



# EVENT Professionals

If you are planning a birthday party, wedding, retirement fete, anniversary soirée, bar mitzvah, or corporate event in the near future, this special advertorial section can serve as a resource. Herein you will find not only information about the venues and suppliers, but also meet the event professionals who will assist you.

Photos by Martin Boling





(l-r) Bridgett and Steph DiVohl.

## Royale Hair Parlor

### Bridgett & Steph DiVohl, Owners

When Royale Hair Parlor owners Bridgett and Steph DiVohl looked around the large, mostly unused office space below their salon, they realized it could provide a location to create unique experiences for their clients. At the time, their team was styling hair and applying makeup for weddings in the main salon, but that countered the expectations of their regular clients and limited the bridal party's freedom. The DiVohls decided to transform the basement to meet the demand for weddings—an idea that further evolved into offering the space for girls' night out events, birthday parties, groups getting ready for special events, and even meeting space for small businesses and organizations.

"The demand for wedding parties was pretty intense," Steph says. "We had a pretty full clientele already and they were typically on Saturday, which was taking away from our regular clientele. We tried figuring out what to do to accommodate wedding parties, but still leave Saturdays open and not take away from the wedding experience."

After renovating the space by separating the business offices and creating a private restroom and devoted changing room, the Royale Wedding and Special Event Suite opened for business earlier this year with four hair stations and two makeup areas. It can accommodate up to 10 party members per day. The space

also has an area for portraits and a mini-refrigerator, and wedding parties can bring in food, drinks, and music. When clients book wedding sessions, they have access to the room from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and to premium services like up-styles, curling sets, airbrush makeup, and lashes.

Due to the intensity of the sessions and to ensure that salon team members can work with regular customers and still get some Saturdays off, bridal parties are limited to two per month, Bridgett says. On other weekends and weekdays, the space is open for hair and makeup sessions for birthday parties and special events, as well as for girlfriends just wanting to get together and pamper themselves.

Royale Hair Parlor opened in 2012 as a creative and intimate learning environment, offering a unique, quality-focused experience to clients. "Part of our culture at Royale is continuing creative opportunities for our team," Steph says, explaining that Royale has its own yearlong training for new team members to perfect their skills. At the end of the year, she says, they celebrate with a soirée highlighting the graduate's work. "The ultimate benefit is to the client through universal standards, communication, and a dedication to guest satisfaction."

For information, visit [royalehairparlor.com](http://royalehairparlor.com) or the salon at 116 W. 6th St.

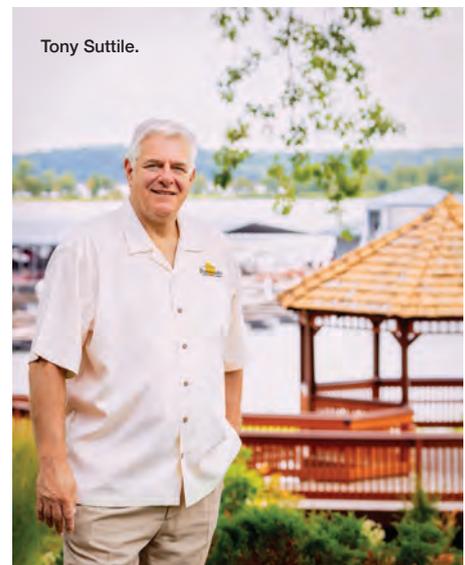
## Fourwinds Lakeside Inn and Marina

Tony Suttile, General Manager

Douglas Traina of TEI Industries had already developed Fourwinds Marina to include more than 900 boat slips and spent \$6 million to renovate Fourwinds Lakeside Inn when he hired General Manager Tony Suttile in 2013. Suttile had been operating a resort-style semiretirement community in Arizona with his wife, Caroline, but missed the hospitality business. Suttile thought Fourwinds—with its scenic bluffs, rolling terrain, and wooded areas on Lake Monroe—was the perfect opportunity.

"We have the most unique venue in Bloomington and Monroe County," Suttile says, noting the resort's three locations for hosting events—the Admiral and Commodore ballrooms, each accommodating 150–180 people, and the Anchor Patio, which overlooks the lake and seats 300 for dinner and 400 for stand-up receptions. "We are a destination for families," he adds. "A venue with a view." Fourwinds offers a variety of backdrops for outdoor events and weddings, and those held on the lawn overlooking the waterfall feature a tiered view of the beach, lake, and hills.

