

# Down Home

MAGAZINE

Look inside for tips, traditions, ideas & advice for brides & newlyweds.

A *Perfect Dress*  
The French Bustle

The PERFECT *Venue*  
Gurley House

For A *Perfect You*  
J.L. Eden Salon & Day Spa

*Down Home Magazine*

MARCH/APRIL 2010

BRIDES EDITION



on the cover - Rebeccah Floyd, DHM's 2010 R. Scott Reynolds Arts - Rock the Frock Winner



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# Down Home

MAGAZINE



Ahhh, love is in the air. Are you feeling it?

We at Down Home feel it. That's

why we thought we'd share a bridal edition with you. It's just after the season of love - Christmas thru Valentine's Day - and I can just bet there were a few of our readers or their family members that got a little bling for their ring

finger.

In this issue, anything and everything for the bride. Full of tips, traditions, and advice for brides and newlyweds from local residents and area businesses.

Much love and happiness to you. And congratulations on your Big Day! If you see something inside you like, be sure to let us know.

*- Cindi*

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beliefs or opinions. The publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising or content that is not in keeping with the magazine's standards.

DHM is distributed where consumers are - In local businesses all over Wayne County - and surrounding counties. See page 30 for a detailed list of Wayne Co.

If you would like DHM sent to your home, send your name and address along with \$12.00 to address above.

### On the Cover

Rebecca Floyd, DHM's 2010 R. Scott Reynolds Arts - Rock the Frock Winner. For more of Rebecca's fairy-tale photoshoot as well as other shoots, see pg 4.

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## ROCK THE Frock

Becca Scott Reynolds of R. Scott Reynolds Photography & Art Studio created the Rock the Frock Contest in January of this year when she was looking for creative ways to diversify her bridal portfolio.

Becca was looking for girls who were full of energy and would be enthusiastic about the experience, so she created a contest that offered the chance for married women to win a chance to rock their wedding dress one last time in a fun post bridal portrait session. She had heard of "Trash the Dress" sessions where brides ruined their wedding gowns for dramatic portraits, but knowing that Southern brides are usually a little more sentimental than that, she came up with the name Rock the Frock which better described Becca's style as a photographer.



The top three finalists were chosen. Becca worked with each finalist to create a theme for their session that reflected their personality and style. "We had so much cooperation from so many sources to create these fantastic sessions. Individuals opened their homes, historic structures allowed us access, we had a permit approved to shoot in a very romantic state park and nature even played along and brought SNOW twice during these sessions." Becca explained.

The results were memorable portraits taken and a Rock the Frock Annual Contest formed.

Down Home Magazine recognized the opportunity to have a unique cover photo by choosing a winner from the three finalist. Though R.

Scott Reynolds Studio had many wonderful shots from the three sessions, the cover photo from Rebeccah's Fairytale Rock the Frock session was chosen for this year's Bridal Edition cover.

Rebeccah Floyd from Seven Springs is married to Franklin. She is a caring, classic Southern beauty with a very romantic love story. She and her husband Franklin were engaged on Valentines Day 2008 and married the same day in 2009 so we wanted to

Once  
upon  
a time,  
in a  
land far,  
far away



highlight their classic romance for her session at Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, NC. Franklin and Rebeccah celebrated their anniversary session with a beautiful Once in a Lifetime session in the snow.

The winning session with Rebeccah and her husband Franklin not only received the cover photo, but a prize package with items donated by local businesses. (Special thanks to Barbara Mapp of Barbs of Goldsboro and Brittany Harper of Rings and Things)



Anessa Fike, married to Tyler and pictured right, is a wedding consultant with brains to match her beauty. Her fun loving nature and lively personality came out full force during her Vintage Glamour in downtown Goldsboro.

Amber Holmes, married to Christian and pictured below, is a loving, compassionate Southern Belle nurse who proved her very solid inner strength during her session. Even when her wedding gown froze to the ground, she let her sense of adventure take over as she posed by the barns and the snow covered cornfields.



For more info on the rock the frock contest or Becca's work, visit her website at [www.rsraphoto.com](http://www.rsraphoto.com)

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My  
mama  
told me  
when  
i got

married--"sometimes men  
do stupid things--love them  
anyways" - my mama told  
my husband when we got  
married--"sometimes women  
cry for no reason, love them  
anyways"

Becca Scott Reynolds  
Goldsboro NC

## Wedding Traditions

Numerous traditions have evolved over the years that seem to have become rules of etiquette today. Here's the scoop on just a few -- some are still popular and some have long since been forgotten (thank goodness!).

