

## OurMarriage.com Unique Wedding Ideas

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104. My Fiancé played football in high school, so when we do the garter toss, he will place the garter around a football and throw the football.

105. Since I am a great big New York Yankee fan, I decided that I am going to make my own garters for the wedding by making them have something to do with the NY Yankees. I bought two key chain type things that you can wear around your neck and some ivory lace and some elastic and sewed the NY Yankee key chain material to the lace to make my garters. Its a great comfort to me, since I'm never caught without something of the Yankees on my person, and plus my grandfather was also a great big fan, however he passed away so its a great memory for him too.

106. When our daughter got married 6 years ago, we had an out door garden wedding. Due to the possibility of a breeze the bride and groom could not have candles. So instead they took two special champagne glasses of water and had a pretty vase in which they poured the water and placed a rose. The water symbolized purity and the rose continuing love.

107. When cutting the cake at the wedding, my best friend had a picture of her parents and her husband's parents cutting the cake on their wedding day. The two pictures were framed and sitting on the table for decoration. It was very sweet!

108. Since my fiancé and I have a son who will be seven months old at our reception, we wanted to have him involved in our ceremony somehow. We purchased a little tuxedo (SO CUTE! Jacket tails, cumber bund, bow tie and all!) for him to wear. When I walk down the aisle, my fiancé will be holding him (please behave!). My florist will have tucked a sweetheart rose boutonniere in the back of my bouquet, and after passing on my bouquet to my matron of honor (and kissing Dad on his cheek!) I will pull the bout out and pin it on him, then pass him to my mother. Cross your fingers! I hope it goes as planned!

110. My fiancé' is a big fisherman so instead of the traditional cake top, my fiancé and I had to live fan-tailed goldfish in a small bowl decorated just like my centerpieces, as our cake top. I was something different and unique. We also had live gold fish on each table at the reception.

111. My Fiancé and I wanted to add a personal touch to our pretty large wedding instead of having everything as traditional as our parents would have liked.(he, he) Since my husband is a G.I Joe collector and I have a collection of antique Barbies we decided instead of using the regular couple on top of the cake we surprised everyone and had them use one of those miniature Barbies and a 3/4' Gi Joe on top of the cake. It really was cute to add this little unique touch to our wedding. it was a symbol pf our personalities.

112. To avoid guests feeling slighted by seating them at table with a higher number try this alternative. Have your place cards read "Mr. Smith you are seated at our table of Friendship". Or our table of Peace, Joy, Happiness, Love, Hope, etc. It is very easy to replace the number cards with your own handwritten or printed cards in the table stands.

113. I have always been the girl at wedding receptions that will fight for the bouquet at any cost! Needless to say, I have 6 bouquets to show for it! Now that I am the bride, I wanted a different way to toss the bouquet, so I am going to combine flowers from all of the bouquets that I have caught to throw for my single girls! I will have it announced that whoever catches this bouquet will have 6 times the luck!!!

114. Instead of the long, dull receiving line, we are waiting until the reception where we will give each person as they walk in a lei, we are having a luau themed reception. Our place cards will be in everyone's Hawaiian name, with their real name under it. We have made chocolate hula girls, shells and palm trees out of molds. We are having seashells, starfish, fishnets, and pineapples, roast hog, hula girl centerpieces and much more. For our guest book table we have a dolphin picture frame for our engagement picture. For our unity candle we have a under the sea unity candle with blue candles we are putting in dolphin candleholders. We are not having any of the usual bells and floating candles. We want to make it fun and something worth remembering.

115. We are getting married next January in the mountains. Instead of using rice or flower petals to toss, we are using paper snowflakes. I used plain old computer paper (it floats the best) and 3 different sized paper punch snowflakes (at craft stores). We will put a few handfuls into small cellophane bags with the top folded over and secured with double tape. Then tape a snowflake to where the bag is taped shut. It is turning out to be a lot of work, but it will be so worth it!

116. Traditional receiving lines can be long and drawn out, but my fiancé, Shane, and I do want a chance to talk to every guest at our wedding. We wanted to do something a little different. Our centerpieces for the reception were made by my mom and have candles in the center. We decided after we were introduced as the new Mr. and Mrs. we would go to each table and light the center candle also giving us the opportunity to thank each and every guest for sharing our special moment.

117. At my wedding I am planning on having the minister at the front of the church start the ceremony with, "Marriage. Marriage is what brings us together today," in the lisp-voice of the minister in the movie "The Princess Bride." I think it will be funny and make the ceremony less uncomfortable and formal.

118. I will be getting married in November. Neither my fiancé nor I have our dads living. I wanted to do something special to honor them on our special day. I am having two floral arrangements made in baskets and they will each have the name of our dads on the ribbon. After the ceremony we will have my mom and my fiancé's mother place

them at the cemetery in honor of our dads. I will also have a lone red rose placed in my bouquet to represent my dad.

119. Traditions are such great things to pass on at every wedding. In our family we have the mother of the bride unveil the bride to her new husband. The mother takes off the bride's veil while she sits on her new husband's lap. Then the mother replaces her veil with a hand-crafted hair net that my great grandmother wore on her wedding day. After the wedding is over, the bride attaches a small pearl or sequin from her dress to the hair net. This tradition has been done in our family for over 60 years.

