



# NEW MEXICO

## event & wedding planner

MAGAZINE

# Bridal Issue

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Photo By: Larry Michaels Photography

## Ask Lainie

Have you ever had a question you wanted to ask an Event or Wedding Planner and just didn't know where to go? Well, you can now come to us! We have a new column entitled, "Ask Lainie!" Send in your questions to us at New Mexico Event & Wedding Planner Magazine so we can share your questions with our readers. Your questions can be anything and everything from tips on how to keep that surprise birthday part a surprise, to the latest wedding trends, to tips on how to plan the best Super bowl party! The possibilities are endless...

### So who is Lainie?

Lainie Quirk is owner of Starlight Event Design who has a long list of experience in wedding and event planning. Starting in 1992 Lainie worked for one of Hollywood's most sought after Celebrity Chefs, with a catering and private cooking business for entertainment's elite "A-list" celebrities. These events consisted of private Oscar parties, magazine photo shoots, and movie premieres. This experience was great for Lainie because she learned a lot about great food, working with talent and of course, the inner workings for throwing a great party.

As Lainie obtained a great list of clientele, one great opportunity for Lainie was being able to work for legendary Moguls as the Late Brandon Tartikoff (Former Chairman of NBC, Paramount, New World Entertainment and more) and Peter Morton (Co-Creator of Hard Rock Cafe and Owner of the Hard Rock Hotel).

As every entrepreneur must do, Lainie decided to take the plunge and left the Hollywood corporate world to create an independent mark with her own event production company, DD/Q Productions. Within a very short time, Lainie was in production on award shows and charity galas. Shortly after, Lainie branched out and began the "social" side of the business and built a busy schedule working on weddings, anniversaries, birthday bashes and even memorial dedications. She also became very knowledgeable in working with corporate sponsors in conjunction with her events and soon became a leader in the Event Production and Sponsorship Development/Strategic Alliance arenas, working with well known national and international corporations.

Lainie thought she would take some time off and move to the Land of Enchantment. While enjoying staring a family and the lifestyle of retirement, her plans soon changed. With the unique qualities New Mexico has to offer, planning weddings and events was a niche Lainie new too well and got the itch to jump back into her passion. This is when Laine returned to the wedding and event planning field and started Starlight Event Design.

Starlight Event Design has already an extensive resume, and Lainie has been able to successfully incorporate her expertise and knowledge by providing only the best planning services for weddings and events of all types. If you are planning a wedding or event anytime in the near future, contact Starlight Event Design today!

## Questions?

### **1. This is both a second marriage for both of us. Any suggestions on where to register since we have so much from two homes?**

There are several options for second time marriages that don't really need household items as first time marriages do. One very popular option is setting up a honeymoon registry. This allows your guests to direct their gift money towards an account set up at a Travel Agency. When it comes time to arrange your honeymoon, the experienced Travel Agent will organize your trip and pull directly from your special account. Other options include registering at a place that is a hobby of yours – if it's art, register at a gallery, if it's sports, register at a sporting goods store. One other popular option is to have all proceeds go towards your favorite charity that's meaningful to the two of you.

## More Questions?

### 2. I don't know much about flowers. Are there certain ones to avoid for a wedding?

While we all love flowers, there are actually certain varieties that are more appropriate for other occasions other than your Wedding Day. You can disregard superstitions and do your own design anyways, but here are a few to consider avoiding: Lavender: Distrust, Foxglove: Insincerity, Rhododendron: Danger, Marigold: Grief, Yellow Chrysanthemum: Slighted Love and Yellow Rose: Jealousy.

### 3. What do I do with my dress after the wedding?

Your wedding day is over and you have this beautiful dress to preserve. If you'd like to keep it forever (or until your future daughter's want it), make sure you go to a qualified dry cleaner that offers that service to allow a complete, air-tight preservation. Other people donate their dresses to women's charities as well. Other options are to donate it to a second-hand store, in which case you might even receive some money for it.

### 4. I'm nervous about walking down the aisle in my gown. Any suggestions on how I can keep from tripping?

Most Brides are nervous on the day of their wedding. Wearing a large gown doesn't help matters. However, if you are on grass and using an aisle runner, make sure it's a thick cotton versus the one time use kind. This is especially important when wearing heels. Also, practice on the terrain you'll be on wearing your shoes, or at home with your gown and shoes. Scuff the shoes in advance to eliminate them from being so slippery. And, if your dress has a train, DON'T back up!

### 5. My Best friend is a guy. I want him to be a "Man of Honor" instead of a Maid of Honor. How will that work?

These days, several people mix and match their wedding party. From Man of Honors to being a Bridesman (instead of bride's maid), to female ushers, the idea is to create your wedding with the people who are most meaningful in your life. The attire would be the same attire as the other attendants of his/her sex in the wedding party. You can work with your wedding planner to adjust the procession and recession so it all flows well and you have everyone matched up, as you want it to be.

### 6. I've heard people get wedding insurance? Do you recommend it?

I highly recommend to my clients to get insurance. There are two reasons for insurance. The first is that it can cover all your deposits that you are putting out to all the vendors. If you need to postpone your date for various reasons, you want to be able to recoup your costs, especially in the case of a complete cancellation. Second, you want to be covered as the "host" of the party, particularly if alcohol is being served. Certain locations (smaller venues) require you to have your own insurance. If someone falls or gets hurt at your wedding, your policy will cover accidents like these too. Better safe than sorry. Especially since insurance is usually just a few hundred dollars depending on the level of coverage.



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