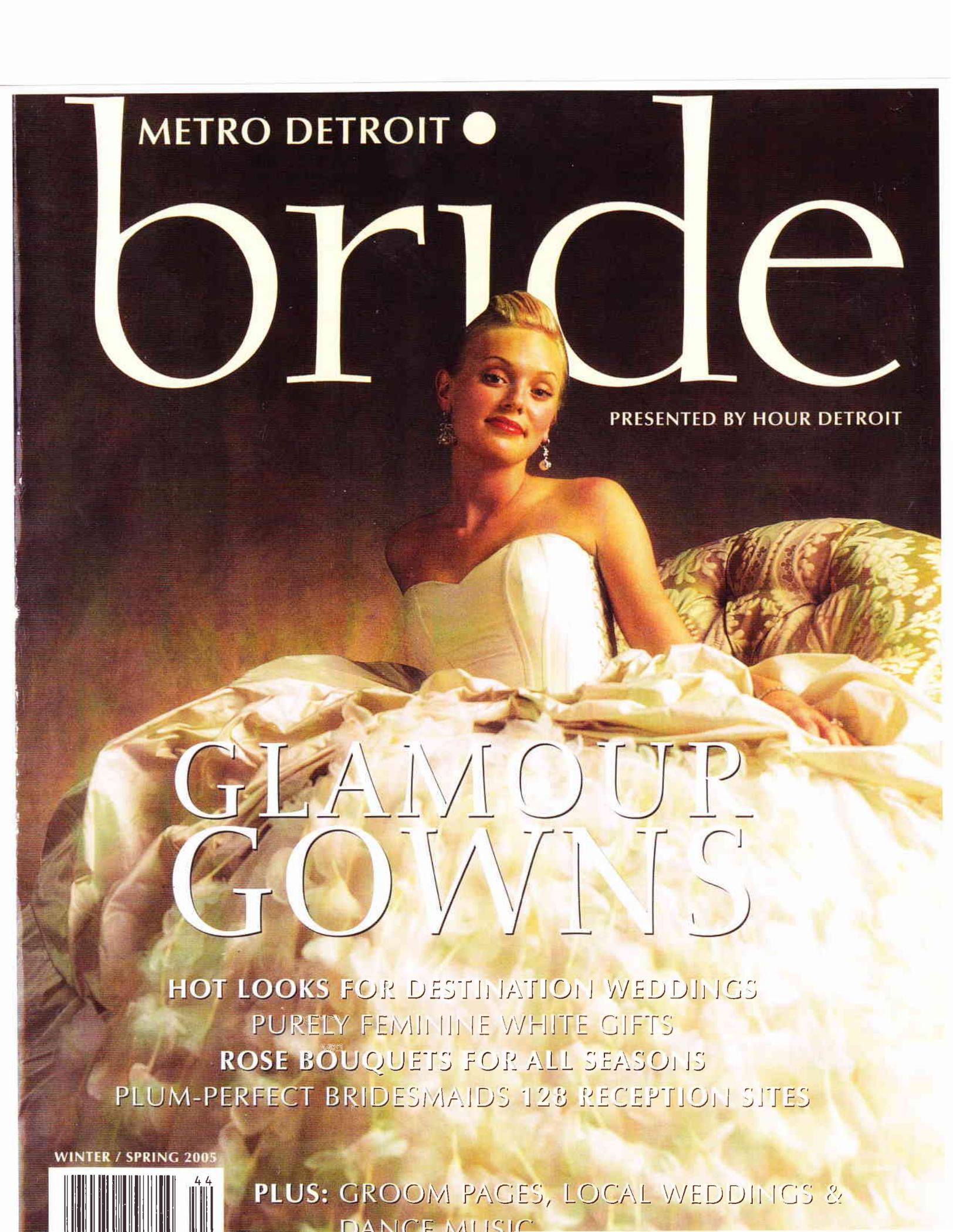


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bride

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GLAMOUR GOWNS

HOT LOOKS FOR DESTINATION WEDDINGS
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ROSE BOUQUETS FOR ALL SEASONS
PLUM-PERFECT BRIDESMAIDS 128 RECEPTION SITES

WINTER / SPRING 2005



PLUS: GROOM PAGES, LOCAL WEDDINGS &
DANCE MUSIC

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...
"Like a song of love
that clings to me,
how the thought of you
does things to me."
— From "Unforgettable,"
popularized by Nat King Cole

Cream & sugar

Afternoon tea served in wedding white celebrates the bride in memorable fashion

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROY RITCHIE

One lump or two: Porcelain
teapot: \$160; teacup: \$36; table
runner (background fabric), \$396,
from Graziella. Silk-flower napkin
ring, \$7.50, The Fuchsia Frog.