120. The Bride always wanted to get married "barefoot"...with a very non-traditional wedding, one with a Hawaiian Theme. Not only will the bride be barefoot, but the whole wedding party and any guest who wish to participate. We have even arranged with the photographer to get a shot of all out feet!!!

121. My fiancé and I both love marching bands; we wanted to share this love with our guests. So I hired the local high school marching band director to design the half time show incorporating a wedding right on the field! The flag and rifle lies form a tunnel through which my bridesmaids and I walk to the alter where my father-in-law (a preacher) will perform our ceremony. We are giving CDs of marching music as favors

122. I have had two cousins use this idea and I intend to use this on my upcoming wedding. Instead of using regular paper invitations, I will be sending out videotapes. The tape will begin with pictures of the bride & groom from birth till adult then pictures of the couple together. You only pick one picture from every age or age range. I will only pick pictures of myself alone so no one will be able to get upset that they were not in the video and someone else was. The tape will only be 15 minutes. This will cost about the same as a really nice invitation. At the end of the pictures you have the wedding information/invitation. The tapes you can buy for about dollar a tape on the Internet. You will just need to get a Videographer who has the right equipment to duplicate a large amount of tapes. I am doing this because I am having a destination wedding and wanted friends and family who couldn't attend to have a nice keep sake. Plus if your family or friends don't know your spouse it gives them a chance to see them up close and personal. You put things like graduation pictures, etc. The postage will probably be the most expensive thing. But I will drop off as many tapes as I can.

123. I am helping out to plan a wedding for my cousin. For the party favors I made 100 CD's with wedding songs on them (Going to the chapel, Celebration, Their song etc..) I also made labels for each CD using a computer label maker. You may think this cost a lot but it ended up being about 80 cents a CD. For the programs they will be also incorporated with the CD and be the CD covers including, The Bride and Grooms picture on the front, wedding party, special note to the guest, and special thanks. I thought this was a cute and unique wedding idea!

124. Rather than having the traditional toss of the bouquet and garter we are going to sell raffle tickets to give them away. Pink tickets for the bouquet and blue for the garter.

125. For our centerpieces we are using framed engagement pictures and a vase with a single calilili of either orange or yellow (my favorite colors.) However, instead of centerpieces on our families' respective tables, we will place a picture of each of our grandfathers, who are no longer with us, along with a bouquet of white calililies (symbolizing remembrance) to honor their presence at our wedding.

126. My Fiancée and I are getting married soon. Both of our best friends were coincidentally killed in tragic accidents. We feel that they should be sharing this precious moment in our lives. So we plan to say a prayer and have a moment of silence dedicated to our friends.

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127. I had my invitations made on compact discs - quite out of the ordinary and as my wedding favor I gave all the ladies a miniature wedding cake!

128. My husband and I eloped and will be doing the big church thing the following January. I am known for throwing big parties, so we decided to hire a karaoke coordinator to entertain the crowd during the last hour of the reception when everyone is tipsy. We're sure it'll be a success.

129. Most weddings I have been to waiting for the ceremony to start can be boring. You're just sitting there, bored, hungry, tired, hot (if in summer) so I thought of a fun idea to do. As my husband and groomsmen were walking up to the altar I was going to have "Here Come the Men in Black" played. I had discussed it with the groomsmen, they all agreed. They were going to put on sunglasses and stand there with their arms crossed. I wanted people to have fun at my wedding. Unfortunately the minister would not let me do it.

130. I bought cheap disposable cameras, but they looked pretty boring so I painted them in our colors and glued a moon with instructions and fall leaves on them to go with our harvest moon wedding theme. Since our wedding is on the Harvest moon we will also be giving out orange moon pies as favors as well as white chocolate moons and foil wrapped chocolate fall leaves. Our place cards are paper fall leaves too.

131. For our wedding -- we wanted something unique -- simple and classy -- which was the theme of our wedding. My groom -- who once had two left feet -- agreed to take swing lessons with me. We had a dance choreographed and we learned it in four lessons. Then it was our last dance -- and we drove off in a vintage limo. Everyone loved it -- it was great for pictures!

132. At my wedding next August my fiancée' and I are going to have two flower girls, his niece and mine, and two ring bearers, his nephew and mine. I wanted to do something unique with my flower girls. My bridesmaids and Maid Of Honor are going to be wearing red dresses, so the flower girls are going to wear white tea party dresses with red roses

sewn into the hemline, then they are going to wear little crowns of baby red roses, and to top it off ( here's the unique part) each of our little one's are going to be sporting a feathered pair of angel wings on their backs. They'll be the little cherubs of our special day.

133. This was a second marriage for both of us and we both have children from previous marriages -- we did things different. My wonderful 3 stepsons were already grown and I had an 8 year old daughter who wanted to be part of every detail. Instead of being escorted by a parent my daughter gave me away and then we decided to allow her and her new stepfather to exchange vows. The vows stated he was willing to accept her as his stepdaughter, to love, provide guidance, and step in when her real father could not. She accepted him as her stepfather to love, listen to and be the daughter he never had before. They both said I DO and they hugged, then we proceeded on with the usual ceremony. We have just celebrated our second anniversary and in the back of our guest book I have kept a journal of different events, and experiences we have experienced as a new family. From the honeymoon to family vacations. Our daughter gets it down and reads it quiet often and says remember when we did!