Suttile says another draw of Fourwinds is its reputation as a one-stop shop for catering, setup, entertainment, watercraft rentals, meeting space, and lodging. "We handle the arrangements," he says. "You don't have to find a venue and then catering and then lodging. It's all here." For more information, visit [fourwindslakeside.com](http://fourwindslakeside.com).



Tony Suttile.



The FAR Center staff (l-r): Lauren Kniss, Abigail Gardner, David Moore, Martha Moore, Daniela Panigada Cook, Mia Dalglish, Lisa Woodward; (front) Chaz Mottinger. Photos by Chaz Mottinger

## FAR Center for Contemporary Arts Martha & David Moore, Owners; Chaz Mottinger, Interim Private Events Coordinator

Spaces make things happen. That's the motto Martha and David Moore used as inspiration for their new event space—the FAR Center for the Contemporary Arts at the corner of 4th and Rogers streets. “We designed this building with events in mind,” Martha says. “And we very intentionally created different spaces with different uses in mind. We want people to see there are infinite possibilities within these walls.”

Built in 1925 as a grocery store for Roy Burns, the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the FAR's 5,000 square feet has been transformed into rooms that can be mixed and matched for weddings, bridal showers, rehearsal dinners, office parties, seminars, and much more.

“We like to think of this building as a blank canvas,” says Martha. “You can have a wedding, a seminar, a business function ... whatever you want to create with these spaces. It's your canvas.”

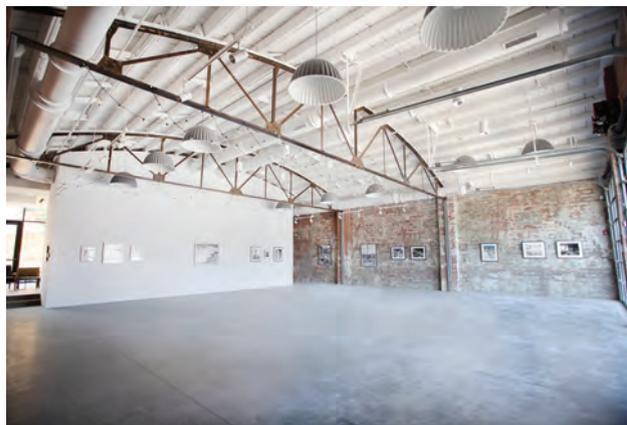
Of the spaces available at the FAR, the 505 Theater is the largest, with lofty ceilings, original brick walls, and floor-to-ceiling glass garage doors that open to the street. Martha says this space is meant to be more “raw and open,” while the library area is softer and more finished, with bookcases, furniture, and original glass panes that

contrast with the modern lights and materials. The library can open up to the outdoor garden, which offers a tranquil transition and a view of downtown Bloomington. At the heart of the building is an atrium, kitchenette, wet bar, and beautifully appointed restrooms that also can be used as changing rooms. “We tried to create a variety of spaces so people have the freedom to design the event they have in their dreams,” Martha says.

The FAR offers something that, up to now, has been missing in Bloomington: an urban event space with modern design, says Chaz Mottinger, interim private events coordinator. “It's an urban vibe and an arts vibe. We're close to downtown, to hotels, you can walk just about anywhere from here,” Mottinger says.

“Spaces really can make things happen, and so part of our idea was to create a space for anything to happen,” Martha says. Art things. Wedding things. Community things.

“I know creative things are going to happen here that are well beyond what we are envisioning,” Martha says with a laugh. “Things that we are not even yet aware of!” And that's just fine with the owners of the FAR. For information visit [farrentals.com](http://farrentals.com).



(above) The FAR Center's 505 Theater is a blank canvas, allowing the space to be designed for any event. In the top two photos, the theater has been transformed into a wedding venue.

# WorkLoveBliss

Melissa Smith & David Quick, Owners



(l-r) David Quick and  
Melissa Smith.

After working together for 10 years and launching three successful six-figure companies, husband-and-wife team David Quick and Melissa Smith know the struggles of being a couple in business together. That experience was the impetus for starting their newest venture, WorkLoveBliss, which serves like-minded couples who work together and want more bliss from both their businesses and relationships. “Couples facing similar joys and challenges will meet regularly to grow, learn, and hold each other accountable on their path toward bliss,” says Quick, a business consultant and coach.

