

WOMEN of DISTINCTION



A Wedding in the Country
Wendy Lyon - Owner

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Success Magazine: What is your education and background in your chosen profession?

Wendy Lyon: I attended college in Ohio, in the late 1960's, majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry. After graduation, I worked as a chemist until I moved to New York. I returned to college in the mid 80's, graduating from Adirondack Community College and continuing with additional nursing classes at Russell Sage, in Troy.

SM: Why did you choose to purchase the church for "A Wedding in the Country?"

WL: I did not choose the church, it chose me. This was no small undertaking. I had to save the money from my salary as a nurse to buy the church and restore it. It took me five years. The church was going to be made into a duplex and I did not want to see that happen. There were many serendipitous events that helped me with this project and ultimately led me on this path.

SM: What made you choose to go from nursing to Rev. Wendy, owner of "A Wedding in the Country?"

WL: In 1995, I attended the first conference of Spirituality and Healing in Medicine sponsored by Harvard Medical School. The course discussed the role of spiritual practices in medicine and clinical care.

The director of the program was, and still is, Dr. Herbert Benson of the Institute for Mind Body Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and the George Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health. I had the good fortune to meet Dr. John Templeton and Dr. Timothy Johnson, as well as George Gallup Jr. This

course changed my life and I came to understand that the worlds of science and religion are not separate—they work together to heal.

SM: What type of weddings do you have at your chapel?

WL: The majority are traditional weddings that allow each couple to add their unique style to the ceremony. This is most evident in the readings and music that the couples include.

SM: If a couple wants other chapel services how would they obtain them?

WL: I provide couples with a list of different services, judges, clergy, musicians, and photographers as well as florists and D.Js. If they know someone, I encourage people to use their services. I am a member of the Capital District Wedding Association and work with a terrific group of photographers, musicians, and restaurateurs in the area. I especially like to help couples from out of state find professional services to meet all their expectations.

SM: How did you develop your entrepreneurial spirit?

WL: I believe everyone has an entrepreneurial spirit, but many are afraid to act on it. Almost everyone has had a good idea at some time in their lives—most people just don't

know how to get started. I believe I learned that lesson long ago. I grew up as the oldest in a family of six children. If you wanted something, you had to earn the money for it. It didn't take me long to realize that taking action was the first step. At an early age I learned the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30. One of the simplest lessons from this parable is that it is not immoral to profit from our resources, wit, and labor. The alternative to profit is loss, and loss does not constitute good stewardship. Corinthians 10:24 says: Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

SM: You have recently opened a men's hair salon called Studio 404. What inspired this new venture?

WL: My son and I opened Studio 404 in 2008. We saw a market need for a salon that catered to men, and we have worked to create an atmosphere where men can feel comfortable getting their hair cut.

SM: What plans do you have for the future?

WL: In the future, I plan to establish a patient advocacy organization for the elderly. I can use my nursing background to help those who cannot effectively communicate and understand complicated medical jargon in a high tech world.

SM: What made you go from the security of the nursing profession to entrepreneur?

WL: I have not given up the security of the nursing profession—I am still a nurse and always will be. I have always had an entrepreneurial spirit, even when I was young. I love to solve problems and help people and find ways to make new things out of the old. I love what I do and it gives me satisfaction to know I have helped someone along the way.



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