140. I thought this was a really neat idea. At the reception hall the bride and groom had placed 2 large baskets in each of the restrooms lined with satin, with a note that said "compliments of the bride and groom" They were filled with small packs of toothbrushes and toothpaste, mouthwash, dental floss, tampons, pads, safety pins, hair spray, deodorant, all the little necessities, most people don't always keep on them. It was a neat little touch...nice to know that the bride and groom were thinking of us too =)

141. We are getting married in October. We are up there in age - groom is 75 and I am 60. We chose to have a wedding with our children and close friends (list growing as we speak).

We both are singers and others in the party are musicians, so we decided to have a "My Fair Lady" (in Action) wedding. All immediate family in costumes of the period (late 1900's) including Sherlock Holmes and Oliver and his friends, some with top hats, some with beautiful large hats. It will be a wonderful experience. We have a director and producer and a program to go with it a "Playbill" so to speak. Leonard will come out singing "Get Me to the Judge on Time" or "I'm Getting Married in a Moment". We hope to have a great time.

142. I saw this at my friends' wedding, instead of the traditional clinking of the glasses, they had a "kissing wheel", each guest gets 1 spin, if the spinner fell on red, the bride and the groom kissed each other, if it fell on blue, they person who spun it had to kiss somebody, and if it fell on green, the person who spun it owed the bride and the groom a buck. I think it's really cute.

143. Instead of throwing one bouquet for the bouquet toss, I am going to tie about 15-20 single flowers in one bunch. Each flower will have an individual quote or small poem attached to it with a ribbon. And while everyone is expecting to catch one big bouquet, a sea of single buds will fill the room!

I think this will add a touch of originality to a great tradition...and many ladies can enjoy taking home a souvenir!

144. My father doesn't get around too well now a day. Since my dad can't walk me down the aisle, instead of carrying the traditional bouquet, I will carry a satin/lace pillow with pretty streaming lace or ribbon of some sort. On the pillow will be a picture of dad that has been printed on. I will walk down the aisle and stop at my dad, hand him my pillow (which he will not see before then) give him a kiss, and tell him that I love him. That will give him the special feeling he was with me all the way. After I turn and stand back in the aisle, one of the bridesmaids will then hand me my bouquet. I will then take my position.

I thought it was cute!

145. My fiancé and I are big movie buffs, so we wanted to add that into our wedding planning. For our invitations, we decided to make our own. Designing it as a miniature movie poster, with ourselves in the picture, and on the bottom we included everyone that is involved in the wedding, and loved ones that we have lost. The RSVP Cards are in the shape of movie tickets. The program reads like ending credits of a movie, and instead of party favors we printed pictures from old and new movies alike on photo paper and are placing them where the placards would normally go. And the entire wedding party is dressed in Black and White. I am so excited to see how people like the theme.

146. My Fiancé and I are getting married at Christmas time. My niece, who will only be two and a half, is my flower girl. Because she is young and, we are not sure how she will do walking down the aisle, we are going to have her and the ring bearer pulled down the aisle. And since it is Christmas time they will be pulled down the aisle in a sleigh. TT soon to be TF

147. I saw this at a wedding I attended recently. The bride gave all her bridesmaids flip-flop sandals that matched the dresses. That way, when they wanted to take off their uncomfortable high-heels at the reception they still looked nice and uniform.

148. As a bridesmaid in my cousin's wedding, it was my duty to help figure out what to do for pew markers. My cousin's fiancé didn't like the fact that people "decorate" God's House and didn't want any markers at all. Luckily I was able to convince him otherwise (As I have been to many wedding's plus planned my own) and advised him that ushers can sometimes get confused when seating guests and need to know exactly where VIP's sit. We collect a few childhood pictures of the bride and groom from baby to now. Then we turned them into black & white photos, framed them and hung them from the pews in

chronological order. The pictures of the bride were where the bride's guests would sit and the grooms were on the other side.

The relatives really liked it because they "remembered when" the bride and groom were those ages and then it provoked them to share stories at the reception.

149. My fiancé and I are both bringing children into our marriage. To make the day just as special for them (they total 7 children) we are planning our own special promise to them. All 7 children, my fiancé and myself will all lock pinkies with one another in a circle and "pinkie swear" to always be a family.

150. My fiancé's three-year-old nephew is going to be the ring bearer at our wedding. When his mother told him that he was going to be the ring bearer, he heard, "You are going to be the ring bear." He then went on to say that he was going to be a growling bear but really wanted to be the "ring alligator" instead (His favorite animal). We figure why not grant the little guy his wish? Instead of the traditional ring bearer's pillow, he is going to carry a soft stuffed alligator down the aisle with the rings tied to a bow around the alligator's neck. We are also going to list him in our program as the "Ring Alligator" with a paragraph explaining why. Hopefully, the alligator will also be an incentive for him to make it all the way down the aisle.

