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Who does what?

Responsibilities of various members of a wedding party

Participating in a wedding party is an honor. Couples invite many people to their weddings, and the select few asked to be in the party are typically those individuals with whom the couples share a strong and special bond.

The role of the wedding party is not merely symbolic. Though it's up to the happy couple to determine how involved they want their wedding party to be, individuals asked to be in the party should know that their acceptance of these roles carries with it a certain level of responsibility.

• MAID OF HONOR

The maid of honor may bear the most responsibility of any wedding party member. Maids of honor typically help with the planning of the wedding, offering advice and opinions on everything from

the bride's gown to the bridesmaid dresses and anything else a couple might need help with.

If the bride asks, the maid of honor may be asked to organize dress fittings and attend them as well. A maid of honor typically plays an active, and often the lead, role in planning the bachelorette party. Come the day of the wedding, the maid of honor helps the bride prepare and may organize the bridesmaids to ensure everyone stays on schedule. A maid of honor typically toasts the happy couple during the reception as well.

• BEST MAN

Like the maid of honor, the best man has some extra responsibilities before the wedding and during the festivities. A best man may organize tux fittings, plan the bachelor party, help make arrangements if

the groom requests help, and be asked to hold the rings on the day of the ceremony. A best man toast is common during the reception, and some grooms ask their best men to distribute tips to vendors at the end of the night.

• BRIDESMAIDS

Bridesmaids often help the maid of honor plan the bachelorette party, and they also help to organize the bridal shower if the bride chooses to have one. Bridesmaids

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Couples need not feel compelled to assign bridal party members these duties if they don't feel comfortable doing so. However, sharing some of the responsibilities of wedding planning can help couples enjoy the process more and keep party members engaged.

STOCK PHOTO *Bridal Guide*

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Veterans Terrace

A WEDDING HUB



Venue unveils salon, lounge at showcase

By **Jason Arndt**
STAFF WRITER

Burlington's Veterans Terrace hosts hundreds of events on an annual basis, ranging from corporate gatherings, fundraisers, community meetings as well as weddings.

General Manager Beth Reetz, who calls Veterans Terrace a unique wedding and event venue, said the facility holds 260 events per year with 80 to 90 being weddings.

"Veterans Terrace is actually on the leading edge of one of my favorite wedding trends – simplifying the wedding day – so that the couple can relax and truly soak in all of the special moments," Reetz said. "A few years ago, we noticed that our couples were starting out their wedding day spending hours completely stressed out about decorating the venue."

Veterans Terrace, she said, took a leap of faith and decided to move forward with plans to offer ease and comfort for

couples looking to celebrate their special day with little stress.

"We invested in hundreds of decor items and continually update our inventory to include everything from glitzy, high-end decor to casual, rustic themes, and now decorate for over 95% of our weddings," Reetz said.

Couples select what type of theme they want for their weddings, Reetz said, adding Veterans Terrace has an online inventory available to them.

In addition to offering decor, Veterans Terrace completes all clean-up, which allows couples to leave the facility without worry.

"It's truly the 'easy button' for our couples and their families," Reetz said.

NEW FEATURES REVEALED

Veterans Terrace recently hosted its 14th annual Bridal Showcase where the venue unveiled its two latest additions – a salon and lounge, which have been in the works for about a year.

Couples and their guests were able

to check out the latest bridal fashions presented by Savvy Bride and Burlington Menswear in the Loop. The showcase also featured several of the venue's preferred caterers onsite and some area bakeries, Reetz said before the showcase. The event also had many of the area's top hair stylists, florists, photographers, videographers and DJs on hand.

Visitors were treated to live music and got to sneak in a quick massage or were able to watch an artist at work.

Veterans Terrace unveiled its brand new Salon Suite and Patriot Lounge at the Bridal Showcase.

Reetz said Veterans Terrace completely refreshed the Liberty Hall Ballroom in early 2022 and once the project finished, the venue looked to put in the Salon Suite for people preparing

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

at top: The Patriot Lounge, as well as a salon suite, is another addition to Veterans Terrace in Burlington.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Bridal Guide*

RESPONSIBILITIES • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

can offer input on wedding planning, particularly if they're already married, though that is not necessarily required. Bridesmaids also can help relieve stress on the bride by being as agreeable as possible when scheduling dress fittings.

