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January 2012

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New
Year!**

5 winter
soups
to try

**8 new
businesses**
share optimism
for 2012

Meet the new
Food Dudes

SPECIAL SECTION
Vows 40-page
wedding guide

Are Wedding Professionals



Laura Wageman
47, owner of Ladies and Gents
Bridal retail salon



Pam Milton
49, owner and operator
of The Lady DJ



Jessica Frey
29, owner of Jessica Frey
Photography

Photos by Jessica Frey

Q What's your favorite wedding memory?

Frey: I've had many fun memories this past year! One of my favorites was watching my bride's new husband changing her rhinestone stilettos into comfortable, blingy Converse sneakers. Another was when one bride taught me how to "Dougie" at the reception. Also, this past year I enjoyed photographing a bride getting out of Cinderella's carriage at Disneyland, photographing

my brother's wedding in Texas, taking a beautiful yellow couch to a wedding in Carmel and enjoying a post-wedding s'more by the fire with one of my couples. I even had the opportunity to drive a yellow hot rod go-cart to get around at a wedding!

Bauer: There are many, but our favorite would have to go to the beautiful outdoor wedding we held in May out at the Kern County Museum. We had the outdoor reception set up for 275 people with white calla lilies and beautiful linens. The day started with blue skies and only a 7 percent chance of rain. The ceremony was heartfelt and picture perfect, but then it started to rain. We're not talking light, graceful sprinkles, but angry thunderclouds of pouring water



Colleen Bauer

owner of Fairy Godmother/"Day-of" Coordinating and Event Planning

dumping on every surface. It only lasted for about 15 minutes, but the reception site was in ruins. It took some quick thinking on our part and a whole lot of hustle, but within a very short time, we moved the reception indoors, recovered the flowers and favors, and became heroines evermore for this couple and their family!

Milton: Wow, tough one — I have so many! A wedding I did for a member of a fire department where the best man and maid of honor were Dalmatians. Also, I had an elderly couple win the "married the longest" dance. This is a little contest I do at some receptions. I almost always ask the winning couple, "What advice can you give to the bride and groom?" This elderly man said into my microphone (in front of more than 150 people), "You have to

let him do it at least three times a week." A guest shouts out, "Do what?" And the man's reply, "Play golf!"

Wageman: I have been to many weddings of both friends and family. But of course, I would have to say seeing my oldest son get married, and how proud I was of him and his new wife, and what a good looking couple they made.

Q In a few short sentences, share a funny wedding blooper:

Frey: I had a sweet bride whose cake topper was made of two cute chocolate doves, and when it came time to cut the cake, only one dove was still on top of the cake. We learned that grandma was hungry and wanted that chocolate dove! We all laughed about it, and I assured her we had a photo of the cake previously with two doves on it!

Bauer: Oh, we have so many! What's so great is that we know they are bloopers, but it was our job to make sure others didn't. Like the time our bride sat down for the garter toss, the music played and then she turned to me with a panicked look on her face, turns out she forgot to put the garter on. She quickly told us where the garter was and within seconds we slipped it on her leg without anyone knowing otherwise! We have had a cake almost topple to the floor, a few bridal parties that had a bit too much to drink, and then there's the time the electricity went out once during the reception — all in a day's work!

Milton: I did a wedding and reception many, many years ago and I was calling all the single men to come up to the dance floor for the garter toss. The groom and several guests were very adamant that this one man join in. (He clearly did not want to come to the dance floor to participate at all.) This man was so clearly annoyed, he didn't want to do it at all, but because of the other guests demanding he join in, he finally came to the dance floor (beer bottle in hand). He did not want to catch a garter at all. Well, when the groom tossed the garter over his shoulder, it went flying through the air and landed right on the neck of the beer bottle this guy was holding. Just like a ring toss at the fair!

Wageman: I have attended a client's wedding after I told her several times to hem her gown because it was too long! She insisted she didn't want to see her toes! Sure enough, she tripped down the aisle, her father caught her and she gracefully looked at me and winked!

