

2012 CENTRAL WASHINGTON BRIDAL SHOW

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NEW YORK STYLE FASHION SHOW 3 P.M. AND 4 P.M.

JANUARY 8, 2012
YAKIMA CONVENTION CENTER

on the stage

SCENE 1

Bridal Gowns:

Lin-Paul's Bridal & Tuxedo

Flowers: *Design Artistry*

Jewelry: *Cookie Lee Jewelry*

Hair and Makeup: *Studio 16*

SCENE 2

Wedding Party Fashions:

Fashion Corner

Flowers: *Something Blue Floral*

Jewelry: *Cookie Lee Jewelry*

Hair and Makeup: *Studio 16*

SCENE 3

Menswear:

Lin-Paul's Bridal & Tuxedo

SCENE 4

Fashions: *Fashion Corner*

Jewelry: *Cascade Garden*

Hair and Makeup: *Studio 16*

SCENE 5

Wedding Party Fashions:

Lin-Paul's Bridal & Tuxedo

Flowers: *Blooming Elegance*

Jewelry: *Cookie Lee Jewelry*

Hair and Makeup: *Studio 16*

SCENE 6

Bridal Gowns: *Fashion Corner*

Flowers: *Melia's Floral*

Jewelry: *Cookie Lee Jewelry*

Hair and makeup: *Studio 16*

SCENE 7

Grand finale: *All Models*

Sound and lighting by Entertainment Plus Disc Jockey



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2012 welcome! central washington bridal show

YAKIMA — Organizers of the 29th annual Central Washington Bridal Show have planned some exciting changes for this year's event, including the show's return to the Yakima Convention Center after two decades away.

In 1982, the area's first bridal show featured eight exhibitors meeting at a hotel on North First Street that's now the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center. Disc jockey Joe Hiner of Sound Shows recalls building lighting structures for that first fashion show — because nobody in Yakima had the appropriate equipment.

"So many people showed up, we had to put on two fashion shows," Hiner recalls.

This year, the bridal show will again host two fashion shows, at 3 p.m. and again at 4 p.m., promising to be "the most electric and technologically advanced fashion show we have ever produced." Staged in the south ballroom, each show will seat 500 guests.

The New York style fashion shows will feature bridal gowns and formalwear, hair, makeup, flowers and jewelry. Improvements to the fashion show are one of the many reasons for the bridal show's move back to the Yakima Convention Center after years at the Yakima SunDome, says bridal show association president Darin Clark.

"As the producers of the show, we didn't feel we put on quite the show that the brides deserved," says Clark, owner of Entertainment Plus Disc Jockey. After hosting at the convention center for several years in the 1980s, the bridal show outgrew the facility and moved to the fairgrounds. The SunDome had ample space, but lacked



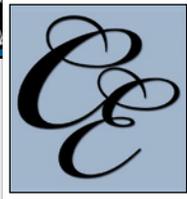
MEMORY MONTAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

ambiance and a proper staging area for a runway fashion show, Clark says. Now it's time to move back to the remodeled and expanded convention center.

"We'll be able to bring the large fashion show back and take care of everybody in a classier atmosphere."

Also new to this year's show is this bridal guide, *Bliss*. Loaded with local vendors and resources for Central Washington brides, we hope you find this magazine helpful with your planning.

Thank you for attending the 2012 Central Washington Bridal Show!



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bliss magazine | JANUARY 2012

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justine & mario
7.29.11

Ellensburg natives Justine MacRae and Mario Magnotti tied the knot July 29th at Cascade Garden in Yakima. The colors were plum and lime green. The favors were wrapped chocolate bars and lavender sachets made by the bride. The bride's mother made the cake and the flowers were done by family friends.

Photographs by Kira Baron Photography.





Choosing an officiant

OBTAINING A MARRIAGE LICENSE is likely one of the simplest tasks you'll cross off your wedding to-do list.

In Washington, there's a three-day waiting period after your application is filed with the county auditor's office until your marriage license is valid, so you'll need to apply at least three days prior to exchanging vows. A marriage license is valid for 60 days anywhere in the state.

Expect to pay a non-refundable fee (\$64 in Yakima County, cash only). A keepsake certificate or certified copies (needed for name change) will carry an additional fee.

Blood tests are not required. Both parties must be at least 18 years old (17 under some circumstances) and visit the courthouse together to submit the application.

You'll need to bring photo ID and your Social Security numbers, if applicable, as well as the names of your parents and their birth state or country.

No witnesses are needed to obtain a marriage license, but state law requires at least two witnesses be present at the ceremony. Only a judge or licensed or ordained minister can perform the ceremony.

For more details, contact the Yakima County Auditor's office at 509-574-1330. In Kittitas County, call 509-962-7504.

— Sara Bristol

Finally! The day has come. Everything is perfect: your dress, shoes, hair, makeup and flowers. You're walking down the aisle, locking eyes with your soon-to-be husband. With each step your heart beats a little faster. You make it to the end, holding hands with your groom, fighting back the tears as you stand in silence waiting for the preacher to start the ceremony. But no one is talking, whispers can be heard throughout the crowd. It finally dawns on you: "Where's the preacher?!" "There's no preacher?!" "Oh my gosh we never booked a preacher?!"

Planning a wedding is stressful, which can lead to forgetting one of the most important factors: an officiant.

According to Sarah Nelson from Couture Events, choosing your officiant is the most important part of your wedding.

"They are at the center of attention at the ceremony, besides the bride and groom."

Nelson says that the first thing a couple needs to do is determine what they want. The minister of their church? Someone they have known for years? A judge at a courthouse? The advice that she gives her clients is to schedule a meeting with two or three officiants.

