayed encounter.

The Engagement:

She Said: After one year of living together we knew we wanted to get married and started to fantasize about our wedding and what would be some of the things that we would like to have in our wedding.

At the time the idea of a wedding was nothing more than just talk. That was until one Saturday afternoon Jamie asked me out of the blue, while hanging in a coffee shop, if I had any thoughts about what I would like for an engagement ring.

I was somewhat surprised by the question and yet I had no answer for him. So I told him to give me several weeks to go and check the jewelry shops in Burlington, Vermont and I would come up with three ideas to what I would like. So three weeks later I took him on an engagement ring tour, showing him what I liked and did not like.

During this tour, I introduced Jamie to Doug. Doug is the goldsmith and owner of Fire and Metal Goldsmiths, in downtown Burlington.

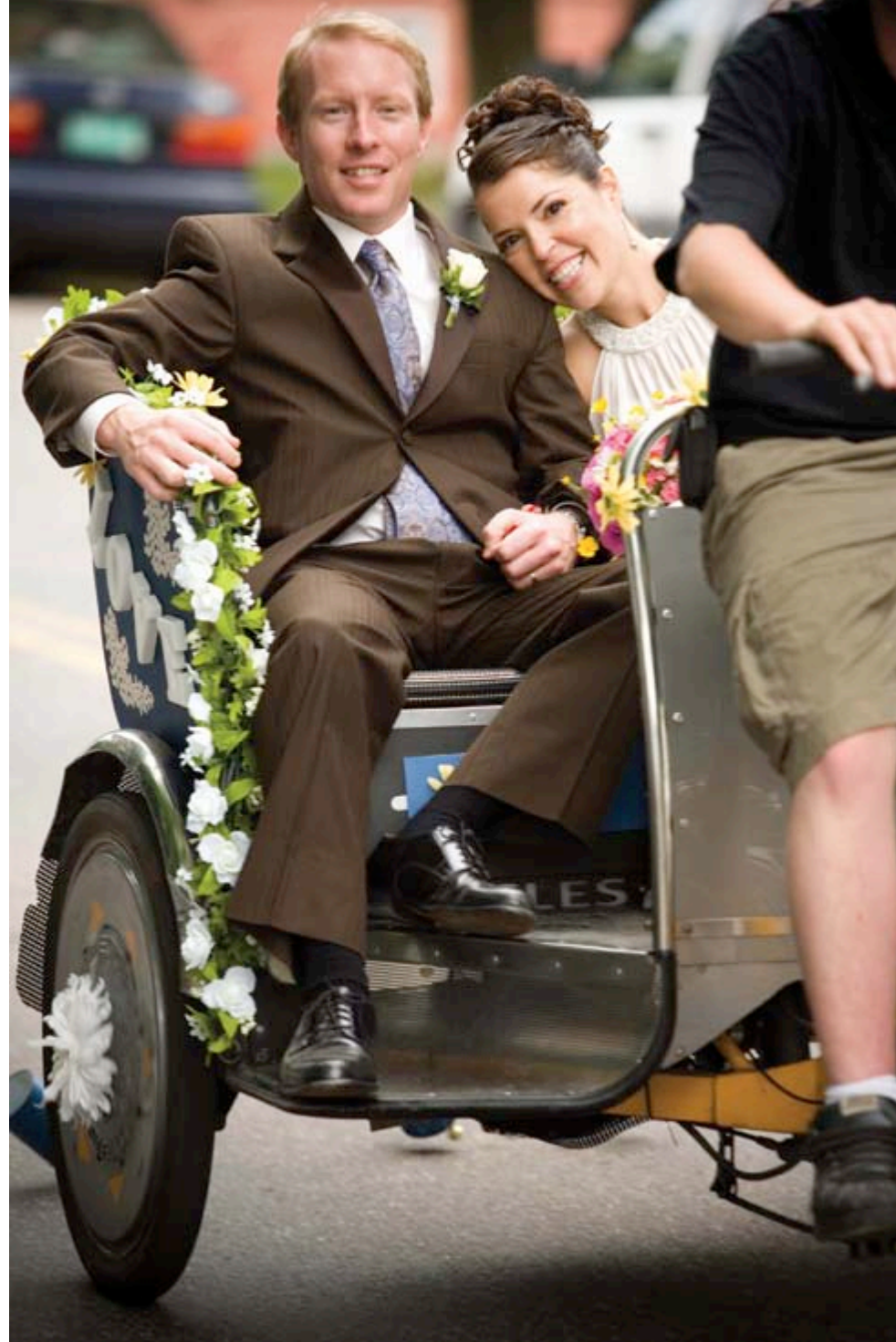
Jamie and I strive to be supporters of small local businesses and Doug is the quintessential American example of a proud small business owner, putting his heart and soul into his craft.

Jamie asked me out of the blue, while hanging in a coffee shop, if I had any thoughts about what I would like for an engagement ring.

I was somewhat surprised by the question and yet I had no answer for him.

To be truthful, I also wanted to have a ring that was unique and to be proud to say that my husband helped to design it.

He Said: Together the jeweler and I came up with a design that would complement Ariana. Six weeks later I walked home with a ring that felt like it weighed 500 pounds, in my coat pocket. Thanks to Ariana's flexible work schedule, we were able to make plans to stay at The West Hill House B&B, on a Wednesday night, in Warren, Vermont. The next morning we had an awesome breakfast, thanked



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Susan and Peter (the innkeepers) for their incredible hospitality and set out to explore the Mad River Valley. Once again, the 500 pound ring was in my coat pocket. The original plan was that we would take a short hike on the ridge top above the valley.

But the temperature on the ridges was in the 30 something range, plus they were shrouded in clouds. Not ideal conditions for wedding proposal, unless I was looking to tell her that a married lifetime with me would be cold, dark, and cloudy. Instead we cruised the area from the car.

Upon arriving at a waterfall that was gushing with the morning's rainfall, I knew that the time was right. We took a photo together and right after I asked her if she thought that she would remember this moment. She replied, "Yes."

Then I bent down on one knee, took the ring out of my pocket and with a very shaky hand I asked her if she would make more memories with me. She looked at the ring and started to say "Oh my God" over and over as her eyes got teary and proceeded to say, "Yes."

Then I bent down on one knee, took the ring out of my pocket and with a very shaky hand I asked her if she would make more memories with me. She looked at the ring and started to say "Oh my God" over and over as her eyes got teary and proceeded to say, "Yes."

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Aboard the **Spirit of Ethan Allen III**, Burlington, Vermont



Our Love Story: Ariana (Giust) and Jamie Fallon
Continued from page 73

If you are planning your own wedding it will get stressful at times but once the day comes, be sure to enjoy every minute because after months of preparation the day will be over in a blink of eye.

The Planning:

We knew we wanted to get married in Vermont; we had the perfect opportunity to show our family and friends why we live in Vermont. We strategically picked Memorial Day weekend because it was between semesters (Ariana is in grad school) and before the forest fire season became too busy (Jamie is a pilot of a firefighting helicopter). We also had taken into consideration that we were going to have a lot of family members traveling to Burlington with school-age kids. Having a three day weekend would work best for the kids' schedules. I did a lot of research to get ideas on how to make this day what we wanted. I also used *Vermont Bride Magazine* and other web sources to search for vendors.

Our day came out as beautiful as it did because of the major key components that helped to make this day happen: The ceremony was held in the yard of my mentor, my Aunt Tia and dear friend, Robin Guillian.

We will always be grateful for how much work that was placed in the ceremony preparation by the Guillian family, Aunty Beth Griffin, Sherry and Renata. Paul Webb played beautiful classic piano music in the Guillian's backyard for the ceremony. We worked with McCracken Tent Rentals of Saint Albans, VT and they were awesome.

The reception was held on-board the dinner cruise ship, *The Spirit of Ethan Allen III* of Burlington, VT. Rachel and The Spirit of Ethan Allen III staff were fantastic to work with. They helped us through the entire process by explaining how we could organize the flow of the reception and gave us ideas about



how to decorate the boat and where to go for the cake. All during the reception, our guests were telling us about how great that food was.

Doug Todd, the photographer, was incredible in capturing the day and the memories that we will always have. We highly recommend him.

DJ Mike, on *The Spirit of Ethan Allen III*, was able to play our top picks and transition fluidly from country to hip hop to Irish jigs to salsa and kept the crowd moving.

The flowers from Stray Cat Flowers in Burlington, VT were exactly what I wanted. Diane, of Stray Cat Flowers, was so easy to talk to, understood my vision, and was able to deliver on time, on a holiday weekend Sunday.

The lovely display of cupcakes and cake from Snaffle Sweets in Richmond, VT was amazing.

Advice for future brides:

The advice that I have for future brides to be is to always remember the main objective of why you are getting married.

If you are planning your own wedding it will get stressful at times but once the day comes, be sure to enjoy every minute because after months of preparation the day will be over in a blink of eye and the only thing you will have to remember it by are memories and pictures. There are not enough opportunities in this world to have the people dearest to you and your husband to be in the same room. Take the time to visit with everyone and truly enjoy the moment.

continued on page 76

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Did You Know?

