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Wedding Guide 2010

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Unforgettable Weddings 2010

Unforgettable—the love song immortalized by Nat King Cole could be the soundtrack for the four weddings featured here. Each of the couples has an utterly unique, indelible love story that was reflected in the way their weddings were planned and celebrated. Bess and John Barnes' wedding was an exquisite union of different religious traditions. Chris Adduci and Ryan Daugherty's love of Bloomington resonated throughout their celebration. For anthropologists Lauren and Cameron Griffith, the inclusion of every possible member of their community was essential. Lezlie and Josh Jones—well, they got the “do over” of their dreams. Though the years will pass, these glorious weddings will remain unforgettable to all involved—to the wedding professionals, the guests, and, most of all, to the couples themselves.

By Lee Ann Sandweiss

COVER: Lezlie and Josh Jones' winter wedding at Deer Park Manor was romantic and picture perfect.
Photo by Shelia White.

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A MARRIAGE OF Traditions

Bess and John Barnes exchanged vows under a huppah, a traditional Jewish wedding canopy, at the IMU's "Secret Garden."

{ WEDDING NO.1 }

PHOTOS BY
Kevin Swan and Geno Malusek

It might have been the Indiana connection. That's what Bess Bowers and John Barnes say when asked what brought them together. In 2004, the two Hoosiers were living on the East Coast working as production assistants for ESPN when they were introduced by mutual friends.

"You don't meet many other people from Indiana out there," says Bess, a Bloomington native. "But I knew immediately that I wanted to get to know him better."

The feeling was mutual, but six months into their relationship, John was offered a job in Chicago, closer to South Bend, his hometown. Although he accepted the job, the couple was committed to making their long-distance relationship work.

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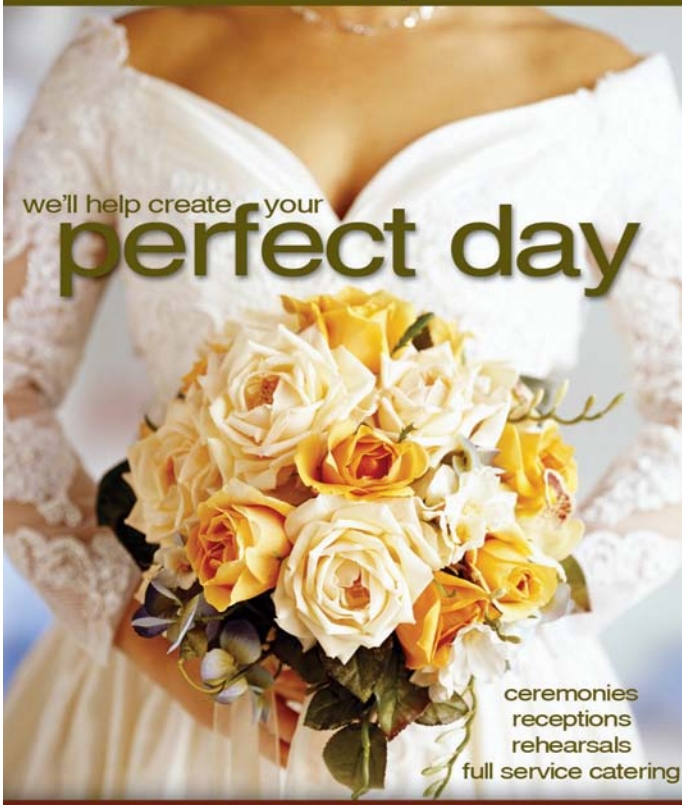


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FROM TOP: Bess and John's wedding was a blend of Jewish and Catholic traditions with an emphasis on individual family values. (second) The couple was able to relax and enjoy their day, thanks to the coordination of last-minute details by Erin Garvey of Blueline Weddings. (third) Roses dominate the bride's bouquet created by Karen Pacific of Artful Blooms. (fourth) The groom is hoisted on a chair above the guests during the horah, a circular Jewish folkdance.



"We always had our next trip booked, so we always knew when we'd see each other again," Bess recalls. "Two years and about fifty Southwest [Airlines] flights later, John moved back east. You don't go through that without knowing that this person is 'the one.'"

Once reunited, things happened fast. John proposed to Bess in May 2008, and their wedding preparations began.

