

# HERE COME THE Guests

HOW TO LOOK (ALMOST) AS SPLENDID AS THE BRIDE HERSELF



Love is in the warm, summer air.

According to recent statistics, June is still the most popular month for weddings, then August, followed by September, October and May.

The odds are strong that either you, or someone within your circle of family and friends will be attending a wedding this season. Of course, you absolutely do not want to arrive wearing the same outfit as Cousin Sheila.

Shorter dresses will be the norm this season, but longer is still the style for more formal events.

Photography by Peter Quinn

Apparel provided by My Sister's Closet, hair by Studio 94, modeled by Dori Freeman

Once you have received the invitation, and found out about the venue, you'll want to get to work (play, fun?) at choosing an outfit at least as gorgeous as those who will be attending Carrie Bradshaw's wedding in the soon-to-be-released "Sex in the City" movie (due in theaters May 30). Do you want Marc Jacobs with Manolo Blahniks, Nordstrom's or Neiman Marcus, or are you going local – preferring to patronize this colorful county's independently owned shops? Today it's the ladies' turn to see what's current and chic for guest garb. Let's schmooze in our local stores to look at trends for summer weddings 2008 ...

First things first: Clearly, the invitation you've received will reveal quite a bit about what to expect. You'll know the time of day (day or evening), location (country club, church hall, garden) and sometimes whether it's a black-tie affair. When in doubt, ask the bride or her family. Based on the setting, you may now begin to plan your outfit.

Colors and fabrics: Jacqueline Sitro of Jacqueline's Boutique on West Main Street in Warwick believes that "Color is in for 2008! We are seeing colors like periwinkles, eggplants, blue willows, reds, and even yellows! Red has been the Oscar color this year." And, bold prints make a fashion statement this season.

"All shades of blue: ice blue, cobalt, and navy are big," states Beth Duke, owner of My Sister's Closet in Sugar Loaf – a shop with a unique selection of feminine, vintage and Victorian apparel. "We carry eco-

friendly fabrics such as bamboo knits – simple, from casual to formal, as well as silk organzas." Duke also suggests you bring a friend or relative with you whose opinion you trust for selecting just the right outfit.

Choose a "hot" designer: "Diane Von Furstenberg is a woman who understands women, but is not matronly," says Madelyn Goldberg of Harriman Clothing Co. "No woman wants to look past her prime." Another award-winning designer is Tadashi, who designs women's cocktail dresses for balls and evening.

"Oleg Cassini has dresses for day weddings, as does Donna Morgan," also, "Prada is doing full, tea-length, '50s-style full-skirted dresses, as well as short dresses," according to Bob Maxwell of Style Counsel in Warwick.

The long and the short of it: Short dresses are definitely in. Long dresses or gowns are rarely used these days, perhaps only for black-tie or very formal summer evening weddings. Above the knee and even bubble-shaped minis can be for the 30s crowd and younger (with great legs), and knee-length

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## Do's and Don'ts for Dressing with Dazzle

- list compiled by Patty Morrell

### DO:

- Always find out the location, setting and type of wedding. Will it be formal, evening, casual daytime, or a "destination wedding?" Know before you go!
- Keep it light and easy for daytime weddings, usually something you'll want to wear again.
- Schedule a pedicure. Those strappy sandals require a good one.
- Coordinate your accessories with your dress for evening weddings. For example, matching metallic sandals and purse can go well with silver jewelry.
- Choose soft, neutral shades for makeup, and easy, comfortable hairstyles.

### DON'T:

- Avoid one-piece dresses for figure flaws. Instead call attention to "safer" areas, such as necklines or great legs.
- Bikini underwear leaves visible lines and ridges. And, please, no sports bras.
- No elaborate beading on dresses or gaudy jewelry for day weddings; not too much glitter either.
- Save the large satchel for business and casual; small evening purses are more youthful.
- It's not advisable to buy directly from a catalog; allow a knowledgeable professional to do his or her job and help you coordinate your outfit.
- If you don't love it in the shop, after trying it on, don't buy it!