Men in love show more activity in the visual part of the brain, while women in love show more activity in the part of the brain that governs memory. Scientists speculate that men have to size up a woman visually to see if she can bear babies, while women have to remember aspects of man's behavior to determine if he would be an adequate provider.^e

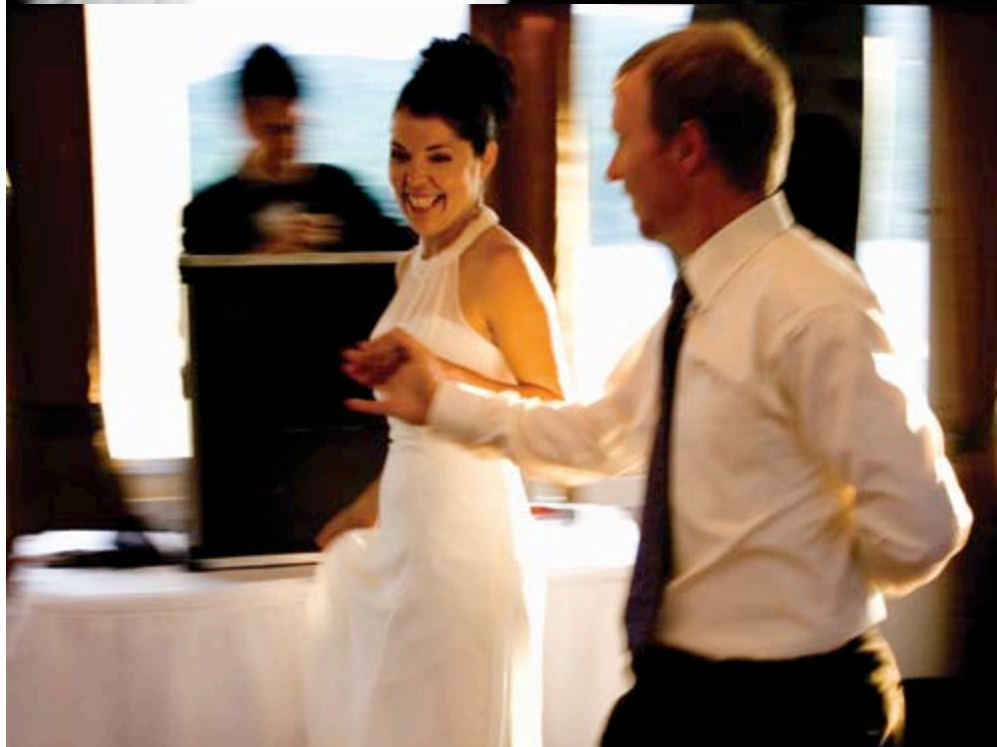
On July 5-6, 2005 a couple in London locked lips for 31 hours, 30 minutes, and 30 seconds, making it the longest kiss ever recorded.^f
(See vermontbridemagazine.com on line for footnotes)

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Our Love Story: Ariana (Giust) and Jamie Fallon
Continued from page 76

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Photography

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VERMONT ENGAGEMENTS



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Jeff Schneidermann
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Rebecca Provost and Jeremy Goulet

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Moe Provost of Derby, VT and Marylee Putman of Newport, VT and Fort Myers, FL are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Provost to Jeremy (Jerry) Goulet, son of the late Lyman and Helen Goulet of Colchester, VT. Ms. Provost is a 1990 graduate of Champlain College earning an Associate in Science in Business. She is employed as a finance manager with the Winooski School District. Mr. Goulet attended Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, TX and Champlain College in Burlington, VT. He is employed at Queen City Printers. A September 24, 2011, wedding is planned at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Williston with a reception to follow in South Burlington at the Sunset Ballroom.

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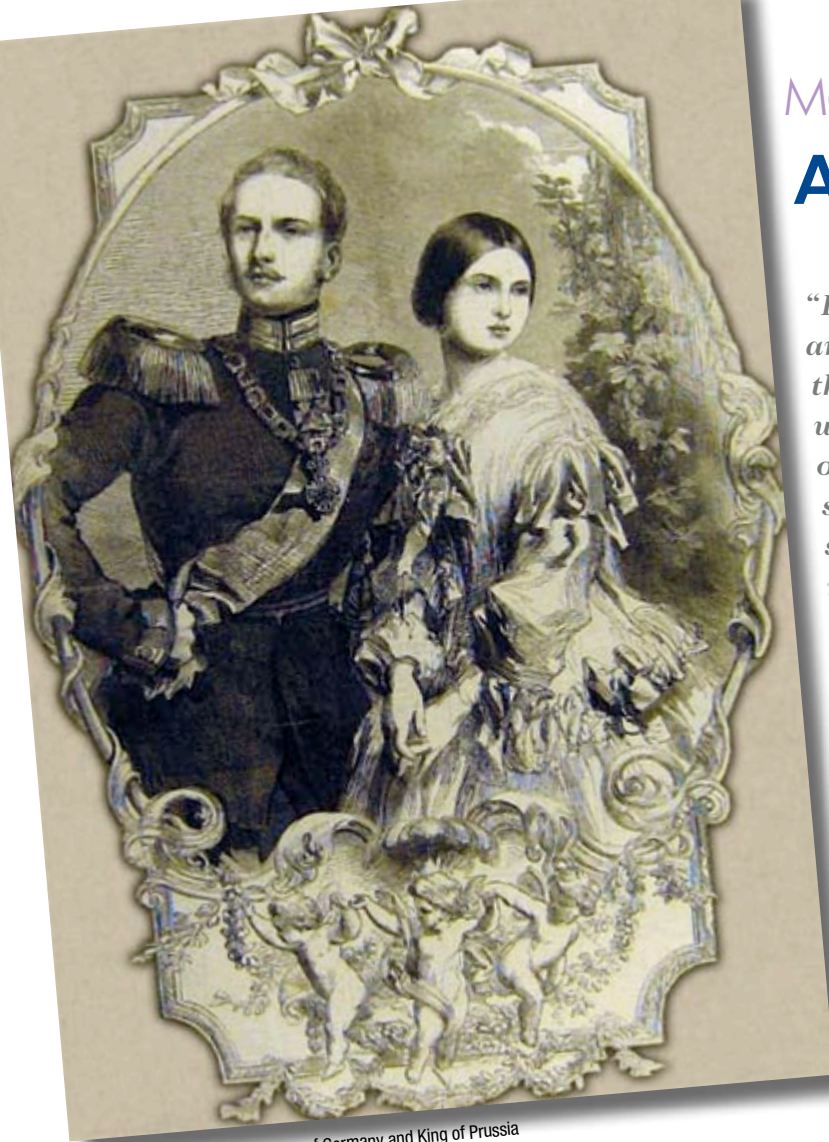
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Victoria and Frederick III, Emperor of Germany and King of Prussia

Mendelssohn's Wedding March: A Brief History

"People often complain that music is too ambiguous; that what they should think when they hear it is so unclear, whereas everyone understands words. With me it is exactly the opposite, and not only with regard to an entire speech but also with individual words. These too seem to me so ambiguous, so vague, so easily misunderstood in comparison to genuine music, which fills the soul with a thousand things better than words." Felix Mendelssohn

What says "wedding" more vividly than Mendelssohn's "Wedding March?"

While many couples are undecided about their choices for processional and other wedding music selections, even those seeking the less traditional route often choose Mendelssohn's march as their recessional.

On January 25, 1858, Princess Victoria Adelaide Mary Louise, the oldest child of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, was preparing to marry Prince Frederick William of Prussia.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were personal friends of Felix Mendelssohn, who had visited them on numerous occasions, sharing music late into the night. According to Mendelssohn, the

queen, a soprano, performed "most charmingly." The queen had reported in her diary of Mendelssohn's piano improvisation: "Really I have never heard anything so beautiful."

The wedding march was first performed as part of the incidental music for Shakespeare's play "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in 1842 in Potsdam, Prussia. It was composed at the suggestion of Mendelssohn's employer, King Frederick William IV of Prussia, who happened to be Prince Frederick's uncle, as a supplement to his famous "Overture to A Midsummer Night's Dream" composed many years earlier. Coincidentally, 1942 was the same year Mendelssohn was first invited to Buckingham Palace to meet England's Queen.

The play, now often performed as a ballet with Mendelssohn's music, is a light comedy. At the end of the story, Mendelssohn's march accompanies the weddings of happy couples whose adventures have finally resolved.

In 1858, the march experienced its first royal wedding, in the Chapel Royal at St. James's Palace. Victoria and Frederick's recessional has now stood the test of time as top choice for wedding recessionals for over 150 years throughout the English and German speaking world.

By all counts, though Princess Victoria and Prince Frederick's marriage was an arranged one, they did fall in love three years before their wedding, and enjoyed a happy marriage as a well-matched couple whose love deepened and strengthened with the passing of the years.

Lisa Carlson freelances as a flutist throughout Vermont in collaboration with numerous instrumentalists, and teaches private flute lessons. She maintains a web site at www.lisafute.com and a wedding music blog at www.lisafute.com/weddingblog. Lisa can be reached at 802-229-9901 or lisa@lisafute.com.

The queen had reported in her diary of Mendelssohn's piano improvisation: "Really I have never heard anything so beautiful."



Victoria, Princess Royal, 1858 By Frank Reynolds



Frederick III, Emperor of Prussia

Stress-Free Thank You Notes

Continued from page 70

Look at the trees, not the forest. One of the most stressful aspects of writing thank you notes has to do with the sheer volume of cards that need to be written. The good news is you can eliminate some of that stress by breaking up the task into manageable pieces.

There's no law saying you need to write all your notes at once. Pick a doable number (one a day? three a day? whatever works for your schedule) and stick to it.

Another tip is to write the notes the day you receive the gift – those you receive before the wedding and not on the big day, that is! – so that you don't have a huge stack of cards waiting for you after the honeymoon.

