

TIMES LEADER MEDIA GROUP

2018 LEGACY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

WEDDING

Style Guide

March 2019

The Checklist
**FROM SAYING "YES"
TO SAYING "I DO"**

**PLAN THE PERFECT WEDDING
WITH TIPS AND ADVICE ON**

*Vendors, Bridal Shows, Flowers,
Gowns, Rentals & Cakes*

+

8 LOCAL COUPLES SHARE THEIR

Special Day



Knot Just Any Day Photography

The Checklist

This wedding planning checklist covers a 12-month span, but you can adjust the schedule to your own timeline, whether you're planning two years or one month in advance. Then simply start at the top of the list below and browse through each group of tasks before tackling them one by one.

12 Months Before

- Announce your engagement to family and friends and plan an engagement party
- Place an engagement announcement in your local newspaper
- Sign up for a wedding website
- Work on the budget
- Consider purchasing wedding planning software to organize everything or hire a wedding planner to help secure contracts, etc.
- Choose a wedding date – select a few days in case your first choice is booked
- Choose a location and reserve your ceremony and reception site(s)
- Begin a rough guest list and compile current addresses
- Decide on who you'd like to have as your attendants, including your maid of honor and best man
- Begin shopping for your wedding gown
- Attend a local bridal show or two and jot down notes about any vendors you really liked
- Purchase a wedding planning organizer or calendar to keep track of important dates and appointments (fittings, showers, etc.)

6-9 Months Before

- Research and choose one or more bridal gift registries
- Order your wedding gown and buy undergarments that you will wear with it (bring these to all fittings)
- Order other bridal accessories – shoes, gloves and veil
- Begin shopping for bridesmaids dresses
- Find an officiant who will perform your ceremony
- Research local vendors and book ceremony musicians, a wedding band/DJ, photographer, videographer, caterer and florist

4-6 Months Before

- Select and order your wedding invitations, envelopes and thank-you cards
- Select and purchase wedding favors and wedding favor accessories – boxes, personalized wedding ribbon, labels, etc.
- Start researching wedding cake pictures and local bakeries
- Book your honeymoon and verify that you have any necessary travel documents including passports and visas
- Book a room for your wedding night, if you will be leaving for your honeymoon the next morning
- Book hotel rooms or arrange other accommodations for out-of-town guests
- Finalize your guest list and send out save-the-date cards if using
- Print out directions to the ceremony, reception, rehearsal dinner and hotel(s) for guests
- Reserve transportation for you and your wedding party as well as a bus or trolley for your guests (if necessary)

2-4 Months Before

- Find out what your state's requirements are for obtaining a marriage license and get blood tests done, if required
- Order tuxedos for the groom and groomsmen
- Meet with your caterer to discuss the menu and your bar/liquor needs
- Meet with your officiant to discuss ceremony details, wording and wedding vows
- Select wedding readings
- Order your wedding cake
- Buy thank-you gifts for your attendants, flower girl and ring bearer
- Shop for a gift for your new spouse-to-be
- Select and purchase wedding rings, and have them engraved if desired
- Coordinate and choose a location for the rehearsal dinner
- Contact party rental companies for tents, tables, arches, etc. if necessary
- Book any other specialty series – ice sculptures, photo booths, etc.
- Purchase luggage and other travel necessities and attire for your honeymoon
- Order/renew passports if necessary, leaving ample time for them to be sent back to you
- Schedule an appointment with your dentist if you'd like to have your teeth whitened or cleaned before the wedding

The Checklist

1-2 Months Before

- Mail invitations out to everyone eight weeks prior to the wedding date and send accommodation info to your out-of-town guests
- Compile and complete name change documents or purchase a bridal name change kit online
- Fill out a change of address form at the post office, if necessary
- Have ceremony programs printed
- Purchase a guest book, pen and other wedding accessories including toasting glasses, cake knife, ring pillow, etc.
- Keep your wedding web site updated with directions and event details
- Choose your hair and makeup stylists and schedule a trial for both; also book appointments to have your hair, make-up and nails done on the day of the wedding
- Review insurance information with your fiancé and check with employers to see what documents need to be updated once you are legally wed (car, home, medical, etc.)

2 Weeks to 1 Month Before

- Create a seating chart for the reception and make table numbers and place cards (or have your calligrapher work on these)
- Contact your caterer with a final guest count
- print out a timeline of events for your wedding party and vendors – include contact information and cell phone numbers
- Meet with your photographer to finalize your wedding photo list of any must-have photos
- Contact your florist to confirm your final flower order (bouquets, boutonnières, centerpieces, etc.) and go over any decor details or venue logistics for the big day
- Finalize your ceremony and reception music and song lists for your wedding band or DJ
- Confirm lodging reservations for out-of-town guests
- Place a wedding announcement in your local newspaper
- Plan a bridal luncheon or dinner with your bridesmaids
- Pick up wedding bands and make sure the fit is good
- Schedule a final wedding dress fitting
- Apply for your marriage license
- Write rehearsal dinner toasts

1 Week Before

- Write out final checks to your wedding vendors (each organized in an envelope) and let your wedding coordinator or one of your attendants distribute at the wedding
- Pick up your wedding gown
- Pick up your marriage license
- Confirm limo or other transportation reservations
- Pack for your honeymoon and confirm travel arrangements
- Have your post office hold your mail, if necessary, while you're on your honeymoon
- Treat yourself to a spa day – you deserve it!

The Day Before

- Welcome out-of-town guests as they arrive
- Take a yoga class or go for a walk during the day
- Schedule a hair appointment for prior to the rehearsal dinner
- Attend the rehearsal and enjoy the rehearsal dinner!

The Wedding Day

- Wake up early and do some easy exercise, or just go for a peaceful walk outdoors and try to soak up the beauty of the day
- Set aside some time before the festivities to share fits with your bridesmaids or close family members
- Eat a healthy breakfast – you'll need your energy for the big day ahead!
- Enjoy it; it's finally here and everything will be wonderful... Congratulations!

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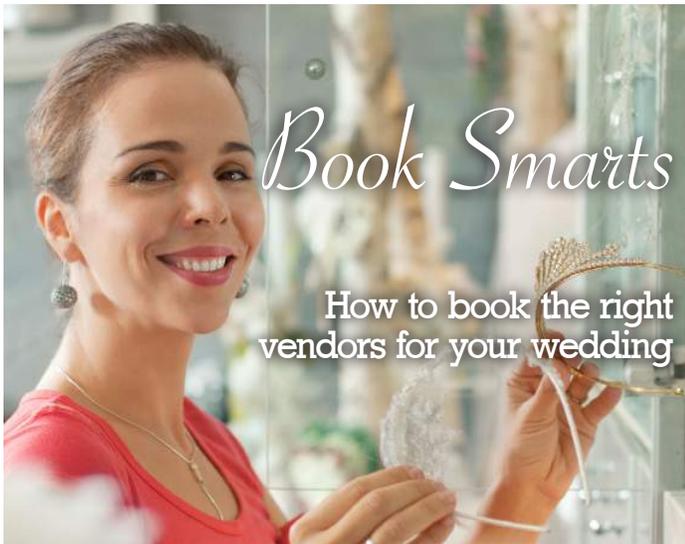
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BY RENEE LEE WEGE
CTW FEATURES

Researching local vendors for your wedding is time consuming, but totally worth it. If you haven't done your research, it can be hard to know what specifics you should be asking during a conversation.