151. My husband and I recently attended the wedding of the daughter of a very close friend. The family is large and very mixed with parents, step-parents, half-sibling, step-sibling, etc. The bride wanted everyone included somehow and came up with making sand vase (for lack of a better word). She let each relative pick their favorite color of sand and she and the groom picked out a beautiful clear vase. Then as each relative came down the aisle, before they sat down they pour their sand into the vase. The church official began it and the bride and groom completed it. Then they had it sealed, so now they have a unique hand made reminder of all who love them and joined them at their wedding. We all thought it was really cool! Jill

152. My sister's Videographer (our uncle) decided it would be funny to place a video camera on the stage at the reception to capture the entire thing...only he hid it behind a plant so no one could see it. It was hilarious seeing everyone dancing at the reception without holding back. We caught some pretty memorable moments on that tape.

153. My husband and me made magnets for each of our guests. They were two peppermints with eyes and a mouth on a magnet. We had a little tag hanging that said "'mint' to be". On the other side of the tag we had our names and date. Everyone loved them!!! It was something that we made together and didn't take a lot of time or money!!

154. One of our unique ideas in our wedding is substituting the place card numbers with names of the parishes of our beautiful island, Jamaica. Also instead of the typical guest

book we are having everyone sign a big parchment paper surrounding our engagement photo and then we will frame and hang it in our new home.  
Congratulations to all you future couples. Greetings from NYC!

155. We've decided that instead of the traditional clinking of glasses for the bride and groom to kiss, we will put money dishes out for people to put quarters into, and donate the money to the cancer society in memory of my mother. Hopefully there will be a lot of kisses.

156. We are having our wedding in October and it will be Halloween theme. Instead of the traditional wedding cake my mom and dad have thought up a great idea for a donut-wedding tower with a fully working apple cider fountain! It's going to be tons of fun.

157. I wanted to do something that will remind me of everyone who was at our reception (considering by the time the night is over you can barely remember who was there.) I am purchasing small pieces of cut fabric and having every guest write a little something on the fabric. It could be a memory or their best wishes. After the wedding my fiancé's grandmother is taking the fabric pieces and making us a quilt. Something that we will have forever and keep warm with. Be sure to purchase a marker for fabric so it doesn't fade or wash out.

158. My big sister just got married. At the reception our Aunt got this great idea to sit the groom in the center of the dance floor. Previously we went around to all the women and told them when this time came to get their keys out. The DJ went into this big spill about putting the past in the past. And asked all the women to step forward with keys to the groom's apartment. They all tossed them in front of him and walked off. The best part was when his three best friends pregnant wives came up together at the end and stood there with their tiny bodies and obviously pregnant bellies and tossed in the keys. The Videography caught it all on tape!!! My sister didn't even know about it. : )

159. My sister had a unique way of cutting their cake. They had myself (maid of honor) stand by her and the best man stand next to the groom. As they went to feed each other, on 3 they each moved aside and the groom got me while my sister, the bride, got the best man. After the craziness was over, they then fed the cake to each other very nicely.

160. I am not going to toss my bouquet because the struggle that follows isn't too beautiful to watch. No elbowing in my wedding, please.  
Instead I will ask the single girls to form a circle around me. I am going to keep my eyes closed as the band starts to play and the girls start to circle around me. When the music stops I am going to hand my bouquet over to the girl who happens to stand in front of me that time.

161. I saw this idea on TV. The linen on the cake table will have black and white pictures of both of our families great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents wedding photos screened onto the fabric with our engagement picture in color in the middle. It's a tribute to the people who made our day possible.

162. My fiancé caught the garter at a wedding he was at a few years ago. The groom's family and his family had been friends for years, so he kept the garter so that one day when he got married, he could use the same one. We plan to put "Pass it On", then their last name and the year they were married, our last name and they year we were married, and hope that the tradition continues!

163. I was at my friend's outdoor wedding and at the time, her husband was a HUGE Star Wars fan. So as he and the groomsmen came to the front, a flute player began playing the opening music for Star Wars. All the guests got a huge kick out of it and with it being played with a flute it was actually really pretty.

164. I'm organizing most of my best friends wedding...And we came up with an idea instead of the bridesmaids having a bouquet of flowers...They will each hold a Chinese fan matching their dresses...It will be a nice touch even though we are having a traditional Ethiopian wedding.

165. Ever since I graduated high school I always wanted to wash the feet of my groom. As a Christian, it symbolizes ultimate servant hood - the first thing my groom and I will do during the ceremony is wash each other's feet.

166. I've seen this at a wedding recently. Instead of having your guest tap the champagne glass when the want the bride and groom to kiss, have them sing a love song to the married couple. It ranged from groups of people singing to solo acts. Some people sound great and others...well lets just say they might not make American Idol. In any event, this was hilarious and entertaining to watch.

167. I'm getting married in Portugal and don't want to throw my bouquet into a pool of hair pulling women! It has become a tradition in my family to give the bouquet to the saint at the church in which you are wed. Therefore, as the women old, young, etc. are walking into the church they will each be given a single sunflower (my fav) with a love saying or phrase attached with ribbon. I also plan to burn the tips of the paper to make it look older.

168. At my Sister-in-laws wedding we opted to dress up her traditional white wedding runner by weaving a 2 1/2 in. ribbon that matched her color theme 3 inches from the outside edges. It helped tie things in, I also suggested it to a friend that is planning a winter wedding that is red themed, but instead, to die her runner red, with white rose petals on it. Anything to be different.