Don't cash that check – yet. If you've been given a check as a gift, consider waiting until after you've written the note to deposit the check. Not only is this proper etiquette, but it can offer extra motivation to get those notes written.

Create a checklist. There's something extremely satisfying about checking a task off a list, so do so literally. Print out or handwrite a list of thank you notes. Then, when you've sealed and stamped the card, take a pen and physically check the individual note off your to-do list.

Writing thank you notes may be the final item on a long list of wedding tasks, but it doesn't have to be a daunting one. By following the above tips, you'll be able to relax, safe in the knowledge that your wedding to-do list is finally complete.

Kristin Anderson is the owner of RSVP, a stationery business that specializes in custom wedding invitations. RSVP is known for personalized service and etiquette guidance while honoring a couple's style and individuality.

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Did You Know? Women who report a fair division of housework were happier in their marriages than women who thought their husbands didn't do their fair share. Wives also spent more quality time with their husbands when they thought the housework was divided fairly.⁴ (see footnotes online at vermontbridemagazine.com)

Music For Your Wedding

By Lisa Carlson

Victoria, Princess Royal, wedding on January 25, 1858



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Congratulations on meeting one of life's great milestones. Your wedding day promises to be one of the most memorable and happy days of your life.

To ensure that this day unfolds the way you have always dreamed you are tirelessly planning to make sure every detail is taken care of just the way you want it. When going over the to-do list with your future spouse, have you considered adding a meeting with your local insurance agent? If not, here's why you should:

If you can think back to before you met your significant other, you were responsible for yourself and your property. Likely, you protected yourself and the value of necessities such as home, valuable personal belongings and vehicles against the risk of loss by purchasing insurance policies. These policies were written in your individual name and based on the limits needed for your individual exposures.

One detail that is often not considered in the planning stages is that once married you are considered one legal entity. The assets and liabilities you were once responsible for as an individual are now shared with your spouse and vice versa.

You need to be aware that the insurance policies you purchased as individuals typically do not automatically contemplate the full scope of the new exposures your spouse brings to the relationship.

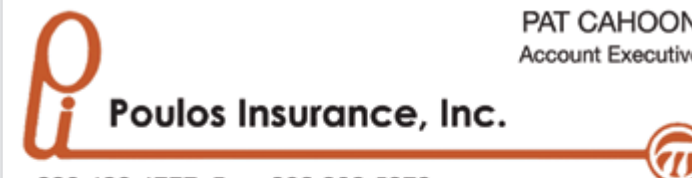
Adjustments need to be made prior to your union to keep you both properly covered. These adjustments are paramount in safeguarding your future together. Seeking the advice of a trusted agent is the first step in the process and will most likely provide a number of benefits throughout your new portfolio.

Your agent will help you consolidate existing policies you held as individuals to policies that are properly written to consider your combined property and liability limits as a couple. Typically, consolidating your policies will not only provide the proper coverage, but will result in a net savings in your overall insurance costs.

Your agent will also identify the need for insurance you may not have contemplated while on your own. For example, you are now dependant on each other for maintaining your life together, are you financially prepared for survival if one spouse becomes disabled or passes away? Having the proper life, health and disability coverage can provide supplement income during these unpredictable scenarios.

So, as you are diligently planning out all of the details to ensure that your big day meets all of your expectations, take a half of a day to gather the insurance policies you both hold and make an appointment with an agent to review them. They will help you build an insurance portfolio that will safeguard your new life together and provide the foundation that will make everyday thereafter just as outstanding as the first. Congratulations!

Patrick Cahoon is a licensed property and casualty agent for Poulos Insurance agency and works out of the Morrisville office. Poulos has twelve convenient locations throughout the state. Please go to www.poulosinsurance.com to learn more.
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1st Annual Vermont Bride Gala a Great Success!

The planning began months in advance for the 1st Annual Vermont Bride Gala. Gratitude is expressed to the many local talented vendors and businesses which chose to join us as we strived to create this wonderful evening event in **The Barn at Boyden Farm**.

There were some goals in planning for the evening: to transform the Barn into a magical world of wedding possibilities for all of our guests to enjoy and with October being **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** to focus our fundraising efforts on the Breast Care Center of Vermont at **Fletcher Allen Health Care**.

The Barn was overflowing with imaginative artistry from **Esden Florist, The Village Green Florist, Howard's The Flower Shop** and **Creative Muse Floral Design**. Each of the four seasons was touched on with gorgeous designs including hydrangea and alstromeria from calla lilies to roses. Beautiful floral arrangements filled the room with their glorious scents and colorful, artful detail.

As our guests filled The Barn and began to explore, they were greeted with lovely, gentle music played by **Peter Miller**, talented violinist. Peter strolled and played amongst the guests in his waistcoat and tails. Tables were impeccably dressed with crystal, flatware and place settings to match the coordinating four season décor from **Vermont Tent Company and Weddings, Tents and Events**. Mock invitations, menu cards and table numbers were designed to match the décor by Carey Bunker of **Lasso'd Moon Designs**. Each of these wonderful companies has many amazing items available to create your extra special celebration. **Lauri Boyden**, owner of The Barn at Boyden Farm and **Jackie Watson** from **Vermont Enchanted Events** had so much fun selecting the décor for this evening's seasonal theme. Seasonal items and colors flowed through each area of The Barn in its décor as well as table favors which were donated by area local businesses, **Brown & Jenkins Trading Company, Snowflake Chocolates, Boyden Valley Winery Ice Wine** and **VT Mountain Maple Syrup**.

Larry Asam Photography and Kim Martin Photography captured the evening through their camera lenses snapping candid and posed shots as the evening continued. Larry Asam, Kim Martin as well as Orah Moore and Warren Ayer each had beautiful displays of photography using The Barn wall's as galleries to represent their work. The evening will remain framed for future viewing as Sue from KS Videography scurried about catching each special moment on film.

It was hard not to be caught tasting second and third helpings of the delectable shrimp from Jeff's Seafood.

Tina Patno and her wonderful staff from Tasty Persuasions Catering served their favorite tastes throughout the evening. Chow Bella and Susanna's Catering both added their creative foods for the group. Susanna Keefer's wonderful presentation of cuisine was sure to not only whet, but satisfy our appetites. Her use of autumn's bounty was a feast for our eyes. Lauri, for one could not take her eyes off the treats displayed by



Photo by Kim Martin Photography



Photo by Larry Asam Photography

By Lauri Boyden & Karen Sturtevant



Photo by Larry Asam Photography



Photo by Larry Asam Photography

Snaffle Sweets. The delectable cakes provided by **Fischer's Fancies** and **The Little Purple CAKE Shoppe** were simply gorgeous. Most of their treats were bite size and tantalizing, just teasing you to taste one more. One cake was a full tiered creation allowing us to honor one of our upcoming brides and grooms for the 2011 wedding season. They agreed to cut the lovely tiered cake designed by Marriam Khan, owner of The Little Purple CAKE Shoppe. Christine LaShure and Shawn Parnell will celebrate their wedding on July 9, 2011. Congratulations to all of our 2011 brides and grooms!!

All of the delicious food samples and the cake treats made one thirsty. **Wunder Bar and Company** was there to meet your beverage needs. Mixed drinks, beer, wine, soft drinks and signature specialty drinks. Personally, Lauri chose to toast the Gala evening with just a touch of champagne garnished with a blackberry. **Boyden Valley Winery** was on hand with samples of their Vermont White Ice Wine. This sweet, after dinner wine comes in small favor size bottles for your gift giving needs or the traditional wine bottle size for sharing at a special occasion. **Brown and Jenkins Trading Company** served us some of their coffees from around the world. These coffee flavors are roasted on site at their coffee shop directly across the street from Boyden Farm. They have favor size packaging with personalized labels or the standard size bag for your coffee needs.

The Barn was an amazing host for exploring all of these fabulous local vendors and yet there was even a way to enjoy the quintessential Vermont landscape of Boyden Farm. Linda Ward was on site with her gorgeous horse and carriage. Linda gave rides to couples and guests around the foliage speckled pastures. The possibilities are seemingly endless while collecting details at the *Vermont Bride Gala*.

The main idea for the Gala design was to taste the delicious foods and cakes, have a select beverage from the bar, and take in the lovely sights of the décor including the photographer's galleries and fashion show. **Needleman's Bridal & Formal** supplied the gowns, tuxedos and dresses for the fashion show. Cynthia's Spa and stylists from **Creative Edge Hair Design** were onsite for the fashion show preparations. Sarah Jo Willey, owner of **Creative Muse Floral Design** was kind enough to organize as well as announce throughout the show. **Miss Vermont, Caroline Bright**, was stunning as she practiced her parade for her upcoming January 2011 debut in Las Vegas. There she will represent Vermont in the Miss America pageant. Best Wishes

continued on the next page



Photo by Larry Asam Photography



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Photo by Larry Asam Photography

Remembering the 1st Annual Vermont Bride Gala a Great Success!

Continued from the previous page



Photo by Larry Asam Photography



Photo by KS Video

Photography by:
Larry Asam Photography
Kim Martin Photography
Green Mountain Photobooth
KS Videography

Alayna Westcom, Katie Levasseur, Erin Connor - Miss VT's Outstanding Teen, Caroline Bright - Miss Vermont, Jeanelle Achee, Alex Larrow

to Caroline as she continues to prepare for this amazing pageant. For the Gala fashion show, Caroline was accompanied by her friends and winners of **The Miss Vermont Scholarship Organization** and the three daughters of Mark and Lauri Boyden. Local gentlemen including one of our Vermont State Troopers, a Lamoille County Sheriff and other handsome friends happily donated their time to give our guests a look at the elegant choices available at Needleman's.