Married 10 years, Quick, a native Hoosier, and Smith, a native Californian, moved from Connecticut to Bloomington in December 2010, seeking the Midwest lifestyle to raise their son and to continue building their company, Helping Bulls Thrive in China Shops. That business has steadily grown and includes many Bloomington-area clients as well as clients across the United States and Canada.

Like many small business owners, Quick and Smith face challenges juggling work and their personal lives, but they also have the additional stress of running a company together. They say Ian, their 10-year-old son, often reminds them to stop talking about business at dinner.

Smith and Quick focus on finding bliss from their work and relationship by intentionally working on roles, goals, and the simple joys in life with a promise not to treat

each other worse than they would any other business partner when work gets stressful. Committed to helping others, they launched WorkLoveBliss, a mastermind group that utilizes speakers, coaching, and planning sessions to encourage focus and growth in business and relationships for couples facing similar joys and challenges.

“WorkLoveBliss is for couples in a relationship who have a shared interest in the business,” Quick says. “If we bring like-minded people together, we know we will learn and grow from the experience as well.”

Smith, whose experience is in sales and sales training, notes that WorkLoveBliss celebrates the diversity of couples, whether that be age, gender, or marital status. “Everyone has something to contribute,” she says, explaining that couples just starting out or those with years in business will all benefit from the input of others in the group.

While WorkLoveBliss focuses on couples, the mastermind concept is similar to Helping Bulls, which helps business leaders thrive through speaking sessions, executive coaching, and leadership development. Quick says the business emphasizes improving individual and team performance and driving remarkable results through intentional focus on culture and engagement.

“We are committed to helping people who run companies work fewer hours, be significantly more successful, and build stronger, more powerful relationships,” Quick says. For information, visit [WorkLoveBliss.com](http://WorkLoveBliss.com).

# Master Rental

Caitlin Czupka & Laura Hughes, Customer Service Representatives

While Master Rental at 2002 W. 3rd St. has been offering party rentals for the last 30 years, it's only in the past five years that crews have been steadily working with weddings, graduation and birthday parties, football tailgating and other Indiana University events, holiday gatherings, and charity fundraisers. The process starts with customer service representatives Caitlin Czupka and Laura Hughes and ends with the delivery/tent crew.

“When I started six years ago, we had six tents,” Hughes says. Czupka adds, “Now we have more than we can count.” In addition to tents, Master Rental offers dishes, food setup equipment, linens, fountains, tables and chairs, candela-bras, bounce houses, portable staging, and other gear to help meet their clients' needs—everything except portable toilets. But, Czupka says, they can even refer a company for that. And, she adds, they maintain a list of dependable vendors and caterers if clients need those services.

To keep events organized and help their crews, Hughes and Czupka use computer-aided design software to optimize the event space and terrain. “No two events are the same and we want to make your day as stress-free as possible,” Czupka says. “We want to make sure your event lives up to your expectations.” For more information, visit [masterrental.com](http://masterrental.com) or call 812-332-0600.



(l-r) Laura Hughes and  
Caitlin Czupka.

## Creekside Retreat and Conference Center

Vickie Blake, General Manager;  
Tricia Dishman, Project Manager

Five years ago, Creekside Retreat and Conference Center General Manager Vickie Blake and Project Manager Tricia Dishman took the helm of transforming an older apartment complex into an upscale lodging facility on behalf of owner Jim Hammond. Within six months, the first retreat space was complete and a new building opened each year following, along with a conference center and event patio.

Located on 40 acres less than three miles from downtown Nashville, Indiana; a mile from Brown County State Park; and adjacent to Salt Creek Golf Course, the 2,400-square-foot retreat at 2450 State Road 46 East can accommodate 100 people in its meeting space and 250 on the event patio. "The large maple trees surrounding the buildings give the feel of being in the woods and yet close to everything," Blake says.

The retreat has 38 overnight rooms and four other buildings that could potentially double the size of the project when completed. "Our goal is to grow our occupancy to a point that we increase our inventory with the remaining buildings," Blake says. "The business has grown constantly, with the facility being utilized for corporate meetings, church retreats, weddings, receptions, and reunions. Our facility is a five-star property for any type of meeting or event." Learn more at [creeksideretreat.net](http://creeksideretreat.net) or call 812-650-7305.



(l-r) Vickie Blake and Tricia Dishman.



Cathy Johnson.

