

# WEDDING BELLS - EVERYTHING FOR THE BRIDE AND GROOM!



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## Answers to wedding questions

Your wedding likely will be one of the biggest days of your life. But it can come with many questions and puzzling dilemmas. Here are some answers to common questions:

**We're newly engaged and have yet to introduce our parents. What's the best way to do it?**

Traditionally, your fiancé's parents call on your parents - extending an invitation, by letter or phone, for brunch, drinks or even dinner.

If your parents are divorced, your fiancé's parents might first contact the one who raised you. As well, you and your fiancé might invite everyone to get together and celebrate.

**Am I obliged to feed the professionals who will be at my reception?**

Some professionals, such as your photographer, videographer, musicians, may include meals for themselves in the contract you sign; others may not. There may be extra meals available at the reception - if any guests don't show or if the banquet hall/caterer provides more plates than are needed.

Remember - a wedding usually lasts at least five hours. Wedding professionals get hungry too. It's a nice gesture.

**Why is it customary for a man to ask a woman's father for her hand in marriage?**

The bride was once considered her father's property. Marriages were arranged (and still are, in some countries) by matchmakers, who bartered for the bride with

one of her close male relatives and the groom.

Happily, brides are no longer considered property. Still, many fathers actually do appreciate the old-fashioned courtesy of being asked for their daughter's hand in marriage.

## Hints to save time writing thank-yous

Writing thank-you notes for your engagement or wedding presents can be simple and straightforward, instead of a time-consuming chore. Here are some helpful tips on saving time, but not sentiment, when saying thank you.

- Buy notepaper before the wedding. The best time to do this is when you order your wedding invitations.

- Get organized. Keep a list of every gift you receive before and after the wedding, who sent it, the sender's address, and the date you sent the thank-you note.

- Send thank-you notes promptly.

- Write notes together.

- Keep it simple. Only one person signs each note, but refer to your spouse or fiancé in the body of the note.

- Personalize each note. Start by mentioning the specific gift. Add a sentence about how you will use the item. If the gift was money, never mention the amount. You may want to say, "Thank you for your generous gift. I know we'll put it to good use as we set up our home together."

- Always be gracious in your notes - even if you don't really like the present.

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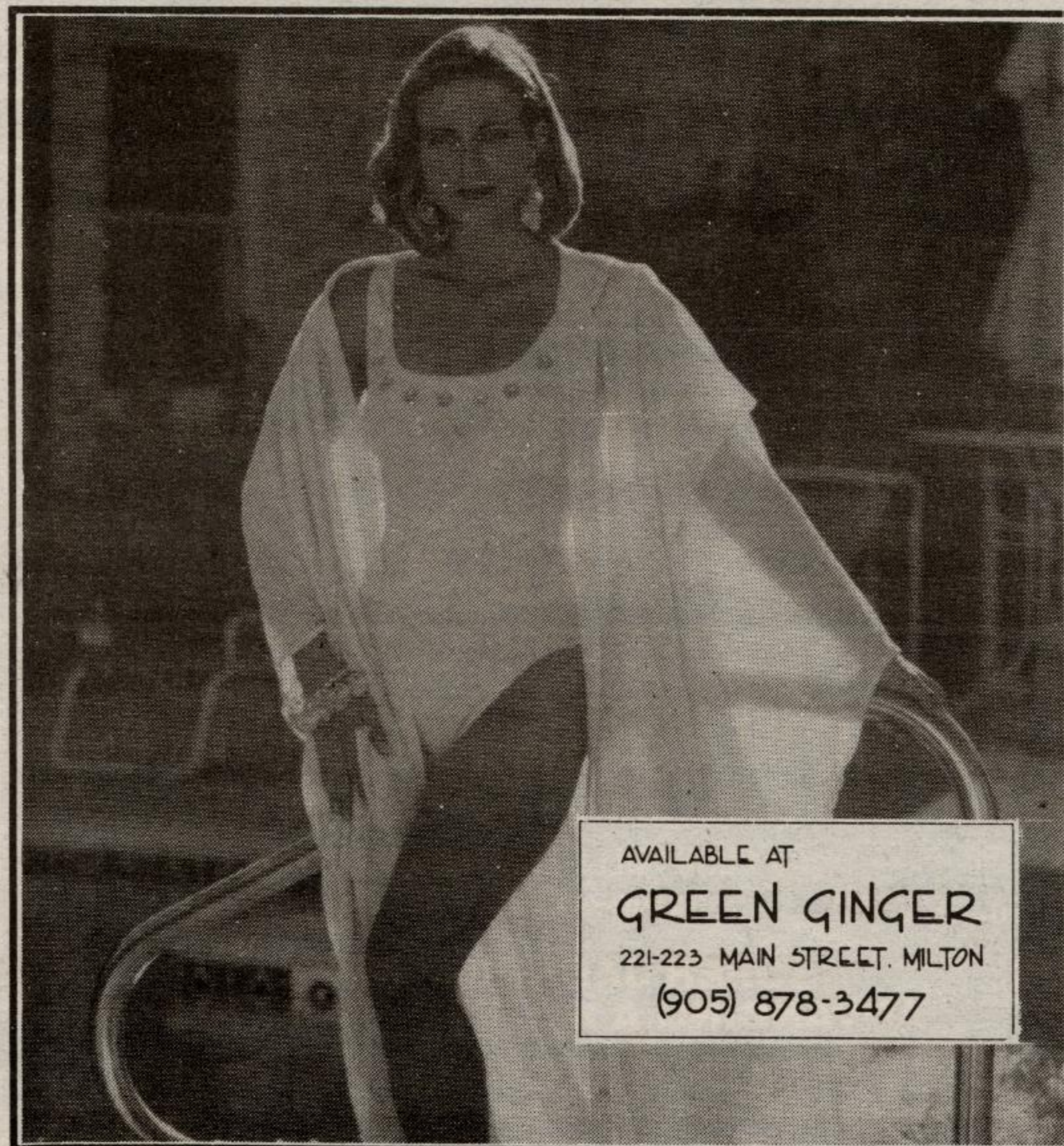
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