169. My daughter's wedding is next May. I have been collecting vintage wedding cake toppers for many years. I have over 40 now. We will decorate the wedding cake, groom's cake table with them all around in ivy and white flowers. Teresa

170. My family as well as the groom's are from southern Missouri. For our reception we didn't want anything fancy and uncomfortable for our families. We are getting married October of this year. So our reception has a harvest festival feeling to it. My groom is very into John Deere tractors and farm equipment; therefore the groom's cake will be a John Deere tractor. We thought it would be easier for everyone to relax and have a good time if it was like a large family reunion type of setting. Thanks for your ideas on the site! Alicia

171. I am getting married in July, and we are having a medieval theme wedding and instead of the bridesmaids carrying flowers they will carry a crystal that they picked out (also their gifts) if the crystals are spheres they will have little pillows to carry them on or if they are uncut we are going to wrap ivy around the crystal. The groomsmen will get to choose a sword to hold and keep.

172. My husband and I are both in the Marine Corps. We did a civil ceremony shortly after returning from Iraq. We are now doing our ceremony and reception. My groomsmen will wear their dress blue uniform. My bridesmaids will be in red. Our colors are red white and blue. For favors, we are making Marine Corps emblem chocolates with personalized dog tags. Instead of rice we are doing sparklers.

173. Getting married later in life, I have heard it all from clinking glasses, singing songs with the word "love" in it, to ringing bells. To make our reception a little different and make everyone feel a part of the fun; we invited people to come up to a microphone by the head table and tell a story or memory with the bride, groom or both. After the story, my husband and I would kiss.

It turned out to be a real hit. Everyone was "in" on the jokes, and my husband and I realized how lucky we were to have such special family and friends. I really recommend it. It also gave us the opportunity to actually eat our dinner during the stories!

174. I am keeping all the pedals from the flowers my fiancé is giving me while we are dating. When we get married, I will have our flower girl, my niece, throw those pedals as she walks down the aisle.

175. When my cousin got married, instead of clinking glasses to make the bride and groom kiss, they had the DJ announce that the only way they would kiss is if a table stood up and sang a song with the word "love" in it. Everyone thought it was great and most of the tables got involved. Because we had relatives there from Canada, some sang songs in French too! It was great to hear, and funny to watch. The bridal party even surprised the bride and groom with "Can't Help Falling in Love."

176. I am having a unique wedding to change it up a little. I am having themed Caribbean/tropical with everyone dressing up in his or her vacation outfits. But the change up will also be at the reception, where we are going to have a game show and entertainment...like being on a cruise or at a resort. Because I could not have my outdoors tropical wedding in the Midwest, I have decided to bring the idea and atmosphere to my party! It will be great!

177. My cousin got married years ago, but I will be "stealing" one of the ideas they had.... the bride and groom were from different provinces, (yes, we're up in Canada) and most of the families had never met each other.... they had us sitting at tables with mixed seating, so each table was about 1/2 bride's family and 1/2 groom's family. The DJ announced, to get people talking and to get the couple to kiss, you had to go up to a large bowl at the front table and pull a trivia question and the guests at your table would discuss it, then if you answered correctly, the bride and groom would kiss. The really cute part was where did they meet, etc. For the family members who had never met the other person before, it was really an interesting way to see how the bride and groom's relationship developed.

178. My Fiancé and I are huge Oakland Raider football fans and we were introduced to each other at a Raider tailgate. I decided to use the Silver and Black color theme for our wedding and also number the reception tables with the jersey numbers of popular Oakland Raider players (#12, #16, #80, #75 etc).

179. We have an "Old Hollywood Glamour" kind of theme. We are having our reception at the Regal Biltmore in Los Angeles. This is the home of the 1937 academy awards. All over the interior of the hotel's lower level are pictures of that night with all the old Celebs. At the reception, instead of using table numbers, we will have 8X10 black and white photographs of old celebrities identifying each table. For example, the place card

will read "John Smith, Clark Gable's table." John Smith sits at the table where Clark Gable's picture is. It's also a great conversation piece if your guests sitting at the table don't know each other.

180. Being a true Canadian Hockey fan, my fiancé and I decided that instead of the traditional (and annoying) clinking of the glasses to make us kiss, we are setting up a hockey shoot if they score we kiss and if they miss we are putting them in a penalty box where we will figure out a task...still a year until the day, we'll figure it out!!

181. For our wedding we have been looking at old traditions from around the world. One that we have decided to use is from Finland, called the "Dance of crowns." Unmarried female guests will dance around me while I am blindfolded. I will remove the tiara that I will be wearing and grab one of them and place it on their head. Whoever I catch will be "the next to wed."

182. As my fiancé and I are paying for our wedding ourselves, we have decided to advertise for a 2nd or 3rd year photography student from the local university to take our photos for us. We will get to see their portfolio beforehand and they will have our permission to use some of our photos for their degree or to help them with future jobs. This will save us so much money and also...students always need that little extra cash!!

183. Instead of a traditional wedding cake I am having a cupcake wedding cake. My fiancé created a 4 tier cake tier and I decorated the tiers with Ivy leaves and pink and white flowers. The 4 tiers and the bottom hold up to 350 cupcakes.