**Age:** The bride's age was computed from the day of their marriage, not from their day of birth in ancient Greece.

**Bridal Gowns:** Traditionally they are white because the Greeks believed white embodied purity, innocence and joyfulness. This also implied that the bride was a virgin. Today, a white gown has come to symbolize the celebration of the wedding itself.

**Bridal Veil:** They were first used so that the groom couldn't back

out of a marriage during the time when arranged marriages were common. (The blusher part of the veil wasn't lifted until after the vows.) The veil has symbolized privacy, modesty, youth and maidenhood. For these reasons, second-time brides usually, but not always, skip the veil.

**Cake:** The shape of the cake was inspired by a building in London. In ancient Rome, the cake was broken over the bride's head and the guests gathered up all the crumbs that fell to the ground as good luck tokens. In later times, the popularity of a bride was determined by the size of her cake -- the guests brought the layers of cake to the



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...we feel like you are part of the family!

Thank you for being so gracious about letting us have our reception at the Gurley House. It is a beautiful place and you have gone out of your way to make the reception special.  
Peggy & Mandy, Micro, NC

*Testimonials*



# The Perfect Venue

by Cindi Pate

You've got the date set, but you're having trouble finding that special place to say the I do's. Look no further. The Gurley House in Princeton, NC is full of southern charm and elegance. Perfect for any southern, traditional or contemporary wedding ceremony or reception.

The old Princeton farmhouse - owned by the Gurley family since 1921, has been restored to showcase all of its historical charm and lends itself well to hosting weddings, receptions, bridal and baby showers, reunions, corporate and club meeting, and other events.

The Gurley House features two banquet rooms, a kitchen for caterer use, dressing areas and dance hall - adorned with shimmering chandeliers, large windows draped with layers of lush

fabric, hard wood floors, ornate wallpaper, antique furniture and sparkling decor.

Though the house has a limit of 88 guest, the outside can accommodate many more. The gardens named after Titia Gurley, are planted with azaleas, annuals, camellias, perennials and beautiful red knockout roses.

If you are in search of a venue other than the normal church fellowship hall or the local country club, then explore the possibilities of the Gurley House.

Contact Mrs. Pat Gurley at 919-936-4141 to make an appointment. The Gurley House is located at 207 West 3rd Street, Princeton. Or, visit the web site at [www.gurleyhouse.com](http://www.gurleyhouse.com).



Thank you for all the hard work on our wedding day. We appreciate all the extra attention to details that you provided.

Nancy & Jackson, Princeton, NC

...you made our wedding as perfect as we had hoped.

Min & Kevin, Princeton, NC



You always wake up in the morning thinking how can I make him/her smile today.

Tim Sauls,  
Kinston, NC

## *The Magic of Love,*

Helen Steiner Rice

Love is like magic, and it always will be,  
For love still remains life's sweet mystery.

Love works in ways that are wondrous and strange,  
And there's nothing in life that love cannot change!

Love can transform the most commonplace  
Into beauty and splendor and sweetness and grace.

Love is unselfish, understanding and kind,  
For it sees with its heart, and not with its mind.

Love is the answer that everyone seeks;  
Love is the language that every heart speaks.

Love can't be bought, it is priceless and free.

Love, like pure magic, is life's sweet mystery

reception, which were then filled with applesauce and stacked. The cutting of the cake by both the bride and the groom originated from Greek times when the couple shared in the task (with a sesame seed cake incidentally) to ensure they would have a fruitful marriage. In the 1800's, wedding cakes were fruitcakes (before baking powder, baking soda, etc) and this tradition was brought to the US with the Pilgrims from England. After white cake was available, the fruitcake tradition became known as the groom's cake. The cake is symbolic of fertility and abundance. One tradition is that a bride who keeps a piece of her wedding cake will have a loving and faithful husband. And the most commonly known tradition regarding the wedding cake is that of saving the top tier until the couple's first anniversary.

Favors: Giving your guest party favors and mementos at the reception



dates back to a 16th century custom in France. The tradition was usually reserved just for royalty, with gifts being of great value such as precious stones, gold, porcelain, etc. Of course not everyone can afford gifts such as these, so as the tradition became common among all of society gifts such as glass, con-

fections, etc. were substituted.