Bess knew she wanted their wedding to be in Bloomington, but since she and John were living in Connecticut, that meant planning the most important event of their lives from afar. Thanks to Bess' parents and some of Bloomington's top wedding professionals, plans evolved smoothly, allowing the couple time to focus on the details of the ceremony and reception, which they wanted to reflect both Bess' Jewish and John's Catholic backgrounds.

TRADITIONS OF FAMILY:

"We focused on putting together a ceremony that reflected parts of our faiths that showed our relationship's strengths and the values we learned from our families."

"It was never an issue to include equal amounts of Jewish and Catholic tradition," says John. "We focused on putting together a ceremony that reflected parts of our faiths that showed our relationship's strengths and the values we learned from our families."



Bari Kuhlman, special-events coordinator at the Indiana Memorial Union, recommended the IMU's Secret Garden for their ceremony site. It turned out to be ideal: a beautiful, nondenominational venue, convenient for out-of-town guests staying at the IMU.

"Karen Pacific of Artful Blooms really enhanced it for our ceremony. She did all of our flowers and had some unique ideas for the huppah, the traditional Jewish wedding canopy," says Beth.

The ceremony was officiated by Bess' uncle, an attorney from Philadelphia, and included the Jewish tradition of the groom breaking a wrapped glass for luck, and an Irish blessing. Cocktail hour in the Solarium followed, after which the guests moved on to the reception in Alumni Hall. The couple credits lighting designer Mike Schwandt with creating a special ambience in both venues.

Bess and John say they were able to enjoy themselves without worrying because of the flawless coordination of last-minute details by Erin Garvey of Blueline Weddings. They especially savor memories of the music on their wedding day—a string quartet from the IU Jacobs School of Music played their favorite songs at the ceremony, and Blammo, an up-tempo band from South Bend, amped up the celebratory mood at the reception. "They hadn't played a horah [a traditional Jewish circle dance] before. John told them that the only thing we're asking for is a nice long horah, and they came through," Bess says. "We had a seventeen-minute horah, which might be a world's record."

TOP: Floral arrangements incorporated flowers in season for a June wedding—roses, hydrangea, and peonies. LEFT: The elegant four-layer cake was created by David Fletcher of BLUBoy Chocolate Café & Cakery.




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{ WEDDING NO.2 }

The Wedding

THEY NEVER HAD



PHOTOS BY *Shelia White*

Lezlie and Josh Jones had to cancel the wedding they originally planned because Josh was deployed to Iraq. Thanks to the generosity of four Bloomington wedding professionals, the couple finally had their dream wedding.

As high school students in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Lezlie Anderson and Josh Jones hung out with the same crowd of friends, but the two never met. In 2002, Josh graduated but fortunately took a friend's advice and called Lezlie. That telephone call set their lives on a roller-coaster romance unimaginable at the time.

"Our first date was at an annual jazz festival weekend. We were inseparable those three days and for some time to come. When Josh proposed to me in April 2003, I was still in high school. Of course, I said 'Yes!'" Lezlie recalls.

The couple's engagement was disrupted several months later when Josh enlisted for



Lezlie and Josh, who were married in a civil ceremony in 2005, had their traditional ceremony at St. Charles Catholic Church in the presence of family and friends.

active service in the Army and ended up stationed in South Korea for a year. While apart, they planned their wedding largely through instant messaging.

Recounts Josh: "We planned a June wedding, because I was scheduled to be back in the States then. Everything was set—dresses were bought, deposits paid, etc. That backfired, because I was given orders to deploy to Iraq two weeks before the

wedding date. We had to cancel everything, and we lost all of our deposit money."

Refusing to postpone their marriage for another year, the couple eloped and was married by a justice of the peace in Lawton, Oklahoma, near Fort Sill where Josh was stationed.

After Josh was released from active duty in May 2007, the couple moved to Bloomington to attend IU. One day while driving, Josh heard a radio announcement for a contest




Lezlie admires her bouquet, created by Cathy Teeters, who doubled as florist and wedding coordinator.