Q Name a "favorite" that pertains to your wedding field:

Frey: My favorites are the quiet moments at weddings: the moment a bride hugs her mom once she's dressed; the moment I see a groom writing a pre-wedding note to his bride; the moment of anticipation, nerves and excitement as I set up my bride and groom separately for their first look photos. I love being a part of that timeframe in the wedding day when it's just the three of us, and they see each other all dressed up for the first time. Priceless.

Bauer: I have so many favorite moments that it is difficult to

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Pam Milton



Laura Wageman



Jessica Frey

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pick my favorite. I love all of the meetings with the brides before the wedding and sharing ideas, helping them pick their vendors, working with the brides on their colors, theme and overall feeling of their wedding. I love seeing it all come together perfectly. I love being there on their day with them closely making sure their every need is met. I love seeing them go down the aisle, their first dance with their father and their new husband. I love after the wedding when we meet to go over things. I love that the brides we work with are our forever friends. I guess you could say I am in love with love.

Milton: I have had many brides tell me how important music is to them, but that their family doesn't dance. Many have said to, "not worry because my family just doesn't dance." And then at the reception seeing their grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles all dancing is priceless! My philosophy is people will dance if you play their music.

Wageman: My favorite moment in a wedding is when the groom sees the bride for the first time walking down the aisle. That first glimpse that only comes if you don't do pictures first!

Q What celebrity couple would be your dream clients?

Frey: Whoever marries these handsome men: Ryan Reynolds, Justin Timberlake or Ryan Gosling ... or if Mickey and Minnie ever decide to have a wedding! I'm sure it would be magical.

Bauer: Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. Can you just imagine? I can see it, very old Hollywood.

Milton: Oprah and Stedman for sure!

Wageman: I would have to say Miranda Lambert and Blake Shelton because they seem so down to earth and easy to work with and enjoyable!

Q What's the most valuable lesson you've learned in handling weddings?

Frey: Having a team of amazing vendors who work well together and who strive to make the process fun and enjoyable is worth its weight in gold. Being surrounded by other wedding professionals whose main goal is to help make that couple's day perfect makes for a wonderful, stress-free environment on the wedding day. And having a happy, stress-free couple full of joy and excitement helps me get those wonderful candid moments I love!

Bauer: As a coordinator or planner, we have to realize that we're playing a critical role in one of the biggest days of someone's life. We have to take on each event as if it is the most important. Our goal is to bring that "fairy tale feeling" to everyone we come in contact with, and we have to have the stamina and experience to make that happen for every one of our clients as well as vendors and extended family. We have learned as coordinators and event planners to ask the correct questions in order for things to go smoothly. We have also learned that you have to be quick on our feet and decisive while still being compassionate and patient to create a truly magical event.

Milton: To always create an itinerary prior to any wedding/reception. The itinerary I create gives my brides peace of mind, so they can relax and just enjoy the moment.

Wageman: I have learned through the years, that brides and wedding styles change and we have to adapt and change with them, whether it be the style of dress or the shopping experience. ■



Colleen Bauer

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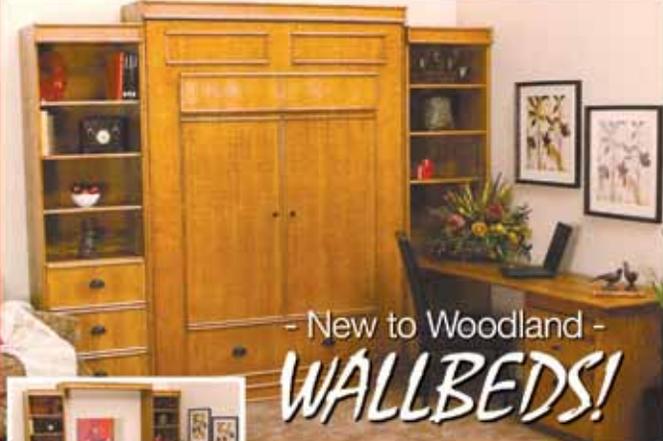
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