What fun it was to select a classy hat, veil or pair of silly sunglasses and join friends in the **Green Mountain Photo Booth** for a Gala evening memento and a chance to leave your mark in the Scrap Book. Looking back through the Scrap Book, it is evident that our guests seemed to enjoy the Gala festivities!

Another feature of the Gala that made us dazzle were the gorgeous jewels displayed by **Star Fire Jewelry**. Their most generous gift was saved for the very last of the evening and well worth waiting for!

We were joined at the Gala by **Smuggler's Notch Resort** and **The Essex Resort & Spa** who have spectacular lodging and spa packages available. The evening concluded with generous prizes and giveaways to delight some very happy couples! Thank you to all of our guests that made the evening such a wonderful success.

We are fortunate to be surrounded in our state of Vermont by so many talented and creative artists. The Gala showcased these participants under the tiny white, sparkling lights of the night. Dancing with Style showed us masterful dance moves while **The Funk Collection** and **Super Sounds DJ** rocked the rafters.

The Barn was alive with wedding spirit on October 23, 2010. 2011 will bring the 2nd Annual Vermont Bride Gala so if you missed it this year, be certain to see what we put together for next year!



Photo by Kim Martin Photography



Photo by Kim Martin Photography



Photo by Larry Asam Photography



Photo by Larry Asam Photography



Photo by Larry Asam Photography

VT Bride Gala By Susan Lackey Recap

Honored to be modeling in the **Vermont Bride Gala at The Barn at Boyden Farm** were six talented young women representing the Miss Vermont Scholarship Organization, Inc., which is a not-for-profit organization that teaches leadership skills through its four tenants of scholarship, community service, style and grace, and personal success. This year **Miss Vermont, Caroline Bright**, and **Miss Vermont's Outstanding Teen, Erin Connor**, were joined by 4 of the newly established Miss Vermont's Preliminary Titleholders, who have committed to the training program and to competing in the 2011 Scholarship Competition at the South Burlington High School Auditorium on June 25, 2011.

The **Miss Vermont Scholarship Organization** is a licensed affiliate of the **Miss America Organization**, which, with its state and local affiliates, is the largest grantor of academic scholarships for women in the world. Last year the Miss America Organization provided \$45,000,000 in scholarships to contestants and titleholders. Young women ages 13 to 24 compete at two different levels: Miss and Outstanding Teen. Scholarships are founded on poise, grace and style, on stage talent, lifestyle and fitness, professional interviews and spontaneous questioning, with the Teens competing also in academic excellence, all leading to personal life success.

Caroline Bright is a 20 year old senior at St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT where she majors in Political Science and minors in Religious Studies. She is also a proud graduate of Missisquoi Valley Union High School in Swanton, VT. In 2006, Caroline's leadership and community commitment were recognized by Governor Douglas, who appointed Caroline as the sole student representative to the Next Generation Commission. Since visiting the State House in fifth grade, Caroline has been committed to involvement in politics, and at the age of 13 was selected to serve as a page in the legislature. Since then, Caroline has had the goal of running for elected office by the time she is 25. Her platform, Rock the World - Run for Office, is a natural off-

shoot of her abiding interest in state politics and community service. Her website, rocktheworldrunforoffice.org, explains in detail her goals for her platform. On June 5, 2010, Caroline was thrilled to be chosen by her fellow contestants for the Spirit Award, and was also crowned Miss Vermont 2010. She has been enjoying an exciting year meeting her fellow Vermonters, and is enormously proud to

represent the great state of Vermont at Miss America on January 15, 2011. More information about Caroline can be found on her blog, www.carolinebright.net/.

Erin Connor, 16, is the youngest of seven siblings, and resides on a dairy farm in Bridport, VT. She is a sophomore at Middlebury Union High School and the Vice President of her class. She loves to play sports and participates in basketball and softball. In addition to being Miss Vermont's Outstanding Teen 2010, Erin holds many titles, including the Fraternal Order of Eagles National Speech Winner and the Rotary International Oratorical Winner. She was also the 2010 Commencement Speaker for

continued on page 98



A clever and beautiful wedding

by the

DIY BRIDE at Ye Olde England Inne, Stowe, Vermont



By Chris Francis

Photography by ClosedCircle.com

Innkeepers, in general, are by nature individuals who relish in the happiness of others. That happiness is a large part of the payment for this chosen profession. I am not suggesting that the pursuit of profit is not important, after all innkeepers are business people and have a complex, multifaceted operation which places extraordinary demands upon them all day every day and like any business venture bills have to be paid.

However, innkeeping truly is a way of life 24/7, it is not just a job.

To live this life style one needs to be gregarious by nature, understanding of others in a multitude of situations, many of which are frequently stressful. The ultimate goal is to make guests relax both mentally and physically in safe and caring surroundings.

So, when a young couple come to the Inne to enquire about reserving for the host site to celebrate their wedding it is natural to assume the potential of a strong weekend of business to fill those vacant rooms and restaurant seats and of course, pay those ever present bills!

In this particular case such thoughts rapidly changed when the eager bride and groom explained their vision and their budget.

Liz and Eric are a couple who through their genuine approach and delightful personalities made it easy to prioritize the 'happiness payment' over the check-book.

The rewards are substantial. There is little satisfaction in declining such an opportunity in the hope one may attract an event that would involve carte blanche from the bride's father for multi course dinners with open

bars! Bankers would never make good innkeepers. I shudder at the thought!

What really impressed me were the remarkable talents of Liz. She had a clear vision of her wedding day and was keen to utilize all of her inherent talents to place her mark on what was to be the most important day of her life. She became our poster girl for the 'DIY Bride' and Ye Olde England Inne was proud to be the host site selected to showcase her talents.

Liz realized the confines of her budget but elected to make her event both different and original while refusing to compromise on the fundamental quality.

Her skills as a graphic designer were subsequently employed with great success. In discussing the reception Liz decided upon the theme of 'English High Tea.' This has a formality all of its own and when properly employed makes for a memorable and distinctive occasion. Various styles of loose leaf teas were selected and lots of traditional English tea finger sandwiches with various fillings were served to an appreciative group. Of course, freshly baked English scones with strawberry preserves were in abundance.



The wedding 'cake' was a collection of chocolate torte squares arranged on a beautifully decorated tiered platter created by her father for the occasion.

Liz elected to buy her own flowers wholesale and spent a lot of time in designing, arranging and trimming her own centerpieces. They were beautiful.

In addition, she designed and printed all of her invitations and wedding programs on a preferred select stock.

Liz's future mother-in-law made her wedding dress and arranged essential alterations for others in the wedding party as well.

What should brides learn from this? Always be comfortable in asking the innkeepers if they will work with you on such an arrangement that will enable

you to work on such a menu design and other savings. You may be surprised!

Readers may enjoy the blog Liz writes. Her advice and professional talents may well serve you in your pursuit of a high quality and uncompromising special event of your own.

A picture says a thousand words so I shall let the images from www.closedcircle.com complete the story.



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. Ye Olde England Inne is a full service Country Inne that hosts rehearsal dinners and weddings year round for groups up to 120.

www.englishinn.com
800-477-3771.

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Nuptials and Nest Eggs

LIVES AND MONEY

By Benjamin Nostrand, CFP®

Congratulations on getting married! Marriage is a major milestone in your life. However there may be many more milestones to come such as home purchases, children, college, and retirement, to name a few. In short, the best way to prepare for future goals is to plan and save.

The more you save, the better off your financial future. Sometimes you may need to make sacrifices in order to save. Here are some ideas that can help you save and prepare for both expected and unexpected milestones in your future.

Create a budget: Review all of your combined expenses and put them in a spreadsheet, software (such as Quicken), or an online tool (such as Mint.com) to determine how much you will spend in a year.

Compare that to your take-home incomes and make sure you are on track to spend less than you make. Then dedicate some of your income to savings. You can bucket your savings into various piggy banks (different accounts) such as a home account, college savings account, retirement account and so forth. Be sure to have some liquid savings set aside for unexpected events.

Contribute to your employer's retirement plans. If your employer has a 401k or other retirement plan, try to save here as much as possible to take advantage of tax-deferred growth. It is best to max it out, but at the very least, save up to the employers match, if any. If you or your spouse are self-employed or do not have a plan at work, either set one up for your company or contribute to a Roth IRA or a traditional IRA.

Reduce or eliminate short term debt. Pay off credit cards. Make an extra payment on your highest interest credit card first, limit the number of credit cards you own, and charge only the amount you can afford to pay each month. This will reduce or eliminate interest expenses, improve your credit score, and lower the interest rate you will be charged for a mortgage.

Review your credit reports and try to eliminate any inconsistencies and old accounts that are no longer needed. This can go a long way toward getting a loan at a cheaper rate.

Review and select company benefits: If both of you are working, review both company benefits and utilize the best combination. For example, you will probably want to choose one company's health insurance over another to save money and improve your overall protection.

Again, be sure you utilize both companies' savings plans. Don't forget to update your beneficiary information to include your spouse.

Consolidate your assets: Most couples choose to treat all of their assets together, although some choose to keep their assets separate. This is a choice you need to make



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sooner rather than later. If you have savings outside of your respective employer's plans, many times it is much easier to manage and monitor all of your investments when they are at one firm. Do you have 401ks or other retirement plans from a company you no longer work for? Consider rolling over those assets into an IRA at an investment firm that will provide you with more choices and flexibility on your investments. Consolidating makes it easier to monitor and invest your money.