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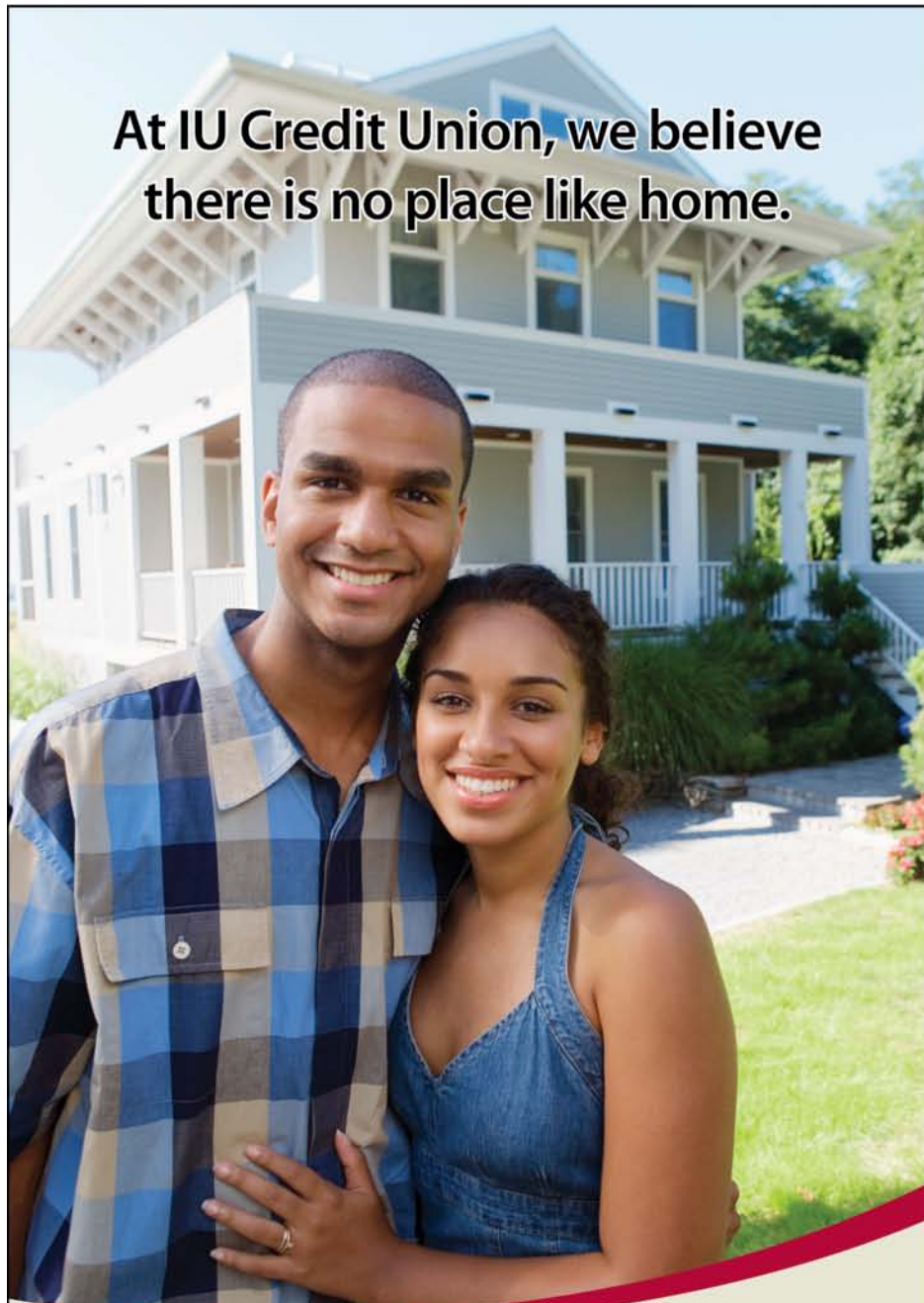
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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Lezlie and Josh sent formal invitations to announce the renewal of their wedding vows. (outdoor kiss) The snow-dusted, wooded setting provided a unique and romantic backdrop for photographs. (cake) Delicate icing detail on the cake, provided by Nick Farkas, incorporated the wedding's color scheme of blues and greens with brown accents.



to win a free wedding and convinced Lezlie that they should enter. Although they did not win the contest, their story won the hearts of the wedding vendors who had donated their services to the contest.

Shelia White (She Designs Photography) banded together with wedding coordinator Cathy Teeters (Cathy Teeters Beautiful Weddings), Sue Shelden (event planner at Deer Park Manor), and caterer Nick Farkas (The Cake and the Caterer) to give the couple the wedding that had been snatched away from them nearly four years earlier.

