



# *With this Ring*

← BRIDAL 2023 →

RICK TERRY JEWELRY DESIGNS

“We want to be your Jeweler”

A supplement to farragutpress • May 31, 2023

# Love survives

Local woman helps keep her husband's memory alive with unique keepsake

After losing her husband to Alzheimer's, Carol Ann Casey sought to keep his memory alive by having a custom necklace made with their wedding bands.

The unique piece of jewelry features Carol Ann's ring inside her husband Dan's, as well as the diamond from her mother's own engagement ring.

"We just had wedding bands, and I had kind of made up my mind that I wasn't going to keep the wedding band on," explained Carol Ann, noting that her initial vision was to simply have her ring inside her husband Dan's.

However, it was local jeweler Rick Terry's suggestion to place a diamond in the middle of the two rings, resulting in the one-of-a-kind creation.

"I remembered I had my mother's ring down in the safe, so he took the diamond out of her engagement ring and put it inside, and put my

See LOVE on Page 4





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## Love

From page 1

ring inside Dan's ring," she added.

Carol Ann says the necklace has become the most valuable piece of jewelry she owns, as it's a symbol of the couple's unity that's always near her heart.

"I wear it around my neck, but it's better for me because it's closer to my heart than it was on my hand," she said. "To me, it represents a great marriage – it's representative of the love that we had for each other."

Married for 61 years, Dan and Carol Ann moved to the Farragut area from Missouri in 1984, when Dan founded the air cleaning equipment company Caprice Construction. Carol Ann said the couple, who raised three daughters together, especially enjoyed traveling with one another, visiting nearly 60 countries before Dan's passing in 2019.

"He liked to drive, so when he had to drive to a job, we would go together and that's when we did our talking. After he retired, we took an overseas trip every year instead of buying a second house or something," she said. "We were very lucky in that it was always an easy marriage."

*~ Story by Rachel Totten*





# Engagement

Getting engaged is an exciting moment in the lives of a couple. One might think that excitement would lead to couples hurrying their way down the aisle to tie the knot, but studies have shown that couples spend a significant amount of time between getting engaged and saying, "I do."

According to The Knot 2021 Real Weddings Study, the average engagement length among couples in the United States is 16 months. Though those figures are likely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which undoubtedly contributed to longer engagements as couples waited to get married until large gatherings were deemed safe, it's worth noting that lengthy engagements are not specifically a COVID-related phenomenon.

In fact, The Knot reports that the average length of engagement in 2019 was 14 months. Taking more time to get to know one another also seems to be a popular approach among modern couples, as The Knot Jewelry and Engagement Study found that three-quarters of all couples who wed in 2021 had dated for two or more years prior to getting engaged.



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# Choosing your wedding day menu

French queen Marie Antoinette is credited with a phrase that loosely translates to “Let them eat cake.” Guests at a wedding certainly will have their chance to enjoy cake, but it’s likely that wedding planners will need to offer a bit more sustenance to guests than this confectionary creation to keep them happy.

Many things stand out as memorable on a wedding day: the dress, the music, the adorable children who trip up or do some sort of zany antics down the aisle, and the food. Guests often look forward to a wedding to

wish a couple well in their new lives together, but also to enjoy a great meal. Couples should give careful consideration to their wedding reception menu so everyone ends the night with great memories and full bellies.

## *Decide on the type of service*

Buffet, plated dinner, server-passed foods, or food stations are the options at couples’ disposal when planning reception dinners. The type of service often dictates the formality of the event. For example, a cocktail party where guests mingle and sample small bites throughout the night may be a more casual affair, while a plated multi-course meal is much





more formal. Couples can decide which type of service fits their budgets and ideas of for the reception.

#### *Expand your options*

Largely gone are the days when guests select dishes on the R.S.V.P. months in advance and then are locked into their choices. Now guests have more options and flexibility, particularly because couples and catering venues offer greater variety. A buffet-style meal gives guests chances to sample various foods in one sitting. However, even if couples choose a plated meal, they can select packages that offer guests the greatest number of options. Be sure to include a vegetarian or vegan option, a fish option, and a standard beef or chicken option to appeal to most.