Invest wisely: It is time now to review your different savings accounts as one larger portfolio. Determine your collective level of risk tolerance and time horizons for your various goals; diversify and invest appropriately to fit your profile, goals, and comfort level.

Invest wisely: It is time now to review your different savings accounts as one larger portfolio.

Get help: Just as you might employ an architect to design a house properly, you might want to use a financial planner to help create your financial plan and/or guide your investments to meet your goals. Constructing a portfolio can be a daunting task that requires a great deal of time, knowledge, and diligence. A financial planner can help you create a plan, assess your risk tolerance, and choose the proper investments to achieve your goals, provide you with peace of mind, and leave more time for you and your spouse.



Ben Nostrand CFP® is the president and founder of Nostrand Financial Planning, LLC; an independent, registered investment advisor.

As a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ practitioner with 25 years of experience in the financial industry, Ben provides investment management and financial planning to individuals and families located nationwide on a fee-only basis (no commissions involved). Contact Ben for a free initial consultation at (802) 496-7001, email ben@nostrandfinancial.com or visit www.nostrandfinancial.com

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AFTER THE WEDDING:

The American Dream is More Affordable Than Ever

By Jeff Teplitz

Congratulations! Your "big day" is coming up. This is as they say, "the first day of the rest of your life."

As most couples who are starting off their lives together, you may be thinking about home ownership. If you are one of those couples, congratulations. You could not have picked a better time to be in the market for a home. According to the "housing affordability index" we are in unprecedented times. Housing prices are down and interest rates are at all time lows. The combination of the two makes affordability of your first home better today than it was in the 1970's.



YOUR FUTURE

Home prices will eventually begin to go up again. When this happens, interest rates will also go up, making it less affordable to buy a home. One of the other factors to consider is the cost to own vs. rent. It is currently lower to own than to rent.

When you factor in the tax benefits and the portion of payment going to pay down your principal you are better off owning than renting.



So, you are now ready to start looking for a new home. What price range should you be looking in? How do you know how much you can afford? How much down payment is required? These are all very good questions and one that a mortgage professional can help you with. Before you decide on a real estate agent you should speak with a mortgage lender who can talk to you about all the options available to you.

Low or no down payment programs exist through government agencies such as FHA (Federal Housing Agency), VHFA (Vermont Housing Finance Agency) and RD (US Dept. of Agriculture).

All of these agencies have programs that are designed to help you obtain the dream of home ownership.

Not all mortgage lenders are equal. Make

sure you work with one that can offer you as many different options as possible. Interview your mortgage professional and ask the differences between the programs. Some have income limitations, others require a small down payment, all have some sort of mortgage insurance either up front, monthly or both. Find the program that works best for your situation and go with that program.

Prime Lending is one of the few mortgage lenders that can provide assistance with everyone, of the above mentioned programs and many more. A preliminary consultation is free of charge and will let you know what you can afford now or help you prepare for a future purchase when you are ready.

Jeff Teplitz has been a mortgage consultant since July 2005. In that time he has helped hundreds of customers with purchases of their first homes, primary residences, second homes and refinances. Jeff recently got married at The Mountain Chapel on Toll Road at Stowe Resort and lives in Williston, VT with his wife Claudine and their dog Cyrus.

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Jeff Teplitz
Loan Officer

office 802.846.2891
cell 802.233.3672
NMLS: 184421



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By Gayle Oberg, Realtor®

Focusing on the Details



As you begin to prepare for your first home purchase, you have consulted with a lender, found a Realtor® you are confident in and now you are scheduled to visit some houses for sale! YEA! Or, OMG!!

What should you be focusing on when you view properties you are considering? This is one of the most important decisions of your life, there is NO such thing as a silly question. Ask any question that pops into your mind. As a couple, you should discuss ahead of time, what geographical locations will work for you best and what you need for space.

My strongest advice, at this stage, is for you to look for a wise investment, not your dream home. (DON'T stop dreaming though!!)

Think of this investment as a stepping stone. You may have dreams of living at the end of a dirt road on 20 acres, or at the top of a high rise in the best condo, but for now, consider what you have for financing and look at what will work best for you. Your purchase should be something you can live in and maintain, or even (hopefully) improve for the next 3 to 5 years at a minimum. You need to consider the worst

case scenario, which is a change of plans that would require you to sell sooner than you planned. Look for a property that you can potentially improve with "sweat equity" or do it yourself projects. You will want to find a home that you can live in the way it is, or with minimal improvements prior to you moving in. You will also want to work within your budget comfortably so you can still go away for a weekend or out to dinner now and then.



Gayle Oberg

When you about to purchase real estate, the most important aspects to consider are: the condition of the roof, the heating system, the septic system and the water supply. The cost of heating and cooling the house annually is also very critical.

These expenses should be provided to you on any property you consider purchasing. The windows and the amount of insulation in a building will have a great effect on the amount of fuel you need to keep warm in the winter and cool in the summer. It is reasonable to expect to see invoices from the most recent service on the heating system.

If it has not been serviced since the last heating season, you should request the seller have the system serviced and cleaned prior to closing. If the property has "on site" septic, it is reasonable to see documenta-

tion that the septic tank has been pumped within the last 3 to 5 years. If no documentation is available, or if it has been more than 3 years, I suggest requesting the seller pay for the septic tank to be pumped. There are additional ways to investigate septic systems. It is wise to consult with the company(ies) that provide these services in the area the house is located in and ask what they recommend.

The condition of the roof is critical as well. If you have to replace the roof within the first few years of ownership, it is best to be prepared. Hire a qualified home inspector and educate yourself as to what may be major expenses you will be faced with in the next 10 years.

Your Realtor® will guide you through the process from viewing through the home inspection and the closing. I recommend requesting invoices from all servicing & repairs you have asked be done. These should be provided to you prior to the closing.

Vermont Bride Magazine is proud to recommend the following featured Vermont Realtor professionals:

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Signature Properties of Vermont
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MeganT@SignaturePropertiesVT.com
(or) Megan0413@comcast.net
SignaturePropertiesVT.com

Gayle grew up in Springfield, VT and has been in the Stowe/Waterbury area since 1972. Licensed as a Realtor® in 1985, Gayle was also a licensed teacher in the 1990's while her children were on a school calendar. Gayle has been a full-time agent with Coldwell Banker Carlson Real Estate, in Stowe, VT since 2002. www.gayleoberg.com

Look for Gayle's next column in spring 2011 issue of *Vermont Bride Magazine*.

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Photograph by Larry Asan Photography

By Karen Sturtevant

Visiting a palm reader to predict if you've found your true love may be fun in the moment but don't count on Madame Zenina's reading to be 100 percent accurate. What the palmist won't tell you is that love, accompanied by commonality, behavior, and commitment are core indicators of a rewarding relationship. Throw in a healthy dose of respect and communication and you've got a recipe for success.

Love, Commitment,

...and **Blue Sneakers**

Commonality & Compatibility

In 5th grade English class I found my first true love. I was convinced he was the one I would marry; we had so many things in common. The clincher was that we had the very same sneakers (blue Nikes with white swooshes). Surely, someone who would choose the same fashionable footwear as me would make excellent husband material. Not bad rational for a 10 year old.

I realized in my grade school wisdom that we had a shared commonality: our Nikes.

Having a partner with whom you feel a connection with in terms of compatibility and commonality increases the likelihood of the relationship lasting and thriving long-term. When the dating game begins, our happy hormone oxytocin rages in our bodies throwing our chemistry into a state of bliss: the world is wonderful, the new love is perfect, life is excellent, and you feel like you can move mountains. If only the 'honeymoon period' could last indefinitely. As relationships continue and the things you loved in the beginning now feel different, annoying and irritating, it's time to shift gears. These feel good hormones generally last between 6 months and 2 years. When the real world returns, it's time to get to work.

Compatibility is an essential factor in the life of a marriage.

Finding a partner with the exact interests, beliefs, and core values is an impossibility; finding one with similar outlooks is more realistic. Being in a compatible mode means harmonizing and complimenting one another.

You may rise before the sun and get in a morning jog while he stays up late with Letterman and catches more shuteye. He make like hanging with his rowdy friends while you savor your solitude. Meeting in the middle and appreciating your differences will benefit you both.

If you find your compatibility factors are less than stellar, try new activities which involve both of you and keep an open mind. Remember the percentage rule: 60 percent/40 percent: Give the 60 and take the 40. This rule applies for both of you.

Behavior

If your car got a flat tire, you wouldn't keep driving it, you'd get it repaired. Choosing to not fix the problem is a poor behavior choice. Just as that tire is crucial to the operation of your car, daily maintenance is just as important to your relationship. Behavior choices can make or break a partnership. It doesn't take much effort to give a kind word in the morning, a meaningful thought verbalized at then end of the day or a surprise touch of affection. A little bit of positive behavior has lasting effects. Supporting, positive directives not only make your partner all warm and fuzzy, they make you feel good. Begin the daily habit of physically making an effort to show your partner how important he is: text him during his lunch break, hide a note in his jacket pocket, send him flowers (he'll be embarrassed, but will love it!), or prepare his favorite meal just because. Use your imagination — the payoffs will return tenfold.

Respect

Respect is key in any relationship — formal or informal. Respect his friends, family, and associates and expect the same from him. Respect starts from within — you can't give if you don't already have. Relationship experts have shouted for years that without respect there is no love.

Communication

Henry David Thoreau said: "It takes two to speak the truth — one to speak, and another to hear."

