## the knot

MICHIGAN REGIONAL EDITION

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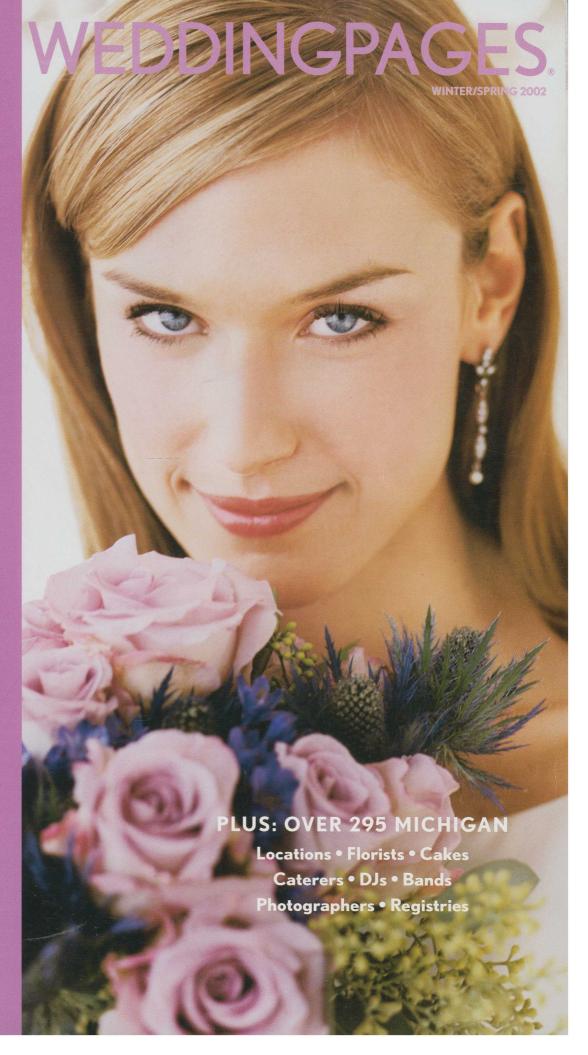
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#### MICHIGAN

#### **Expert Q&A**

#### LEGALLY WED

Q. We live in Ohio and are getting married in Michigan. My fiance's cousin is a judge here in Ohio and we want him to perform our ceremony in Michigan. Is this possible, or do we have to use an officiant from Michigan?

**A.** According to the Oakland County Clerk's office, (248) 858-0574, you must use an officiant from Michigan.

#### **BACHELORETTE BASH**

**Q.** I would like to know of any alternatives to the traditional bawdy bachelorette party. Can you give me any creative ideas around town in Detroit?

A. There are lots of great alternatives, and pampering places seem to be the numberone choice. I would suggest a pajama day at the spa for all. Treat yourselves head to toe with facials, massages, pedicures and manicures, and have lunch catered in. Try Illusions by Sherri (248) 644-2144; Hamilton Row, Birmingham. They have enough staff to be able to take care of your entire wedding party at one time, and they cater in lunch from one of my favorites: Peter's Palate Pleaser.

#### SAVVY SHOES

**Q.** I've got a gown I love, but now it's time to find the perfect wedding shoes—and I am a sneaker kinda girl. Where can I find a great selection of fancy footwear?

A. The best shoe selection in this area has got to be at Nordstrom in the Somerset Collection in Troy. Both have a huge selection of shoes at variable price levels. But if you want another great selection, check out the shoe discount stores—this may be footwear that you use one-time-only, so you might decide to spend as little as you can and find something comfortable.

As far as being a "sneaker kinda" girl—go with it! I have one client who has inadver-

tently gotten into the "footwear" business by decorating sneakers for bridal parties. She finds inexpensive tennis shoes, adds some fancy lace, buttons and bows; brides and their bridesmaids love it.

#### TEA PARTIES

Q. I am planning a bridal shower for my sister and I have been trying to locate a restaurant that can put together a traditional English Tea. Do you know of any restaurant that could assist? I live in Los Angeles but I'm planning this for my sister who is getting married in Detroit.

A. There are some wonderful venues in the area for tea. The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham, (248) 642-7900, has a tea in their lobby that will leave you feeling like royalty. They usually have piano music; and fine linens, mixed china, vases of fresh flowers, and delicious food set the scene. Depending on the season, tea is generally served Tuesday through Saturday from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

If you are looking for a city venue, check out the cottage-like Fiona's Tea House, (313) 967-9314; 945 Beech Street, in the heart of Detroit. You and your guests will feel pampered by the personal service, charming surroundings, and great food. Tea is served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Reservations must be made 48 hours in advance.

The Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn (313) 441-2000, also offers a setting of lavish comfort for their teas. Although I have not personally been spoiled there, all who have comment that it is a special day when tea is had at the Ritz. Tea is served Wednesday through Saturday, 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.



If you have a question for local expert Carolyn Hefner, or would like to see what other Michigan to-be-weds are asking, check out: www.theknot.com/detroit

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#### **OUR LOCAL EXPERT**



Carolyn Hefner, plans weddings and special events through her business, The China Closet. A background in floral design gave her behind-the-scenes experience with all the elements of special events. Her interest in party planning was ignited, and she has never looked back. The launch of her website (www.thechinacloset.com) has meant new clients from as far away as London. She is a member of the Association of Bridal Consultants.