

by danielle kosecki

## Sound Advice

You've got questions...  
we've got answers.



**Q** I want to look like I have a "glow" for my wedding. What should I do?

**A** I recommend that all brides do a series of facials designed to clear up any problems such as acne, dryness, or aging, starting at least six months before their wedding. You'd be surprised at how unhealthy skin can prevent a bride from "glowing," even with her makeup. A nice, light bronzing with makeup would look quite natural. The best way to get a natural sun-kissed glow is by way of a great makeup artist. Airbrushing is unbelievable, as it stays flawless all night.

■ **Kayelyn Grigoli** Skin Spa at Facewear Makeup Studio; 161 S. Middletown Rd.; Nanuet, NY; 845-624-6565

**Q** Do I ask a friend to be a bridesmaid if I was in her wedding?

**A** You are under no obligation to ask someone to be your bridesmaid just because you were one in her wedding. Of course, if this person is a close friend, it might be nice to include them in your wedding party, if you have the room. Typically, there should not be more bridesmaids than ushers in the wedding party, so if the decision is based solely on space, perhaps the groom can add one more usher to accommodate this close friend.

■ **Melissa Leonard** Etiquette/Protocol Consultant; Harrison, NY; 914-844-1068; establishyourselfNY.com

**Q** I don't like the way big, formal flower arrangements look on reception tables. Do you have any suggestions for a nontraditional centerpiece?

**A** There are a variety of ways to arrange floral centerpieces nontraditionally. One in particular that I like is a tight and compact composition of fresh flowers in a square vase accented by an assortment of differently sized candles. This centerpiece is very simple but still elegant, and the candles add a nice romantic touch.

■ **Monica Chimes** Monica Chimes Floral, Inc.; 83 Lake St.; West Harrison, NY; 800-598-7212/914-428-7212; monicachimesfloral.com

**Q** Do I need to send Save the Date cards?

**A** Save the Date cards are great because they are little teasers that come before formal invitations to get people excited for your wedding. Whether you need to send them depends on the date of your wedding and if you are inviting a lot of out-of-town guests. If your wedding is during a holiday weekend, during the summer, or far from many of your invitees, Save the Date cards are a wonderful way to help people plan ahead. They can cost as little as \$1.65 each and should be sent at least eight months in advance.

■ **Judy Nolan** Blue Tulip; 116 Pondfield Rd.; Bronxville, NY; 914-337-1480; bluetulip.biz

**Q** Do we need to provide dinner for the DJ and photographer?

**A** Yes. Not only is it a gesture of your appreciation, but it's also a bit of insurance on your part. A hungry photographer or band member can only lead to one thing: trouble! While it is not necessary to serve the same meal your guests are having, it should still be a well-rounded dinner. Most venues will discount the same meal your guests are receiving for your wedding professionals by at least 50 percent.

■ **Traci Romano** The Romano Group Event Planning + Design; 24 Hunter Rd.; Fairfield, CT; 203-259-5806; theromanogroup.net

**Q** How do you deal with divorced or multiple sets of parents on the invitations if only two are contributing financially?

**A** It depends on the parents' egos. I have always asked the couple to state both parents names out of respect (despite who is paying), but everyone handles it differently. Traditionally, the bride's parents are listed at the top requesting the guest's presence. If you do this, the names of your fiancé's parents can still be included after his (e.g., "Tim Doe, son of Jack and Jill Doe"). The most important thing is people's feelings. You want everyone to feel respected.

■ **Maria Solazzo** Impressive Invites; 249 Halstead Ave.; Mamaroneck, NY; 914-698-4088; impressiveinvites.com. ♥