On February 21, 2009, Josh and Lezlie had their recommitment ceremony at St. Charles Catholic Church, with a reception following at Deer Park Manor.

"We got lucky during the ceremony, because the weather changed from a rainy mess to beautiful snow," Lezlie says.

Through the large windows at the reception, the snow provided a Currier and Ives-like winter scene for the guests. For the wedding professionals who made it all happen, it just added to the enchantment of Lezlie and Josh's love story.

"We wanted to make this a reality for Lezlie and Josh," says Teeters. "I think the pictures of them outdoors at Deer Park in the snow are fabulous. A winter wedding with the backdrop of snow was very romantic and picture perfect."



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AT THE

{WEDDING NO.3}

Old Stone Mill



Chris Adduci and Ryan Daugherty were married at the Woolery Stone Mill on Halloween 2009. Judge Ken Todd of Monroe County Circuit Court officiated.

PHOTOS BY *Jane Reeves*

Chris Adduci gave Ryan Daugherty her e-mail address when she met him at a leadership retreat in Williams Bay, Wisconsin, in September 2007. This simple gesture launched their life together and a transformational journey that would bring them to Ryan's hometown of Bloomington, Indiana.

After a few months of commuting between Chicago and Williams Bay, the couple knew their relationship was serious. Then, just before Christmas, Chris was diagnosed with cancer, and Ryan was right by her side.

"It was never a question of if he would be there, but just how could he help. We had to have hard conversations, but those made us stronger," Chris says. "After dealing with that, I decided to stop postponing what I wanted to do and start living my life."

One of Chris' goals had been to live somewhere other than Chicago. She and Ryan were

thrilled when she was offered a job as an assistant principal at Bloomington High School South in 2008.

"We absolutely love it here. It's the perfect blend of city living that I crave and outdoor space that Ryan loves," says Chris.

Ryan, a utility forester, proposed on the day they moved into their new house, and the couple began to plan their wedding. From the get-go, they knew they wanted a unique Bloomington location. A friend of Chris' mentioned Woolery Stone Mill off Tapp Road, which the couple fell in love with at first sight.

Although the mill, which was featured in the movie *Breaking Away*, closed in 1994, it is still occasionally used for special events. "We shared our story with Mae Cassady, the owner. Although they don't do many events there, they agreed," Chris explains.



FROM TOP: The Woolery Stone Mill was the uniquely "Bloomington" location for Chris and Ryan's wedding. (middle) A rich autumn palette and black linens and chairs added a touch of elegance to the industrial reception space. (right) Heaters kept guests comfortable on the chilly fall evening and added to the warm ambience. (bottom) Chris and Ryan share a tender moment at sunset.



With their Halloween wedding date only three months away, the couple turned to Cathy Teeters of Cathy Teeters Beautiful Weddings to coordinate all aspects of the event.

"Ryan wanted a backyard barbeque—I wanted something a little classier. We also wanted it to be very nontraditional and have a Bloomington feel," Chris says.

Their wedding weekend kicked off with a "Welcome to Bloomington" party at Nick's English Hut. Out-of-towners received welcome bags containing a copy of *Our Town* magazine, a bottle of Butler wine, and other goodies.

The next day, Chris and Ryan were wed by the fountain at the mill and exchanged bands they had purchased at Bloomington's



4th Street Festival of the Arts and Crafts. Guitarist Steve Sobiech, a Bloomington South colleague of Chris', provided the music for the ceremony and the cocktail hour that followed.

There was no assigned seating; instead, guests chose their own places at long tables bedecked with black linens and runners of autumnal hues. Nick Farkas of The Cake and the Caterer provided the food at different stations in the room, including a Hoosier station, a Tex-Mex station, and a Southern barbeque station. There was also a dessert station in lieu of a traditional wedding cake. Instead of favors, guests received an elegant card announcing a donation in their honor to the Chicago branch of Gilda's Club, a worldwide cancer-support organization.

The following morning, Chris and Ryan hosted a catered brunch at their new home.

"We got to spend a lot of time with everyone who came such a long way for us," Chris says. "We tried to keep as many things low-key and local as possible, because it was important to for us to show our guests the Bloomington we love."



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{WEDDING NO.4}

IT TAKES A PHOTOS BY
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Village

Since the dawn of civilization, humans have gathered together for major life events—births, deaths, and, of course, marriages. So when anthropologists Lauren Miller and Cameron Griffith decided to marry, they cast their net as wide as possible to include family, friends, and community in their celebration.