184. My daughter is getting married next year. She wanted something different than a regular wedding book. So I came up with the idea, of having the guests sign a full size white sheet and write a little note to the bride and groom with a fabric pen. After the wedding, I will cut each one out and make a wedding quilt out of them and pictures of the wedding will be added to it. I will use the colors of their wedding, (red, white and black) to frame the pictures and the notes. This will be something that they will be able to enjoy and see everyday, not just sitting in a bookcase and collecting dust, like a book. I hope that all you unique people out there will enjoy and try this idea. Have fun!

185. My Beloved Fiancé can only hear out of his right ear, so at our wedding, in order for him to be able to hear me worry-free, he will stand on the left side of me...our guests will follow this with the friends and family of the groom on the left, and the friends and family of the bride on the right (clashing with tradition of course.

186. Since I played softball nearly all of my childhood, I am considering having my wedding on the same softball field I first started playing on. I plan on having the groomsmen line up down the first base line and the bridesmaids line up down the third base line. Chairs will be set up in the center with an isle running down from second base to the pitching mound to home plate where the bride and groom will stand. As an ending procession we will all walk from home plate completely around the bases.

187. I wanted to give the women something different as a party favor, so I thought of a great idea. Since my husband and me like to cook we are going to give out cookbooks with all of our two families recipes, mostly from all the great women in our life. We have a picture on the cover of us toasting a glass of champagne.

188. This is both of our second weddings but wanted to have the whole experience together. We have children from other marriages so to include the children the invites had the children inviting the guest to the wedding of their parents. Since we are paying for the wedding we thought it would make a nice touch for the children. I have gotten many comments on how nice they are.

189. For our reception, instead of having the guests sign a boring old book that I might never see again, I am putting scrapbook paper, pens, stickers, stamps and stuff on each table so that people can make up scrapbook pages for us and we can put them all in a scrapbook when it's over!!

190. My daughter-in-law started this in our family then it was followed by the rest of the children. For a guest book they bought a coffee table book with pictures that were meaningful to them and had guest pass it around the tables during the reception. The guest had a chance to write a special note to the couple. We started at the rehearsal dinner so the bridal party and family could sign it early since they would be busy during the reception. I have also used this idea for a shower guest book.

191. I got this idea from my father's recent marriage and found it so wonderful that I will most likely use it as well. Instead of a guest book, my future stepmother cut different sized hearts out of a variety of colors of construction paper. Each of the guests was asked to sign a heart and leave a little note on it. When the wedding was all over she had cute little notes left from all of her friends, and is currently working on incorporating them into the wedding album. The guests were really as much a part of the day as they and the wedding party were, so it's wonderful to have them as a presence in the album too rather than relegated to a lonely book that will hardly ever be opened again.

192. At our wedding, my fiancé and I are going to have guests sign post cards for us instead of a scrapbook. The idea is for each guest to fill out a pre-addressed, pre-stamped post card with a message for us. They will drop them into a gold, decorated mailbox on the gift table. A friend will be mailing the cards out after the reception and we will return home from our honeymoon with a brimming mailbox full of our loved ones best wishes!

193. Ok, check this out. I am a VERY eccentric person, and I love to do things differently. So here's my Idea for my bachelorette party. Instead of a wild night or crazy party, I am going to bring my girls to New York City(I live on Long Island)for a weekend, and we'll go to a play, and really just see whatever we decide to do. I'm going to surprise them with the play the first night. Since we will only be there for ONE full day I am going to have special t-shirts made that say "I'm with the bride" on the front and going across the back they'll say "Bridesmaid" or "Maid of Honor" and have the number of their birth dates. Mine will say "I'm with the Bridesmaids" and the back will have "bride" going across it with my birth date. Not only will we look like we're all on the same "team" but we will stand out in a crowd no matter where we go!

194. Hi this was told to me by a friend and I thought that it was a really good idea. The bride goes around to each table where there is a single girl sitting and gives the girl a pin with either a diamond or pearl heart on the pin so that all the guys will know who is single and that they can ask them to dance :)

195. My fiancé and I are dog lovers. I have two female bullmastiff's and he has a male boxer. Luckily, they get along well. We wanted their presence known at the upcoming wedding but my mother protested (can't blame her, I guess). So I have decided to make each of my girls, an animal wedding dress. His boxer will have a tux to match. We will have an 8X10 photo sitting next to the guest book.

196. Instead of having my flower girls walk down the aisle throwing flowers, I decided to make them my little angels instead. I went out and found them wings to wear as they walk down the aisle.

197. My parents are extreme sports fanatics! - They got married on a plane...then skydived out onto their honeymoon spot!!!! The rest of the family on the plane got to go on a weekend vacation at our beach house... outrageous I know, but I'll bet a million dollars no one else has done that before!

26. For our wedding theme we decided to use our monogrammed initials throughout the entire wedding. Silk banners were created for the front doors of the church with the monogramming as well as smaller banners on every other church pew. The other pews will be decorated with flowers.

198. The garter tradition made my friend and her fiancée uncomfortable-- so instead of the DJ playing that awful raunchy type stripper music-- the DJ played \"Its Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas"-- the crowd loved it and everyone laughed!

