

BRIDE & GROOM

JANUARY 31 2016

Leap of Faith

Jim & Melba Carlson p.5

Marriage Advice

from area pastors p.10

Wedding...

- Trends & Tips
- Ideas
- Services

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A Special Supplement to the Glencoe Advertiser

Advertising Directory

Alterations

Temple Service Center5

Cakes

Coborn's.....12

Catering - Food / Alcohol

Chef Craig's Caterers7

Coborn's.....12

Crow River Golf Club8

Dubb's Grill & Bar.....3

Glencoe Wine & Spirits6

Pla-Mor Ballroom3

Red's Cafe11

Floral

The French Bucket8

Wonderworks6

Gifts

Wise Furniture Co.7

Formal Wear

Temple Service Center5

Hotel Accommodations

AmericInn Waconia5

Invitations

Franklin Printing, Inc.6

Hall Rental

AmericInn Waconia5

Arlington Community Center....7

Crow River Golf Club8

Crow River Winery8

Dubb's Grill & Bar.....3

Glencoe City Center.....6

Hutchinson Event Center ..11

Pla-Mor Ballroom3

Silver Lake Auditorium6

Newspaper

McLeod County Chronicle2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 11

Transportation

Good Times Bus Lines, LLC....6

Travel

Bursch Travel5

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Something Borrowed



Something Blue

Wedding rings are symbolic gestures of commitment

Metro Creative Connection

Couples adhere to many traditions on their wedding days, including the exchange of wedding rings. Wedding rings symbolize the union of two people and their pledge to remain faithful to each other.

No one is exactly sure just when the tradition of exchanging wedding rings originated, but some say it can be traced back to ancient Egypt, when the oldest recorded exchange of wedding rings was made. Reeds growing along the Nile were twisted and braided into rings and given during betrothal ceremonies. The round ring symbolized eternity, and the hole within the center meant a gateway to things unknown. Since reeds were not very durable, soon ivory, leather and bone were used to create wedding rings.

As new lands were explored and territories expanded, traditions from one culture were adopted and modified by other cultures. The same is true with wedding rings. According to the Diamond Source, wedding rings were adopted by Romans and incorporated into Western wedding ceremonies. Romans' rings were highly decorated, and some historians be-

lieve wedding rings were given to represent ownership over brides instead of symbolizing love. These rings were made of iron and called "Anulus Pronubus," or "betrothal ring."

Rings have been simplified since those days and ultimately made of many materials. Throughout history, wedding rings were worn on various fingers and even both hands, whereas many married people in Western cultures now wear their wedding rings on the left hand and on the fourth finger. Romans once believed that this finger contained a vein, called the "Vena Amoris," that ran directly to the heart. Though that is not true, the tradition has prevailed.

Other legends say that, when bless-

ing a Christian marriage, priests would bind the marriage by saying, "In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit," simultaneously touching the ring to the recipient's thumb, index finger and middle finger,

that wedding rings are worn on the ring finger because that finger isn't used as much as the rest of the hand, ensuring delicate ring materials won't be damaged.

Ross Simmons Jewelry states that gold is still the most popular metal choice for wedding rings, but couples are opting for some other metals that are more durable. Platinum is popular not only because it is long-wearing, but it also tends to be the most expensive. It's also a dense metal and can feel heavy in hand. Tungsten carbide is another durable metal that has grown in popularity in recent years. These rings cannot be cut and resoldered, which means it's important to size the rings correctly the first time. Titanium is both lightweight and durable, and it's popular because it is hypo-allergenic, making it practical for those with allergies to other metals.

Wedding rings continue to serve as symbols of a couple's vows and union. Much like the marriage itself, they are designed to last the test of time.



Exchanging rings is an important wedding day tradition for many couples.

before slipping it on the fourth finger while saying, "Amen."

Another theory on ring placement is

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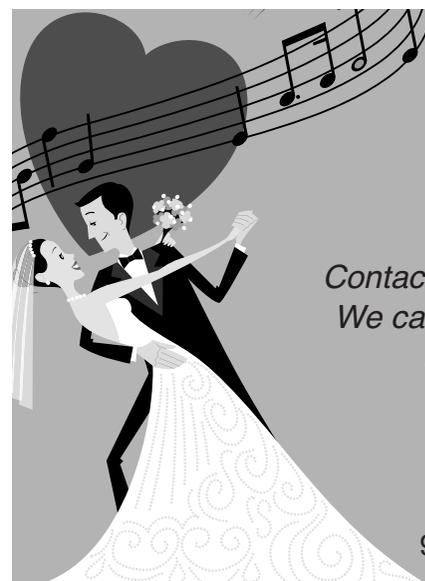
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What to expect at a religious wedding ceremony

Metro Creative Connection

Weddings can be as unique and varied as the couples tying the knot. Quite often couples like to include certain twists on the ceremony and celebration to personalize their big days. But just as there are surprises at weddings, there also are many traditions that will be adhered to during ceremonies.