"It's important that you interview them," she suggests. "You want to make sure to make a connection and open up your options." She suggests whoever you choose should be a good public speaker. This will allow for a smooth ceremony that flows in the best way possible.

According to Yakima florist Lori Osborn, owner of Blooming Elegance, an officiant is usually determined by what denomination the couple is. Osborn says that most couples go through their own church, but for those who are not members of a church you can browse around



KIRA BARON PHOTOGRAPHY

online to find an officiant near you. When choosing an officiant, Osborn suggests thinking first whether you want a male or female, how long you want the ceremony to last, do you have a unity candle and how many songs are going to be played.

Some couples don't care who marries them, but some do, Osborn notes. "And in that case they want to make it personal," she says. "Which usually means that they already have someone lined up."

The Rev. Darin Clark, an ordained minister with offices in Yakima and Ellensburg, understands the importance of planning ahead. He asks that he receive at least six-months notice. Some churches require that you take marriage classes and some require that you physically attend their church service. As for Clark, he doesn't require anything. His average price for performing a wedding is \$150.



RED LION HOTEL
YAKIMA CENTER

My advice for 2012 brides is to have a budget and headcount in order prior to meeting with facilities and caterers. This will save you time and money!

Erica Moloney
Red Lion Hotel

Dunbar Jewelers

With this ring...

Clark performs around 200 weddings a year.

"I love seeing the joy, the love and the happiness that is there," he says, adding that knowing he is able to help is his favorite part of performing a wedding.

For newlyweds Jason and Leslie Lane, choosing their officiant was simple. They had been attending a church for a number of years and knew that they wanted their pastor and close friend to marry them.

"We knew him, trusted him and he was free," Leslie says.

Because of this they say their wedding was more personal and special. When they were up at the alter they felt comfortable in front of all of their friends and family.

"Our whole entire ceremony was perfect," Leslie says. "And I would have to say it was because of who we chose to marry us."

The only piece of advice that the couple has for a bride and groom looking for an officiant is to choose wisely. They said to choose someone who you are comfortable with, familiar with and who you can connect with. These are all very important factors when wanting your ceremony to run smoothly. ■



Make sure the design and size of your wedding cake compliments the other elements of your reception. A small cake is "lost" in a large room. A whimsical style doesn't compliment an elegant, lavish wedding.

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Saying 'I do'

Will you promise to love, cherish and obey? The marriage ceremony is all about you and your betrothed making a commitment to one another.

But when the time comes, what exactly will you say? We browsed the internet for some fun suggestions:

From the Bible:

1 Corinthians. 13:4-13

Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest of these is love.

Add your hobbies and interests

I, George, take you Sandra, to be my spouse, on the golf course or in front of the shopping channel, at the computer or with the bridge club, as long as we both shall live. (Sandra repeats vow to George)

Inspired by Dr. Seuss

Minister: *Will you take her as your wife? Will you love her all your life?*

Groom: *Yes, I take her as my wife. Yes, I'll love her all my life.*

Minister: *Will you have, and also hold Just as you have at this time told?*

Groom: *Yes, I will have, and I will hold, Just as I have at this time told, Yes, I will love her all my life As I now take her as my wife.*

Add an extra promise or two

"I promise to make your favorite chocolate-chip pancakes on Saturdays."

Or, as Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston promised each other, *"I vow to split the difference on the thermostat."*

Skip the prenup

Groom: *I, Mark, take you Jane, to be my lawfully wedded wife, to have and to hold and to be financially responsible for from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish; from this day forward until death do us part.*

Bride: *I, Jane, take you Mark, to be my lawfully wedded husband... for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, for when you buy all those expensive toys...*

Work the officiant into the fun

Officiant to Bride: *Do you promise to love, honor, cook for, clean up after, surrender your share of the blanket to, live with the flatulence of, relinquish the remote to and lift the toilet seat for until death do you part?*

Officiant to Groom: *You have the right to remain silent, anything you say may be held against you, and you have the right to have an attorney present. You may kiss the bride.*

Rework the traditional phrases

Instead of saying "til death do us part" try using "to infinity and beyond."

Yes, Dear

Bride to groom: *Early in our marriage you will find it difficult to get the last word in any discussion. With time, though, you will learn how to always get the last two words in every discussion. Just make sure the words are "Yes dear."*

Who's in Charge?

Minister to Bride: *Do you take this man to be your husband?*

Bride: *I do.*

Minister to Groom: *Do you take this woman to be your wife?*

Bride: *He does.*



Don't forget hotel accommodations for your out-of-town guests by arranging a block of rooms at a special rate and book early!

Hope Fulcher
Oxford Inn & Suites



When choosing your venue, look for the extra touches that will make your day even more memorable. Your perfect setting will provide the right decor, architectural detailing and romantic lighting to reflect your personal style.

Wendy St. George
Sawyer House



Start caring for your skin now. Makeup should be simple and natural so it's your face that is noticed, not your makeup. Call to set up your complimentary appointment, or make it a girlfriends party.

Cheryl Kjellan
Mary Kay Cosmetics

Building a bilingual ceremony

The date has been set and it's time to start nailing down the details, but your family speaks Spanish, his speaks English, and both sides want to attend the wedding and understand what's happening during the exchange of vows.

For Lizeth Duran, who married her college sweetheart David Rittenhouse in August, it meant taking time to sit down and talk to her family about the Mexican traditions that she could incorporate into her wedding day. She made sure to take time to call her more traditional grandmother, who used to work as a seamstress in Mexico, specializing in wedding dresses.

It was important to Lizeth and David that their wedding be as multicultural as possible with members of Lizeth's family flying in from Mexico to attend the ceremony.

"I took a lot of time trying to make it very equal as far as traditions go," Lizeth says. "It took some time and thought to make sure it showed both sides."