But first things first — when you decide you're interested in a vendor, send a quick email inquiry to make sure your date is still available. If it is, ask to set up a phone consult and request more information beforehand, like price quotes and previous work.

Before chatting on the phone, try to find out as much about the vendor as possible, taking notes on anything you may need clarification about.

It may help to think about that first call with a vendor as an initial phone screen (just think about that first step you take in job interviews).

This is the time to double check specifics such as the services they offer, rates and, most importantly in my opinion, get to know the person!

- Why are they in the wedding business?
- What makes them passionate about what they do?
- What separates them from competitors?

Other questions to consider:

- What does the vendor specialize in (whether it's bride's bouquets for a florist or bilingual weddings for a DJ/emcee)?
- Does the vendor have any sort of insurance, like liability coverage in the case of a venue?

If their answers align with your wedding vision, get the vendor to send over samples of their work or for a link to a Yelp page and first-hand recommendations. Also have them send over a draft contract and look over all the fine print.

If possible, ask to meet in person. OK, maybe it's not necessary or realistic to meet all your vendors, but think about it this way: You're investing a lot in vendors. So, it's important to do your research before, ask pertinent questions and, ideally, meet them face-to-face before casting them in a role in your big day.

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DRESS LOUNGE

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- SEMI-FORMAL
- SPECIAL OCCASION
- ACCESSORIES
- EVENT PLANNING
- PROM
- SIZES 0-30





Maggie & Craig

October 13, 2018

How We Met & Engagement

Craig and I met in 2009 at Rodano's in Wilkes-Barre. Craig was dining at the time and I was a waitress. Craig was a very popular presence in the local scene and his personality became hard to ignore. After 7 months of persistence on his part, I finally gave in and went on a date with him that following January. It became clear to me that he made life better, and I never wanted to let go of that. Craig and I welcomed a little girl, Avery, in June 2016. Our lives were forever changed at that point and complete except for one thing... a ring. On September 10, 2017, three weeks after asking my parents for my hand in marriage, Craig got down on one knee in our kitchen on a sunny Sunday morning and asked me to be his wife. He recorded the whole thing without me knowing and I will forever treasure that moment.

Wedding Planning

Venue: We had a traditional Catholic ceremony at St. Leo's/Holy Rosary Church in Ashley. I grew up going to St. Leo's and it's the same church where my parents were married. Our priest was Father Vincent Dang who gave a memorable homily. With Craig being a wedding DJ and me being a professional bridesmaid, choosing our venue was the simplest decision we made. The Westmoreland Club provided us everything we needed and more for our reception. We chose to have our cocktail hour inside and reception in the tent outdoors. From outstanding food to impeccable service, our guests still talk about how amazing everything was.

Shauna Strellish was our coordinator and she went above and beyond to make our vision come to life. There are many new trends right now for weddings from barns to outdoor venues, so it can be hard to choose a venue that hits every want and need. I will forever be satisfied with my choice. The Westmoreland Club gave me the modern touches I asked for while being classic and traditional to stand the test of time. We opted for a token cake designed by Pastry Chef, Brittany Lynn at the Westmoreland Club. She also made an assortment of desserts for our guests which included a warm chocolate chip cookie with vanilla ice cream, a mini donut, and a mini brownie.

Entertainment: We chose DJ Jay Ski from Philadelphia's BOOM 107. He was the DJ for a good friend of ours and definitely showed our guests a good time. Good friend and local MC, Gino Lispi, emceed the night which made it extra special.

Photographer: Our photographers for our wedding day were Michael Gentile and Amanda Dittmar from Knot Just Any Day. I actually planned my wedding date around the availability of the KJAD team. I have known Steve Husted, owner of KJAD, for the same amount of time I've known Craig. Their stunning portfolio and classic pictures matched the look I was going for. They even traveled to Philadelphia where Michael and Steve held our coats and stood in the middle of Broad Street with us on a very cold November day.

Florist: Another easy decision for me. Long time family friend, neighbor and former owner of Clarke's Irish Imports in Ashley, Mary Clarke Holmgren designed the most beautiful

bouquets and centerpieces. She put up with multiple text messages including Pinterest screenshots and the most changes of minds in the history of wedding planning (or so I think). With the help of her mom, Jane Clarke and sister, Kara Rowley, she put together every single thing I asked for, down to the last stem, all while being a guest I might add. I will never forget walking into her garage a few days before the wedding and seeing my flowers. I still get asked about my flowers and people wanted to hire Mary on the spot. The many hours spent picking out different kinds of eucalyptus (there are many) and roses (seriously, so many) were worth it. Having someone near and dear to my heart create the most beautiful arrangements will be something I will forever be grateful for.

Videographer: Weddings are expensive. People will tell you multiple ways to cut costs. I went back and forth a million times about a hiring a videographer. I ended up choosing the incomparable Molly Rupert as recommended by Brittany Boote (another exceptional wedding photographer in our area). Molly came equipped with a handheld camera that captured moments I missed and moments I wanted to relive over and over again. She even came with a drone which gave a beautiful overhead look of The Westmoreland Club. She provided us with an edited video of the footage showing poignant parts of our wedding. I've watched it close to 100 times so far. Hiring a videographer was definitely worth it.

Transportation: Jimmy Finn of Finntastic Tours provided us with our limo bus. The day was seamless thanks to them.

Décor: We chose to go with John Phillips at MCR Productions for our linens, charger plates, chandeliers, chairs, and pillar candles. I met with Brian Daubert of MCR multiple times trying to come up with what I wanted. He made countless runs throughout their warehouse in Kingston and ended up designing a beautiful palette for our reception. I also did some bargain hunting myself, using Amazon of all places, for some great décor finds.

Invitations: I designed our invitations on Minted. I have used them for many things and love that they will address your envelopes for you. It made the whole process easier. They have wedding suites that include everything from place cards to thank you cards based on the design you choose.

Hair: My hair was done by one of my very best friends & bridesmaid, Victoria Zaruta from Eclectic Salon. The bridesmaids' hair was done by April Mason of Eclectic Salon and Danielle Wolsieffer Mullery of Donn Michael's Salon.

Makeup: The incomparable Megan Dougherty & Megan Kennedy Dutko did the bridal party's makeup.

Bridal Gown: I purchased my bridal gown and veil from Dress Lounge in Kingston, PA. The designer was Mikaella Bridal and my dress actually had two looks. My ceremony dress had a tulle overlay with lace trim around the waist. The skirt came off and my dress was a very fitted and simple ivory

lace strapless gown.