Couples who opt for religious wedding ceremonies often adhere to certain rules and traditions fostered by their faiths. Guests who may be unfamiliar with traditions outside of their own beliefs may not know what to expect during certain ceremonies.

Jewish celebrations

The world's Jewish population is divided among many distinctive denominations and further classifications. Although there may be subtle differences in wedding ceremonies between the sects, Jewish wedding traditions tend to be consistent across the groups.

Conservative and Orthodox Jews may not hold weddings on the Sabbath or other holidays. Couples will sign the Ketuba, which is a marriage document affirming their connection to each other and to God.

The ceremony starts with grandparents seated first, followed by a pro-

cession of the rabbi, cantor and groomsmen. The groom and bride will be escorted by their parents. The wedding party will gather beneath the chuppah, which is a canopy that signifies a house and represents the couple's future together. A solid gold ring is given only to the bride according to Jewish law, although more liberal rabbis may allow a ring for the groom as a gift. The bridegroom smashes a wineglass with his foot after the vows have been exchanged.

Christian celebrations

Christian celebrations are similar among the various denominations. Such ceremonies typically involve a processional, though the groom is typically not included, instead standing at the altar. Christians typically hear various scripture readings, and

the officiant will explain the significance of marriage in this faith. Many Catholic weddings feature a full Mass during wedding ceremonies, and this



Wedding ceremonies commonly include scripture readings, vows, rituals, and other religious traditions specified by the faith.

Mass includes the transubstantiation of the Holy Eucharist.

After vows and rings are exchanged, the couple kisses and is pronounced husband and wife in the eyes of God. The bride and groom will go on to sign the marriage document with two witnesses on hand.

Hindu celebrations

A Hindu wedding celebration is an elaborate affair that includes extended family and community members.

The wedding ceremony is called vivaah sanskar and can be a very colorful celebration that lasts for days. The couple and guests will be wearing traditional dress. The bride usually wears body art produced with a mixture of henna and turmeric.

Hindu rituals may vary widely, but some key things are shared. According to the "Encyclopedia of Hinduism," many will include the Kanyadaan, or giving away of the daughter by her father; Panigrahana, or holding one's hands by a fire to signify the union; and Saptapadi, which is taking seven steps and making seven promises to each other before the fire.

The couple may have their clothing tied together during the seven promises ritual to represent their lifelong bond.

Wedding ceremonies may vary depending on culture and religion, but they all share the joy of two people pledging their love and devotion to each other.



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A leap of faith from Atlanta to Glencoe has lasted 47 years

Karin Ramige Cornwell
Publisher

When Jim Carlson of Glencoe was asked to help out at the Green Giant plant in the Atlanta, Georgia, area in December 1968, he never imagined he would return home a few short months later with a new wife and stepson.

While working in Georgia, Jim met Melba, who also was working at the plant. They went to see the new release "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," with Dick VanDyke, at The Fox Theater for one of their first dates.

"It's still my favorite movie," Jim said, smiling.

In January 1969, Jim's father became ill and passed away. He had to return home to Glencoe. Melba was crushed. She thought she would never see Jim again.

A couple weeks later, he was back.

After his return, while on break together at Green Giant, Jim asked Melba if she had ever

thought about leaving Georgia, his own way of proposing. Melba thought he was being sarcastic and kind of blew off the questions. Jim came back a little later to clarify what he meant.

Melba said, looking at Jim sitting in their living room in Glencoe, "I don't know if you ever actually said 'Will you marry me?'" Jim said he didn't remember, adding, "I think I blacked out."

Melba knew he was a good guy when he missed watching the Super Bowl to take her to ride the paddle boats at Stone Mountain Federal Reserve.

Jim said, "the Vikings weren't in it." And Melba added she doesn't think he has missed one since.

They married on Feb. 22, 1969, at Stone Mountain Reserve, adding they didn't want to get married on Valentine's Day, so they waited a week.

meant to be together and that's why things worked out like they did.

Melba said her family was a little concerned when she married a "yankee" and moved halfway across the country, only knowing him such a short time, but they said they would "get her back" if needed. The need hasn't arisen in the last 47 years.