Planning bicultural weddings poses unique challenges, from picking the primary language of the ceremony to the playlist for the reception, according to event planner Sarah Nelson, of Couture Events. These simple tips from Nelson can help make the planning process go smoothly.

Traditions of Value

"Both cultures have things they want to do that are important to them in the wedding, and it's important for both people to find out what they specifically want the ceremony or reception to include," Nelson says.

Nelson recommends sitting down and making a list of the traditional elements that you would like to include in the day's events, including foods, music,

language and custom. Talk to your partner about what you want to include and why it's important to you. And be ready to compromise.

"There's going to be some things you probably omit because you're trying to make the other one feel comfortable and make everybody happy," Nelson says.

To celebrate Lizeth's Mexican heritage, the Rittenhouses chose to incorporate the Lasso, a large circular garland draped around the couple in a large figure eight after they exchanged vows to signify their unity. In keeping with tradition, Lizeth asked her godparents to provide the lasso and drape it around the couple during the ceremony, then remove it before they left the stage.

The couple also embraced American traditions such as the tossing of the bridal bouquet and the flinging of the garter belt before the reception started. The couple performed a dollar dance during which guests could pin money to the bride and groom to dance with them.

Invitations

Invitations printed in both English and Spanish give the guests a heads-up that the wedding will be bicultural. It also saves the time and expense of printing separate sets of invitations in both languages.

"That'll give them the idea that when they come there will be both languages spoken at the ceremony," Nelson says. "If they get an English-language invitation and they don't speak it, they may be wondering, Why would I go to this if I'm not going to understand it anyway?"

Sending out multiple sets of invitation can be time consuming and can lead to a headache if it's not done in an organized

CONTINUED >>



Global traditions

From lavish gifts to elaborate decorations, weddings around the world are celebrated with time-honored traditions to insure long, happy and fruitful unions. Here are some unique traditions:

In Fiji it's customary for the groom to present the bride's father with a whale tooth to symbolize status and wealth.

In Germany, friends and family publish a wedding newspaper filled with stories, pictures and articles about the engaged couple. The newspaper is sold during the reception to help pay for the wedding room.

A traditional Moroccan wedding can last from four to seven days, and on her wedding day the bride takes a purifying milk bath before her hands and feet are painted with henna.

Red is the theme of many Chinese weddings because it symbolizes love, joy and prosperity. It can be found on the wedding invitations, gifts and decorations.

Icelandic couples publicly announce their engagement three times — at the bride's church, the groom's church and the church where they will be married.

In the Czech Republic, friends of the bride will plant a tree in her yard and decorate it with ribbons and painted eggshells.

Red and yellow are the traditional colors for the bride's veil in Greece. Symbolizing fire, the veil will protect the bride from demons and evil spirits.

In Panama, grooms traditionally give their new brides 13 gold coins that have been blessed by the priest during the ceremony to show that they are committed to supporting their new bride.

--Traditions from
www.worldweddingtraditions.com

Bilingual | FROM PAGE 13

fashion. The last thing the bride needs to worry about is whether her grandmother got her invite in the right language.

Bilingual ceremony

Having the ceremony, vows and reception in both Spanish and English was very important to Lizeth, especially since some of her relatives didn't speak English.

"It's definitely something that can be accommodated and it's something really easy," Nelson says. She recommends meeting with the interpreter before the ceremony to make sure you feel comfortable with them and that they are confident speaking in both languages.

It's also important to get the interpreter a copy of everything that's going to be said during the ceremony, including toasts if possible, a few days before the wedding so they can have everything translated in time.

Lizeth and David translated their own vows but had their officiant provide a copy of the ceremony to their translator before the event. The best man also worked with the translator before the ceremony began so his speech was bilingual.

Mixing Faiths

Weddings and religion tend to go hand in hand, but it can be a source of tension if the families are of different faiths. Though the majority of Mexican wedding traditions revolve around Catholicism, Lizeth is not a practicing Catholic and David is a Unitarian.

"I still wanted to honor my family's beliefs, so I included some Catholic traditions in there," says Lizeth.

The couple spoke with their officiant, a priest from David's church, about incorporating various Catholic traditions.

As it turns out, the Unitarian church is much more open to incorporating aspects from other religions.

"He was really good about letting us do whatever we wanted for the ceremony," she recalls.

Music

To make sure that the music was a mix, the couple hired a mariachi band to play during dinner. "I thought it was a cool tradition, very Mexican, that I thought everybody would enjoy, and I had a lot of people tell me that it was something they enjoyed," Lizeth says.

A disc jockey who was accustomed to playing at Latin American events played during the reception. The DJ spoke both English and Spanish and took requests for both American and Mexican music.

"It really shows the unity of the couple in the first place, making sure that the important issues on both sides of the culture are intertwining, because they do come from different places and different customs," says Nelson. "It just signifies that they are accepting one another's differences."

Remember to relax

No matter what traditions or cultural aspects you include, some friends and family members might pressure you to incorporate more of one culture than the other. Remember that it's all right to say "no" to pushy relatives and plan the wedding you want.

"Do what feels right to you. Don't feel like everything has to be perfect. There's always pressure to have more of the traditions that are particular for each culture," says Lizeth. "Remember it is your day. Go with your gut." ■



If you can splurge on one floral item, splurge on your bridal bouquet. Your bouquet will be closely photographed, and should be every bride's perfect accessory.

Alyson Mackay
Something Blue Floristry



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Laura Schactler
Yakima String Quartet



Be sure to choose and secure your salon needs a minimum of 12 weeks before the wedding. Have your color and cut two weeks prior (three weeks if choosing a new color), mani-pedi-waxing one week prior. And don't forget the groom and groomsmen!