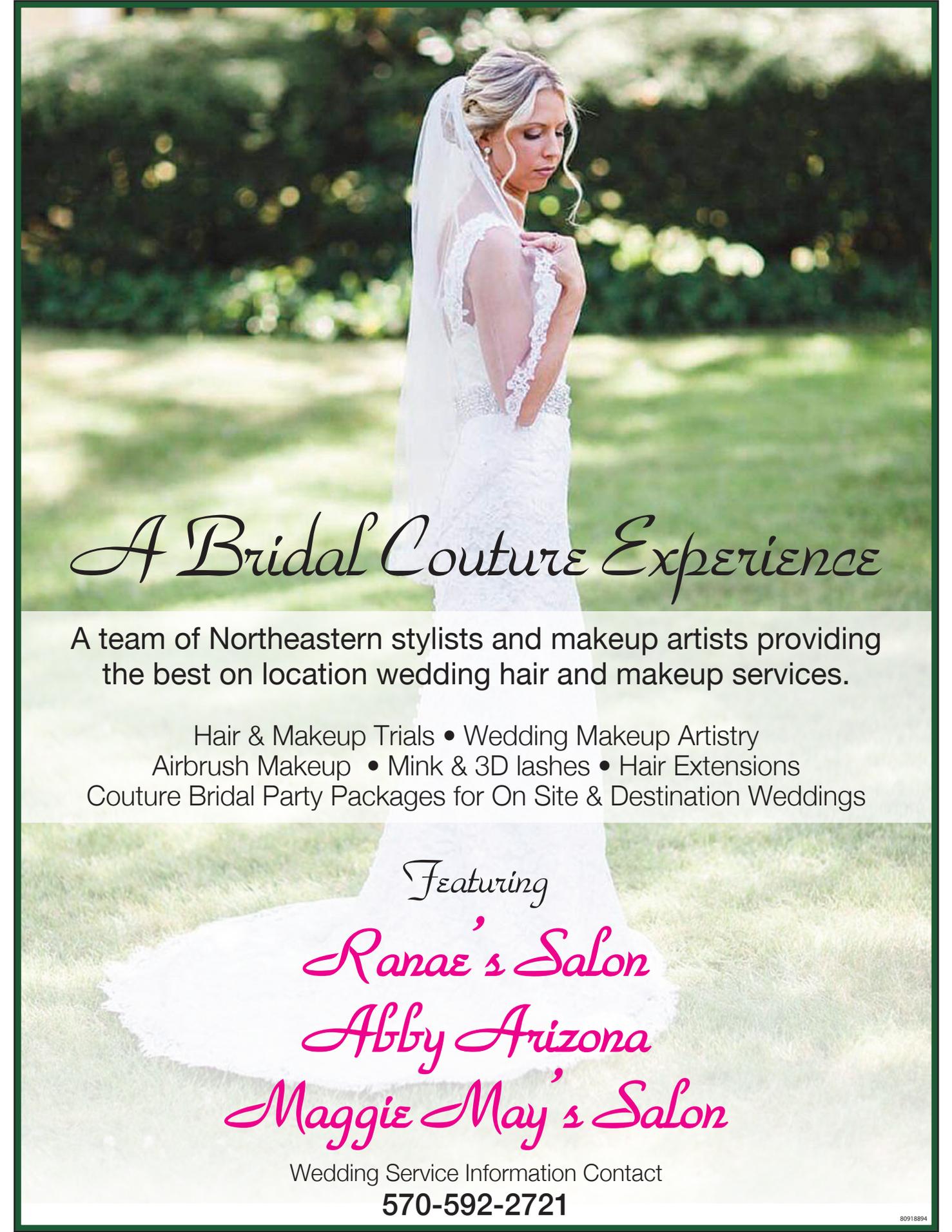
Bridesmaid Dresses: With bridesmaids from New York to Wilkes-Barre to West Palm Beach, I chose Show Me Your Mumu for my bridesmaid dresses. They sent me swatches and I chose two different colors but allowed my bridesmaids to choose the styles. The palette of blush and cream accented my ivory gown and matched perfectly with the flowers.

Tuxes: Craig's groomsmen were from all over as well. Thanks to Instagram ads, we chose Generation Tux. They sent me multiple swatches of suits and tie colors. The guys filled out a fit profile on their website and their suits were sent 2 weeks prior to our event date. Their customer service was impeccable and they personally called me to ensure everyone's suit fit. If the suit did not fit, their stylist recommended the correct sizing and the replacement was delivered within 48 hours. We gifted the guys their ties from Tie Bar.



Wedding Day

The bridal party spent a relaxing morning at my mom's house getting ready for the day while the groomsmen hung out at our house in Forty Fort. The ceremony started at one in the afternoon at St. Leo's in Ashley. I surprised Craig by walking down the aisle to a piano version of the song he proposed to me to, Mirrors by Justin Timberlake. My favorite part of a wedding ceremony is seeing the groom's face when the bride is walking down the aisle and this by far was my favorite. The ceremony was beautiful and the love we felt while we exchanged vows was unforgettable. We had plans to have pictures taken outside but due to some quick rain showers, we went directly to The Westmoreland Club. This last minute change of plans provided us with the most gorgeous photos. The Westmoreland Club catered to our every need while we were waiting for our guests to arrive. Our cocktail hour was filled with personal touches from signage to mini Philly Cheesesteaks as one of the appetizers. I even made sure Notre Dame was on the TV during the cocktail hour and they (thankfully) won their football game. My brother, Michael, even had a "Marry Like A Champion Today" sign made for us. Craig's and my first dance was to "Stand By Me" by Ben E. King which our entire reception sang in unison towards the end (I have chills thinking about it). My matron of honor, Caryinna Solomon, and Craig's best man, Michael Collins, gave speeches that highlighted how very special of a day it was to be surrounded by the people who love us the most. The dance floor was packed shortly after dinner and stayed that way until the party was over. Your wedding day truly does go by in the blink of an eye. From all the planning and meetings to the day of, you often wonder if everything will come together. Shauna made that happen for us and made the day seamless. The things that are important to you, hold strong to. You may think they will go unnoticed, but it's those small touches that make the whole experience truly unique.



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Show me the

wedding

BY CARLEY LINTZ
CTW FEATURES

Getting engaged is one of the most exciting moments of any relationship, and then the reality of having to plan a wedding usually starts to set in. For most, a professional wedding planner is out of reach, which means you probably don't know where to start. Luckily, there are entire events dedicated to helping engaged couples through the process: wedding shows.

What to Expect

Typically, a wedding show features numerous vendors displaying their products and services at a large exhibition hall or wedding venue. It's everything you could possibly need to host a wedding – caterers, bakers, florists, venues, photographers and much, much more – all in one place.

"The biggest advantage to attending a wedding fair is that you get to meet face-to-face with wedding professionals," says Alexa Paelmo, marketing for Bay Area Wedding Fairs. "For a couple planning their wedding, it all comes down to meeting a vendor that they work well with, who can capture the couple's vision, and execute an event that reflects the couple's personality."

