

FOCUS

You did WHAT to her wedding dress?

ADVICE



MARY HUNT
Syndicated Columnist

These days, the typical wedding is anything but cheap. After all, for most people, it is one of the most important days of their lives. Still, finding ways to keep the costs down is a noble endeavor. Today's tips are among the best ever! I think that all you brides and grooms — and families who love them — will agree.

DRESS DUTY

I was going to take my daughter's wedding dress to the dry cleaner, when I read the tags. It was made of 100 percent polyester, making it 100 percent washable. I placed the dress in a large net bag, used gentle detergent in cold water and washed it in the washing machine. I even dried it for four minutes on a medium setting in the dryer. Then I hung it up to finish drying. It came out beautifully. Since then, it has been worn two more times by friends. Each time it is washed, it comes out looking as if it just came off the rack.

— Faylee J., Tennessee

BRIDE'S BLOOM

When I got married, money was tight. Because my wedding was in mid-October, I purchased potted mums in my wedding colors for less than \$5 each. Wrapped in beautiful paper and ribbon, they dressed the altar. Afterward, I planted them in my garden. Twenty years later, I have a beautiful reminder of our wedding day when those mums bloom on our anniversary.

— Kathy, Iowa

WEDDING WOES

I work at a photo lab. Here's a scene I've encountered many times: A happy bride pops in with 25 single-use cameras that she put on the tables at her reception. The wedding photog-

rapher was only at the church for formal photos, so she counted on guests to take photos at the reception. She hoped for great candid shots of the event. Instead, children played with the cameras as toys, so she got floor shots and heads cut. I've had brides in tears because it was such a waste of money. Disappointment is the norm. There are other ways to save on photography. Brides should cut the cost of the wedding in ways that won't sacrifice the pictures she will treasure in years to come!

— Janice B., New York

PICTURE-PERFECT

When shopping for photographers for my wedding, I contacted the publications department at a university with which I am associated. I was looking for a photography student who might photograph my wedding on the side. As it turned out, the man who does the photography for the university's publications also does weddings. He charged me \$200 for two hours. Then he gave me the rolls of film and let me do what I wanted with them. Today he would have given me a CD with the digital files. I took the film to a local camera shop and had it developed. In total, it cost less than \$300.

— Nancy C., e-mail

Would you like to send a tip to Mary? You can e-mail her at mary@everydaycheapskate.com, or write to *Everyday Cheapskate*, P.O. Box 2135, Paramount, CA 90723. Include your first and last name and state. Mary Hunt is the founder of www.Debt-ProofLiving.com and author of 18 books, including "Debt-Proof Living" and "Tiptionary 2." To find out more about Mary and read her past columns, please visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Miller graduates U.S. Army basic training

Army Pvt. Margie E. Miller has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army

mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land navigation, foot marches,

armed and unarmed combat, and field maneuvers and tactics.

Miller is the grandson of Pat and Harold Miller of Black Farm Road, Thomasville.

The private is a 2007 graduate of South Caldwell High School, Hudson, N.C.

CORNERSTONE health care

YOUR MEDICAL HOME

Announces that
Aldona Ziolkowska, MD
has joined Cornerstone Internal Medicine at Westchester

Dr. Ziolkowska earned her medical degree at the Pomeranian Academy of Medicine in Szczecin, Poland. She served her residency training in Internal Medicine at The New York Hospital Medical Center of Queens in Flushing, N.Y. Dr. Ziolkowska completed a Rheumatology fellowship at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, N.C. She is board certified in Rheumatology. Prior to joining Cornerstone, Dr. Ziolkowska cared for patients at the Rheumatology and Osteoporosis Management Center, P.A. in High Point and served as a part-time Hospitalist at High Point Regional Hospital.



Cornerstone Internal Medicine at Westchester

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From Left to Right:

Aldona Ziolkowska, MD
Susan M. Payne, GNP-BC
Racquel M. Tonuzi, MD
Corey D. Rustin, NP-C
Glenda G. Billings, NP-C
Robert A. Rostand, MD
Grace E. Terrell, MD (unavailable to new patients)
Richard L. Orr, MD
Holly I. Turbyfill, NP-C
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