Flowers: In medieval Germany, brides wore rosemary to guard against pregnancy!



Garter: This custom originates from at least two cultures. In ancient times the garter represented the virginal girdle. Thus, the groom's removal of the garter represented the bride's relinquishment of that status. And an Old English custom involved that of wedding guests sneaking into the bridal chamber, picking up discarded stockings, and throwing them at the couple. Whoever flung a stocking that hung on the bride or groom's nose would be the next to marry. Glad it's garters and not smelly old stockings today!

Groom's Cake: The groom's cake was originally a fruitcake which was placed beside the bride's cake and later cut and boxed for the guests to take home. There was a superstition that a lady who slept with a slice of the groom's cake under her pillow would dream of her future husband. Today, groom's cakes can be any type of cake; they are often chocolate cakes or cakes shaped/designed to some theme in the groom's life. It seems that today the groom's cake tradition is strongest in the Southern part of the US.



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**Kissing of the Bride:** This is a symbol of the newlywed's faith and love and respect of each other's beliefs. It grew out of the practice during feudal times of kissing a lord's ring.



**Make-up:** A 1775 law stated that a wedding was not legal if the bride wore any make-up during the ceremony. Make-up was considered an ensnarement and so the groom would have been trapped by the illusion of make-up.

**Poem:** Familiar is the saying, "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue and a lucky sixpence in your shoe." The "something borrowed" originated from the idea that if a bride borrows an item from a happily married woman, the giver's happiness is said to be passed on to the bride.



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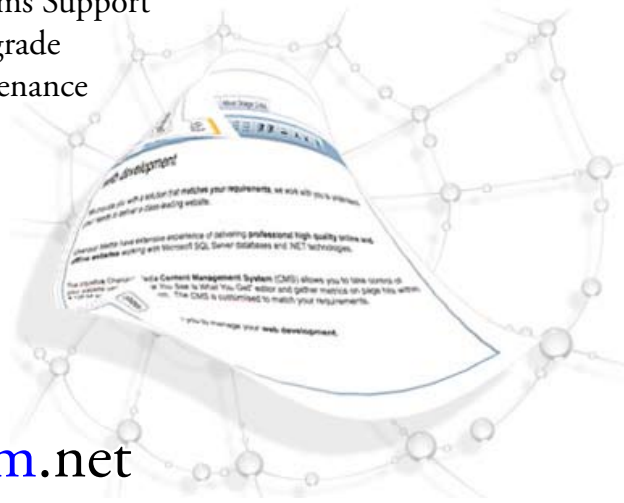
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The “something blue” symbolizes constancy in a relationship. Ideas for something blue might be: sapphire earrings, blue garter, hidden blue handkerchief, tiny blue ribbon or button on dress. The sixpence became a tradition in England during the late 17th century as a part of the dowry gift to the groom. As time went on the sixpence became a symbol of good luck; it is traditionally worn in the bride’s left shoe on her wedding day. To read more about the sixpence, visit the [What Is a Sixpence?](#) page.

**Throwing of the Rice:** This is a traditional way of wishing the newlyweds many children.  
**To the Left!:** Brides stand to the

left of their groom because long ago the groom needed to keep his right (and sword) hand free to defend his bride and himself from attack and capture by jealous rivals.

**Wedding Bands:** The never-ending circle of a wedding band symbolizes eternal love by its lack of a beginning and an end. This tradition grew out of an ancient tribal custom of using circlets of grass to decorate a bride’s wrist and ankles.

The earliest evidence of wedding rings dates back to around 2800 B.C. in Egypt. In 860 the Roman Catholic pope (Nicholas



I) declared that an engagement ring was required of all those who intended to marry; if either the man or woman later violated the vow to marry, he/she was excommunicated or banished to a nunnery. These were the times when women were thought of as property and the band was a sort of leash or band of ownership. The gold and silver commonly used for wedding bands today is derived from the customs of the Romans and Egyptians who loved precious metals and stones. And finally, the rings are worn on the third finger of the left hand because ancient cultures believed that finger had a vein running straight to the heart.