Andi Plughoff
Studio 16



Think about color coordination for your wedding photos when planning your venue, attire and decor. Bright pink bridesmaids could clash with a red barn, and dark bridesmaids dresses will disappear against darker green scenery.

Amy Guild
Memory Montage Photography

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Inviting kids

Children are often excluded from ceremonies and receptions to avoid planning for the age-impaired. For some couples, however, it wouldn't be right without kids laughing and running around, keeping things in perspective for the serious adults. There are many ways to keep children entertained at a wedding – some more complex than others.

Here are some ways to keep your special day kid-friendly without being conquered by them:

From easy to elaborate, 8 ideas to keep the little ones happy:

1. Use butcher paper on tables instead of cloth; crayons can be incorporated into cute table settings.
2. Most weddings don't have a children's menu, but if you're expecting more than a few tykes at your reception, ask your caterer if they can prepare chicken nuggets, pizza or PB&J sandwiches.
3. Ask the DJ to bring a few kids' songs to get them out on the dance floor.
4. Goodie bags: bubbles, small toys, coloring books, puzzles. Be sure to check for small parts that could be dangerous for younger children.
5. Set up a mini-movie theater. This can be as simple as a small television or as whimsical as a hanging sheet and projector for an outdoor showing. (Keep in mind that parents may have differing opinions on what's child-appropriate. Be sure to inform them of what movie or cartoon you'll be screening.)
6. A craft table for older children is an excellent opportunity for them to make something fun to keep or to give to the newlyweds. Make it simple and fun:
 - Collect old bridal magazines and have the kids make a collage
 - Decorate a frame or jewelry box
 - Arrange a small bouquet



MEMORY MONTAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

- Paint water-color portraits of the bride and groom

7. Hire someone or ask a family member to take a hand-held video camera around to interview the kids old enough to talk. Ask questions like: "What does 'marriage' mean?" "How does love work?" or "Will you ever get married?" The answers will be funny, adorable, and surprisingly insightful.

8. If there are enough older children, have someone teach them a short, easy song to sing for the bride and groom.

Cry Room and Mini-Daycare

Your guests know that babies cry, so it's not the end of the world if a baby or a toddler starts to do so during the vows. But if your venue has the space, many parents would like to be able to slip away from the ceremony to a nearby room while their child fusses.

During the reception, the most valuable kid-feature you can have is a space just for kids. This could mean a few tables partitioned off to the side or an entire room. Consider hiring a babysitter or two to keep track of the kids and help entertain them. Care-providers can also help guide and organize the unique activities you've planned.

When sending invitations:

Ask your guests to inform you if they'll be bringing children and if they have any special needs or a favorite, simple activity that could be arranged. If you'll be providing a special section or room for children, encourage them to bring one, small comforting toy.

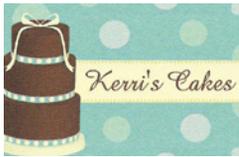
If you're unsure if parents would make use of a daycare-like room set up at the ceremony or reception, just ask: "Please check the box if you would appreciate temporary care for your child while attending."

Finally, you're not alone if you would rather not have guests under a certain age. The unwritten rules of etiquette imply that only the persons named on the invitation are invited. If it says "and family" after those names, then children are welcome. However, many guests won't get that hint. Politely explain the situation to your guests in one simple sentence: "We respectfully ask that children do not attend the ceremony/festivities." You can always compromise by adding, "but are welcome to join us at the reception." ■

DAVID DICK PHOTOGRAPHY

Talk to your photographer about where they are going to be during the ceremony. Nobody wants their special moment interrupted by an overly aggressive photographer or special moments missed by someone hidden in the back row.

David Dick
David Dick Photography



When shopping for a wedding cake, always ask to taste the product and make sure it is the same product you will receive for your finished product. Also ask to see real photos done by the decorator themselves.

Kerri Tait
Kerri's Cakes

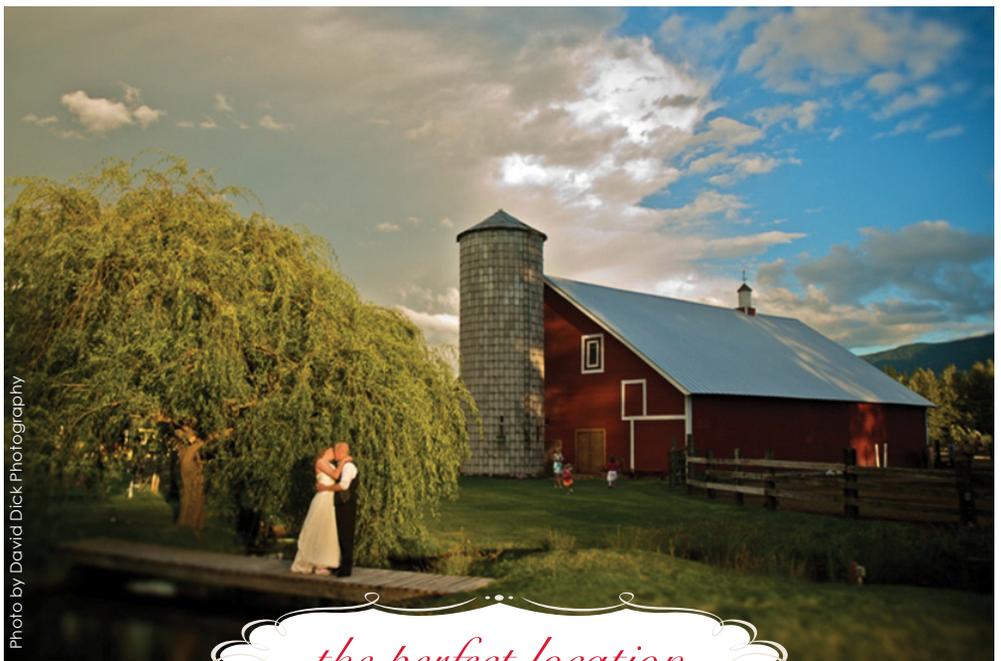


Photo by David Dick Photography

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Photo booth fun

Do you remember going to the fair with friends and piling into a photo booth, posing with silly faces and waiting in anticipation for your photos to print out?