Learning to communicate effectively is a skill that takes time to perfect. Stringing the right words together to convey thoughts on subjects that are difficult is not easy for anyone. Unfortunately, you partner can't read your mind. You may be thinking he's upset with you for one reason and he's thinking about a deadline at work, leaving you to think the worse. Words are powerful weapons to be used truthfully and carefully.

Commitment

The promise of commitment for life is the #1 rule of being wed. Arguments, disagreements, and not seeing eye-to-eye are parts of the marriage puzzle. What keeps the pieces together year after year is the pledge of commitment. Not turning tail and running when times get tough. When two people stand in front of family, friends, and God, and speak from their hearts the words: "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part," a solemn promise has been made and is not to be taken lightly.

Listening, really listening to the aspirations and goals of a partner is a step of commitment; another is honoring and supporting. A high premium is put on the support network between partners that empower both to become better people individually and as a couple. Commitment is not until next football season or until the dog is house-trained, it's for life. Two people bring duo sets of challenges, quirks, habits, psychological faults, and a lifetime of experience to a marriage. Commitment obligates us to find our role as facilitator, problem solver, and listener to best handle every situation, lighthearted or heavy. Are you ready to make that promise?

We wish we could shake a Magic 8-Ball and have it magically reveal all the answers to life's questions, but that would be too easy. Marriage mirrors the journey of life in that we grow, learn, fail, try again, and do our best in our challenges and triumphs. Holding hands with a compatible, willing person is a precious gift. John Lennon said: "To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world." Today show your partner that they mean the world to you through your actions and words. As far as the boy from 5th grade, we lost touch when we moved on to junior high, but to this day, every time I see blue Nikes with white swooshes, I smile.

Karen Sturtevant is a freelance writer, frequent contributor to *Vermont Bride Magazine*, is the author of a children's book and is currently writing a collection of essays about observations and adventures of everyday life in all its quirks, wit and absurdities. She lives in Williston, VT with her daughter Kayla, longtime partner, Mike and their pet tortoise, Zippy.

Jewish Wedding

Ohuch to do...

By Rabbi Howard Cohen

Mazal tov, you are getting married.

Mazal tov (congratulations) you are getting married. There is much to do: find a florist, musicians, location, officiant, invitations, menus and more! With all that is going on it is easy to miss out on the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the traditions of the Jewish wedding. Therefore, let me invite you to read this brief introduction to two essentials elements of the Jewish wedding ceremony: the huppah and the ketubah.

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

The Huppah

The most visible and familiar ritual item at a Jewish wedding is the huppah, or wedding canopy. The huppah evokes the tents of our ancient ancestors and as such it is first and foremost a symbol of the home you are creating together. There is an ancient story that suggests that God created Adam and Eve's huppah. From this the huppah is understood to be a sign of God's presence at the wedding and in the home you are creating.

There are few requirements for making a huppah. It needs to be a temporary, handmade structure. It can be any size and adorned with whatever decorations appeal to you. It is not uncommon to use a large talit (prayer shawl) for the canopy. Many couples use a talit of a relative or their own to further personalize the ceremony. Regardless of the material you use for the canopy make sure you devise a way to securely fasten it to the poles used to hold it up. Speaking of the poles, there are no specific requirements for these either.

It is a matter of taste whether the huppah is brought to the site of the ceremony as part of the procession or set up in advance. It is considered an honor to hold one of the poles during the ceremony so this is a good way to include special people in your life. Finally, there is no set rule about who stands under the huppah with you and the rabbi. You are welcome to invite whom so ever you wish to be under it with you.

The Ketubah

The ketubah, or marriage contract is another ancient element of a Jewish wedding. Historically the ketubah was a contract verifying that the groom had legally acquired the rights to his bride. What made it unique was that the document delineated her rights within the marriage as well as her husband's duties. At a time when women in general had no rights this ancient ritual guaranteed Jewish women something unheard: legal status and rights in marriage.

In most modern weddings the ketubah has evolved into a personal covenant between the couple. While some people stick with the traditional text, others compose their own words of commitment or use one of the many new alternatives. In addition, it is very common to commission an artist to transform the ketubah into art, which is then displayed in the home as a beautiful and visible reminder of their commitment to one another.

Howard is an avid outdoor adventurer, canoe builder, volunteer firefighter, and parent of three children, husband, congregational consultant, free-lance rabbi and pastoral counselor. He is affiliated with both Reconstructionism and Jewish Renewal.

1st Annual Vermont Bride Gala Recap

Continued from page 87

Middlebury Union Middle School and has been recognized for her program titled, "Don't feed the Bullies." Erin competed for the title of Miss America's Outstanding Teen 2011 in Orlando, FL in August 2010 with the platform of "Creating Independence for Differently Able People." She was recently honored with the position of Spokesperson for the Vermont Epilepsy Foundation and is on the National Board of Directors. Erin has been involved with the deaf community and communicates to her deaf friends and family in American Sign Language. She brings the beauty of signing to hearing people through her interpretation of songs, and hopes to promote the language of the deaf and their culture to the hearing world. Erin plans to go to college and graduate with a degree in science and medicine.

Jeanelle Achee is from Rochester, VT, and is a sophomore at the University of Vermont. She aspires to become a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, which is why her platform, "Stop the Silence: Advocating for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence," focuses on helping survivors find their voice and begin a journey of recovery. Jeanelle chose this platform because domestic and sexual violence is a pervasive problem in Vermont, as well as around the world, and she has been directly impacted by hearing the stories of her friends and family who are survivors. Currently, Jeanelle holds the title of Miss Champlain Valley.

Alexandra Larrow is a senior at Middlebury College, who competed this year at the National Sweetheart Competition in Indiana as Miss Vermont's Sweetheart. A Vergennes native, Alexandra is majoring in English and American Literature with a focus in Creative Writing and hopes to work for the American Cancer Society upon graduation. Her platform is "Bringing Care, Comfort and Hope to Cancer Patients and their Families." It is based on her non-profit organization, Hats From the Heart, Inc., which has donated over 1700 hats to doctors' offices, hospitals, and clinics across New England. Hats From the Heart, Inc. was formed in memory of her mother's best friend, who passed away from breast cancer in 2005.

Katie Levasseur is a junior at the University of Vermont studying Political Science, Business, and Economics, and aspires to a career in public policy. A resident of Burlington, VT, she is currently serving the community as Miss Chittenden County, and works to promote her personal platform, "Youth of Today, Leaders of



Photo by Larry Asam Photography



Photo by Larry Asam Photography

Tomorrow," which encourages civic engagement, community involvement, and political efficacy in Vermont's youth.

Alayna Westcom, 19, from Enosburg Falls is a sophomore at Bay Path College where she is studying Forensic Science. It is her ambition to work in a Forensic Crime Lab once she has completed her Masters Degree. Currently, Alayna is Miss Franklin County. Her platform "Building Bonds: Mentoring in Grade School," focuses on the importance for young adults and children to have a mentor who guides them when they are in times of stress. This includes, but is not limited to, helping instill a sense of self, promoting community service, helping with school work, and being a positive role model, all things Alayna is passionate about.

For more information about the Miss Vermont, Miss Vermont's Outstanding Teen, or Miss Vermont Princess Programs, please visit www.missvermont.org or contact President & Executive Director, Sue Lackey at executive-director@missvermont.org.

The Vermont Bride Gala was a "step outside the box," and a cut above other bridal shows with attendees being transported into the ambiance of a wedding reception. Participants donned semiformal attire and spent the evening getting to know the vendors and becoming familiar with their specific areas of expertise. The beautiful Barn at Boyden Farm provided a fun, festive, and classy wedding-like environment. The Barn was alive with energy and promise as participants danced and socialized. The engaging surroundings left one wanting to be part of the Vermont Bride Gala again next year and pondering their next family wedding, anniversary, special event, or business celebration. The 2011 Vermont Bride Gala is not to be missed!



Photo by Larry Asam Photography



SPA CORNER

*What shape would you like your nail?
Your 5 options are oval, pointed,
round, square or squoval.*

A Champagne Toast to Beautiful Nails

By Sara Daly

The French manicure has been the iconic nail lacquer for brides since the 1970s when it was popularized in the United States by the founder of Orly nail polish. It was a look created to go with any outfit as fashion models changed quickly from outfit to outfit during a photo shoot or runway show. It quickly became a popular choice for brides and has remained a fashion choice 35 years later.

The French manicure is described as a white nail tip with a pink or peach topcoat. The result is a clean, natural look. The American is a newer variation of the French in which the tips are bright white, and the topcoat is clear. This look is very clean, with a slightly less natural look. It is more popular for gel nail applications.

Gel nails are an option for the bride looking for a quick fix to their current nails. Gel nails will require you to maintain them frequently and will need follow up care. Your nail will not be as healthy, but it will cover up any nail injuries you have including biting.

The most common request we see in our spa is the French manicure with a sport length nail in a squoval shape. Our favorite wedding nail colors are OPIs A Rosy Future, I Do! I Do!, Hawaiian Orchid, Mimosas for Mr. and Mrs., and Champagne Toast.

Two Weeks Before Your Wedding

Two weeks prior to your wedding we suggest the following:

Stop wearing dark nail polish on your nails to ensure your nail beds are not stained.

continued on the next page

Men:

You have nails also! And guess what? Your hands are always in the photos too! Come in and have your hands cleaned and buffed. No polish, we promise.

Your nails need to set for 2+ hours. A hair-dryer, blowing on them or waving them around doesn't do a thing. In fact more times than not, waving them around causes them to get caught in your hair leaving a line on the top of the nail.