## JOKES FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

*Q: What's the difference between a Savings Bond and the typical male?*

*A: Eventually the Savings Bond will mature!*

*Q: What is the only time a man will think about a candlelight dinner?*

*A: When the power goes off!*

*Q: Why are men like parking spaces?*

*A: The good ones are taken and the ones left over are handicapped.*

*Q: How many men does it take to change a roll of toilet paper?*

*A: We don't know, it's never happened.*

*Q: What do you instantly know about a well-dressed man?*

*A: His wife is great at picking out clothes.*

*Q: Why are gingerbread men the best men of all?*

*A: They're cute, they're sweet, and if they give you any lip, you can bite their heads off!*

**NOW, SOME FOR THE GUYS!!**

*My family eats from the 3 basic food groups; canned, frozen and take-out.*

*WIFE: The 2 things I cook best are meatloaf and apple pie.*

*HUSBAND: Which one is this?*

*WIFE: "You look tired, honey. How about a nice juicy steak, mashed potatoes and an apple pie for dessert?"*

*HUSBAND: "No thanks. I'm too tired to go out for dinner."*

*A THOUGHT: My wife's cooking is so bad that we pray after we eat.*

*Before marriage, a man yearns for the woman he loves. After marriage, the 'Y' becomes silent.*

*Q: How do many men define marriage?*

*A: A very expensive way to get your laundry done free.*

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# The French Bustle Bridal Shoppe



Angela

Shae

Shae

## For the Perfect Dress

by Cindi Pate

Okay, you just got engaged - where do you begin? You've got to choose the dress and find a salon to give you the perfect hair, just to name a few. Well, slow down sassy and let The French Bustle in Selma, North Carolina ease your worries.

A fabulous chic bridal boutique, The French Bustle is your one stop bridal shoppe. As well as a hair salon that specializes in formal hair and makeup. Giving you the pricey boutique experience

you deserve - with a price tag you can afford.

Shae Sheppard is the owner of the bridal boutique and prides herself in offering excellent customer service - saying that she thinks of every client as a "girlfriend" and wants to see her as happy as she would her very best friend. Shae also brags that The French Bustle offers designer looks at affordable prices - all gowns are \$499 or less.

The French Bustle carries a large selection of gowns which can be tailored to your own personal style if you so choose. The French Bustle provides a private dressing room for the bride - where one client at a time has full access to the gowns.

The French Bustle also offer bridesmaids and flower girl dresses, veils, tiaras, accessories as well as formal gowns for pageants and proms.

Once you've found your





Top Left - A Private Dressing Room where Shae pampers each bride and helps her choose the perfect gown for her big day. Below - Just a few of the accessories offered.

perfect dress, you can stop by to see Olivia Ellis, a seasoned salon and makeup professional, trained in formal hair and makeup. Olivia is the stylist for La Bouffant Hair Salon located inside the French Bustle Bridal Shoppe. Giving advice on hair styles and makeup as well as suggestions on what hair piece may work best for you and your style.

Also serving you is Angela Gilmore. This Gilmore girl schedules the appointments and customizes hair accessories for your little flower girl or younger bridesmaids.

Whether you need one session or several to find the gown and the look you desire, the girls at The French Bustle will help make "vos rêves se matérialisent" - your dreams come true.



919-202-4500  
www.thefrenchbustle.com  
thefrenchbustle@yahoo.com





# Wedding Checklist

This checklist will help you in planning the most important day of your life. Feel free to print it out and give copies to those helping to plan your wedding.

## 6-12 Months

- Choose the kind of wedding you will have, date and time.
- Discuss the budget, and who will pay for what.
- Consider hiring a wedding coordinator.
- Make arrangements with the officiator.
- Reserve the wedding and reception locations.
- Select your wedding dress, veil and accessories.
- Choose the bridesmaids, groomsmen, ushers, and honored roles.
- Have a formal black/white photo sitting for announcements.
- Send announcements of your engagement to your fiancé's and your local and hometown newspapers.
- Meet with the florist, photographer, caterer, videographer,

- and D.J. or entertainment to discuss budgets and options.
- Discuss the guest list with fiancé and families.
- Plan reception music.
- Contact a rental coordinator for equipment reservations.
- Discuss honeymoon and reservations. (Traditionally the groom makes all the honeymoon arrangements.)
- Arrange for time off work, if necessary.
- Buy a wedding planner and envelopes to store brochures and notes.
- Develop record-keeping system for invitations, gifts, and thank-you notes.