Believe it or not, there are companies that rent out photo booths for special occasions like weddings. "People have a lot of fun with it," says Annie Radosevich, owner of Homeplace Photo Booth.

Starting at \$600 for two hours, the Yakima company rents out a photo booth that can fit up to 10 people inside. Guests can pose with a fun props, then print out a sheet with four images to take home. The bride and groom receive a disc with all of the images.

Another option: Have your photographer set up a photo-booth-like area to add some spontaneous fun to the festivities.

"The biggest advantage of having a photo booth is that it gives your guests something fun and lighthearted to do if you do have larger gaps between events like the bouquet and garter toss," says Tavis Guild of Yakima-based Memory Montage Photography.

Memory Montage Photography provides a backdrop and a variety of props such as feather boas, funny hats and a chalkboard to write a message to the couple, with a photographer there to shoot the photos.

The photo booth is set up at the reception, and closes during special moments, such as toasts to the bride and groom.

According to Guild, having a photographer shoot the photos allows for better quality photos, which guests can access online soon after the wedding.

"Some people use the photos for their Christmas cards," Guild says.

The bride and groom can opt for an off-white backdrop or make their own using their wedding colors or theme (so long as the material doesn't cause a reflection).

The couple can also bring any props that they would like guests to use during the photo shoot, Guild says. Fake mustaches are a favorite.

Memory Montage Photography offers packages with a photo booth option included, and it can be added to a package a la carte. ■

— Lindsay Trott

Prop ideas

- Chalkboard
- Colorful wigs
- Feather boas
- Flower leis
- Mardi Gras beads
- Sunglasses of all sizes
- Bubbles
- Pirate props: a fake parrot, eye patches, swords, a hook, gold jewelry
- Tiaras and crowns
- Smiles on a stick
- Mustaches on a stick
- Funny hats: cop, explorer, jester, construction worker

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Boeing engineers Maggie Ramirez and Brandon Brown exchanged vows on July 25, 2011 at Cascade Garden in Yakima. Maggie is a 2005 graduate of Sunnyside High and Brandon is a 2005 graduate of Toppenish High. Cake by Kerri's Cakes of Yakima. Photographs by Memory Montage Photography.





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Creating new traditions

*Something old, something new,
something borrowed, something blue*
— Traditional

Doing things the way they have always been done, generation to generation, is the essence of traditions and can sometimes be the most unforgettable moments at your wedding. But why not break out of the box and try something new?

Modern weddings are all about personalization and special touches. Adding your own pizzazz and creating new rituals will make your wedding really about you as two individual people uniting as one.

Today's couples are creating a less formal and more intimate wedding experience for themselves as well as guests with these new traditions. After all, you're the one who will live forever with these memories.

Not Your Mother's Dress

Let's face it... wearing your mother's wedding dress is not exactly the most practical idea. Whether it's a size issue — not all of us take after our mothers — or just that her dress just doesn't strike your fancy, you can still honor your mom on your big day.

Ask your mother if you can use pieces of her dress to create unique embellishments for your outfit. Use a wide piece to wrap around the base of your bridal bouquet. If you want to integrate it into your actual dress, have a seamstress design a sash to go around your waist. You can even create a hair clip or headpiece that has beads or lace from your mother's dress. Get creative!

Trash the Dress!

An entire dress made of white is



intimidating. Worrying too much about soiling it can ruin a great reception, and it's a shame to spend months searching for the most magnificent dress only to wear it once and never again. Why not find a reason to put it back on?

Photographers are now doing after-the-wedding sessions with brides taking their dresses to less than pristine areas for a thorough trashing. You can keep these photos just for your own personal memories, or use them when you're sending out thank you cards to your wedding guests.

Yakima wedding photographer Melissa Vicente of Melissa Michelle Reflections says trash-the-dress sessions have been some of her favorite photo shoots.

"My favorite trash-the-dress session would have to be the one I did in Kauai,

Hawaii. We started off with beautiful pictures in different locations, walking along the beach, on a golf course, then we got real messy!" says Vicente. "We hiked to these waterfalls, and the bride and groom just jumped from the top of it, into the water — wedding dress, tux and all. They just wanted to play and swim around together at the bottom of the waterfall. It was gorgeous."

Grab your groom and get messy with him. Do something you enjoy doing together where a wedding dress wouldn't necessarily be appropriate attire. Flaunt your quirky side, even your hobbies. Some brides who are artists use paint to splatter around. If you're outdoorsy, go into the woods, jump in a river, ride a horse. Have an adventure. The possibilities are endless.

"The funniest thing was that I ended up



MELISSA MICHELLE REFLECTIONS

getting muddier than the bride did,” says Vicente. “Then after we were done and went back to the hotel, the bride took off her wet dress, put it in a trash bag and she was good to go! We’ve even done another trash-the-dress session since then because she loved it so much.”

*Don’t worry—after you’re done with your session, depending on what you choose to do, you can send your dress off to a dry cleaner; the cost of cleaning a dress is about \$75-\$100 in the Yakima area. A professional cleaner can work magic restoring dresses back to normal. You may want to check before your photo shoot to ensure you’re rolling in elements they can get out! (Dirt is usually okay, grass not so much.) This way you can save the gown for your daughter if you’d like.