Their wedding weekend last October spanned three event-filled days, beginning on Friday night with bachelor and bachelorette parties in the heart of Bloomington. While Lauren and her friends celebrated at Japonee and FARM restaurants, Cameron and his buddies headed elsewhere, but not for a night of typical bachelor fun.

“My friends were a bit surprised that our first stop was Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard,” says Cameron. “There were too many of us to serve needy patrons, so we ended up helping with an upcoming fundraiser.” Later the men went to Janko’s Little Zagreb for steaks and wine and got the VIP treatment from owner Mark Conlin, a friend of the bridegroom.

A rehearsal picnic at Cascades Park was Saturday’s main event and everyone was invited. Ken Cantu, the director of the Ivy Tech Hospitality program, made the event affordable. Explains Cameron: “Ken turned the picnic into a service-learning event for his students, so we just paid for the cost of the

food. He was amazing—from shopping with me for the food to assembling his team to roll out the picnic spread!”

The couple was married the following day in a courtyard at the Indiana Memorial Union by John Gilmore, a Methodist minister and family friend from Ohio. A wine tasting in the Tudor Room immediately followed the ceremony, allowing guests to be entertained while the couple had photos taken.

Cameron, who teaches a wine course with IMU’s general manager Steve Mangan, worked closely with him to develop a menu that featured autumnal Midwestern cuisine. Guests feasted on heirloom-tomato tapenade, stuffed turkey roulade, persimmon rice, risotto with smoked Lake Michigan steelhead, and prime rib.

The wine theme included table decorations, with tables identified by wine names rather than numbers. Lauren’s mother, Debbie Miller, and maternal relatives the Lock family pitched in to make centerpieces, bridesmaids’ bouquets, groomsmen’s boutonnières, and even Lauren’s

veil. Andrea Lutz, owner of Peppertree Floral, created the large floral arrangements and mothers’ corsages.

After the reception, Cameron and Lauren were whisked away in a bicycle rickshaw that took them to The Lodge, a spacious second-floor venue on the downtown Square, for an after party.

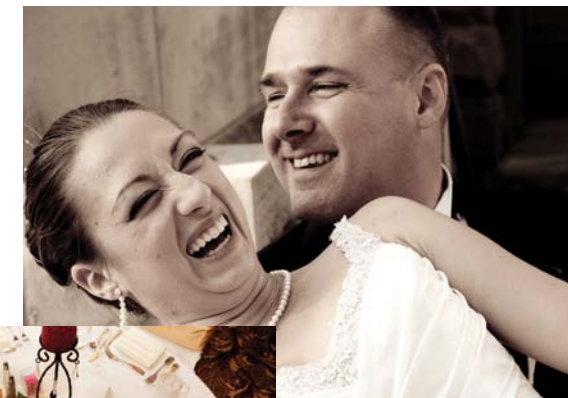
“The party’s theme was a German beer garden to celebrate the German heritage that Lauren and I share,” Cameron says. “We got a deal on the beer from my college friend John Haggerty, the brew master at New Holland Brewery in Holland, Michigan.”

While Lauren and Cameron admit they were a little tired after the Tudor Room festivities, they had no trouble getting a second wind for the after party.

“It was a great way to relax after the formality of the other events, and it allowed our out-of-town guests to mingle with our in-town friends,” Lauren explains. “It was important to us to include as many people as possible in our special day.”

LEFT: Hand-in-hand, Lauren and Cameron walk down the aisle at the end of their ceremony at the Indiana Memorial Union, while John Gilmore, a Methodist minister and family friend, beams in the background.

BOTTOM: The limestone arches of the IMU provide a beautiful frame for the newlyweds and their bridal party.



FROM TOP: Lauren and Cameron in a jubilant moment on their wedding day. (second) Table decorations reflected the reception’s wine theme, with tables identified by wine names rather than numbers. (third) Guests enjoyed a sumptuous feast that included Midwestern cuisine prepared by Steve Mangan and his staff at the IMU. (fourth) A festively decorated bicycle rickshaw whisked the couple to their after party at The Lodge.

FOR THE BRIDE:
“It was important to us to include as many people as possible in our special day.”