## 4-6 Months

- Plan new living arrangements and home furnishings.
- Select and register wedding gifts and patterns.
- Select color scheme.
- Order dress and accessories.
- Order bridesmaids' dresses, shoes and accessories.
- Contact men's formal wear specialist for men's attire.

- Have parents select attire.
- Order invitations, announcements, programs, napkins, matchbooks, and personal stationery.
- Arrange for physical examinations, dental appointments, etc.

## 2 Months

- Choose and order wedding bands and engraving.
- Order wedding and groom's cakes.
- Check state/county marriage license requirements.
- Plan ceremony, reception, menus, master of ceremonies, music, and timetables.
- Plan rehearsal dinner, and bridesmaids' luncheon.
- Complete guest list and address invitations.
- Make arrangements for lodging for out-of-town guests.
- Purchase gifts for attendants and groom.
- Plan reception seating, if necessary.



# Arts & Events



## Mary Poppins Ballet

Paramount Theater - Goldsboro NC

**March 13-14, 2010**

07:00 PM & 03:00 PM

Need a spoon full of sugar? Come see Goldsboro Ballet take the stage in their supercalifragilistic presentation of the Mary Poppins Ballet. Flying the cast is Delbert Hall, PhD. Flying Effects Co. Tickets are \$15, \$12 and \$10. Purchase tickets online by clicking here or at the Paramount Theatre Box Office 919.583.8432. [www.goldsboroballet.net](http://www.goldsboroballet.net)



## Memories of the 50's

Saturday, April 3 @ 7:30

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Goldsboro, NC

Tickets: \$10 in advance and \$12  
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Proceeds go to RHA Howell, Inc.  
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## The Coastal Plain

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The Arts Council of Wayne County

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## Along the Way: A Homecoming

April 10, 2010 - 8:00pm  
Goldsboro native and host, John Brown brings his poetic music and words to the first annual concert to benefit the current expansion project underway at Kitty Askins Hospice Center. Spectators will witness musical selections from the blues to country to Christian and all genres in between. Performances will include Blue Ceiling Records recording artist Randall Bramblett; Grammy nominated songwriter, singer, producer and actress Keli Nicole Price; Pop-Soul-Funk "meister" and former Universal Music recording artist, Judson Spence; Foundher Records Americana artist, Jill King; McGhee Entertainment songwriter, Mitzi Dawn and Athens, Georgia troubadour David Duan. Come out and support The Kitty Askins Hospice Center and your local community and witness a night of excellent music and song. Tickets are \$20 for general admission or \$30 for reserved VIP seating. 100% of the proceeds go to Kitty Askins Hospice. For ticketing information call (919) 735-1387.

## Donations For Caitlin's Closet

DONATIONS NEEDED YOUR PRESENCE IS NOT NECESSARY  
Friday, April 16, 2010  
4:30pm - 7:00pm  
Coco Darlings

Coco Darlings is looking for donation! This is for girls in need so pull out those party dresses, old bridesmaid gowns and accessories. You can make a girls



dreams come true !!!!!!!  
This is an amazing organization that collects evening gowns and accessories to make sure that every girl in high school, regardless of her economic status, will have the opportunity to attend her prom, homecoming dance, academic awards or sports banquet. And while I know that what everyone sees is the dress, this is about SO much more than the dress.

Caitlin's Closet is the namesake charity and brainchild of Caitlin Brunell, a seventeen year old young woman with a passion and drive to help other teens. Caitlin's Closet gives teens the chance to gain confidence, create lifetime memories, practice social skills and fully participate in school events.

## Arts Council of Wayne County's Fine Craft Fair

Sunday, April 18, 2010  
1:00pm - 4:00pm  
Arts Council of Wayne County  
2406 E. Ash Street  
Goldsboro, NC

Booths Still Available!! Interested Vendors should contact: Becca at 919-736-3300 or becca@artsinwayne.org

More info on the vendors and the types of crafts that will be offered will be available early March 2010! Entry is FREE to the public!

## Operation Bandanas Spring Bazaar

Pineview Baptist is searching for vendors who would like to participate in their Spring Bazaar to be held May 1. Vendors will be charged \$25.00 for a table. All proceeds collected by Pineview will be donated to Operation Bandanas to support our deployed troops.