Showcase the Shoes

What you wear on your feet has now become a centerpiece of your pictures, traditions and the reception. Starting a tradition that includes your bridesmaids or groomsmen can be memorable for your special friends.

Instead of just the chance to catch the bouquet, have all the single ladies or gents in your wedding party sign the bottom of your wedding shoes with a permanent marker before you put them on for the big day. At the end of the night, before you jet off to your honeymoon, check the bottom of your shoes: whichever name is the most legible is said to be the next to wed.

Two Left Feet

It’s said that the man who created heels didn’t have to wear them. Stilettos do not have to be your first choice — and unless you’re used to wearing them, they shouldn’t be. Many modern brides are choosing to wear shoes that make their feet happy, all day and all night. The white wedding dress is undoubtedly the most carried on tradition in weddings throughout the years, but modern brides are also opting to express their personalities through their shoe choices.

From sneakers to flip flops all the way to cowboy boots, shoes can be great for pictures and comfort and showing your guests who and what you as a bride are really all about.

Show your flair with bright colored shoes that match your bridesmaid dresses, tune into your inner animal with zebra or cheetah print, or even find an

CONTINUED >>



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Traditions | FROM PAGE 23

unforgettable pair of vintage heels to really make you feel like a 1950s Hollywood starlet. The best part — a white gown goes with pretty much anything. So you can break out of the white satin pumps because the idea of combining comfort and drop-dead gorgeous shoes isn't that farfetched!

These days, brides choosing to creatively express themselves with their kicks have become a growing trend, not just for walking down the aisle, but for wedding photography as well. There is no such thing as a foot faux pas; you can show off your polished toes in your pictures too. Kira Baron of Yakima's Kira Baron Photography has used shoes as the inspiration for many of her brides' memories. She incorporated shoes in a creative and playful way with the bridezilla shoe looking like it was going to crush the groom and groomsman. These lighthearted pictures are great to look back on for a laugh about how much fun you had on your big day.

Wedding Favors

The old traditions of giving guests sweets like candy-coated almonds to represent health, wealth, fertility, happiness and long life have great meaning behind them, but why not give your guests a wedding favor they can actually put to use?

"I looked at lots of wedding websites to see what they recommended as summer wedding favors, and honestly, chocolate is a terrible idea for 70-plus degree weather. Horrible idea," says newlywed Natalie Gordinho.

The thought of melting wedding favors alone was enough to change the bride's mind from the traditional foodie favors. Instead, try giving your guests unique take-homes like seeds to plant or a sheer



KIRA BARON PHOTOGRAPHY



MMP

organza bag of loose lavender or other scent they can put under their pillows or in their car.

"I have loved the smell of lavender since I can remember. When Chris and I started dating, one of our first camping trips was a trip to the Lavender Festival in Sequim, Wash., the lavender capital of North America. So it had some personal memories that made it more special."

"The lavender sachet was perfect because it fit our theme, was special to Chris and I, and it can be enjoyed for years to come," remarks Gordinho.

Instead of a tangible gift, some couples have chosen to donate to a charity on behalf of their guests. You can give them a small keepsake envelope and card to commemorate the charity you donated to.

These alternative favors still retain the tradition of thanking your guests by being presented in a decorative way. Favors can be an inexpensive way to show your

guests gratitude for joining you on your special day, as well a reminder for days to come of how much fun they had!

Little Traditions

Details can make all the difference. You don't always have to be extravagant to shine through as a couple. Little traditions can be sweet and simple.

Mail your guests their guest book cards before the wedding. This way they don't feel like they are rushed and can give you heartfelt responses and memories of you two. You can even ask for answers to specific questions or tips for married life, or propose your guests write you a goal to accomplish once you're hitched.

Have your DJ do a reverse wedding dance. Honor guests who have been married for a long time. The DJ calls all the married couples to the dance floor, and slowly whittles them down by years they've been married. It provides a laugh



MEMORY MONTAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

for the guests when the DJ calls the newlyweds off first by asking everyone who's been married for less than 24 hours to leave the floor! It gets your guests involved in the reception. As another special touch, you can incorporate the first song your parents danced to at their wedding

Go green. Eco-friendly wedding invitations are another new trend for today's engaged couples. To save paper, couples are incorporating more wedding details and even RSVP options on their personalized wedding websites, or going electronic for everything including invitations, details and RSVPs. You can also minimize by including the RSVP as a simple self-addressed post card and use recycled paper for invitations. Or check out new papers infused with seeds for planting. ■



Choose a photographer for their style and personality. You will spend a lot of time with your photographer on your wedding day and you are trusting them to capture the memories of your special day.

Jesse Cunningham
Jesse Cunningham Photography

Le Château

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Roger Wilson
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What if the best man is Man's best friend?

Not all members of your wedding party have to walk on two legs. Pets and animals can add personality, whimsy and humor to your special day – and photo sessions with your domesticated friend can deliver especially endearing memories for your new family.

But it's not for every couple or wedding venue. "Sometimes [animals] can steal the show" for better or for worse, says Bryan Ritter, owner of the Ritter Farms ceremony site in Cle Elum.

Here are some hints for including your feathered, furry or scaly family member into your big day.

Know yourself

Even with weeks or months of practice, "it will still be an unpredictable situation" when animals are involved, says event planner Sarah Nelson of Selah-based Couture Events. Bride-zillas may want to skip the headache and have someone bring the pet by for a visit during the reception or photo session.