Wedding fairs also often offer giveaways, discounts and free samples from local vendors as well as fashion shows to high-light bridal gowns, bridesmaid dresses and tuxes designs.

How to Prepare

While the number of choices is convenient in terms of saving time, it can also be overwhelming for inexperienced attendees. Here are a few expert tips so you can approach your first show like a pro and avoid unnecessary mistakes.

1. Create a separate email address.

Most vendors will have places for you to sign up for giveaways, discounts, quotes or just more information. Instead of inundating your main inbox with wedding-related spam, Paelmo advises keeping everything in one place by creating a separate address dedicated solely to wedding planning.

2. Do your research beforehand. "Many Wedding Fairs have a selected preview of vendors that will be exhibiting that can be found on their website or social media," Paelmo says. "If you know what you want ahead of time, you can have a few choices in mind and then you can make an informed decision during the fair."

3. Bring a notebook.

Large wedding fairs can upwards of 100 different vendors, so it's easy to forget information or mix

up caterers if you solely rely on your memory. Old-fashioned note taking is an easy way to ensure your favorite vendor doesn't slip through the cracks, Baxley-Stewart says.

4. Dress for comfort.

While your first instinct may be to dress to impress, wedding shows involve lots of walking, so ditch the heels for a practical pair of flats. At least you'll be sure to get your 10,000 steps in the day! And, if you plan on trying on wedding dresses, be sure to bring the appropriate undergarments

5. Don't go alone.

The biggest mistake brides can make is not bringing the groom, Baxley-Stewart says. "Sometimes guys say, 'It's a girl thing. Go ahead without me.' I think they don't realize how much fun they will really have and how it builds the excitement of the upcoming wedding."

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Alyssa & Aaron

May 25, 2018

*M*y husband, Aaron, and I were married on May 25, 2018. Our ceremony and reception were at The Barn at Glistening Pond in Falls, Pa. We used JustFred Custom Catering for our caterer, Nancy Swiger Photography for our photographer, and Soundstorm Entertainment by Eric Petersen as our DJ. I cannot say enough good things about every single one of those vendors. They all went above and beyond for us and exceeded our expectations. We could not have had a more perfect wedding!



Ceremony & Reception:
The Barn at Glistening Pond, Falls, PA

Catering:
JustFred Custom Catering

Photographer:
Nancy Swiger Photography

DJ:
Soundstorm Entertainment by Eric Peterson





Everything's coming up

Floral

Tips to work with your local florist to get the flowers you want on a budget

PROVIDED

BY LISA IANNUCCI
CTW FEATURES

You're getting married and there is so much to pay for – dresses, tuxes, the band, photographer, cake and, of course, the flowers. There are bouquets for the wedding party, corsages and boutonnieres to consider. You need to stay on budget – no matter what it is – so it's important to work with your local florist to get the flowers you want at a price you can afford. Here are some tips:

1. *Avoid certain holidays.*

First, while it might sound romantic to get married around Valentine's Day and fill your wedding with beautiful red roses, you might want to consider another more budget-friendly date before you even consider the flowers. "Avoid Valentine's Day and Mother's Day because all of the warehouses raise their prices around those two holidays," says Jean Bonk, Red Door Floral Design in Des Plaines, Illinois. "A florist is going to

charge you three times the regular price for roses around that time."

2. *Stay seasonal.*

Whenever you are getting married, talk to the florist about flowers that are seasonal to that month, or you'll be paying more for out-of-season flowers. "For example, lilies are in season in June," says Bonk. "You can also choose year-round flowers like tulips."

3. *Think greenery.*

Flowers are traditional for weddings, but if you're looking to save money and incorporate the outdoors, consider greenery. This is a great idea for winter brides too. "December is the perfect time of the year to include ferns," says Bonk. "You normally associate ferns with your wreath on your mantle, but they can be absolutely beautiful paired with just a few roses."

4. *A rose is a rose, but . . .*

Roses are year-round, but can break a budget if you need to get dozens of them. Instead, consider other, more affordable floral options. Bonk recommends the lisianthus, a rose-like flower. “They’re very, very pretty flowers and they come multiples on a stem, so they’re a great substitute for roses,” she says. “Many people will think they are roses, except they have a yellow center.”

5. *Say bye to bouquets.*

The bride needs a bouquet, the bridesmaids need bouquets and the flower girl may need one too. That’s a lot of flowers, but to save money, Bonk suggests that brides consider single flowers. “Single flowers, such as a ranunculus, are pretty and look like a peony except they are smaller and more budget friendly,” she says. “You can also do your favorite flower as a single stem or two-flower centerpiece to save a lot of money.”

6. *One flower fits all.*

Couples traditionally order flowers for the church or wherever the wedding ceremony is going to take place and then more flowers for the reception. “Tell the florist you want to use the flowers from the wedding ceremony as part of your reception décor, so somebody could just be in charge of transporting them to the reception.”

Bonk says that to stay on budget, you really should share your flowers budget with the florist before you even begin looking.



“Otherwise, they sell this big beautiful dream wedding vision to you and later you find out it’s \$7,000,” she says. “Instead say ‘This is my budget and the flowers I want, what can you do for me?’”

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Jess & Bill

May 27, 2018

How You Met & Engagement

Bill and I met through mutual friends in 2014 at 279 Bar & Grill. I was from Harrisburg and had come to the area for a friend's birthday. The rest is history.

We are huge Penn State fans so when the Nittany Lions were playing in the Rose Bowl on January 2, 2017, we knew we had to go. Bill also knew that was the place he wanted to ask me to be his wife. Through connections in the Penn State Alumni Association, it was arranged to have the engagement on the STAGE of the pep rally the day before the big game. As far as I knew, we had "backstage connections" for the pep rally which I thought was amazing in and of itself. Before I knew it, I was up on stage taking a picture with the Nittany Lion, and Bill was right behind me on one knee ready to pop the question!! To say the least, it was an AMAZING Penn State weekend. We can't wait to have many more.

Wedding Planning

In 2015, Bill and I went to an event that was held in the tent at the Westmoreland Club. Between the beautiful location and the unbelievable food, I knew in that instant that was where I would LOVE to get married. Fast forward

to planning in January 2017 and that is EXACTLY where we started.

Venue: We chose the Westmoreland Club and had the tent outside for both the ceremony and reception. It is truly the hands down best location in all of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Westmoreland Club team did a magnificent job setting up our ceremony and making sure every detail was pristine. They are expert planners and true professionals, as evidenced by the countless events they coordinate each year, so I knew we were in the best of hands.

After the ceremony, our family and friends went inside to the ballroom for an over-the-top cocktail hour which we didn't want to end. As guests congratulated us and toasts were made, the Westmoreland staff was at work transforming our ceremony into our reception. It happened seamlessly and upon completion looked like something out of a magazine. In the hour and a half of the cocktail hour, they transformed the tent into the most breathtaking reception; it was everything we could have dreamed and beyond. Event Coordinator Shauna Strellich, General Manager Robert Williams and team were phenomenal every step of the way – guiding us, calming us and handling the smallest of worries. The cake was baked and prepared in-house by pastry chef Brittany

and was EVERYTHING we could have imagined, from the initial presentation to the end taste! It was so divine that we ordered it from the Club for my birthday a short while after, and I know we'll order it again. P.S. Her pastries are AMAZING, too!