Any vendor interested in participating, please contact Alyce Toler at 919-221-2703 or Sherry Edwards at 735-7759.

Pineview Baptist Church and the Neuse Baptist Association WMU are partnering with Mary Gray, Executive Director, of Operation Bandanas in Fayetteville. To date we have packaged and mailed over 1,000 Psalm 91 Bandanas to Bagram AFB in Afghanistan. They have been distributed on the flight line, in the hospital and other areas by SJAFB Chaplains.

## What Down Home Magazine is all About

*Down Home Magazine is a bi-monthly publication. It is a free news and arts magazine that delivers passionate, creative and complete coverage of the community in which it is published.*

- *Its goal is to embody the character, the voice, and the spirit of its readers because their community is unique.*

- *Down Home Magazine is a versatile source that gives communities a place to read, write, and learn about themselves.*

- *Down Home Magazine balances hard news reporting with creative literary journalism.*

- *Through in-depth features, community discourse, extensive art and music coverage, games and cartoons, comprehensive event listings, and charitable causes, Down Home gives its readers defined and diverse sections in which to explore and embrace their neighborhood.*

- *Down Home Magazine strives to ignite youth involvement in the community with its innovative design and creative cultural content that will expose them to the history of the neighborhood and excite them to participate in its future.*

*We all call Wayne County home, even if it's just a short tour at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. I would like to ask that you make it the best place to raise your children, buy your first home, to send you kids to school or to go out to dinner....in whatever order makes your comfortable.*

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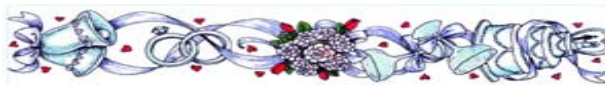


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Bryant Johnson, Goldsboro NC



# The New Trend in Wedding Receptions

## *The Cocktail Reception*



It used to be an hour of killing time between ceremony and reception... Nowadays, Cocktail Reception is a trendy, marvelous affair!

Planning a chic Cocktail Reception will take as much time, energy and finances as traditional reception would. It can combine the pomp and circumstance with modern, simplified elegance to impress your guests while celebrating the most important day of your lives... with a twist.

The best time to host a cocktail reception

is between the major meal times, say from 2-5 p.m. or after 7 p.m. any other time your guest might believe they will be served a substantial, sit-down meal and you may feel uncomfortable not doing so.

Most of the venues have lower rates for events held on Fridays and Sundays. Have an afternoon or early evening ceremony and let the natural romantic aura and party-perfect atmosphere nighttime brings be a back drop to your celebration.

There is no wedding etiquette book that states

you must serve your guests a full meal at your reception. In fact, one of the best things about your reception is that you can serve whatever you want. There are 3 basic serving styles for a cocktail reception: passed hors d'oeuvres, stationary hors d'oeuvres and a combination of two.

For a 2 hour reception, its best to choose 6-8 different types of hors d'oeuvres, allowing for each guest to consume on average of 3 pieces of each type. For heavier hors d'oeuvres choose 8-12 different types. In many cases, heavy hors d'oeuvres are less expensive then a plated dinner, however, costs add up if you are serving an assortment of gourmet finger foods.

Vary your food selections to satisfy the different tastes of your guests: meat, fish, vegetarian. For an elaborate cocktail party, opt for several food stations such

as an Asian station, Italian station, raw bar, charcuterie or any other that appeal to you taste. Always big hits: marinated & grilled scallops; wagyu terrine in brie reduction; smoked salmon; carving stations; cheese & meat displays.

Most importantly, the invitation is the first clue about the style of your wedding. It is important to inform your guests that a sit-down dinner won't be served.

Use the appropriate wording. For example,

- Please join us for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at (venue/ time).

- In celebration of our wedding, a cocktail reception will be held at (venue/ time).

- Join us for a cocktail celebration and dancing at (venue/ time).





*For The Perfect You*

As the days leading up to your “big day” start to drop off the calendar - at a much faster pace than you’d care to acknowledge - your nerves will soar sky-high. But before you burn your wedding dress and turn into bride”zilla” in front of all your bridesmaids, sit back, indulge in a secret pleasure, and pamper yourself. You deserve it!