199. No Rice, no birdseed, no flowers, no mess to clean up.

We have tied white ribbon through jingle bells and placed them in a clear glass bowl. When the ushers excuse everyone they will pass out the jingle bells. As the Bride and Groom appear for their grand entrance as Husband and Wife all guests "ring-in" the newly weds.

Hint-the bells should be passed out AFTER the ceremony so busy hands won't ring them and disrupt the ceremony.

200. For my bouquet, I looked up the meaning of different flowers. I chose 5 descriptions of my future husbands personality and had him choose 5 descriptions of my personality and used those ten flowers throughout my bouquet. On the back of the program I will list the flowers and the meanings.

201. When my best friend got married, instead of having her usual cake topper she had a humorous topper with the groom running away and the bride snatching him by his coattail. It was humorous and sweet!!!!

202. Our wedding theme is Winter Wonderland. My fiancé and I wanted to give our guests a wedding favor that was unique but fun enough so that small children in attendance could have one. We decided to make a wedding "mad libs" game. The words that our guests were to fill in were the names of candies. For example: What our friends call us when we're the only ones laughing at our jokes-NERDS.

Each will be wrapped in a present box with a bow and message thanking our guests for attending.

203. My wife is blind and didn't want to miss out on all the beautiful decorations. So we had the entrance decorated so when the guests came in they were in awe. We then passed out blindfolds so they would experience the wedding the way my wife did. We had seeing-eye dogs as escorts to seat the guests. Everyone got a kick out of the experience and we saved a fortune on decorating the main hall---and no one was the wiser!!

204. Instead of the tradition wedding song, when I got married, I was escorted in to a saxophonist playing "You are so beautiful".

205. I ran into a woman in the photographer's office and she had recently gotten married and said she has a son and didn't know any little girls so she had a nephew 9 years old be the ring bearer and she had her son walk down the isle with a white suit and top hat and she placed red rose pedals in his top hat and he sprinkled the pedals from his hat going

down the isle as she followed him I thought this was unique compared to your traditional flower girl.

206. Instead of doing the traditional introducing of the court and having each person stand while they are talked about, we are doing movie clip skit on video ahead of time that will be played at our wedding reception. It saves time and will also be funny to keep the guests enthused! ALOHA

207. My uncle is a HUGE Chicago Bears fan, and for the reception the bridesmaids wanted to do something funny to him. Right after the grand march we all got up front in a line and lifted our dresses to moon him, but instead of seeing our bare butts he saw us with packer boxers on and each one of us had a word on our butt so he would read THE BEARS STILL SUCK!! Needless to say everyone was surprised and so was he.

208. My stepdaughter got married in May. She used yellow roses and daisies. Her unique idea was for the reception tables. She had the clear plastic long stem flutes with 2 goldfish in each flute with daisy & rose petals around the bottom of the glass. It was different, yet it was very pretty. After the reception, she gave the gold fish to the children that had attended the reception.

209. We had a beach wedding, where the entire theme of our wedding was centered on the ocean, beach, etc. Instead of a normal, boring guest book, we chose to have a "message in a bottle". Each of our guests signed a sheet of parchment and stuck it in the bottle. We had a sign telling our guests we would read these on our first anniversary so that we could relive our wedding thru their words of wisdom or advice.

210. At my sisters wedding we were debating for the longest time on how to have the bride and groom kiss. She was having a tropical themed reception. My brother came up with the idea that guests should put on a grass skirt and coconut bra (over their clothing of course) and do their own version of the hula. We even purchased children's sizes for our nieces and nephews. It was a riot to sit at the head table and watch people put coconut bras on their heads, or where ever they saw fit! It was very memorable and cheap!

211. My wedding will be in Zion Canyon (Springdale, Utah) in June 2005. It will be outside by the river and in an area with a lot of green, trees and a cute little gazebo. I decided to stick with the outdoors theme and put my flower girls in butterfly wings I found on an online costume store. They are purple, pink and yellow. Besides the fact that Zion National Park is beautiful, I think that it will make my pictures awesome and different.

212. To honor our parents and grandparents, we are going to surprise them by playing their wedding songs, but the key is not telling them. The whole wedding is based around surprises. One after another the guests will be surprised. We are also placing our

parents, and both sets of grandparents wedding photos on the cake table. Another idea is telling everyone that my future husband is a horrible dancer, but in reality we are taking dancing lessons. For my wedding I am starting a new tradition to pass down to my family. We are going to sign our aisle runner, so years from now my family will have something "old" and it will mean more than something spur of the moment.

213. In my upcoming wedding there will be a lot of children in the bridal party. So that they don't feel left out, and since my daughter is my mini bride, I will get bride & groom teddy bears and have all the kids come to the floor and have my daughter toss the teddy bears and whoever gets it keeps it.

214. We are having a fall wedding and instead of the flower girl sprinkling the aisle with the traditional rose petals, we are having her sprinkle the aisle with fall leaves. And instead of pew bows we are aligning the pews lining the aisle with fall garland. I always wanted an outside fall wedding, October weather is way to unpredictable, so we are bringing the outdoors in!

215. For our Wedding my Fiancé and I are going to use my Broad Sword to cut our wedding cake and a small server to serve the cake.