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Variations on a theme

The ladies who lunch will love a shower with mood — whether its feminine, formal or fanciful

BY ANDREA ZARCZYNSKI / PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROY RITCHIE

Bridal showers, with all their clichés, can bring on a bad case of déjà vu. But, by establishing a theme, hostesses can eliminate wedding shower tedium and create an original event to remember. Color is a logical and wonderful choice for theme. White — the most bridal color of all — presents the perfect motif for an elegant tea.

“Teas are different from the typical shower,” says Patricia Ivery, a freelance pastry chef and owner of the Patricia Ivery Hotel-Style Tea Catering Service. “It’s a time for bringing friends and family together for relaxation and conversation — not a rowdy event where you play typical shower games.”

Ivery suggests a classic formal tea where miniature sandwiches, scones and desserts are served, or a luncheon tea where an entree and dessert are served with tea. She offers these tips for a successful bridal tea.

1. Hold your tea in either a green outdoor area adorned with colorful flowers or inside a spacious home with big picture windows with a serene view.

2. Invitations make the first impression. Try simple white linen cards printed in black ink and accented with a gold teapot image. As an alternative, try teapot-shaped cards.

3. In the invitation, ask guests to dress up. Consider encouraging the women and girls to wear white gloves and hats.

4. For a simple, elegant decor, cover each table with a white linen tablecloth accented with a centerpiece bouquet of white roses and freesia (depending on the season).

5. Using a mix of different china patterns adds color, and the varied prints blend surprisingly well. Arrange matching white linen napkins in each teacup. Place a tiered dessert stand on each table, and tie a bow with a white satin ribbon on the base of each stand. Using the same ribbon, tie bows onto small white boxes filled with mints, chocolates or tiny scented soaps as party favors. Accent each package with a tiny colorful flower.

6. Offer guests a choice of teas such as classic Earl Grey, a fruity or spicy tea, green tea, decaffeinated tea and, of course, white tea. (Children usually prefer a sweet, fruity tea or punch served

lukewarm.) Serve egg salad and chicken salad tea sandwiches, mini quiches, lemon curd or fruit tartlets and shortbread cookies. White-chocolate-dipped strawberries will tie the color theme to the menu. Divide desserts among the tiered stands, accompanied by a pair of silver serving tongs for each table. Also fill silver trio condiment dishes with two different types of jam and English Brookshire cream for each table.

7. For background music, play classical CDs. Try Jim Gibson’s *The Art of Tea*.

8. Avoid playing passé shower games. Instead, have guests draw numbers from a teacup to take turns in sharing thoughts on relationships and love.

Source: Patricia Ivery, Patricia Ivery Hotel-Style Tea Catering Service; 248-879-6160.

Other shower themes:

Vintage Hollywood glamour

Mystery dinner

European-inspired

Outdoor picnic

Clam bake

Any color theme (perhaps related to the attendant-dress colors)

For women only:

Pajama sleepover party

Spa party

Lingerie (personal shower)



Porcelain saucer, \$36, napkin ring, \$13, both from Graziella. Silver spoon (set of 6), \$175, from Crimson Rose Antiques. Rose petal soaps (in the saucer), \$18, from A Touch of Lace.

— A. Zarczyński

Table runner, \$396, Graziella. White rectangular platter, \$23, Crate & Barrel. Linen napkin (sold with tablecloth and set of six napkins), \$520, French milled soap, \$10, lavender sachet (shoe-shaped), \$29, all from A Touch of Lace. Pin, \$49, perfume bottle, \$148, both from Crimson Rose Antiques. Porcelain teacup: \$36, butter knife (set of 4), \$77, both from Graziella. Pearl necklace with ribbons, \$45, bookmark with beads and ribbon, \$20, both from Woodward & Maple. Silver teaspoon (set of six), \$175, handbag, \$199, from Crimson Rose Antiques. Rose ornament, \$4, from Festivities. Leather key case, \$125, Montblanc. Pin, \$75, from Crimson Rose Antiques.



Where to buy: **Graziella:** 203 Pierce St., Birmingham; 248-723-5650. **Crimson Rose Antiques:** 205 Pierce St., Birmingham; 248-203-2950. **Montblanc:** Somerset Collection, Troy; 248-637-9885. **Crate & Barrel:** Somerset Collection, Troy; 248-643-6610. **A Touch of Lace:** 4036 Telegraph Rd., Suite 104, Bloomfield Hills; 248-645-5223. **Festivities:** 377 Hamilton, Birmingham; 248-647-7772. **Woodward & Maple:** 266 E Maple Rd., Birmingham; 248-258-2848. **The Fuchsia Frog:** 320 E. Maple Rd., Birmingham; 248-203-6550.