Entertainment: We used NEPA Entertainment – great guys from Mountain Top! Brandon Hacken and Kevin Cronauer started as DJs at their school dances and evolved into one of weddingwire.com's highest rated entertainment companies in the area. They are great to work with, take time to understand your wedding preferences and offer free consultations. They gave us a questionnaire that asked everything and anything about the kind of music we wanted for our big day. It put us at ease since the music choices are such an important part of the festivities. Brandon kept our guests dancing ALL night long! Not just musically talented, the pair also did the up lighting in the tent and our photo booth. The photo booth was something Bill and I were looking forward to because we love capturing the fun times; seeing all of our guests laughing, dancing and celebrating alongside of us meant so much. NEPA Entertainment made a scrapbook of the photos taken with handwritten messages from our guests! Such a thoughtful touch!

Photographer/ Videographer: Knot Just Any Day - They had such amazing ideas for our photos and video; they definitely kept us laughing all day. The whole team was great!

Florist: Floral Designs - The first time we met John and Paul (the owners and creative geniuses) we knew they were a perfect match for us! They are SO easy to work with and SO caring!! They did the most amazing job with the decor and floral. Every single detail from matching the tablecloths to a difficult color to the cake stand and more was just right.

Hair and Makeup: Looking Good All Over Salon & Spa in Moosic – Melissa did the most breathtaking makeup for me and all of my bridesmaids! She is such a natural and did the job with ease. Allie did all of our hair, consisting of low messy buns for my bridesmaids and a half up-half down look for me! She was almost nine months pregnant and about a week away from her due date but KILLED it with our hair. They travelled to the Westmoreland Club and were able to do all of our hair and makeup on location.

Bride's Dress: Lila's Bridal Boutique in York, Pa. - My gown was Allure Bridal. It was strapless with lace and a tulle skirt. Alterations by Liza from Kingston did all of the alterations for my dress, and she was great. My dress needed a lot of work around the lace, and she was the perfect person for the job!

Groom, groomsmen and fathers tuxes: Tuxedo by Sarno - They were Ike Behar tuxes in charcoal with black accents and suspenders, along with black wing tip shoes.

Bridesmaid dresses: Bill Levkoff Design from Gerri Bridal Shop - I chose the color mint for the ladies and the style was a front cross, which was perfect for every body type! It was so flattering on all of my bridesmaids!

Wedding Day

Our wedding day began with weather of 65 degrees and



overcast which we considered idyllic. The bridesmaids started getting ready at the Westmoreland Club at 9 a.m. with mimosas and lunch as all the ladies were having fun, sharing stories and getting ready. The groomsmen arrived at the Club at 1 p.m. and got ready upstairs in the Malt Club – a great spot for men to gather. At 3 p.m. we were getting photographed. The flashes went off so quickly and effortlessly. In no time at all it was 4 p.m. and our guests were arriving! By 4:30, it was hard to believe but I was ready to walk down the aisle to see my husband. We had a short, lovely ceremony surrounded by the most important people in our lives. Following that, everyone was directed to the ballroom for cocktail hour where there were endless passed hors d'oeuvres and a meat and cheese table with a complementary selection of dips. We sat for dinner, enjoyed the festivities, then headed to the dance floor to dance the night away. That's when the fun really began. The music was a perfect mix, and there was never a dull moment! None of this would have been possible without the hard work of our vendors, and we cannot thank them enough. Our day was everything we could have hoped for – and so much more.

Additional details included:

The colors were mint, blush, ivory and charcoal.

The flowers were a mixture of hydrangea, peony, rose, and eucalyptus.

The first song was Perfect - Ed Sheeran feat. Beyonce.



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BY CARLEY LINTZ
CTW FEATURES

While some bridal gown silhouettes never go out of style, every Fashion Week offers new takes on tradition. The 2019 Fall Winter season was no exception; from glittery finishes to modern necklines, there are plenty of fresh looks for soon-to-be brides to draw inspiration from. Here are nine of the latest trends to consider when shopping for your wedding dress.

1. Illusion Necklines

Mock necklines with sheer panels are the perfect compromise between modest and modern. Viktor & Rolf's new bridal line, *Mariage*, for instance features an organza ruffle gown (shown above) with a sweetheart neckline overlaid with a sheer button-down jacket.

2. Royal Inspiration

Another major neckline trend: bateaus. This almost-off-the-shoulder look has been recently popularized by Meghan Markle's dress when she married Prince Harry this spring. Now, practically every designer from Amsale to Lela Rose has a dress with the sleek neckline in their bridal collection.

3. Halter Tops

The new Duchess of Sussex can also be credited with the rise of the halter-top gown. In addition to her Givenchy dress, Meghan Markle sported a second look on her wedding day – a chic Stella McCartney dress with a halter-style neckline. Similar looks, ranging from super simple to highly detailed, were all over the Fashion Week runways.

4. Suiting Up

While dresses are still the most popular option, an increas-

ing number of designers are creating more masculine bridal looks. DB Studio for David's Bridal has a jumpsuit in its collection that ideal for minimalist brides. If you want to make a more powerful statement, consider strutting down the aisle in a bridal suit by Savannah Miller with a tuxedo-style jacket and cropped pants.

5. Big Bustles

Bustles (extra fabric that adds fullness to the back of a skirt) first came into popularity in the late 1800's. Now, they're back but with a twist. Designers like Lela Rose have updated the classic look by mixing fabrics such as lace and satin.

6. Separate Styles

For brides who want to show a bit of skin, separates with a crop top and skirt are a super trendy, yet classy way to bare it. Cushnie's latest collection includes a gown that pairs a boatneck top with a body hugging skirt, while Willowby by Watters has a gown featuring romantic flower appliques on a corset style top and matching sheer organza skirt.

7. Cascading Skirts

Designers like Theia and Hayley Paige took ballgowns to the next level this season by adding asymmetric layers of fabric. The effect looks like ripples and brings dimension and interest to an otherwise classic silhouette.

8. Extravagant Sleeves

When it comes to sleeves this season, bigger seems to be better. Some billow, like the detachable lace sleeves on a gown by Sebastien Luke; others are intricately embellished, like the Volant sleeve tea length dress from Viktor & Rolf; but all are perfect for a bride who wants to make a statement.

9. Higher Hemlines

A long train may be great for walking down the aisle, but it isn't practical for kicking up your heels on the dance floor. That's where the mini after-party dress comes in. Many designers, including Idan Cohen and Vera Wang, presented these shorter gowns alongside floor-length numbers this season for brides that want the best of both worlds.