216. When choosing my bridal party, I was a little perplexed as all of my VERY close friends are all males...so I decided to have "attendants" instead of "bridesmaids". I have my sister, my brother and my best friend Andrew standing by MY side on my special day...who says they have to be women (besides this way I only have one bridesmaid to buy a dress for) :)

217. Also I am an avid elephant collector, and so we have put a 'small' elephant theme throughout the wedding. I have elephant invitations and the bridal table centerpiece is a male and female (bride and groom) elephant candle holder...also I have little elephants with their trunks up holding the place cards - these then become the quests wedding favors...a great way to tie it all together.

218. I saw this at a wedding I was at this summer. Instead of the clinking of glasses for the bride and groom kisses, this couples asked for donations to their favorite charity. Every time a donation was made they would kiss. I thought it was a great idea.

219. My friend and her fiancé had a great idea to do at their wedding. When they went to light the unity candle they had two white roses sitting behind it. They lit the candle and then they each picked up a white rose. She took the rose to his mom and he took the rose to her mom and they thanked them for helping with the wedding and for blessing the union. Their mom's were shocked, but they really liked it when they thanked them for approving of their marriage.

220. My soon to be husband loves me being barefoot. So we have planned for me to walk down the isle barefoot. My actual "wedding" ring will be on my toe. So during the ring

ceremony He will place the engagement ring back on my finger then kneel and place my wedding ring on my toe. As a surprise I have had my dress altered so it will hang above my ankles and in the whole wedding theme my toes will be painted blue.

221. My fiancé and I are having a 20s, 30s, 40s Big Band Wedding. We just sent out of wedding invitations and anyone who responds with a "Yes, they're coming!" We are going to send a follow-up card that says the following:

Lucky Us!

Thank you so much for accepting our wedding invitation! We are excited to have you as our guest(s) on November 21st. In the meantime, here is your own personalized CD of 20s, 30s, & 40s Big Band music to get you in the mood!

Then on the CD, my fiancé and I say a few words, and the first song is "In the Mood!" The first batch of CDs goes out tomorrow!

222. As father of the bride payments and tipping fell to me. I offer this comment concerning tipping (or payment) to musicians who are family friends, which was our case for organist and soloist. Neither was in need of small amounts of cash and if charging, fees would have been \$300 and \$200 respectively. I felt it crass to offer money, especially since they were providing their talents as gifts to my daughter. So we gave them special gifts (in value range of their normal fees). You might consider recommending this alternative.

223. Instead of doing more traditional favors, which most of the guests usually leave behind anyways, my fiancé and I have decided to donate to a charity. Since we are both avid animal lovers, we are going to donate to our local SPCA, and then create cute dog and cat shaped favors out of nice paper with information about different animals up for adoption. Each "favor" will let the guest know that we donated money to these cuddly critters in their names!

224. My fiancé and I have decided not to have a traditional guest book: guests merely signing their names is not personal enough. We are going to purchase fancy paper and send each guest (at our 45 person wedding) a piece and ask that they write a personal message and decorate the paper in some way. They can then either send the paper back to us or bring it to us at the wedding. We can then compile it into a guest book which is not only beautiful and creative, but where the guests had time to think about what they wanted to write rather than coming up with something at the spur of the moment.

225. My daughter has always wanted to get married in our rose garden, at dusk, in bare feet so taking it one step further we are planning a fairy wedding. In June, at that time of day our gardens are full of lightning bugs and should add to the effect. No attendants, but her youngest sister, complete with wings, will walk up the aisle to the pergola and using a wand make a big production of "lighting the woods" while an uncle flips the electric switches for the white Christmas lights we string through the trees.

226. At our reception my husband and I had difficult time choosing our favor. We didn't want a favor that no one would appreciate, but we still wanted something that would reflect us. Well my husband and I enjoy having our picture drawn so we hired a characteristic to come to our reception for a couple of hours and draw all of our guests portraits. It makes a great gift because your guests can have anyone in their character and it only cost us about \$100.

227. My husband and I renewed our vows after 20 years so there really wasn't anything we needed so in lieu of gifts I gathered my friends and family and had a wedding/reception decorating party I had a list of decoration ideas and asked each person who wanted to participate to purchase one item and then we decorated for our wedding/reception. I gave them our color and theme scheme and told them to surprise me. And then we picked a date to get together and we incorporated all the decorations into the reception/wedding I also kept a journal with a picture of each participant with their decoration choice, we played party games and had refreshments while decorating this made our friends and family feel more involved in our wedding and it was a lot of fun and cheaper than purchasing all the decor yourself, plus it let the guests off the hook for trying to find a gift that we would like.

228. My father is deceased so my fiancé and I are meeting half way down the aisle. I figured my dad (in my heart) will walk me half way and then my fiancé will meet me half way to symbolize we compromise and meet half way in marriage. I felt bad leaving my dad out.

229. My grandpa was very special to me and I always wanted him to be a part of my big day. Since my grandpa passed away last year I have decided that he can still be a part of my wedding. I got some white handkerchiefs that belonged to my grandpa from my grandma. I made my ring bearer pillows from those. I am also having wedding pictures of my grandma and grandpa, great grandma and grandpa, mom and dad and my fiancé's parents at our cake table, just something to personalize our wedding.