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Fancy feet

Be kind to your bridesmaids and their feet with Silly Sandals' frivolous flip-flops. With names such as "I Do," "Pretty in Pearls," "Annie's Orchids (pictured)" and "Feeling Lucky," they're the latest in whimsical wedding wear. Tote them to the beach for a destination wedding, or to the post-ceremony dance-off. You and your girls will be the height of fashion with nary a heel in sight. Ah ... bliss.

\$26; www.sillysandals.com

Suitable for framing

Instead of boxing and stowing their gowns after the big day, new brides are hanging them in their bathrooms – paintings of them, that is. Artist Lindsay Totaro creates personalized wedding-gown collages suitable for display in bathrooms, dressing rooms and bedrooms. These abstract oil paintings replicate the image of a bride's gown, and they incorporate photographs, napkins, wedding invitations, guest lists and other memorabilia to complete the piece. \$1,800 to \$2,500; 312-965-0181 or www.totaro.com.

For the past two decades, 2.25 million to 2.4 million weddings have taken place annually in the United States; a third of them are remarriages.

Stamp of approval



U.S. postage stamps bearing the faces of you and your intended can add a personal touch to invitations. Log onto www.photostamps.com, upload your chosen portrait, and design a layout. A 20-count sheet of first-class stamps will arrive (via the mail, of course) in four to seven business days. It's the picture-perfect way to help spread the news of your impending nuptials.

Price per sheet is \$16.99.

Prince charming

Custom-made, sterling silver cuff links are a great gift for a sentimental groom. Locally designed, the cuff links, pendants, charms, and toggle bracelets keep memories alive long past that last sip of celebratory Champagne. \$90-150, from *Isn't That Charming*, 938 Lakeside Dr. S.E., Grand Rapids; 616-443-4968 or www.isntthatcharming.com.

Bridal shows

With the head-spinning array of details involved in wedding planning, it helps to have a wide range of information under one roof. And bridal shows offer just that. Here's a partial listing of some upcoming local shows:

Bridal Show & Expo: Jan. 8-9, Novi Expo Center, Novi; 800-774-0014

Moments in White: Jan. 9, Crystal Gardens, Marysville; 810-364-6650

Brides-to-Be Inc.: Jan. 9, Mac & Ray's Banquet Center, Harrison Twp.; 586-228-2700

Bridal Celebrations: Jan. 16, The Palace of Auburn Hills, Auburn Hills; 586-532-9200

Brides-to-Be Inc.: Jan. 16, Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit; 586-228-2700

Brides-to-Be Inc.: Jan. 23, Hyatt Regency, Dearborn; 586-228-2700

Bridal Celebrations: Jan. 23, Ritz Carlton, Dearborn; 586-532-9200

Bridal Boot Camp: Feb. 4-6, Royal Park Hotel, Rochester; 248-761-2321

Brides-to-Be Inc.: Feb. 6, Sheraton, Novi; 586-228-2700

Bridal Celebrations: Feb. 13, Troy Marriott; 586-532-9200

Brides-to-Be Inc.: Feb. 13, Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor; 586-228-2700

Barnstormer Bridal Show & Expo: Feb. 20, Barnstormer Banquet Center, Whitmore Lake; 734-449-0040

Brides-to-Be Inc.: Feb. 20, Club Venetian, Madison Heights; 586-228-2700

Romantic Wedding Essence Bridal Show: Feb. 20, Cobo Hall, Detroit; 313-864-9333

Bridal Extravaganza: Feb. 27, Mirage Banquet Facilities, Clinton Twp.; 866-293-7436

Brides-to-Be Inc.: Feb. 27, Royal Park Hotel, Rochester; 586-228-2700

Brides-to-Be Inc.: Mar. 6, St. John's Golf & Conference Center, Plymouth; 586-228-2700

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Personal gift

Monogrammed soy candles are a sleek and sophisticated way to say thanks. Choose the first letter of a friend's name or go with the traditional "B" for bride and include it in a creative gift bag. A variety of available scents, such as tuber rose and sweet pea, will tickle the recipient's sensibilities. \$25, at *SJ Home Designs*, 29791 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield; 248-354-8490.