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

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Stowe, VT

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Purple Sage Salon & Spa

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Essex Jct., VT

www.purplesagesalonspa.com

SPA CENTER: Champagne Toast to Beautiful Nails

Continued from page 99

Get a manicure. Use light polish or have a French. Your nails will be shaped correctly, ensures that your nails aren't splitting, your cuticles are taken care of, and your hands are hydrated.

Conversation between the Bride and your Nail Therapist

Your nail tech will ask you three of questions prior to your nail treatment.

Do you have any allergies? This is very important if you having any allergies to nuts. Many nail products contain almond oil. Please notify your nail tech if this is the case. We have a manicure we give those who are allergic that is entirely nut free.

What shape would you like your nail? Your 5 options are oval, pointed, round, square or squoval.

Do you want French? If yes, there will be a color discussion. Do you want a traditional French, with the pink over the top, or are you looking for the American, which is white with clear over the top? There are a couple of different pink options that range from whisper pink to cotton candy. Think about what you prefer. Your nail tech will guide you to a color choice that looks the best for your skin tone.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Don't go set up for the wedding right after your nails are done. They need to set. Setting takes up to 2 hours, even if they feel dry to the touch.

Don't shower for the rehearsal dinner. Do that earlier in the day to avoid wrecking your nails.

Your nails need to set for 2+ hours. A hairdryer, blowing on them or waving them around doesn't do a thing. In fact more times than not, waving them around causes them to get caught in your hair leaving a line on the top of the nail.

Bringing your own polish can be difficult. Not all chemicals adhere correctly with others, for example you bring your polish, but the spa uses a different brand topcoat and base coat. If you have a color and brand you desire, bring it to your manicure 2 weeks before the wedding to have your nail tech assess how it applies to your nail.

For example, at our spa, we use OPI as a basecoat, Essie nail lacquer for French manicures, followed by a Seche Vite topcoat. Our color polishes are OPI. We use

the products that give us the best results.

Bridesmaids Trends

Most often, bridesmaids are given the choice of the color they desire for their manicures. Often French is a preferred option, but we see lots of pale pink colors as well. Skin tones are different requiring different color choices. Pedicures are often full color, with great toes peeking out of gorgeous peep toes.

Spa Tip to Remember

No cell phones are allowed during your manicure pedicure session. This is time for you to enjoy and it should be relaxing.

Be in the moment and relax. Breathe.

Do not eat during your manicure. Your hands have been sanitized prior, and it not recommended that your hands go near your mouth.

It's preferred that you don't shave your legs before a pedicure! Your legs are exfoliated during a pedicure, and it may irritate legs that have just been shaved.

Bring flip-flops.

No skinny jeans. You can't roll them up well to put your legs into the pedicure basin, and they cut off circulation.

Get to your spa treatment on time. Larger groups of people tend to arrive later as they are waiting for

everyone to be ready. Your spa time has been reserved, but there are clients who are scheduled after you. If you are late, your treatment time will be shortened to accommodate you.

Have a fantastic time planning your wedding. Don't forget to plan time for yourself to escape, relax and restore. Your nails will look beautiful as you raise your hands together in a champagne toast!

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 September/October 2009 edition of *Massage Magazine*.



Your Wedding Story Remembered

Continued from page 34

40th or 50th anniversary struggles to remember even the most general details of their engagement and wedding, they feel frustrated. Sometimes photos can help retrieve lost memories, but images only tell part of the story. It's not just what happened that we want to remember — it's how we felt during the experience.

Because of the memory loss that I often encounter in my work, I spend a lot of time thinking about the importance of capturing our memories while they're fresh in our minds — while we're still knee-deep in the experience — instead of trying to resurrect them years down the road. When you record your wedding story, you're literally preserving the present for the future.

Getting married is a life-changing event, and only you can put that experience into words.

Even if your love story has just begun, it's not too early to begin thinking about how you're going to keep the memories alive for a lifetime

Fourfold Legacy Services helps couples tell their love stories in their own words through digitally-recorded interviews that are edited and preserved on archival CDs, complete with music and a customized presentation case.

Here's how it works:

Your Wedding Story project begins with a questionnaire completed by you, your fiancé, and any other friends or family who will be taking part in the process. I will use the information gathered in the questionnaires to create customized interview questions designed to help you recount your love story.

Shortly before your wedding day, we'll schedule a time to sit down together for a short interview. I will talk with you and your fiancé separately and then as a couple to piece together the story of your relationship.

We'll talk about how you met, what you did on your first date, how he proposed, and some of the wedding planning highlights. And, of course, you'll each have an opportunity to share any special messages and thoughts about the future. Loved ones are welcome to participate, as well.

Your interviews will be edited for ease-of-listening and the incorporation of musical transitions. In the end, your love story will be preserved on archival CDs to be shared with friends and family and enjoyed for anniversaries to come.

Other variations are also possible, including using photography to create a love-story slide show to accompany the audio interview.

Information: www.fourfoldlegacy.com, 802-371-9777

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Excellent situated, the Old Lantern is only 15 miles from Burlington and only 20 miles from Middlebury. We can accommodate both small and large parties, up to 300 guests. Please visit us at www.oldlantern.com or call 802-425-2120 for more information.

The Old Lantern
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www.oldlantern.com



Even if the couple is married on New Year's Eve, and therefore, were single for 364 days of the year, they are required to file married.

Communication

Starting the new journey together is a time of full disclosure. Your new partner needs to know the existence of all bank accounts, credit cards, investment accounts, life insurance policies, retirement accounts and other financial details. Sitting down and making a list where all the documents reside; in a desk drawer, safe deposit box, glove box of the car or with a trusted friend is important to know for your partner. This is

an excellent time to meet with an attorney and have a will drawn up so that assets are distributed as they are intended if something unforeseen should happen.

Taxes

Marriage is a time of transition and some choices are available to newlyweds in the area of taxation. When a tax return is filed one choice is filing status and the options are married filing joint or married filing separately. Even if the couple is married on New Year's Eve, and therefore, were single for 364 days of the year, they are required to file married. The so called marriage tax has been for the most part eliminated over the years and there are very few cases where married filing separately makes sense for couples. The federal tax on two single taxpayers with \$50,000 in taxable income is identical to a married couple with \$100,000 of taxable income. Vermont tax on the same income levels results in about a \$200 per person extra tax on a married couple than on two single individuals, so there remains a small marriage penalty tax in Vermont.

Recordkeeping

Probably more important for the new couple is to gather and coordinate deduction receipts, earnings and investment statements, pension reports and any other tax information they receive for filing. A decision then needs to be made as to how to file the returns; by manual preparation, a do it yourself computer service, a franchise preparation service or a local tax professional such as a certified public accountant. Sometimes these decisions are made based on the complexity of the return which may include multiple state returns, moving expenses, home sales and the like. Many times the new joint return is a lot more complicated than the individual returns that were filed in the past.

Home Purchase

Often times a new couple may be purchasing a home since prior residences are not suitable for the new family. Some first time home buyer programs can be quite advantageous over conventional loan products. Don't be discouraged if you have owned a home before since the "first time" home buyer requirement is defined as not owning a home in the prior three years, or more technically not taking mortgage interest deductions during that time. This requirement must be met by both parties of the marriage. Occasionally it is just a matter of time before the couple can requalify as first time homebuyers.

The areas described above are some of the early challenges and opportunities for the new couple that when handled right can be financially rewarding and personally comforting.

Roger A. Schoenbeck is an experienced and professional CPA dedicated to providing you with the highest quality accounting and tax services. An introductory consultation is available at no cost to discuss your needs and requirements. Roger can be reached at his office at 1009 South Main Street in the Lower Village, Stowe, by phoning 802-253-4121 or via his website, www.rogervtcpa.com.

When Chris and I had been together only two months, I was given a gift which I still treasure higher than any other. It was a stuffed dairy cow that came with a name tag reading "Daisy-May" (or something equally feminine).

The stuffed animal wasn't much larger than a ball of yarn, but it was super soft, and it was mine. One thing that confused Chris and me about my gift was the presence of horns. Not realizing that both bulls and cows had them, we assumed the manufacturer of the stuffed beast was from China and thus made a mistake with the gender. Amused by this, we renamed our confused heifer "Mr. Cow."

Upon a quick Google search, I now realize we were indeed mistaken, and the Chinese toy makers knew more about milk cows than two Vermonters did—how shameful. All the same, Mr. Cow has been my bunk mate from that day forth. I would sleep with him every night, and when going from my mother's to my father's house he was the first item to be packed.

When Chris and I were apart, I still had something to remind me of our bond. Intrigued by this relationship, I unearthed Violet, a bear my mother had given me for my graduation from the eighth grade. Her fur was a golden cream and she held a bouquet of violets between her paws. Before Mr. Cow, I had slept with Violet at night, but now I only felt it was right to give her to Chris as he had given Mr. Cow to me.

In a recent study on British men, it was discovered that one quarter carried a stuffed animal with them while they traveled. Chris would be among them.

Now that I'm in college and a state away, we see each other far less frequently, so having our stuffed animals with us each night as we go to bed builds upon our inseparable bond.

A few weeks ago we swapped cuddle buddies, and I once again had Violet and he had Mr. Cow. The thinking was that each of our stuffed animals had been

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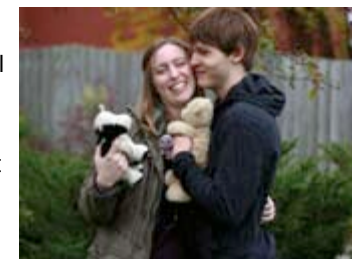
Dream Team

from a **young love** perspective By Kayla Sturtevant

with us for so long that they had absorbed our love and therefore, by sleeping with the others animal we would feel closer to one another.