And there is no better place in the area as chic and savvy as J. L. Eden Salon & Day Spa. The ladies at “Eden” know what relaxation is all about. With a well trained staff ready to pamper your every need, J. L. Eden Salon and Day Spa offers a variety of services from hair and make-up to massage therapy to skin care.

A J. Beverly Hills Salon that proudly offers Murad Skin Care and Glo-minerals Cosmetics, J.L. Eden knows how to glam things up. And what bride does not want to look glamorous and feel relaxed on her big day. Here are just some of the ways you can make your day special with a visit to J.L. Eden Salon and Day Spa.

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*continued on page 26*



(Front Row L-R) Tara Allen, Sara Sutton, Laura Alemdar, Lori Herring, Middle Row L-R) Lorena Cramer, Jennifer Pelletier (Back Row) Christina Pittman)



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## **as a manner of speaking:**

### After the Wedding - Thank You Notes

There is no way around it. After the wedding cake has been eaten, after the honeymoon is over, there is still one more wedding-related matter to attend to. It's time for the newlyweds to send out their thank you cards. Most couples like to procrastinate when it comes to showing their gratitude, but all the experts agree, this is one area where etiquette must not be breached.

A thank you note must never be preprinted or typed. A personalized, handwritten note is expected. Many printers offer blank note cards printed in the same design as the wedding invitation specifically for this purpose. Photographers also offer blank thank you notes that come with a picture of the happy couple. The same rule applies to the envelope, it should be hand written, showing your guests they were each special enough for you to take this extra step.

And, if you think it's been too long since your wedding day...it's hasn't - send that thank you note today!



*What's in a name? That which we call a rose  
- By any other word, would smell as sweet.*

--William Shakespeare

With all respect to Mr. Shakespeare, names matter. One's name is closely associated with self-identity, and serves the practical function of identification by friends, family, businesses, and the government. People generally are closely tied to their names, shown in part by the great consideration many parents give in naming their children. Names are often changed to reflect different life events or statuses--such as a marrying woman adopting the last name of her new husband.

When a true Southern woman marries, she takes her given name, her maiden name and her husband's

name, thereby dropping either her first name or her middle name to keep the name that she is called. She takes her maiden name in deference to her own father and thus ensures that his name will be handed down in the family in some fashion to be taken up by future generations.

This allows husband and wife to share a surname which is especially convenient for financial and administrative purposes. It also means that both partners can maintain a tie with their family name.

The woman's tie to her family name has been common in

the United States since the Revolutionary War, when the fashion was to use the mother's maiden name as a middle name.

Back then, a woman would want to keep her ties to her family especially when her father had money and a strong standing in the community. Or, if there were no males born, women used it as a way to carry on a family name.

Women are still carrying on this tradition today. If dropping your middle name is all new to you, don't worry. - Bless your heart - you just might not be from the south!

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# Trends in Bridal Portraits



by Becca Scott Reynolds

More and more brides are choosing to make their bridal portraits sessions very personal experiences that express their personality and style.

1. Location Shoots are probably the fastest growing trend in bridal photography because brides want to include physical locations that hold a meaningful place in their heart in this special time in their lives. Country girls are posing in barns, college grads often shoot at their alma mater, and if there is a special location where the couple met or got engaged brides often choose to have some of their shots taken there.

2. Personality Shots often highlight special items from the couple's jobs or hobbies. Brides who are marrying law enforcement officers will pose with their fiancé's badge while military brides will often include combat boots or part of their husband's uniform in their session. Brides often express their own interests as well, with girls bringing motorcycles and jerseys from their favorite team to pose with.

3. Couple's Portraits are emerging as a trend in bridal photography as more and more girls would rather have a photo of them with their

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husband than a portrait of themselves to hang in their new home. These are often done as a day after session, but can be done weeks before the wedding or even as a one year anniversary celebration.

4. Boudoir Sessions are special sessions done before the wedding for brides a little more on the daring side. The bride will often pose in her honeymoon lingerie, a bikini or her husband's shirt for a session to create a collection of sexy, but tasteful photos to present her husband before the wedding or on their honeymoon.

5. Trash the Dress sessions are slowly beginning to grown in popularity in this area. These sessions are not for sentimental girls but the ones who are brave enough to go for it often find themselves running into the ocean in their gown, dipping the dress in paint, or playing in the mud.

Pick your battles: The things you



argue about today may seem important, but chances are you'll have completely forgotten about

them before much time has passed.

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