



50 People You Should Know When Throwing a Party Slideshow



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Credit: © Closed Circle Photography

Bernadette Coveney Smith, 14 Stories, Boston

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Seven years ago, when same-sex marriages first became legal, this [visionary event planner](#) (and a nerd at heart, with apps for choosing décor colors and CAD software for sizing dance floors) had the idea to start her own wedding planning business for same-sex couples. Since then, she's planned hundreds of ceremonies and runs the only firm of its kind in the U.S.

Event You're Most Proud of: A wedding we did for a couple who got engaged on a sailboat and shared love of everything nautical. Without getting beachy, we used anchors, sailboats, monkey knots, and other authentic nautical elements, adding in personal touches like a watercolor (*left*) painted by one bride's mother and hand-calligraphied lettering.

Favorite Party Tip: Approach each party as if you were a guest. What do you see, hear, smell, and taste as you walk in? How do you position setup to minimize traffic and create good flow? How do you keep your guests from being bored? Think about the things that annoy you at a party or wedding and then eliminate those issues.

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