• GROOMSMEN

Groomsmen help to plan the bachelor party and may be asked to provide some support prior to the ceremony. For example, on the day of the wedding, groomsmen may be asked to show guests, particularly elderly friends and family of the couple, to their seats.

Like their bridesmaid counterparts,

groomsmen can be especially helpful by doing what's asked of them without resistance. Arriving on time to tuxedo fittings and offering insight when they think it might help are some simple ways groomsmen can pitch in.

• FLOWER GIRL/RING BEARER

Often reserved for children, the roles of flower girls and ring bearers only require some simple participation during the ceremony. Flower girls drop petals as they proceed down the aisle ahead of the wedding party, while the ring bearer carries the ring down the aisle.

If these roles will be filled by especially

young children, couples may choose to have them walk down the aisle together.

• PARENTS OF THE COUPLE

Parents of the bride and groom typically play supportive roles but may be asked to give speeches during the rehearsal dinner or the reception.

The father of the bride typically walks her down the aisle, while the mother will likely spend the day of the ceremony at the bride's side as they get ready. Parents of the groom do not have any traditional responsibilities, though the groom and his mother customarily share a mother/son dance during the reception. (METRO CREATIVE)

WEDDING HUB • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

for their wedding day.

"We wanted to put in a salon-type suite that would be the perfect place to spend your day getting ready, and we also wanted to put in a lounge that would be just off our outdoor Memorial Terrace and would have a wonderful, casual vibe for cocktail hour," Reetz said. "It was also important that it be a space that could function for corporate meetings, luncheons and veterans' functions."

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

While Veterans Terrace offers a venue for weddings, Reetz said the facility carries a special meaning for veterans, considering the complex overlooks Echo Veterans Memorial Park.

"We are first and foremost proud to be the home base for some of the most amazing veterans to have served our country," she said. "We are also incredibly proud to be the fundraising arm of the Burlington Community Fund."

The money raised at weddings, corporate events, fundraisers and meetings funnels through the BCF and back out in the community in the form of grants and scholarships.

In addition to serving as a key community venue, Veterans Terrace also offers a pleasant backdrop, which includes Echo Lake and the White River.

"We are also incredibly grateful for the relationship that we have with our city and appreciate the beautiful river, lake, park and dam that serve as the backdrop for all of our events," Reetz said.

DEMAND RETURNS

Veterans Terrace, like most venues, endured some challenges in recent years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, Reetz said, wedding demand has returned to pre-COVID levels.

But she has seen some changes, which will be interested to watch, like smaller



Veterans Terrace, 589 Milwaukee Ave., Burlington, recently unveiled a salon suite during its 14th annual Bridal Showcase.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Bridal Guide*

gatherings.

"We are one of the largest venues in the area, and four to five years ago, a large portion of our wedding would have brought in 250 to 350 guests," she said. "Those larger weddings have become much less frequent and I get the sense that people have tightened up their circles a bit post-COVID. Ultimately, we just

want our couples to have the day of their dreams and we'll make that happen regardless of the size of their wedding lists."

Veterans Terrace, 589 Milwaukee Ave., Burlington is accessible online at veteransterrace.com.

For more information about the venue, call 262-763-9400.



How to find the right *wedding reception venue*

Every decision engaged couples make in regard to their weddings is significant, but some may affect the day more than others. Perhaps no decision will help couples set the tone they hope to establish more than their choice of reception venue.

Reception venues are where couples and their guests will spend the vast majority of their time on the wedding day, which is why choice of venue bears such significance. With that in mind, couples can consider these tips as they look for the perfect place to host their receptions.

DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT

Prospective brides and grooms may have vastly different ideas regarding how they want their weddings to go, and it's imperative that couples discuss their ideal weddings prior to looking for a venue.

