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Kim T. Plese
Owner

Love Bites

TIME AND DISTANCE PUT things in perspective, but I distinctly remember that going to the dentist as a child was one of the worst events possible. I remember the gritty and powdery toothpaste the dental hygienist applied with her motorized, spinning toothbrush. As it was ground onto each tooth, I would inevitably swallow a few of the grains and gag at the flavor.

Perhaps worse than the gritty toothpaste were the fluoride trays that went over my teeth after they were cleaned. I can still see the blue and white trays filled with the thick and horrible tasting fluoride. The hygienist would place them over my teeth and leave me to sit while the fluoride set. I soon learned a trick of removing the trays and putting them back in right before she returned. (If my teeth weaken, crack and fall out one day, I will have no one to blame but myself.)

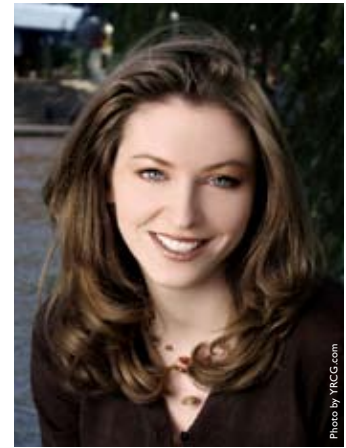
With such horrors, it was no wonder I dreaded going to the dentist. Truth be told though, the dentist probably dreaded seeing me, too. Especially after I bit him when I was seven. It wasn't a malicious bite, but more of a defensive nibble in reaction to multiple sharp instruments being stuffed into my mouth at once. After that visit, the dentist insisted I be medicated for all future exams.

Luckily, my dental appointments nowadays are not so horrific, nor do I have to be drugged for an exam. There are a lot of people who do dread going to the dentist, though, whether out of fear or dislike of the procedures. Dentists get a bad rap, but we hope to polish their reputation by sharing our 2010 list of Top Dentists, starting on page 54. These are the dentists who can take a bite out of dental nightmares and take your smile from mild to wild, all while earning the trust and appreciation of their patients.

While I should have visited my dentist for an appointment over the holidays, I was in San Francisco where one of my dearest friends from college, Valerie, got married on New Year's Day. In addition to being excited about her wedding, I knew it would be good research for our annual wedding planning article in this issue.

The wedding was beautiful: a rooftop ceremony overlooking the bay, followed by a cocktail hour where guests sipped on champagne and Caipirinhas, in honor of the groom, Leandro, who is from Brazil. Later, guests filtered into a private tented patio across the street from

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the Embarcadero, while soaking in views of the Bay Bridge. Thousands of small white lights shimmered overhead creating a glimmering oasis in the evening. The scent of hundreds of orchids and the soft sounds of Brazilian music both floated through the air as waiters served Filet Mignon and Poached Sole, while keeping the wine and champagne glasses full. The dance floor was soon filled with guests joyfully dancing away the evening before sending the beautiful couple off to start a happy marriage together.

Many brides in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene are dreaming of an equally beautiful day as they plan for their upcoming weddings. While we may not be on every guest list, we do want to give a gift, so turn to page 72 for some of the best wedding planning advice and vendor options in the area.

While Valerie and Leandro's wedding was beautiful, elegant and took a great deal of planning, the most important part of the day wasn't the photographer, the flowers, the caterer or the rings; it was the sincerity of their vows and the obvious depth of their love and commitment to one another. How to find that is something that can't be explained in a wedding planning article, but it is something that is wished for all local brides and grooms. May they plan beautiful weddings, but more important, may they be blessed with beautiful marriages!

From dentists to weddings, and with every story in between, I hope you sink your teeth into this issue and love every bite of it!

Blythe