Cheeky

For a fun personal shower gift or a girly bachelorette party favor, try Hot Dot Greetingwear underwear greeting cards. Each custom- or ready-made package contains a wrapped black cotton/lycra low-rider women's thong, silk-screened with a personal message visible through a window on the front of the card. The thongs — in sizes S/M or M/L, are \$18.00 each (price includes white envelope). Available at *Miss Kate*, 335 E. Maple Rd., Birmingham; 248-646-1695 or www.hotdotgreetingwear.com.

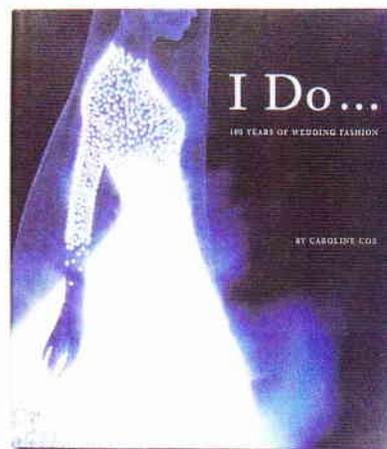
The average number of wedding guests is 189.

Fantasy

Win your chance for a dream wedding on Feb. 13, 2005, through the annual Marry Me at Twelve Contest, presented by Twelve Oaks Mall and Emerald City Designs. For information, visit www.shoptwelveoaks.com.

Everyone knows the famous English rhyme "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue." But did you know that the original rhyme ended "and a silver sixpence for her shoe"?

White pages



I Do ... 100 Years of Wedding Fashion, by Caroline Cox, Watson-Guption Publications, \$60

Weddings of Style: A Guide to the Ultimate Wedding, by Kalliope Karella, Assouline, \$40

Legendary Brides: From the Most Romantic Weddings Ever, Inspired Ideas for Today's Brides, by Letitia Baldrige, HarperCollins, \$50

Wedding Season, by Darcy Cosper, Three Rivers Press, \$12.95

Mother of the Bride: The Dream, the Reality, the Search for a Perfect Dress, by Ilene Beckerman, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, \$17.95

Your Day, Your Way: The Essential Handbook for the 21st Century Bride, by Michelle Roth, Henry Roth and Sharon Naylor, Three Rivers Press, \$18.95

Anti-Bride Guide: Tying the Knot Outside the Box, by Carolyn Gerin and Stephanie Rosenbaum, Chronicle Books, \$19.95

Emily Post's Wedding Planner, by Peggy Post, HarperResource, \$22

To the Wedding, by John Berger, Vintage, \$12

The right stuff: where to register

- A Touch of Lace (atouchofiface.com)
- Bed, Bath & Beyond (bedbathandbeyond.com)
- Crate & Barrel (crateandbarrel.com)
- Eddie Bauer Home (eddiebauerhome.com)
- Graziella (graziellaltd.com)
- Greenstone's Jewelers, Birmingham; 248-642-2650
- Heslop's (heslops.com)
- Home Depot (homedepot.com)
- J.C. Penney (jcpenny.com)
- Kohl's (kohls.com)
- Linens-N-Things (lnt.com)
- Marshall Field's (fields.com)
- Meijer (meijer.com)
- Nancy's Linens, Sylvan Lake; 248-683-0450 (nancyslinens.com)
- Neiman Marcus (neimanmarcus.com)
- Pier 1 Imports (pier1.com)
- Pottery Barn (potterybarn.com)
- REI (rei.com)
- Restoration Hardware (restorationhardware.com)
- Saks Fifth Avenue (saksfifthavenue.com)
- Sears (sears.com)
- Somerset Collection, Troy, "The Registry at Somerset" (thesomersetcollection.com/bridal.asp)
- Studio 330 (studio330.com)
- Target (target.com)
- The Great Indoors (thegreatindoors.com)
- The League Shop Inc. (theleagueshop.com)
- Tiffany & Co. (tiffany.com)
- Williams-Sonoma (williams-sonoma.com)
- Woodward & Maple, Birmingham; 248-258-2848

Making history

Couples can turn their weddings into a fairy tale by using www.ourweddingstorybook.com, a new do-it-yourself, Web-based book-creation system that assembles wedding and courtship memories into a customized, full-color, hardcover storybook. Developed by Novi-based Life Memories, L.L.C., the system offers various cover layouts, typeface fonts and background pages, guiding users through the process of filling out templates with information and photos. *Prices range from \$199 to \$399. Call 248-994-9009 or 248-752-7376.*

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Now that you've chosen the perfect dress, the jewelry and accessories have to be "Just So!" Glancing bridal parties and delighting chic women, Connectables™ from Just So offer jewelry designs that make for once-in-a-lifetime glamour, and start a classic collection you'll wear forever.

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