Do you want to get married in a place of worship? Or do you prefer a venue that can host both the ceremony and reception? Do you want an indoor, outdoor or hybrid ceremony and reception? Define what you both want before looking for a venue and make the necessary concessions if you have different ideas in mind.

CHOOSE VENUE FIRST

It can be wise to pick a reception venue first and then choose your wedding date based on the availability of the venue.

This is especially important for couples who already have an ideal venue in mind, and it also provides some flexibility as couples search for the venue.

For example, couples working within a strict budget may not be able to afford a preferred venue during the height of wedding season, but that venue could be less costly during slower times of year. By waiting to pick a date until you've chosen a venue, you're increasing your options.

CONSIDER YOUR GUESTS

Though couples, particularly those footing the bill on their own, should prioritize their desires when choosing a reception, it's important they also consider their guests before making a final decision.

A venue that's accessible and located near transit hubs like airports and train stations will increase the likelihood that more people can attend. In addition, if children will be invited, a venue that includes family restrooms, including at least one with a changing table, can make parents' nights much easier.

CONSIDER YOUR BUDGET

The Knot 2021 Real Weddings Study found that couples typically spend around 30% of their overall budget on the venue, which makes this decision the biggest one in terms of the financial commitments a

couple will have to make. Couples may be tempted to choose an awe-inspiring, costly venue for their reception, but they should consider how devoting so much of their budget to the venue will affect the rest of their big day. The best reception venue might be one that won't eat up too much of your budget.

CONSIDER THE PACKAGE

Venues vary in terms of their reception packages. Some may offer catering, including beverages, with each of their packages, while food and beverage might not be part of other venues' offerings.

If you find a venue you love but it doesn't offer catering services, seek estimates from area caterers to determine how much it will cost to feed and serve your guests.

Many couples find it more convenient and less stressful to pick a venue that offers on-site catering, though plenty of others have had no trouble after choosing a venue and separate caterer.

(METRO CREATIVE)

The bulk of a couple's wedding day and night will be spent at the reception, making choice of venue one of the more fun and important decisions they'll have to make.

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HOW TO PICK THE

perfect wedding dress



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Planning a wedding requires making many different decisions. The choice of wedding attire is among the most crucial decisions that couples must make. Whether the wedding is traditional or customized to suit couples' personalities, brides and grooms want to look their best when they say, "I do."

Many brides-to-be spend a significant amount of time looking for their ideal wedding dresses. What defines the right gown depends on personal preference and is unique to the

person doing the search. For example, a dress that sets a fairy tale scene for one bride may not necessarily align with the tastes of another.

According to Bridal Atelier, the average bride-to-be tries on try three to seven dresses before finding the right one. The following tips can help those shopping for dresses find a look that makes their big day even more special.

DON'T GET HUNG UP ON PERFECTION

Many brides get caught up as they search for the one dress they consider perfect. No dress is likely to check every box. Getting hung up on a desire to find a dress that has it all may make it hard to see the beauty in other dresses. Remember, with the talents of an experienced tailor or seamstress, most dresses can be tweaked to suit your vision of the ideal gown.

CONSIDER THE SEASON

Getting married during the hazy and humid days of summer is an entirely different experience than tying the knot during the heart of winter. The fabric of the wedding dress should complement the season, whether it's lightweight and breezy for a warm day, or more substantial and cozy when darting to the ceremony in snowfall.

FLATTER YOUR FIGURE

Chances are brides-to-be know which cuts and styles are most flattering. Mimic those style choices in the wedding dress. If you want to take focus off of full hips, choose a basque or asymmetrical waistline. Gowns with substantial straps or higher necklines may be better if you have a larger chest. Sheath and mermaid style gowns are options if you are confident with your figure and want to show off your curves.

TRY A BIT OF THIS AND THAT

Don't go into a wedding dress appointment with firm parameters. Although you may have a ball gown style in mind, after trying on other options something with a less voluminous silhouette may actually catch your eye. Many brides also automatically defer to strapless gowns, when various straps and sleeves can be very appealing.