Casual, formal, outdoor, indoor; pets are possible in almost every setting, but perfection is not. "Sometimes you just have to roll with it," Nelson says. Be prepared with a back-up plan in case something goes wrong – there is no shame in giving your canine ring-bearer a decoy ring and switching it for the real one in your pocket at the altar. You'll be glad you did if he decides to eat that \$5,000 Scooby Snack.

Know your pet

You know your pet, but you need to understand their limitations as actors in the scene you've been playing in your



MEMORY MONTAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

head. At Ritter Farms, there is a large pond, so – as far as Labrador retrievers are concerned – "you're not keeping them out," says Bryan Ritter. Consider: does Scruffy get nervous around large crowds? How long can he sit before he starts to, eh-hem ... groom himself?

"Pets are a big part of people's lives," Ritter says. "But you have to be fair to the animal ... Don't make them do something they don't want to." Make sure someone is in charge of overseeing that they're fed, comfortable and clean throughout the festivities, or that they are taken home once they've played their part.

Know your venue

Ritter and his wife Debi have hosted a fair share of nuptials at their family-owned farm. They've hosted ceremonies that have included dogs, horses and even beloved bovines. Last summer, an Ephrata

couple exchanged their vows outside with horses and prized dairy cows lingering in the perfectly rustic, barnyard background. But not all venues have the facilities to allow pets of any size. Be sure to clear any plans or needs that you and your pet have with the site manager.

Know your Guests

The RSVP is a perfect opportunity to let your guests know there will be a critter attending. This way, you can find out if friends or family might be allergic to the maid of honor and inform them of other circumstances. For instance: "Spot is on a diet, please don't feed him table scraps." If yours is a species that inspires phobia – snake, bird and horse phobias are common – you may have to decide between Polly (who wants a cracker) or Molly (who flew in from Texas) to attend your wedding. ■

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Eat well and take supplements as life gets a little more hectic. Airborne is your friend! Also, buy things like energy bars and Ensure to have around when you forget to eat.

Keith Caffery Effler
Caffery Photo



A professional wedding planner will ensure nothing is overlooked while you enjoy a seamless event and peace of mind.

Sarah Nelson
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Before meeting with your florist, get to know some of the flowers you like and when they are available, and bring a color swatch of your wedding colors.

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It is said that a picture speaks a thousand words but a video speaks 10,000 words. Capture the action you can relive the rest of your life. Bring these words alive.

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Your wedding is one of the most important events of your life — take the time to plan it well and you will truly be blessed for your efforts.

Rick Fielding
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The time of your wedding is important in deciding upon jewelry. Daytime weddings: elegant, classy and trendy jewelry can be chosen. Evening wedding: gemstones should augment your complexion. Select jewelry that can be worn after the wedding.

Cindy R. Smith
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Allow enough time to plan. Don't leave things to the last minute and book your decorator with plenty of time. They book very quickly.

Cynthia Garcia Sanchez
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Cupcakes are a new wedding trend, but you may want to display a sign reminding your guests not to eat them before the cake is cut. An empty cake display makes for an ugly photo.

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It's never too early to start planning. Proper planning allows things to run smoothly and in the blink of an eye your dreams will be a reality ... enjoy every minute of it!

Ashleigh Krueger
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Consider having your portraits taken before the ceremony. This allows you to have photos taken when your makeup is fresh and your guests won't be waiting on you.

Melissa Vicente
Melissa Michelle Reflections

Ellen's Chair Covers

Prepare an expense budget and review the budget details with both families so everyone is on the same page.

Ellen Willoughby
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memorymp.com

Rick Spencer Photography
Rick Spencer
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rickspencerphotography.com

Yakima Photography
Bruce Lloyd
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yakimaphotography.com

Travel/Destination Weddings

AAA Travel
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Yakima
509-248-6520
509-457-9968
aaawa.com

Travel Leaders
Rosemary Saunders
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509-575-0292
travelleaders.com/richlandwa

Tuxedo/Men's Wear Videography

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401 S. 6th St., Sunnyside
509-837-7345
fashioncornerbridal.com
See ad on page 21

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Peterson Videography
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petersonvideography.com

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planning calendar

10-12 months

- Announce your engagement!
- Have your engagement party if you choose to do so.
- Select a wedding date.
- Determine your budget.
- Create a preliminary guest list.
- Determine the type of wedding you want, including location, time of day, formality, etc.
- Select and reserve your ceremony site.
- Select and reserve your reception site.
- Select and reserve your officiant.
- Select your wedding party and other attendants, including ushers and candle lighters.
- Order passports, visas or birth certificate if required for your honeymoon.
- Protect your ring with insurance.

8-9 months

- Submit your engagement announcement to the newspaper.
- Order save-the-date cards and mail them out.
- Select and order your bridal gown.
- Select your wedding colors, style and theme.
- Select and book your music for the ceremony.
- Select and book your music for the reception.
- Select and book your photographer.
- Take engagement photos.

6-7 months

- Select and book your florist.
- Select and book your caterer.
- Select and book your videographer.
- Make a tasting appointment with your caterer for menu options.
- Select attendant's attire and order.
- Reserve all rental items, including tables, chairs, tents, china and linens.

4-5 months

- Finalize your guest list.
- Select and order stationary, including invitations, RSVPs, programs, thank-you notes and table cards.
- Select and book your bakery and choose your cake design.
- Purchase wedding day accessories, including shoes, veil, lingerie and jewelry.
- Select and order mother-of-the-bride dress and accessories.
- Check delivery dates for all attire and schedule fittings.
- Arrange accommodations for out-of-town guests.
- Reserve wedding night bridal suite.
- Reserve wedding day transportation.
- Plan honeymoon and book.
- Register for gifts.
- Set the date, time and location for your rehearsal dinner.
- Check blood test and marriage license requirements.