## CFC Properties Cathy Johnson, Events Coordinator

In the 1980s, CFC Properties, the real estate arm of Cook Group, recognized the need to revitalize downtown Bloomington, and a project to restore buildings along West Kirkwood was its focus. The result was Fountain Square, now an iconic downtown landmark highlighted by its eclectic style, projecting stacked bay windows, shaped shingles, and curvilinear parapet. During renovation, planners found a hidden jewel—Fountain Square Ballroom—an event venue with historic flair.

Often rented for wedding receptions, birthday parties, retirement celebrations, corporate meetings, and holiday events, the Ballroom features a ceiling with intricate paintings. An extensive restoration project took a week to trace the stenciling, almost three weeks with a four-person crew to cut out the stencils, and another four weeks to paint the ceiling. "You really don't need a lot of decorations in the Ballroom with the natural beauty it has," says events coordinator Cathy Johnson.

Rental includes an initial consultation, plus room setup and tear down. Not only does the Ballroom offer an exceptional downtown venue, but because there is no designated in-house caterer for the space, hosts are free to select any caterer they desire. And, because the Ballroom has been so well received, CFC plans other event rental possibilities in the fountain and atrium spaces in the near future. For information, visit [fountainsquarebloomington.com](http://fountainsquarebloomington.com).

## Cathy Teeters Beautiful Weddings

Cathy Teeters, Owner

You might say Cathy Teeters was destined to be a florist. She learned her craft from her father, John Smith, who owned a floral shop. As a second-generation florist, she's been creating beautiful floral designs for 42 years, so it seemed only natural she would start her own business. In 2001, Teeters opened Beautiful Weddings, offering full-service consultations for weddings and florals for special events.

As a wedding planner and coordinator, Teeters enjoys sharing in the excitement of a couple's wedding day. "I think you have to have a passion for this business," she says. "My biggest satisfaction at the end of the day is when our brides, couples, and families are happy."

Teeters' professional studio at Lake Lemon has walk-in coolers for florals and a supply of rentable items for weddings, including glassware, candelabra, gold, silver, iron, arches, arbors, invitations, and more. "I work closely with brides to create the design and the style of the wedding they envision," Teeters says. "I once had a bride and her mother grab me and jump up and down for joy when they first saw their reception venue. We brought their vision to life."

Teeters is a member of The Association of Bridal Consultants and is a designated professional bridal consultant. Visit [cathyteetersbeautifulweddings.com](http://cathyteetersbeautifulweddings.com) for more information.



Cathy Teeters.



(front row, l-r) Marie Carpenter, Patti Russo, and Joan Snapp; (back row, l-r) Steve Sparks, Jean Kavtt, Talisha Coppock, Lisa LaMarca, and Patrick Smith.

executive committee and board of directors.

“With the experience of over 12,000 events and 27 years of history, we bring insight to be helpful to customers and build lifelong relationships,” Coppock adds. “We have an active community that loves to learn, come together, connect, have a voice, and celebrate in a variety of ways. We benefit from

people who have traveled and bring back ideas to implement.”

Starting at the front desk, the staff provides a welcoming atmosphere for attendees and organizers alike. “Events should address basic senses—sight, sound, touch, smell, taste—so you take away a memory,” Coppock says, noting that creating a positive experience leads to a high rate of repeat customers and a good working relationship with suppliers.

“Special occasions rely on our team understanding needs and bringing ideas for getting the intended message across to attendees,” Coppock says, adding that staff members are flexible and attentive to helping clients with budgeting, sharing of resources, diagramming room setups, scheduling events, estimating, connecting with suppliers, and handling last-minute needs and day-of-event activities. “We are here to bring a richness to all events.”

Those events come in all sizes, including conventions, corporate training, programs by nonprofit groups, and meetings. “We appreciate the community support and all of our customers,” Coppock says. “We have a special community and we are proud to help tell its story through events.” She adds that her team is reliable, trustworthy, and is passionate about the events held at Monroe Convention Center. “The building comes to life,” she says. “This is a positive, energetic place where people want to be.” For information, visit [bloomingtonconvention.com](http://bloomingtonconvention.com).

## Monroe Convention Center Talisha Coppock, Executive Director

Since its beginning, Monroe Convention Center, at 302 S. College, has focused on helping the community with its expert staff and a commitment to the growth and revitalization of Bloomington and Monroe County, according to Executive Director Talisha Coppock.

In the early 1980s, Coppock explains, Bloomington leaders realized the downtown area needed revitalization, leading them to form Downtown Bloomington Inc. (DBI) for just that purpose. DBI partnered with other entities to transform downtown into a place where people wanted to come together and visit, eat, shop, be entertained, and live.