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Santina & Robert

December 7, 2018

Santina and Bobby met back in grade school. She attended St. Mary's in Pittston, and he attended St. Mary's in Old Forge. They first encountered each other on a wintry night at St. Mary's Old Forge gym during a basketball game. Bobby was an 8th grader and Santina a 7th grader. Bobby was sitting on the bleachers with his friends, and Santina and her friends were standing across the gym. They eventually approached each other with a smile from ear to ear. Throughout the years, they kept in touch, but it wasn't until college when things became more serious. At the end of Santina's freshman year of college, Bobby asked her the first most important question, "Will you be my girlfriend?" They dated for years, knowing that one day it would be something more, and that day finally came on August 18, 2017. Bobby took Santina back to where it all began, at St. Mary's gym in Old Forge, where he asked her the second most important question of her life, "Will you marry me?" She said, YES! They officially tied the knot on December 7, 2018 exchanging their vows at the historic Masonic Temple in Philadelphia followed by dinner and dancing at the Crystal Tea Ballroom.



Ceremony:
Masonic Temple of Philadelphia

Reception:
Crystal Tea Ballroom

Florist:
Carl Alan Floral Designs

Band:
Monte Carlo by EBE

Photographer:
Ralph Deal Photography

Videographer:
Shutter & Sound

Hair & Makeup:
Blush Bar LLC.

Dress Shop:
L&H Bridal

Dress Designer:
Atelier Pronovias Racimo

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BY DENISE K. JAMES
CTW FEATURES

After the flurry of excitement and congratulations from friends and family, the reality of planning a wedding sets in. For even the most enthusiastic couples, it can be a daunting odyssey - but fortunately, it does not have to be. A bit of organization and planning ahead help tremendously, and, when it comes to rentals, having a game plan for the things you need, whether it's a tuxedo, table or event space, will make all the difference between frantic and fabulous wedding prep.

1. *First, determine what you're buying and what you're renting.*

You'll never make a many lists as when you're planning a wedding day. From dance floor songs to perfect venues, list-enthusiasts will truly get their fill. One list that can help couples stay organized early in the process is a "buy or rent" list. Jot down everything that you are planning to buy, versus everything you're planning to rent.

Some commonly rented items include:

- Tables
- Chairs and other seating
- Flatware and dishes
- Lights
- Tents
- Photo booths
- Musical equipment

- Bar
- Any outdoor heating/cooling items such as fire pits, heat lamps, etc.

2. Figure out a ballpark budget.

Once everything has been divided into its designated column, it's time to figure out a rough rental budget. You might even want to start researching ballpark prices for certain items, just to have an idea of what everything costs. (In the next step, you'll research vendors, but it's good to have a rough idea of cost first.) Don't limit cost research to the internet either; ask other recently wed couples what they spent on rental items. Referrals from people you trust are a fantastic way to get started.



3. Narrow down your research with your style.

Researching the correct rental options should be a fairly lengthy process. Ideally, it should involve your budget as well as what you are looking for specifically for each product. Whether your style is bohemian or sleek and modern, you'll need to know before you research where to find it. Your budget, too, will help you figure out what kind of "style" you can truly afford. In today's wedding industry, literally anything you can dream up is out there - but at times it's at a hefty cost.

4. Local or global?

The decision to shop globally or locally is important to today's consumer, and weddings are no exception. You might decide to order items online from a larger website or stick to local "boutique" vendors, and cost, again, is likely to be a factor. If you're following a budget, keep in mind that "accesso-

ries" are likely to make a bigger impact than larger items such as tables, chairs, tents and lights.

5. Have questions prepared.

Once you're in speaks with possible rental companies - we suggest narrowing it down to about three after your research - ask the important questions. Some of these questions



might include:

- Will you set up, or do we need to set up ourselves?
- Will you deliver the items, or do we need to pick them up?
- When are the fees due, including deposit and final payments?
- Have you worked in this

venue before?

- What is your cancellation or refund policy?
- What fees are owed in case of broken dishes or any other incidents?

Once you've gathered answers from your top rental companies, keep track of everything to make comparison shopping easier.

6. Don't forget to plan your timeline and other return logistics.

Returning rentals in a timely fashion is another thing to consider, so don't let it slip your mind. Particularly in the case of a company not picking up their own equipment, you'll want to plan ahead for dates that items are due - someone needs to make sure they get back safely and in good condition. If a deposit is owed, you'll need to get that back as well.



Kelsey & Wyatt

September 15, 2018

It all started in February of 2012. We met through mutual friends and we just texted to get to know each other. Then I graduated high school and Wyatt worked full time. Our first date was July 14, 2012. We did a lot of things! We went to Grotto first, then bowling, then drove around Harveys Lake, and then got Curly Cream. In the fall I went to East Stroudsburg for college, and he went to Harrisburg for landscaping. We had a long-distance relationship for the four years I was in college. We talked about marriage, but I told him to wait to propose until after I graduated, but of course he didn't listen!

He planned a trip to New York City on December 12, 2015 (I only had 1 semester left of school) with some friends and family. He proposed in front of the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center. He then transferred to State College for a foreman position at a landscaping company, and we moved into our apartment in Bellefonte on July 4, 2016. I found a job teaching third grade at a Charter School, and we took in a kitten that we named Nugget. We had an 'I Do Barbeque' as my bridal shower with all our family and friends there to celebrate since I wanted Wyatt to be included, too! We were married at Bell Mountain Estates in Lewistown, Pa on September 15, 2018. In attendance were about 160 guests.

We went with Doan's Bones for some Barbeque style food: pulled pork,

Flowers: Southern Blooms
Catering: Doan's Bones

Venue:
 Bell Mountain Estates,
 Lewistown, PA

barbeque chicken, mashed potatoes (of course!), pasta salad, baked beans, salad, and other similar dishes. I ordered my flowers through Southern Blooms, and all the flowers are made of wood! That means I get to keep the bouquet forever, and it was so much cheaper than real flowers. We had some family involved as well. I had my cousin officiate the wedding and Wyatt's aunt made our wedding cake that we cut as well as over 150 cupcakes! She made vanilla raspberry, s'mores, and a Cinnabon one! I got my wedding dress from a local boutique in Bellefonte called Formalities!

Flash forward to now! We plan on looking for a house in the Lewistown area to call home this spring! Wyatt still works for the same company, and I am currently teaching first grade in the Mifflin County School District.

I once asked Wyatt when he knew that I was the one he wanted to marry, and he said that it was when I was willing to move away from my family and live with him after I graduated. He knows how family oriented I am, and he said it meant a lot to him that I would move away from Mountain Top.

Wyatt and I like to spend time together hiking, kayaking, and trying out different breweries. He's my best friend and my rock. In total we dated for three years, were engaged for three years and now are married for about four months. In the last six years, we made so many wonderful memories, but I know the best memories are the ones yet to come as we journey together as husband and wife!