ARRIVE WITH A FIRM BUDGET

Weddings can be costly. It's important to set a budget for the wedding dress just as you will with other expenses. There are plenty of dress designers across a wide spectrum of price points. A willingness to consider and ultimately purchase a less costly dress can help you stay on budget.

(METRO CREATIVE)

HOLE LOTTA LOVE



Making that special day sweeter

Lorelei Bittner's Bakery offers more than just cake for weddings

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
STAFF WRITER

When putting together the final item for the menu of a wedding – dessert – Amy Peterburs Stuebs has seen it all.

She does it all, too.

Peterburs Stuebs, the owner of Lorelei Bittner's Bakery, 495 Interchange N, Lake Geneva, offers full cakes for weddings, but in recent years she has offered everything from donut walls to mini-dessert displays to cupcakes for wedding as well.

"There's a huge menu of items to get," she said.

The bakery has operated in the Lake Geneva area for more than 75 years,

starting with immigrants from Germany in the 1940s. Peterburs Stuebs bought the bakery in 2016, and while she offers hours four days a week at the bakery – with everything from regular cakes to donuts to the traditional Fat Tuesday paczkis – weddings fuel the business.

"We have a system that works and works well," she explained.

Peterburs Stuebs has moved from in-person, sit-down tastings over the last few years of the COVID-19 pandemic to samples and check-list orders. She also works with most of the venues in the Lake Geneva area, which she admits is a "mecca" for weddings.

Peterburs Stuebs' first contact with a customer offers a large variety of options, which is more than the tradition tiered cakes these days. While traditions cakes are available – flavors include yellow, white, chocolate and marble, among other options, not to mention various flavored fillings and frosting – her orders also allow people to move away from the traditional cake.

"Almost everybody gets cake, because they want that picture," Peterburs Stuebs explained, but she quickly added that dessert at a wedding has evolved from simple slices of cake because people like different options and don't want leftovers.

That allows Peterburs Stuebs and her staff to offer mini dessert trays. Have a hankering for eclairs at your wedding? She has them, along with brownies, cannolis, chocolate-covered pretzels, Key Lime tarts, Petit Fours and a dizzying variety of other pastries.

The first conversations with the bridal party – Peterburs Stuebs said that the cake is more often becoming a task delegated to mom or mother-in-law – gives all of the options and allows people to choose what they'd like.

The bakery will also provide sheet cakes and gourmet cupcakes if asked, as well as donut spears and the aforementioned donut walls. The large variety gives Peterburs Stuebs a chance to please everyone's tastes.

From mini-dessert trays to donut walls to traditional cakes and gourmet cupcakes, Lorelei Bittner's Bakery is ready to offer a little something for everyone at a wedding. **above:** For those looking to try out familiar favorites, a donut wall could be just the thing.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Bridal Guide*



above: Trays of mini desserts offer different tastes for different palates if a wedding cake isn't a couple's style. **at left:** Even with other options, a traditional wedding cake can make or break an event. **below:** The bakery offers a large number of gourmet cupcake flavors, from savory salted caramel to sweet strawberry shortcake.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Bridal Guide*

She added that she's handled thousands of weddings and had an issue with maybe 10 of them. The bakery has a 4.6 rating out of 5 on Google, with mostly five-star reviews.

"You can't make a mistake with a wedding," she explained.

With the email and telephone calls, Peterburs Stuebs said the system allows her and her staff to work through all the details and relate them back to customers. That includes any special details – from fresh flowers on cakes to gluten-free options – and a firming up of the final numbers.

"They get a copy of all the details," she explained.

Peterburs Stuebs also will work with ideas the wedding party has for designs. While "wacky" cakes used to be a popular option and themed ideas are still out there – simpler designs and even "naked cakes" are becoming more popular.

The so-called "naked" cake is made either without frosting or the frosting scraped off to a very thin layer so the inside of the cake is visible. Peterburs Stuebs also said simple designs of horizontal lines are popular these days.

"Lots of times, a simple picture for inspiration is all I need," Peterburs Stuebs said.

The telephone and online detailing of the orders is something she finds works for everyone involved.