To schedule an appointment to speak with Patty Morrell of Helen Morrell Fashion Boutique, and see her gorgeous shop on the lake, check out her contact information in Sources, page 86.

For more information on the dresses and accessories shown here, see page 86.

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or slightly below the knee goes well for women in their 40s and beyond.

Destination weddings are popular, such as a beach or island location; and you'll want to be comfortable. Bring a light jacket, or per Duke, *"something comfortable that travels well; perhaps a wrap for those trade-wind breezes."*

Figure flaws? *"Bless those Spanx!"* (www.spanx.com) seems to be the general consensus among local merchants. The Spanx line of undergarments, body shapers and hosiery help to provide a smooth line for all figure types, and the end of unsightly bulges and ridges for those soft, clingy silhouettes.

Glitzy garnishes: What accessories will go well with your dress? – NOT what dress will go well with your accessories! Work your jewelry, bag and shoes around your focal

point: your dress. Try everything on together. If, for example, you have a beaded neckline or embellishment on the bodice of your dress, then you won't need a necklace. Perhaps some simple hanging earrings or a bangle bracelet. For basic dresses, beads and crystals add sparkle.

Put on those dancin' shoes! Everyone agrees that sandals are in. Pantyhose are not necessary as long as you have a good pedicure. Goldberg states that, *"closed-toe shoes make a dress look more mature and more conservative. Lighter footwear such as a strappy sandal can be found in different heel heights for comfort; beaded sandals, lames, and satins, are more flattering in lieu of a basic pump."*

Finishing touches: Kathy Duffy, of Shear Peace on Main Street in Florida, hairdresser and educator for more than 30 years, is seeing a trend for casual, soft hairstyles, a

little on the "messy" side, rather than stiff styles. Simple ponytails, buns and up-dos, with a rhinestone comb or a jeweled hairclip can be elegant. For evening weddings, many wear their hair down, depending on the design and neckline of their dresses. *"Don't choose a picture out of a magazine that is not YOU. You will be more comfortable if you look like yourself,"* says Duffy. Always remember: *"less is more"* for both hair and makeup.

Final pearls of wisdom for the perfect outfit: Maxwell of Style Counsel thinks that you should *"be open to your salesperson to at least try something you think you might not like that could really work for you – you may just need a fresh perspective."* Sitro of Jacqueline's Boutique always tells her customers, *"it may not look good on the hanger but may look great on you!"*

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SOURCES

FASHION: GUEST GLAMOUR  
pages 28, 29

Gowns, dresses and model's accessories from **My Sister's Closet**,  
1385 Kings Highway, Sugar Loaf.

- Short blue dress by Simply Silk. **\$130**
- Silver heeled sandals by Agape. **\$38**
- Vintage-look beaded bag by Le Chic Accessories. **\$35**
- Long blue "Cherry Pop" dress by Niki Livas. **\$175**
- Long blue "Glam Blue" by Niki Livas. **\$152**

Purses and necklace from **Helen Morrell**,  
75 Sarine Road, Masten Lake (above Wurtsboro)

- Purses shown **\$60 to \$120**
- Necklace, with matching earrings (not shown), by Windsor. **\$170**

FOOD: BASKET CASES  
page 37

Picnic baskets, from  
[www.EPicnicZBasket.com](http://www.EPicnicZBasket.com)

- "Dotty Spot" (smaller, with polka dots) basket for 2, **\$79**. Includes melamine plates, real glassware, flatware, more.
- "Bakers Chambrey" (larger opening for both sides) basket for 4, with real china, glassware, flatware, etc. Nothing plastic. **\$177**
- "Natural" deluxe basket for 4, with high-end china, flatware, glassware, etc. **\$267**.

Picnic blanket by **Eclogue** and available through [www.GoBlanket.com](http://www.GoBlanket.com).

- High-tech polar fleece on one side, waterproof rip-stop nylon on the other. **\$98**.



Photograph by Peter Quinn

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