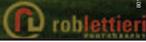
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Kid Things

BY CARLEY LINTZ
CTW FEATURES

We've all heard horror stories of flower girls throwing tantrums rather than petals or ring bearers having an accident in their suits. So, if you're thinking about including children in your upcoming ceremony, here are a few no-nonsense tips for avoiding pint-sized problems on the big day.

Are Kids Required?

First, you and your fiancé should ask yourselves if you want to involve children in your ceremony. Even though some religious ceremonies or traditions call for kids, ultimately, it's your wedding and your call.

"Think about the overall flow and intention you have for the ceremony. What do you want to experience and feel?" advises Krissy Campbell, owner of Simply Be So Events in South Bend, Ind. "If it's important that you involve certain family members, then you may lean toward involving kids. But, if you want the ceremony to have a more formal or intimate feel without a huge bridal party, not involving kids is perfectly fine, too!"

What is the Best Age?

Ideally, Campbell advises choosing children who are around 4-7 years old to participate in the ceremony. Infants and toddlers tend to be more unpredictable and can be easily overwhelmed by the crowd.

"Although most can't help this, if you have an option, I would recommend sticking in this age group, as it is less stressful for parents and others," she says.



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WEDDING CAKE TRENDS FOR 2019

BY LISA IANNUCCI
CTW FEATURES

The couple has said their 'I do's,' and now it's time to celebrate with dancing and cake, of course! In the past, wedding cakes were pure white, simple and elegant, but wedding cakes have come a long way baby. Today, while couples are becoming more daring in wedding cake design, decoration and flavor, others have done away with all that pretty decor and just want to serve something a lot simpler – and even a little naked. Here are some of this year's wedding cake trends:

Simple and Classic

Typically, wedding cakes are lavishly adorned with edible flowers, latticework, and beading and elaborate sugar decorations, but Danielle Rothweiler of Rothweiler Event Design in Verona, New Jersey, says that couples have now asked for wedding cakes that are simple, yet classic. "I am getting requests for cakes that aren't "too much" and that are just decorated with fresh flowers instead of sugary designs," she says.

Some couples still simple wedding cakes, but are opting for a cake decorated with darker colors, such as black buttercream. "It's very modern," says Bunce, who admits her own wedding cake was decorated with a darker chocolate buttercream. "The couples then add bright flowers. I don't

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think this dark trend is going to stay as popular as other trends because it's kind of bold. Also, mothers-in-law don't like black wedding cakes."

Gold Cakes

Wedding cakes are worth much more these days because couples are opting for lavish gold touches. "There must be at least one wedding cake a week that wants a gold accent, whether it's an edible 24-karat gold leaf applied to the cake, a solid tier that's decorated in edible gold, or even a gold cake topper," she says. "It goes with every color and adds a bit of elegance to cakes that are more simplified in design."

Naked Cakes

Say what? No, this is not a wedding cake trend that will make the guests blush. Instead, naked cakes are cakes that are decorated with just a thin coat of buttercream on the outside of the cake, so you can see exactly what you're eating. "It's more of a rustic trend," says Bunce, who thinks that this trend will also die out way before the gold trend will. "The couple typically puts fresh flowers on the outside of the cake too to make it look a little more sophisticated."

Daring Flavors

Wedding cakes aren't just about what they look like, they are about what they taste like too. With tiered wedding cakes, Bunce says that couples are including traditional flavors, such as vanilla and chocolate, in some layers, and more daring flavors on others. "On the smaller tier, they want something funkier, like carrot cake with salted caramel buttercream, or chocolate cake with Oreo buttercream," she says.

Wedding cake alternatives: "More couples are going non-traditional, but they are all reluctant to totally ditch the idea of a wedding cake," says Rothweiler. "I've seen alternatives, like cake pops and mini desserts, but over the past year those items have now been served in addition to a traditional wedding cake."

Groom's Cakes

We all know that weddings are typically about the bride, but now groom's cakes are becoming more popular and pay

homage to the man of the hour.

"The cakes are about something that the groom loves, such as a favorite sport or his alma mater," says Rothweiler. "It's a way for the bride to give something special to the groom."

Bunce recently created a groom's cake that was shaped like a pizza.

"Even if the groom's cake isn't at the wedding it might be at the rehearsal dinner," she says.

It's most important to remember that whatever wedding cake you choose, it should be something you will enjoy and remember forever.

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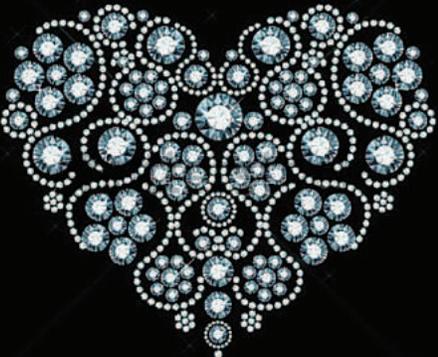
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Jennifer & John

June 29, 2018

My husband and I were married on June 29, 2018 at the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre. Every part of our wedding was held at this location—ceremony, cocktail hour, photos, and reception. We believe in small businesses and supporting them locally, so our rehearsal dinner was hosted in a private upstairs dining area of Kevin's Bar and Restaurant in Kingston. Our photographer was Photography by Jay from Swoyersville, and our DJ was the local and well-known DJ Hersh. He also had an MC. Our flowers were provided by the designs and ideas of Marion Conyngham from Shavertown. Our cake was designed and baked by the new pastry chef at the Westmoreland Club, and the cake's topper was purchased from Florida on Etsy to replicate our dog! A local chef also created an ice sculpture to replicate our dog. Our dog's bandanas for pictures was purchased from Three Dog Bakery in Kingston. Our guestbook was another Etsy purchased and added a unique touch. The seating cards had cape pops added to them, made by a local cape pop artist from Forty-Fort. The groom and groomsmen suits were purchased from Boscov's, and my wedding dress and bridesmaid dresses were purchased from the Dress Lounge in Kingston. The ceremony music was played by a local teacher in my school district. Our rings were purchased from Rainbow Jewelers in Kingston.

Now, onto our story! We were engaged in August 2017 and set the wedding date for as soon as possible. We had a joint shower in February 2018 at Café Rinaldi in Old Forge. Little did we know that in March 2018 I would become hurt and need surgery ASAP. In April 2018 I had two surgeries and other procedures completed. Going into May I had to be hooked up to an IV for antibiotics and still was not recovered. This all happened while planning my wedding (from my couch!). At the time I could barely walk, let alone sit down for a meeting. Everyone who I worked with was beyond

fabulous when helpful in so, so many ways. They were able to break down my options over the phone and email when needed. Still sick the week of my wedding, our rehearsal was simple and quick thanks to the Club, and dinner was perfect.

The next day arriving at the Club was stress-free due to the organization from the Club and everyone I worked with. We got ready using the upstairs. My wedding wouldn't have been a dream come true if it wasn't for the local and small businesses I dealt with. The Westmoreland Club was flexible with our ideas, including a two-hour cocktail party and a smaller dinner choice. The setup was absolutely perfect to be able to socialize with family and friends.