Unfortunately, the switch was too awkward and holding a foreign object at night wasn't welcoming.

In another week we'll see each other again and Violet and Mr. Cow will once again be with their rightful owners. Having our stuffed animals with us each night helps us to feel connected despite the distance, and we will keep them by our side until I am once again in Vermont.



Photography by Kayla Sturtevant

Chris is currently taking classes at CCV and will be transferring to a school that offers a major in small business management. I am a freshman at Pratt in Utica, NY. Although we are a state apart, our relationship continues with phone calls, visits and webcam chats.

Did you know?

A marriage ceremony typically ends with a kiss because in ancient Rome, a kiss was a legal bond that sealed contracts, and marriage was seen as a contract.^b

(See vermontbridemagazine.com on line for footnotes)

Marriage does not have to be a taxing time!

By Roger A. Schoenbeck, CPA

Starting the new journey together is a time of full disclosure.





Orah Moore Photography



Lauren Stagnitti Photography



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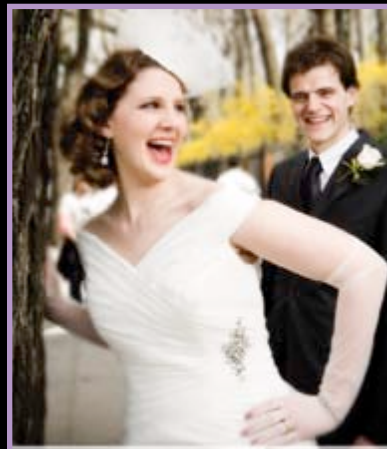
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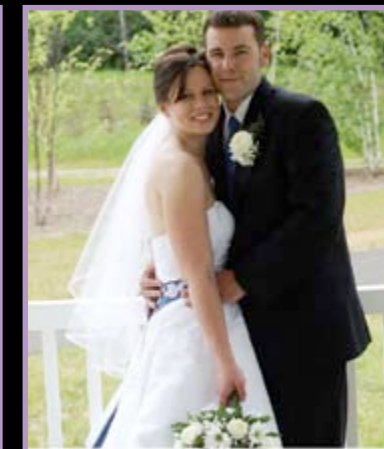
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The Vermont Bride Magazine

**WINTER
2010-2011**

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Hilton (Burlington) Hotel
 802-658-6500
 60 Battery Street, Burlington, VT
 Katie.McAllister@hilton.com
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Holiday Inn Burlington
 802-419-6218
 1068 Williston Rd., So. Burlington, VT
 ashleychaffee@innvermont.com
 hiburlington.com

Holiday Inn Rutland/Killington
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 hivermont.com

Hyde Point Farm, LLC
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Jeff's Restaurant
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 jeffsmaineafoodrestaurant.com

Junior's Italian
 802-655-5555
 85 South Park Dr. Colchester, VT
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Lilac Inn
 800-221-0720
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 innkeeper@lilacinn.com | lilacinn.com

Michele's of New York
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Middlebury Inn
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 middleburyinn.com

Montgomery House Inn
 802-326-3269
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Mountain Top Inn & Resort
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 mountaintopinn.com

Old Lantern
 802-425-2120
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 rolands@gmavt.net | oldlantern.com

One Federal Restaurant & Lounge
 802-524-0330
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 onefederalrestaurant.com

Ponds at Bolton Valley Resort
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 4302 Bolton Access Rd, Bolton Valley, VT
 info@thepondsvt.com | thepondsvt.com

Quality Inn Burlington
 802-985-8037
 2572 Shelburne Rd, Shelburne, VT
 qualityinnvt.com

Southern Vermont Arts Center
 West Rd., Manchester, VT
 802-362-1405, (ext. 19)
 info@svac.org | www.svac.org

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 spirit@soea.com | soea.com

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 pigeonhillfarm.com

Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference Center
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 www.sheraton.com/burlington

Sophie's American Bistro
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Sunset Ballroom - Waterfront Catering Group
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 vermontspecialoccasions.com

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 taborhouseinn@gmail.com
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 info@tourterellevt.com
 tourterellevt.com

Trapp Family Lodge
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 700 Trapp Hill Rd., Stowe, VT
 rh@trappfamily.com | trappfamily.com

Waybury Inn
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 info@wayburyinn.com
 wayburyinn.com

West Monitor Barn
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 caillie.burns@vycc.org
 monitorbarn.org

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 abbeygroup.net

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Hilton (Burlington) Hotel
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Holiday Inn Burlington
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Accommodations at a glance information guide

Facility Name	Max Party	Catering provided	Choice Caterer	Guest Rooms	Separate Area 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
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
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
Echo at Leahy Center	750	N	Y	N	Y	3-6	Y	Y
Echo Lake Inn	280(20)	Y	N	Y	Y	9-12	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
Holiday Inn Rutland/Killington	400	Y	N(18)	Y	Y	9	Y	Y
Hyde Point Farm	250	N	Y	N	Y	1-2	Y	Y*(4)
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 of New York	150	Y	N	N	Y	3-6	N	Y

*PLEASE NOTE, with regard to several OF THE ACCOMMODATIONS LISTED PARTY SIZE (CAPACITY) NUMBERS on these charts; THESE CAN EASILY BE INCREASED WITH THE OPTION OF A TENT RENTAL. Be sure to inquire for availability.

Bridal Resource Guide for Winter 2010-2011

Continued from page 111

Hyde Point Farm, LLC
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3323 Highbridge Rd., Georgia, VT
hydepointfarm@gmail.com
hydepointfarm.com

Jeff's Restaurant
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Junior's Italian
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Lilac Inn
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Michele's of New York
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Middlebury Inn
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middleburyinn.com

Montgomery House Inn
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Route 118, Montgomery Village, VT
montgomeryhouseinn.com

Mountain Top Inn & Resort
802-483-2311
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Old Lantern
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One Federal Restaurant & Lounge
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Ponds at Bolton Valley Resort
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Quality Inn Burlington
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Southern Vermont Arts Center
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Spirit of Ethan Allen III
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Stables & Inn at Pigeon Hill Farm
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286 Montgomery Rd., E. Berkshire, VT
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pigeonhillfarm.com

Stowe Inn
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hello@stoweinn.com | stoweinn.com

Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa
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Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference Center
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Sophie's American Bistro
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Stowe Mountain Resort
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White Rocks Inn
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Trapp Family Lodge
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Waybury Inn
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Facility Name	Max Party	Catering provided	Choice Caterer	Guest Rooms	Separate Area Ceremony	Months To Plan Ahead	Reception Area Outside	Dance Floor
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
Quality Inn Burlington	75	Y	Y	Y	N	6-12	Y	Y
Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference Center	800	Y	Y	Y/ 309	Y	6-12	Y	Y
Sophie's American Bistro	120	Y	N	N	Y	3-6	Y	Y
Stowe Mountain Resort	350	Y	N	Y	Y	9-12	Y	Y
Southern Vermont Arts Center	275(19)	N	Y	N	Y	6	Y (cocktails)	Y
Spirit of Ethan Allen III	500	Y	N	N	Y	3-6	Y	Y
Stables & Inn At Pegon Hill Farm	150	Y	N	Y	Y	6-12	Y	Y
Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa	400	Y	N	Y	Y	3-6	Y	Y
Stowe Inn	85	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sunset Ballroom	225	Y	N	Y	Y	3-6	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 ¹² 500 ¹³	Y	N	Y	Y	4	Y	Y
Waybury Inn	200	Y	N	Y	Y	6-12	Y	Y
West Monitor Barn	200	N	Y	N	Y	5-12	N	N
White Rocks Inn	220	Y	Y	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 (tented) and 100 (inside) 17) Possible exceptions depending upon the season. 18) Bride can bring cake only 19) 275 (tented) 150 (inside mansion) 20) Without tent extension 21) Outdoors 22) Open field would require tent rental

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

Ye Olde England Inne
800-477-3771
433 Mountain Rd, Stowe, VT
englandinn@aol.com | englandinn.com

TRANSPORTATION
The Abbey's Event Limousine Services
800-696-4748 (ext. 10, Rachel)
Enosburg Falls, VT

Burlington Limousine & Car Service
800-666-3471
265 Aviation Ave., So. Burlington, VT
limo@sover.net | burlingtonlimo.com

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

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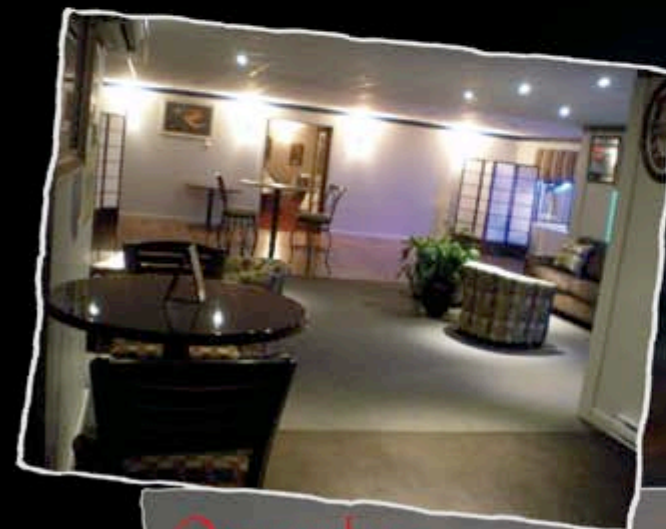


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