

# 10 tips

by Jaime Bedrin

## for timely thank-yous

Jaime

*When I was a child my grandmother always taught me that it is better to give than to receive. But, she would add, when you do receive, you'd better get those thank-you notes in the mail pretty darn quickly. I sure didn't want to be a delinquent thank-you note writer, or worse yet, a negligent non-writer who never acknowledged a gift! Now I'm all grown up and getting married, and as my wedding approaches, I probably have more anxiety over forgetting to write a thank-you note than I do over the fear of tripping on my dress when I'm walking down the aisle. It's angst like this that makes you come up with a good system – and want to share it with other brides-to-be. So here are a few thoughts on how Scott and I have been able to make our gifting experience even more enjoyable for everyone involved.*



Jaime and Scott

1. Treat yourself (or ask someone else to) to wonderful note cards that will inspire you to write, write, write! Try *Kate Spade* for classy cards.
2. Buy stamps in bulk, and early on during your planning period.
3. Browse the bookstores. Believe it or not, there are books available with sample thank-you notes!
4. Write your notes while gifts are still fresh in your mind.
5. If you plan to open gifts at a shower, ask a trusted friend to keep track. As you open each present she might jot down an observation or two as to how you received it, so you'll recall your initial reactions when you're writing your acknowledgments. You can express those feelings in your note cards, and your friends will appreciate your genuine sentiments.
6. Think about what you plan to do with your gift, and express gratitude for its usefulness. For instance, if you get a hammock, as my fiancé and I did, mention how great it will be to come home and relax in it after a long day at work.
7. Pre-address envelopes for anticipated thank-yous. While you don't want to be presumptuous, you're pretty sure Uncle Joe and Cousin Ruby and your boss will send gifts. Pulling together addressing information early will help you get those notes out in a flash!
8. Surprise someone. Include a snapshot (perhaps of you admiring your gift), or a short poem – or even a dinner invitation – with your note.
9. Recruit help if you need it. It may take a little prodding and maybe some coaching, but your groom can (and should!) assist with this pleasant detail of the wedding process. It's a great way to include him while giving you both some special time to share with each other as you talk about the terrific gifts you've received and the terrific people who gave them to you.
10. Be gracious – always. Remember, wedding gifts are not mandatory, and a thoughtful gift deserves a thoughtful note. And you'll enjoy them even more knowing that you've expressed your appreciation to the people who helped to make your celebration as happy and memorable as possible!

*Jaime Bedrin is a reporter and on-air host with WFAE 90.7 FM. She and her fiancé, Charlotte Observer reporter Scott Dodd, will be married on October 30th in New Jersey.*