At the onset, those partners coordinated 30 special events a year, ranging from open houses and basketball tournaments to Easter egg hunts, Taste of Bloomington, and Canopy of Lights. “Some of those events have become traditions, some have new committee members, some have picked up on new trends and evolved over the years, some have gone by the wayside, and several new events are added each year by volunteers in the community,” Coppock says.

In 1991, DBI formed the Convention Center Management Company, which operates Monroe Convention Center, a

public building and space where citizens can gather and learn, celebrate, do business, train and recognize employees, and support fundraisers by nonprofit organizations. “It was obvious an indoor location was needed for not only community events, but to further tourism and economic and cultural development,” Coppock says. “Monroe Convention Center opened and filled [its schedule] immediately. It’s a popular gathering place, hosting over 500 events a year.”

Coppock says Monroe Convention Center has focused on helping the community by providing services people need, including entertainment, learning experiences, meetings, and tradeshow. “Events are rewarding,” she says. “They allow for creativity, team building, a tangible project, and making close connections.”

Employees often work in the background, pulling together details and helping with ideas, budgets, and timelines, she explains. Team members have expertise in sales, event coordination, facility operation, event assistance, and being fiscally responsible for operating a public facility. They work cooperatively with Visit Bloomington, Monroe County government, the Convention and Visitors Commission, and the City of Bloomington, as well as the Center’s



Stephanie Topoligus.

## Topo's 403

### Stephanie Topoligus, Venue Manager & Event Planner

Since Topo's 403 opened as a restaurant in 2012, Venue Manager and Event Planner Stephanie Topoligus has paid attention to what her customers want in a venue. In doing so, she realized that diners visited the beautifully restored 1870's townhouse at 403 N. Walnut for their special occasions, not simply a regular dinner out. Focusing on those celebrations, Topoligus has transitioned the space from a daily full-service restaurant into a private events venue.

"That's what people were coming here for, to celebrate their special evenings and to host gatherings, so it seemed more important to continue that," Topoligus says. "We want the building to have a public life. This seems like the way to go to still show the best part of what Topo's 403 has to offer—the atmosphere and ambiance of our space."

Topoligus' grandfather, James N. Topoligus Sr., known as Topo Sr., bought the two-story Greek Revival- and Italianate-style building in 1947 to use as his medical office. Topo Sr. had married Catherine Poolitsan,

whose Greek family ran The Gables Restaurant on Indiana and Kirkwood avenues. Eventually, their son—Stephanie Topoligus' father, nicknamed Topo Jr.—became a surgeon and joined his father's practice, which moved in the mid-1990s to a new surgery center south of Bloomington.

"At that time, the building in the back was all chopped up into examining rooms, and you walked in and the receptionist's station was near the entry and the front room was the waiting room," she recalls. "I worked at my dad's receptionist's desk, and his office with a great big desk was right here where the bar is." Although historically known as the Millen-Chase-McCalla House, the building became listed on the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures as the Topoligus Building in 1991.

Transitioning the restaurant into a private events venue is a task for which Topoligus is well-equipped. Born and raised in Bloomington, she attended Indiana University and then moved to Washington, D.C., to study arts management in graduate school. "I pursued my dream to work at the National Gallery of Art, but then I ended up in special events and was excited because I didn't even know that planning parties was a job," she says.

Topoligus later moved to Austin, Texas, where she worked for the Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas. "I planned and managed both public and private events

and programs for the museum," she says, noting that she developed a facility rental program that allowed the public to host events. "I like the creative part of planning and creating an event—taking an idea, building upon a concept, and seeing it to completion."

Topoligus is utilizing her experience in event planning to offer the public an easy and flexible venue space for their special occasions. "This space does not require the dress-up like when you rent a barn out in a field for the day," she says. "You walk into a turnkey venue and elegant space so you don't really need to do much."

As the venue manager, Topoligus does all of the sales, planning, managing, supervising and coordinating of external vendors, and working with hosts. "That's what I like to do," Topoligus says, explaining that her services are available for as much or as little as the host needs. "It's up to the guest on what they want, and I can make it happen."

Located two blocks from the downtown Square, Topo's 403 is an ideal venue for IU and business functions, Topoligus says. She plans to host ticketed pop-up events for those who miss the Topo's 403 Restaurant experience. Those events could include signature cocktails, live music, wine pairings, and more. "It's a unique venue, and our family loves to be able to share the building," she adds. For information, visit [topos403.com](http://topos403.com).