"The way he spoke of his mother and sisters with such love and respect, I knew I would be OK," Melba said, though the "long" drive from the Minneapolis airport to Glencoe in the dark did make her wonder a bit. She said his family was very welcoming and gracious when she finally arrived in Glencoe.

"Jim's mom was the kind of mother-in-law everyone should have," Melba said.



Jim and Melba Carlson, circa 1969.

They returned to Glencoe in early March 1969.

Sometimes they look back at their whirlwind courtship and laugh, both saying they were

Leap of faith
 continued on page 8

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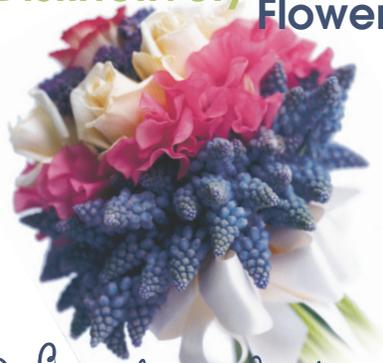
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Leap of faith continued from page 5

They made their home in Glencoe, raising the three boys. The oldest son lives in Georgia; the other two live in Buffalo Lake and Glencoe. They also have been blessed with one grandchild, two step-grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Jim worked at Green Giant for over 40 years. Melba at the McLeod County Sheriff's Office for 26½ years. They planned to retire together in 2005, but Melba got a week's head start because of the way the pay period fell, she joked.

In their retirement, Jim enjoys fishing with his sons and both are very active at Christ Lutheran Church in Glencoe.

When asked what advice they would give to a couple getting married, they said: know it's not always perfect. There are "patches," but you

can usually get through them, never go to bed angry and always be sure to say "I love you" at least once a day.

You don't have to be together every minute of every day. Time to yourself is necessary for a healthy marriage.

Melba said, "Don't ever think you can change someone and make them who you want to be."

They said marriage is about compromise; it usually isn't 50-50, but you have to work together. Neither Jim nor Melba had 9 to 5, Monday to Friday jobs, so they worked together raising their sons.

The Carlsons also said it was important to go to church together. You receive guidance and learn about each other's core beliefs.

A leap of faith brought Jim and Melba together, and their faith has kept them together for 47 years.



Jim and Melba Carlson, and their dog Molly.

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Clever takes on the 'something old, new, borrowed, blue' tradition

Metro Creative Connection

Wedding day tokens of good luck come in many forms, but "the something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue (a sixpence in your shoe)" adage remains one of the most popular luck-enhancing wedding traditions. According to the bridal resource The Knot, this tradition stems from an Olde English rhyme. Something old represents continuity; something new is for optimism for the future; something borrowed stands for borrowed happiness; and something blue is for purity, love and fidelity. The sixpence in your shoe is a wish for good fortune and prosperity, but this is not a tradition widely celebrated outside of the United Kingdom or British territories.

These traditions can add some creative flair and personality to wedding ceremonies. There's no end to the inventive combinations of items brides can carry to increase their good fortunes.

Something old

Something old is one of the easier mementos to obtain. There is a good chance that someone in the family is willing to pass an item down to the

bride that she can include in her wedding wardrobe. It also can be something the bride may have in her own memory box. Beads taken from a grandmother's dress or a swatch of fabric from a beloved toy doll are creative ideas that can be sewn into inconspicuous places on gowns.

Something new

Brides already purchase many new items for their wedding day looks, so "something new" should not be too hard to find. Couples may want to work together to find something new they can both carry so they have a matching set upon tying the knot. Interlocking charm bracelets or keychains may work. What about the groom carrying a small padlock and the bride the key? Quirky couples can each wear one sock from a pair. Get clever and have fun.

Something borrowed

Much like something old, something borrowed is yet another way to pay homage to a friend or family member. It's also one way to add a sentimental twist to everyday items. Borrow a grandfather's handker-

chief to wrap around the stems of the wedding bouquet. Exchange vows with the original rings used by a dis-

tant relative at their own wedding. Flatter a close friend by wearing the same veil she did.



Blue gloves and garter can fulfill the "something blue" in the popular good luck wedding tradition.

Something blue

There are many ways to incorporate "something blue" into your wedding ceremony. Brides can paint their toenails blue or wear blue shoes under their gowns. Sew a patch from a pair of denim jeans into the bodice of the dress. Paint the bottom of your shoes bright blue so they stand out when kneeling at the altar. Blue sapphire or topaz jewelry can add an exotic look to the wedding wardrobe.