Venue:

The Westmoreland Club, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Rehearsal Dinner:

Kevin's Bar and Restaurant, Kingston, PA

Photographer:

Photography by Jay, Swoyersville, PA

DJ:

DJ Hersh

Flowers:

Marion Conyngham, Shavertown, PA

Groom and Groomsmen Suits:

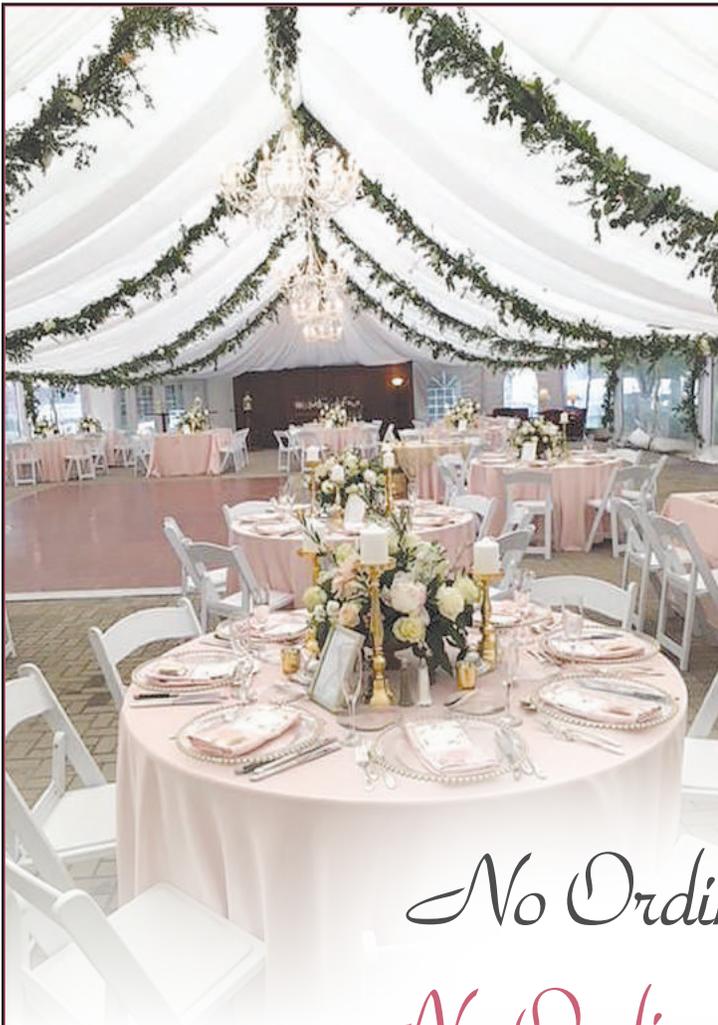
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Dress Lounge, Kingston, PA

Rings:

Rainbow Jewelers, Kingston, PA



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Abbey & Dion
September 15, 2018

How You Met & Engagement

Dion and I met back in 2012. I worked in a local coffee shop, The Coffee Table, while I was completing my master's degree. Dion is a local police officer, so I would see him frequently at the coffee shop during my work shift. We started dating in June 2012. We dated for five years until he popped the question on June 8, 2017. He proposed to me at the beach while on my family vacation at Myrtle Beach, S.C. After celebrating that night, we both went into wedding planning mode! With lots of help from our family, friends and our amazing bridal party, the wedding date, location and wedding details fell into place.

I am from Hughestown, Pa and went to high school at Pittston Area and obtained my bachelor's degree in Health Science and a master's degree in Speech Language Pathology from Misericordia University. I currently work as a Speech Language Pathologist at a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center. My parents' names are Robert and Karen Mitchell from Hughestown, Pa.

Dion is from Wyoming, Pa and went to high school at Wyoming Area, then college at Luzerne County Community College, Lackawanna College and completed the police academy. He is currently working as a local police officer. His parent's names are Earlene Fernandes and Dennis Fernandes of Wyoming, Pa.

Wedding Day

Ceremony: We were married on Sept. 15, 2018 at St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Pittston. Father Alco celebrated the Mass at 1 p.m.

Venue: Our cocktail hour and reception was held at Irem Clubhouse in Dallas (cocktail hour was 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m.) We danced and partied the night away until 11 p.m.

Photographer: Our photographer was Dave Gardner and his two assistants of StillsImage Photography. Pictures were taken throughout various locations in Pittston: on Main Street in Pittston, at St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church and on the grounds of Irem.

Entertainment: Our entertainment, which included a photo mirror, starlight dance floor, a DJ, uplighting, drone for video and videographer and monogram was done by 570 Entertainment.

Jewelry: We got our rings from Rainbow Jewelers in Kingston.

Bride's and Bridesmaid Dresses: Bridal dress and bridesmaid dresses were from Dress Lounge in Edwardsville.

Groom and Groomsmen Tuxedos: The men's tuxes were from Tuxedo by Sarno in Pittston. Invitations were from Community Bake Shop.

Hair and Makeup: Bridal and bridal party makeup and hair were done by Union and Main Hair Design in Wilkes Barre.

Flowers: Florist was Flowers R Us in Pittston Township.

Rehearsal Dinner: Rehearsal dinner was at Valenti's in Exeter.

Our wedding cake and all food was done by Irem Clubhouse. I also had my bridal shower at Irem Clubhouse on June 8, 2018.

Reception and cocktail hour at Irem Clubhouse on Sept. 15, 2018.

We went to Punta Cana on our honeymoon.

We reside locally and will be welcoming our first child in July of 2019.


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Mckenna & Colin

August 12, 2018

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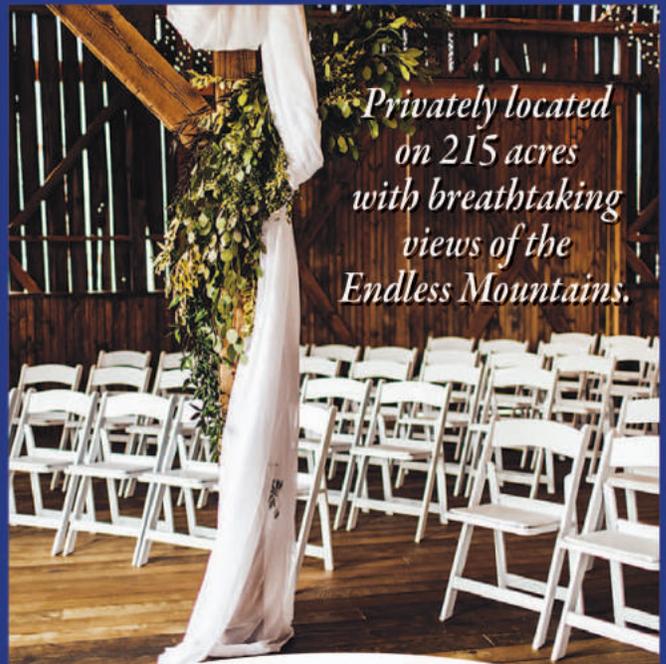


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