2-3 months

- Select and order guest favors.
- Select and order ceremony and reception décor.
- Purchase gifts for your wedding attendants.
- Purchase wedding rings and have them engraved.
- Plan activities and an itinerary for out-of-town guests.
- Schedule your hair and makeup trial appointment.

6-8 weeks

- Mail invitations. Include registries, map/directions, and out-of-town accommodations.
- Select and reserve wedding attire for groomsmen, fathers, ushers and ring bearer.
- Purchase all wedding accessories, including ring pillow, flower basket, guest book, flutes and cake knife.
- Purchase wedding gifts for one another.
- Schedule and attend first wedding gown fitting.
- Have bridesmaids and flower girl attend their dress fitting.
- Pick up wedding bands and ensure they fit.

4 weeks

- Start breaking in wedding shoes.
- Finalize food, beverage and alcohol menu for caterer.

- Find your something old, new, borrowed and blue.
- Confirm ceremony details with your officiant.
- Purchase your marriage license.
- Finalize ceremony and reception music selections.
- Make final floral selections.
- Finalize a must-take photo list and give to your photographer.
- Finalize details for your videographer.
- Confirm all details with your vendors and send them a timeline.
- Finalize ceremony rehearsal plans.
- Purchase the accessories for your bridesmaids, including jewelry, nail polish, hair accessories, etc.
- Plan your reception layout and give it to the venue manager.

3 weeks

- Contact guests who have not RSVP'd to get final numbers.
- Determine your ceremony and reception seating chart.
- Remind your wedding party when and where to pick up their attire.
- Choose someone to be in charge of all wedding day accessories.

2 weeks

- Finalize and confirm your honeymoon reservations.
- Attend your final gown fitting.
- Have your bridesmaids and flower girl attend their final fitting.

- Finalize rehearsal dinner plans.
- Arrange for the post office to hold your mail while you are gone on your honeymoon.
- If you are having a receiving line, finalize who will be in the line as well as where it will be.

1 week

- Pick up wedding dress and assure everything fits perfect.
- Finalize your guest numbers and give it to your caterer.
- Gather everything you will need for the rehearsal and your wedding day.
- Pack for your honeymoon.
- Arrange for someone to return all wedding rentals the next day.

Rehearsal Day

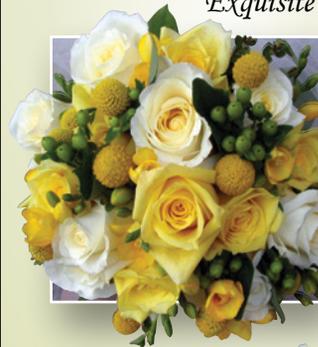
- Arrange for someone to give final payments to vendors.
- Attend your rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.
- Give your attendants their gifts at the rehearsal dinner.
- Get some much needed rest for your big day.

Wedding Day

- Give the rings to the best man and maid-of-honor.
- Relax and enjoy every minute!

Design Artistry

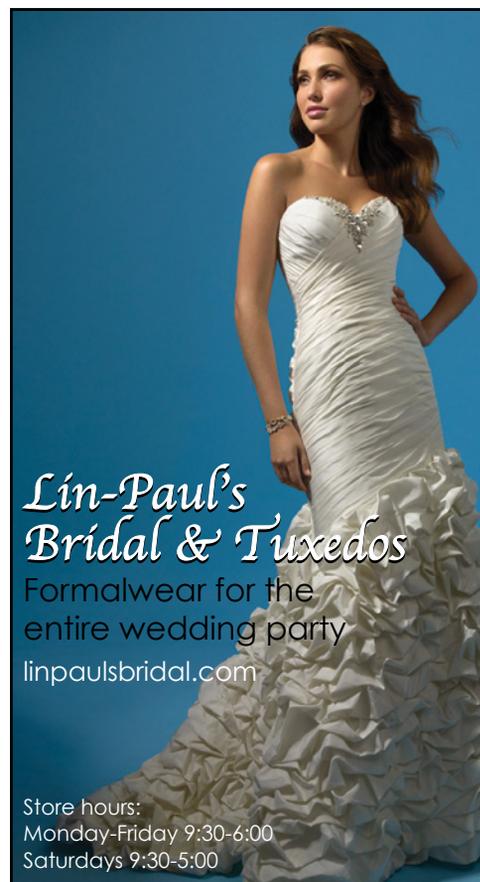
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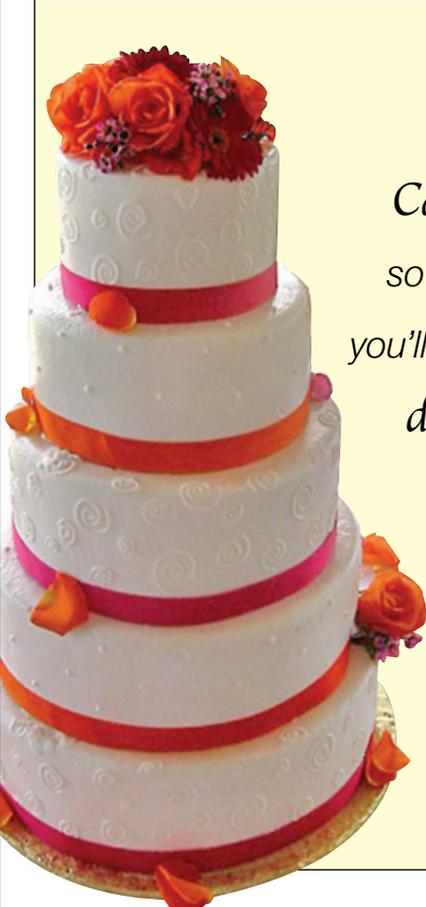
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