With a little ingenuity, brides can easily incorporate "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue" into their wedding ceremonies.

Chanhassen Dinner Theatres Tickets Winner

The drawing was open to any couple who had their engagement announcement in The McLeod County Chronicle during 2015. The winning couple received a gift certificate to the Chanhassen Dinner Theatres.

Lisa and Tyler Lilienthal were united in marriage on July 18, 2015 at the Crow River Golf Club in Hutchinson. It was a beautiful day for an outdoor wedding and they celebrated it with their friends and family. They had a great experience and would recommend Brian and his team at Crow River Golf Club to anyone.

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A little marriage advice from area pastors

Karin Ramige Cornwell
Publisher

If you are getting married in a church, you will probably have to spend a few hours with the pastor. Pastors have performed and attended hundreds of weddings over their ministry careers, and we thought it only fitting to ask them for some advice.

The Rev. Andrew Hermodson-Olsen, Grace Lutheran Church, Brownton

I think it is important to have a conversation about significant things in a relationship — hopes and dreams, finances, spiritual life, conflict resolution, leisure time, and more. Unfortunately, there are two obstacles to this happening. First, there are too many wedding details to attend to! It takes a lot of time and energy to prepare for a wedding. Second obstacle: it is easier to avoid significant conversations than to have them. Because of these obstacles to valuable

conversations, it is a blessing that churches or pastors require pre-marital counseling. The requirement becomes an opportunity for a couple to sit down and converse about things that are very important as they also plan the wedding.

I think it is also important for couples to focus on communication skills. When both can speak honestly and listen without getting defensive, there is a chance to make progress on the many and varied issues in a relationship. If you can't communicate well, it is as if you get stuck because it is communication which provides the ability to move from point A to point B.

The Rev. Jonathan Pixler, Berean Baptist Church, Glencoe

It is interesting how diligently we research buying a house, a car, or some other kind of product.

But so few couples are willing to study one another, and find good counseling and to talk with others who have been mar-

ried for some time. We cover up so much of who we are in the dating relationship and then, when we get married, we let our guard down and we begin to see what we are really like.

1. I encourage couples to go to counseling for at least five or more sessions with a qualified pastor.

I would encourage couples to read Dr. James Dobson's book, "Love For A Lifetime." You can get it on Amazon (used) for just one penny. That one penny will save you tremendous heartache as you work together as a couple through each major issue and are able to find out what the other person's expectations are.

2. Couples need to understand that marriage is a covenant, a sacred bond between a man and a woman instituted by and publicly entered into before God and normally consummated by sexual intimacy.

3. If you want a happy marriage, young ladies show re-

spect to your husband; he will respond accordingly. And young men, if you love your wife and cherish her, she will respond to you. "Love" is vital to a woman's wellbeing just as "Respect" is the primary desire of every man.

4. If a couple will write down these five principles of marriage and put it up on their wall, they will be that much stronger. They are:

- Permanence: Marriage is intended to be permanent, since it was established by God (Matthew 19:6; Mark 10:9). Marriage represents a serious commitment that should not be entered into lightly or unadvisedly. It involves a solemn promise or pledge, not merely to one's marriage partner, but before God.

Marriage advice

continued on page 11

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Photographer	\$ _____
Photos	\$ _____
Books	\$ _____
Videographer	\$ _____

Honeymoon:

Travel	\$ _____
Transportation	\$ _____
Accommodations	\$ _____
Food/Beverage	\$ _____

Additional Expenses:

Wedding Consultant	\$ _____
Decorations	\$ _____
Marriage License	\$ _____
Rings	\$ _____
Clergy Fees/Church Rental	\$ _____
Bridal Party Gifts	\$ _____
Hair Styling/Manicures	\$ _____
Transportation	\$ _____
Guest Book	\$ _____
Ring Bearer Pillow	\$ _____
Tips/Gratuities	\$ _____
Limo/Parking	\$ _____

Total \$ _____

Marriage advice continued from page 10

• **Sacredness:** Marriage is not merely a human agreement between two consenting individuals ("civil union"), it is a relationship before and under God (Genesis 2:22).

• **Intimacy:** Marriage is the most intimate of all human relationships, uniting a man and a woman in a "one-flesh" union (Genesis 2:23-25). Marriage involves "leaving" one's family of origin and "being united" to one's spouse, which signifies the establishment of a new family unit distinct from the two originating families.