"I just assure people this is a lot easier," Peterburs Stuebs said. "I assure them they are in good hands. This is the last thing they need to worry about."

Some things haven't changed. With a traditional tiered cake, the top tier is still saved in a dome and frozen for the couple, most often for their first wedding

anniversary. Peterburs Stuebs said that most couples use the saved cake as a chance to relieve their wedding day.

"In the dome, it keeps," she said. "It's fresh, because it's been frozen. It's a nice tradition."

Being a baker for a wedding, Peterburs Stuebs said, gives her a chance to be a part of people's lives from then on out. Most,

she said, will come back for anniversaries, children's birthdays and the like.

"We get a customer for life," she said.

Lorelei Bittner's Bakery can be reached by calling 262-248-2330. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Special holiday hours are also offered. The bakery's website is loreleibittnersbakery.com.





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OFFERING A

Different Look

Area salon keeps up to date on all the latest style trends

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Rau Salon, 316 N. Lake St. in Twin Lakes, has been providing all aspects of hair styling and related beauty services for more than 35 years.

“After working in this salon for 16 years under the previous owner, I was asked if I was interested in purchasing it when they were ready to sell it,” Wendy Rau said. “It was an easy choice for me.”

She purchased the salon 19 years ago and changed the name to Rau Salon. Over the years, the salon has continued to grow and add many services. It averages between 300 and 400 customers a week, providing a variety of hair, makeup and nail services.

“We keep up to date with all the latest trends – offering training in cutting, styling and the latest trends in hair coloring,” Rau said. “Fashion trends always influence hair color and styles.”

She said one of the latest in coloring techniques is called balayage, where the hair closest to the scalp is darker and the color becomes lighter as the hair moves away from the scalp.

“With the roots being darker, it allows a longer period of time between visits for color,” Rau explained.

According to Rau, today’s salons are no longer called beauty shops as they were in years past when they catered only to women. Today they are salons and provide services for men and women as well as for children.

“Our customers range from 2 year olds receiving their first haircut to adults both male and female of all ages, even into their 90s,” added Rau. “Our hair stylists are trained to cut all types and lengths of hair and to provide styles to suit both men and women.”

Weddings

If there is a day that is most important to



Owner Wendy Rau welcomes visitors to Rau Salon at 316 N. Lake, Twin Lakes. The salon is known for quality hair styling, coloring, makeup application and nail care for special occasions and for everyday wear.

WENDY RAU, RAU SALON *Bridal Guide*

a woman for her hair to be as beautiful as possible, it is likely her wedding day. The bride needs to be sure that the style works with her veil and headpiece, and that it will last throughout the day and evening.

For this important event, it is vital that the client works with a stylist who is up to date on the current bridal styles and is experienced.

For Rau Salon, which specializes in weddings, there is always a stylist who can work with the style and look that one wants to achieve. With more than 25 stylists and a very large salon, there is room to accommodate even the largest of bridal parties.

Before reaching the big day, the bride is encouraged to come in for what’s described as a “practice session.” The stylist will work with the bride-to-be and offer suggestions, as well as working with

the placement of the headpiece and veil for the best presentation.

While it is most important for the bride to have a run through with the stylist prior to the wedding day, sometimes members of the bridal party and mothers of the couple also want to meet with the stylist and have a practice run.

This is especially true when the wedding is a destination wedding and the wedding party isn’t familiar with the shop or the stylists.

“Many brides are again wearing veils but they are shorter and simpler than the veils of old,” Rau explained. “They often wear them through the ceremony and then remove them for the reception. The veil must be attached in a way that it remains in place during the ceremony and then can be

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



SALON • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

easily removed without doing damage to the hairstyle.”

Often the bridal party and the mothers of the bride and groom will come in a day or two before the wedding to have their nails done. They may opt for a manicure and some will also get a pedicure.

The salon offers full nail services and uses no-chip polish that lasts for at least two weeks. The salon has a complete line of all the popular colors to work with, giving the bridal party an option of having their nails done in the same color or individual choices, depending on what the bride prefers.

Taking care of the nails a day or two ahead makes it much easier to manage the party and get all of the other services completed on the wedding day.