#### *Confirm food allergies or sensitivities*

It's likely someone on the guest list will have a food allergy or sensitivity. Making sure there is no cross-contamination is a serious consideration for such guests. The person or persons should be consulted about what the person can and cannot eat, and then those requirements should be conveyed to the catering manager.

Certain people with food allergies are so leery about eating out that they may prefer to bring their own food to ensure it is safe. In this instance, ensure that the kitchen staff will be able to safely heat up or plate the food.

Food will likely be on the minds of wedding guests. Couples can ensure that their guests are satiated by making food a priority at their events.

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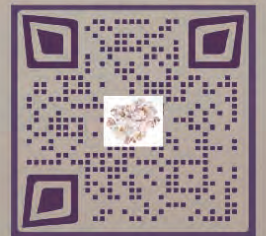
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# *Finding the right venue*

Wedding planning requires couples to make many decisions, including where the wedding will take place.

A couple's wedding day is typically broken into two parts: the ceremony comes first, and the reception follows soon after. Depending on couples' preferences and religious beliefs, ceremonies may take place at a house of worship or another location that is separate from the reception venue. In some instances, couples may choose one location for both the ceremony and the party to follow.

*I made a wish. It was granted.*

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Wedding venues are where the bulk of the day will unfold, and couples can consider these four tips to find a venue that suits their needs.

**1. Consider your theme and wedding style.** Most couples know which sentiments they want to convey during their weddings. The venue should match the theme so the entire wedding will feel connected to the space. A modern wedding, for example, will be at home in an art gallery or warehouse. A wedding with natural elements may work better on a ranch or in a botanical garden. Zeroing in on the wedding style helps narrow down potential venue options.

**2. Assess the budget.** A couple may find what seems to be the perfect venue, only to realize that the cost of the space doesn't fit their budget. Ampersand Travel says the venue accounts for the most significant wedding expense, at an average cost of \$9,000. Finding a venue that will maximize dollars spent involves looking at what is included. Rentals for chairs, linens, lighting, a dance floor, and other extras can quickly add up. Couples should have a set limit they're willing to spend on the venue and let that dictate the location.

**3. Availability of the location.** When a couple wants to get married may determine their venue options, especially if they're planning on a budget. September and October are now the most popular months to get married, so venues will book up quickly during that time of year. Those who have their hearts set on specific days will have to begin the search earlier than couples with no attachment to a particular date. Concessions may need to be made if a certain date is a must.

**4. Estimate the size of your guest list.** Price, date and style will factor into wedding venues, but the number of guests also is a major consideration. A trendy restaurant may seem like the perfect locale, but it must be able to accommodate everyone on the guest list. Couples should sit down with their families and come up with a list of potential guests and look for a venue that can accommodate everyone.

Couples also should visit potential venues in person to see which, if any, details might be missing from online or magazine advertisements. A host of factors, including accessibility, should be considered when looking for a venue.

Finding the right venue requires careful consideration of various factors that are unique to each couple.



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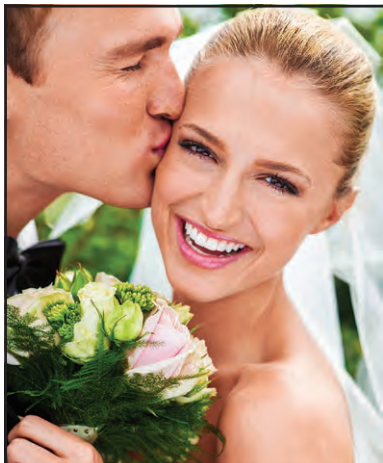
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A bride is shown from the back, wearing a white lace wedding dress with a high collar and long sleeves. Her hair is styled in an updo with a pearl hair accessory. The background is a light, textured wall.

# Choosing the dress

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.

## *1. 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.

## *2. 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.

## *3. 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.

## *4. 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.

## *5. 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.

Browsing through magazines and looking online can provide wedding dress inspiration as well. Also, when in doubt, defer to the experts at bridal shops who have experience choosing dresses that brides are inclined to love.