• **Mutuality:** Marriage is a relationship of free self giving of one human being to another (Ephesians 5:25-30). Marriage partners are to be first and foremost concerned about the well-being of the other person and committed to each other in steadfast love and devotion. This involves forgiveness and restoration of the relationship in the case of sin.

• **Exclusiveness:** Marriage is not only permanent, sacred, intimate, and mutual, it is also exclusive (Genes 2:22-25; 1 Corinthians 7:25). This means that no other human relationship must interfere with the

marriage commitment between husband and wife.

The Rev. Marc Rakow, Buffalo Creek Community Church, Glencoe

Everyone has an opportunity to grow an excellent marriage! However, the honest forecast for any two people who choose to be knit together for life will include cloudy days. There will be those days that come with disappointment, miscommunication, or unmet expectations.

When an excellent marriage is desired with the bar set high by marks of true love, unbroken trust, and finding fulfillment, what can best prepare a couple for each type of day they may face?

The most important aspect of any marriage is not what you bring into a marriage, but who you bring into your marriage. This is not to say your marriage is limited by how great the person is that you chose to marry (but please choose wisely), instead the most important figure in your marriage is the One who invented marriage.

There are many reasons why a personal relationship with God is the most influential investment that can be made re-

garding marriage.

First, it is extremely practical to invest in knowing God well. God made you (Psalm 139) and He understands you even better than you understand yourself. If you were to consider a life coach or counselor at some point, why not accept help from the ultimate adviser who loves you and knows you better than anyone?

Second, when a season of life finds both of you hurting or feeling down and you need someone to trust, you will not find a safer shelter (Psalm 91).

Third, neither one of you have the special ingredients God alone can give to experience the excellent marriage God intends. However, more than you can imagine is found in learning and growing in a personal relationship with God. He opens the way to understanding the infinite riches that are available to you and your marriage. "God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 1:3).

Yes, with unlimited resources it is a great understatement to say God makes available to a couple all they might need to grow an excellent marriage.

Lastly, when a marriage relationship is in need, God offers much more than is necessary with a list including: unconditional love, undeserved grace, unlimited strength to persevere, and immense wisdom for the challenges that arise! No matter how many times you stumble, or find circumstances stacked against your relationship, a strong personal relationship with God will help your marriage thrive. Invest in your personal relationship with God by knowing Him well and making Him the central figure in your marriage. If God is resourcing a couple with unlimited love, grace, and wisdom, the forecast projects for a strong, steady, marriage for days in both the sunshine and storms of life.

2016 Wedding Directory

Appearing in the first edition of the month in the *Glencoe Advertiser* and the second edition of the month in the *Sibley Shopper*!

Our Wedding Directory is a companion to our Bride & Groom Supplement and is printed monthly in the *Glencoe Advertiser* and *Sibley Shopper*. Once you have promoted your business in the wedding supplement, have your name listed in our directory as a constant reminder of your products and services. This is a great opportunity to show all newly engaged couples in the **Glencoe Advertiser and/or Sibley Shopper** circulation area just what you have to offer them. The following list describes the various products and services that will be highlighted in our Wedding Directory.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| • Wedding Attire | • Financial Services | • Videos |
| • Photography Services | • Wedding Parties | • Gifts |
| • Jewelry | • Catering | • Entertainment |
| • Home Furnishings | • Hair Care | • Dry Cleaning |
| • Florists | • Wedding Invitations | • Reception Halls |
| • Wedding Cake | • Travel Arrangements | |

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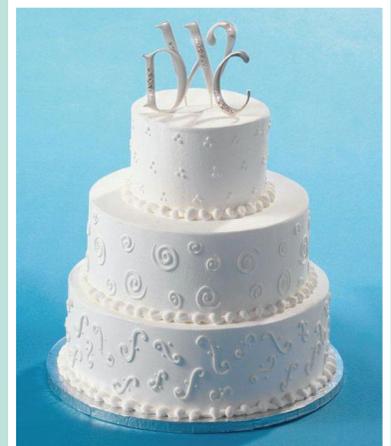
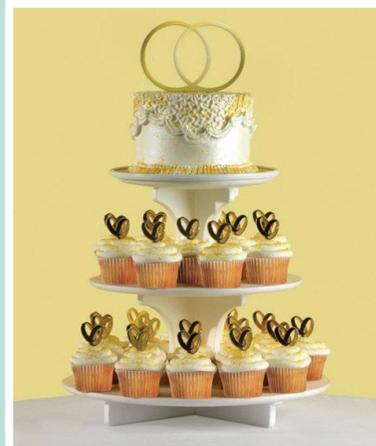
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