

ON THE PATH TO 'I DO': CAROL HICKMAN & JIM STAICOFF

Doughnuts & dreams

A perfect way to start the day — and begin their life together

By **SUSAN G. HAUSER**

SPECIAL WRITER

Carol Hickman and Jim Staicoff decided to kick-start their marriage the way they begin any day — with a good and hearty breakfast. “It’s our favorite meal,” Staicoff explains.

“It was part of our courtship,” continues Hickman. “We thought, what could be better than to have the people we love with us for breakfast ... and get married?”

At 52, both had previous marriages (Carol with two grown children) and established careers, he as principal in Corso Staicoff, an interior design firm; and she the director of the Nonprofit Association of Oregon. Fifteen months after their first date, they had what they called the wedding of their dreams and what their wedding guests called the best wedding they’d ever attended.

Q: How did you meet?

A: Jim: On Match.com. I’d had a series of bad and less-than-satisfying relationships on Match over the last three years. I was breaking up with women or they were

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SHERRI DITEMAN

Eggs, bacon, potatoes, fresh fruit and tiered platters of doughnuts awaited guests at the Hickman-Staicoff reception.

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SHERRI DITEMAN

Jim Staicoff and Carol Hickman share a quiet moment on their wedding day. “It was,” Carol says, “a beautiful ceremony.”

Doughnuts: Now!

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Carol: There was champagne, coffee and tea, juice and tiered platters of doughnuts on every table.

Jim: Acme Donuts (503-233-6688; www.acmedoughnuts.com). They’re superb. In fact, I want them now!

Carol: At about 10:30 we got everybody to sit down. It was set up like a horseshoe and then

we stood in the middle. Mary McDonald-Lewis married us. It was a beautiful ceremony. It was very moving

Q: And after the vows ... the bacon?

A: Jim: We’re huge bacon fans. It was from Carlton Farms.

Carol: It was really delicious bacon. And we had

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a vegetarian egg scramble, roasted red potatoes and fresh peaches and blueberries. The coffee was Stumptown (various locations; www.stumptowncoffee.com). And after breakfast, the cake: Baker & Spice’s (503-244-7573; www.bakerand-spicebakery.com) almond cake with cappuccino buttercream frosting.

Jim: We didn’t go nutty on the cake. We went with something simple but phenomenal-tasting.

Q: What about flowers?

A: Carol: We used Ink & Peat (503-282-6688; www.inkand-peat.com) for the head table centerpieces and we worked with Miranda Keenan (503-313-0030; missmirandak@gmail.com), a wedding florist. We got little vases from Ikea that were adorable and put two calla lilies that were maroon and golden in the vases all across the tables, and then people took them home as favors.

Q: And entertainment?

A: Carol: We picked out songs that we liked and gave them to our DJ, Paul Munoz, and said, “Include what you can.”

Jim: During the ceremony my brother, Steven, who’s an

Carol Hickman and James Staicoff

Wedding date: Oct. 11, 2009
Wedding and reception location: North Star Ballroom
Approximate cost: \$17,000
Favorite moments:

Carol: When my kids gave their toasts. It was pretty joyous.

Jim: I love the fact that our ceremony made everybody cry. Everybody there said it was the best wedding they’d ever been to.



extraordinary musician, and a good friend of mine did a duet on a Tim Finn song called “Out of This World.” After the ceremony and before everybody sat down for breakfast they played three or four more songs.

Q: What did you wear?

A: Carol: I had some fabulous shoes made for me. Then I went to Lena Medoyeff Studio (710 NW 23rd Ave.; 503-227-0011) to find a bronze silk dress to go with the shoes. I described what I wanted, she reached into the rack and said, “This one?” And I said, “Yes!” It was the right size, too.

Jim: I had a really beautiful, dark gray Joseph Abboud suit from Nordstrom (various locations; www.nordstrom.com) and a white-on-white tie that Carol gave me for Valentine’s Day.

Q: How did you manage to keep the costs down?

A: Jim: We took advantage of our friends’ talent. One friend, artist Amy Ruppel (503-320-3585, www.amyruppel.com), did the graphics package and the brand identity for the entire wedding. It started with an amazing Web site, www.carolandjames.com.

Carol: Another friend, Rory Sparks of Em Space Book Arts Center (www.em-space.org), letterpressed the invitations on an old press. Friends of mine who are goldsmiths, Jo Gentry Haemer and Timothy Green (www.timothygreen.com), made our rings.

Q: Can you offer any wedding planning advice?

A: Carol: I think what was most helpful was that we had such a clear vision of what we wanted. There are a lot of people who’ll tell you what you need to do and what you have to spend. But your wedding should be your heart’s desire.

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Doughnuts: 'I knew it would work'

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breaking up with me after two months. I even told her the first time we met: “We’ll date for two months.”

Carol: I knew it would work. I felt confident that this had long-term potential before Jim did.

Q: When did you decide to get married?

A: Carol: He proposed on the anniversary of our first date. But we knew long before that. It became clear at some point and we just started talking about it as if we’d made a conscious decision. It just was.

Q: How did your wedding planning begin?

A: Carol: We talked about it conceptually at first. Our main goal was to have a wedding that felt just like us. We hit on the idea of the breakfast wedding pretty quickly.

Q: Then what?

A: Carol: Once we knew we wanted the breakfast, we knew we wanted it all in one place. We chose my friends



SHERRI DITEMAN

Jim Staicoff and Carol Hickman seal their vows with a kiss. Jim proposed to Carol on the anniversary of their first date.

at Vibrant Table (503-297-9635; www.vibranttable.com) as the caterers and they recommended the North Star Ballroom in North Portland (503-240-6088; www.northstarballroom.com), a lovely, warm old building that had some history and some soul to it.

Jim: One of the nice things about that space is it has huge windows and luckily it was a really sunny day so the whole

space was bathed in light. The photographer, Sherri Diteman (503-735-0296; www.studioditeman.com), really knew how to use the light and got some amazing shots.

Q: What was the order of the day?

A: Jim: Our 120 guests got there at 10 a.m. and we got married at about 10:45.

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