“Today, putting together the bridal party for the wedding is almost like another party,” Rau said. “Because our shop is so large and we have a number of stylists and makeup experts, there is room for a very large wedding party to be accommodated or we also work with small

parties.

“We set up a large table in the salon strictly for the use of the wedding party,” she added. “They often bring in sandwiches, appetizers or other snacks to be enjoyed. There may be a pitcher of Mimosas to add to the festivities,” she added.

While most of the time the group will get their services done at the spa, some venues now offer a bridal party room where those services can be completed on site. This usually works well with a smaller party, as the bridal room at some venues may not be large enough to accommodate larger groups.

Whether the choice is the bridal room at the venue or to have the services provided at the salon in Twin Lakes, Rau pledges the result will be the same.

Much like other details surrounding a wedding, choosing a hairstyle is a very personal choice for the bride-to-be. With longer hair being a popular style now, for many there is a choice of wearing their hair down or putting it up into a

sophisticated style. Braiding the hair is also popular.

According to the stylists at Rau, approximately half the brides wear their hair up while the others choose to leave it down.

Among the trendy styles now are the beachy look and the boho style. Trends change to compliment the wedding style itself depending on the wedding gown, headpiece and veil – all of which must be taken into consideration to complete the overall look.

Another option some choose are hairpieces – extensions – and not just for weddings.

“Hairpieces are often added for fullness and length, for not only weddings but also other dressy occasions when one wants to look extremely good,” Rau said.

She went on to explain that some hairpieces are easy to place in the hair and remove, as needed. Others are more permanent in that they are woven into the hair and therefore, must be adjusted by the stylist periodically as the hair grows.

left: There is a lot involved in having beautiful hair but the result is worth it. **right:** Hair pieces are easily added to provide length or fullness.



Whichever type of hair extensions are used, there is definitely a change in the fullness, the length, or both, depending on the type chosen.

“The extensions made by Halo are easy to work with and can be worn every day. They are a great accessory when growing out one’s hair,” added Rau.

Back to weddings, the day of beauty can also include having makeup professionally applied. This choice will give a more finished look and keep the bride glowing the entire day as well as looking beautiful for the many photographs being taken. False eyelashes may be added if the bride so chooses.

“After the makeup is applied, they finish by air brushing the makeup, which is the finishing touch and makes the makeup durable to last the entire day,” said Rau.

She recommends booking your bridal hair event for your bridal party as soon as you book the wedding venue. The salon is often booked up to a year in advance, especially for the popular months of June, September and October. Meet with Wendy and make the decision on the services wanted on that day. Then, sign a contract and choose the types of hair and makeup services needed.



Well-trained staff

Rau Salon works with the State of Wisconsin and Gateway Technical College as an apprentice shop. They currently have five apprentices who spend time in the shop learning the practical applications.

In this associate degree program with

Gateway, the students spend an eight-hour day a week at the college learning theory and 32 hours hands-on training at the salon. Upon completion of the 4,000 hours required, they are qualified to take their state boards and to become licensed stylists.

For the regular licensed stylists, their training does not end with earning their license. Styles, traditions and coloring updates are needed regularly as well as keeping up to date on fashion trends.

“We offer training to our stylists both in the salon and at hair shows,” Rau said. “They are updated on the latest in color techniques, which change as newer and gentler products are released. Working with hair extensions, learning to put them in for a natural look and teaching the customer how to work with them to maintain their look requires regular training.”

Whether seeking a regular stylist or planning a wedding or other major event in your life, Rau Salon aims to offer any of the services needed for special events.

Reach Rau Salon by phone at 262-877-2188 or visit them on line at www.rausalon.com. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The salon is closed Sunday.

left: Rau Salon in Twin Lakes is warm and inviting and has a variety of hair products for sale to keep hair looking its best between salon visits. **right:** Two-year-old Carson Covatt says goodbye to his curls as they are trimmed. **above:** Highly visible on Lake Street in Twin Lakes, Rau Salon offers a variety of beauty services including hair, nails and makeup.

Rau

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