

## NOVA'S Best Engagement Story

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## BEST OF NOVA: BRIDAL

### WEDDING PLANNER

#### Jamie Sears, Simply Chic Events

After graduating with a degree in event management and planning her own wedding, Jamie Sears decided to take her passion a step further by starting her own event-planning business in July 2006. Although she offers a variety of wedding services to help shape the perfect day, Sears said her main goal is to “give the couple peace of mind and allowing them to be guests at their own wedding.”

Sears is touted as a friendly, reliable and creative organizer who takes the time to get to know the bride and groom. If asked if they recommend the woman who helped create their most unforgettable day, previous clients are sure to say “I do.” 703-220-1287; [www.asimplychicevent.com](http://www.asimplychicevent.com).—LB



Jamie Sears, Simply Chic Events / Photography by Jonathan Timmes

### FLORIST

#### A Flower Blooms

This quaint, cheery floral shop, established in 1988, is the longest-standing business of its kind in Clifton. And it's easy to sniff out what spurs the establishment's perennial success, year after year: Customers point to the wide assortment of blossoms for any occasion, a commitment to helping clientele in every way possible and a dedication to impeccable service. 7140 Main St., Clifton; 866-625-7673; [www.aflowerbloomsinclifton.com](http://www.aflowerbloomsinclifton.com).—LB

### PHOTOGRAPHER

#### Katie Triano

Beautiful work aside, it's through Kate Triano's enthusiastic approach that her passion for photography shines. “I take the time to ask questions,” she said, “tailoring the pictures to what matters most to my brides while staying true to my artistic side and capturing the most endearing moments.” 703-818-0911; [www.katetriano.com](http://www.katetriano.com).—LB



Courtesy of Kate Triano

## BORDERS

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#### GOWNS

### Jeanette's Bride 'N Tux Boutique

Jeanette's is the perfect fit for the bride seeking gorgeous gowns, friendly consultants and experienced seamstresses. Staffers here are more than friendly; they're like family. "We serve our brides like they're our own daughters," owner Jeanette Fusil said. A proven mother of area wedding dresses. 10386 Festival Lane, Manassas; 703-369-1998; [www.jeanettesbride.com](http://www.jeanettesbride.com).—LB



Courtesy of Amy Michelson

#### BAND

### Onyx

Band leader Robert Sherman and the rest of his energetic musical entourage top off the perfect wedding with Top 40 beats, ballads and swing band numbers. Lively, personable performances include drums, guitar, keyboard, sax and a sassy lead vocalist who keeps the party pumping and guests glued to the dance floor. 301-762-1800;

[www.washingtontalent.com/weddings/onyx.html](http://www.washingtontalent.com/weddings/onyx.html).—LB

#### CATERER

### BasiKneads

Owner and executive chef Hernan Murno's credits his unique menus to a cultured culinary background and experience in international cuisine and cites the affordable prices and quality food as the not-so-secret secrets behind his business's success. In other words, "the food we serve and the services we provide are five-star with a three-star price." 4592 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria; 703-823-4340; [www.basikneads.com](http://www.basikneads.com).—LB

#### VENUE

### Thomas Birkby House

With elegant rooms and stunning landscaping, it's not hard to see why this sophisticated venue, dating back to the 18th century, racked up the tallies. The helpful and professional staffers guarantee tasteful results for a wide range of party sizes (tents accommodate up to 180 guests; inside areas, 50). 109 Loudoun St., S.W., Leesburg; 703-777-2700; [www.birkbyhouse.com](http://www.birkbyhouse.com).—LB



Courtesy of Thomas Birkby House

#### BAKER

### Cakes by Linda

Linda Rothgeb has been baking and decorating cakes for over 30 years and offers a wide assortment of elegant designs. But this cake connoisseur submits that the true originality of her work goes beyond its tasteful presentation. "My cakes are really moist," Rothgeb said, "and they have unique flavors." Tiered masterpieces that are easy on the eyes—and the appetite? Piece of ... well, you know. 7721 Fisher Drive, Falls Church; 703-893-4782; [www.cakesbylinda.com](http://www.cakesbylinda.com).—LB

#### BRIDAL PARTY ATTIRE

### Jeanette's Bride 'N Tux Boutique

A tasteful boutique specializing in a unique array of designer party attire for grooms, mothers, bridesmaids and everyone in between on the big day. From exceptionally well-fitting tuxedos for the gentlemen to charming, traditional dresses for the flower girl, Jeanette's accommodating, professional consultants are suited to enhance both the elegance and style of any wedding party. 10386 Festival Lane, Manassas; 703-369-1998;

[www.jeanettesbride.com](http://www.jeanettesbride.com).—LB



Photography by Jonathan Timmes

#### LIMOUSINE COMPANY

### Reston Limousine

Go long. Owners of Reston Limousine pride themselves on upholding five core values: customer service, safety, diversity, integrity and being employee-focused. What's more, they personally guarantee safe and timely customer transportation throughout the Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. region in one of their limos, sedans, vans or mini-buses. 800-546-6141; [www.restonlimo.com](http://www.restonlimo.com).—LB