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Yes, there are secrets to having a fabulously successful wedding. Here are some of the best—courtesy of the four couples featured in this guide and the wedding vendors who assisted them.

- 1. Surround yourself** with experienced wedding professionals from day one—people for whom the wedding business is a passion.
- 2. Plan well in advance.** Start a year out with booking the site of your big events and hotel blocks for guests.
- 3. Construct a detailed schedule** of events and/or a timeline, but allow for a little flexibility to minimize stress.
- 4. Weddings are not just for Saturdays** anymore. Having your wedding on off-peak days such as Fridays or Sundays can save you money. Ask if the venue you are considering offers discounts for wedding events booked on these days.
- 5. Consider holiday weekends** when choosing a wedding date. Out-of-town guests will appreciate having an extra travel day.

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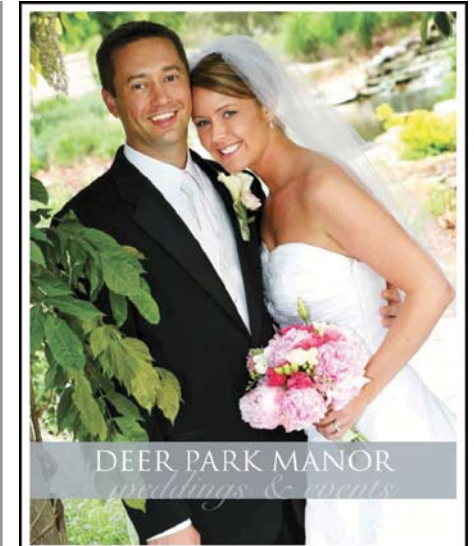
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- 6. Flip the room!** Having your ceremony and reception in the same space is convenient and often saves money. Expert vendors can transform a beautiful ceremony site into a swanky reception venue while your guests are enjoying a cocktail hour.
- 7. Think beyond the banquet hall** and consider having your wedding in a beautiful natural setting like a garden or park. If you are concerned about the weather, see if a favorite historic building will allow a ceremony on site.
- 8. Want a wedding that's gentle** on the environment? *Green Wedding: Planning Your Eco-Friendly Celebration*, by New York Times writer Mireya Navarro, is a great resource.
- 9. Ask friends and family** with special talents for help in their areas of expertise. They'll be honored and you'll save money.
- 10. Create a wedding website** to keep everyone informed of your progression from engagement to honeymoon photos.
- 11. Provide your out-of-town guests** with important information in advance. Send them an itinerary, maps, and transportation options, as well as hotel information.
- 12. Do whatever you can** early on to minimize stress later. For example, guest gift bags can be assembled well in advance.
- 13. Today's brides** are opting to wear not one dress, but two! Wear an elegant gown while you exchange vows, then slip into something more comfortable to celebrate at the reception.
- 14. If you have everything** you need, instead of receiving gifts, give something back. Many charities offer donation registries.
- 15. Let your photographer know** how you want family groups to be photographed. Give him or her a list of the various groups and the names of people in them in advance.

- 16. If you have families of divorced** parents or multiple step-families, work out a seating plan for both the ceremony and reception. It will alleviate stress on the wedding day.
- 17. Lighting, lighting, lighting.** Patterns on the floor, monogram images as you enter, and special lighting on the cake and walls can make your reception sparkle.
- 18. Step out of the box** on traditional dances. Have the father/daughter and mother/son dances include others. Invite all fathers with their daughters and mothers with their sons to join you on the dance floor.
- 19. Let them eat cupcakes!** Replace the traditional cake with a tower of cupcakes. They add décor, color, a variety of flavors, and are a modern approach to an old favorite.
- 20. Arrange transportation** for your bridal party to and from the ceremony and reception venues.

- 21. Make your entrance** especially grand by being escorted by your pet dog or by arriving on a white horse.
- 22. Floating candles** in a shallow bowl adds dramatic lighting and a touch of elegance to your tabletops.
- 23. If you don't have a coordinator,** have a designated "go-to person." Do not be the only phone number your wedding professionals have on your wedding day.
- 24. Ask your coordinator** or go-to person to assemble an emergency kit and bring it on the wedding day. The kit should contain items you might need at the last minute—safety pins, double-sided tape, a sewing kit, etc.
- 25. Manage your stress** throughout the whole process and especially during the week of the wedding with exercise and/or meditation.



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