

by **Anne Fullem**
hair *Holly Balabanick*
Spa on the Boulevard
makeup *Avery Kempton*
Merle Norman
champagne glasses
Blush Floral Design
photography & styling
Amy Jones
www.amyjphoto.com

Cynthia Hergenhahn



The Life of the Party

Organizing some of the County's
most elite social events
is all in a days work
for one of the most saught after
event planners in Harford.

Cynthia Hergenbahn attends more charity events, galas, fundraisers and weddings than the average person, but you won't find her partying on the dance floor. You might catch a glimpse of her... behind the scenes - but only for a moment. Cynthia is busy making sure her client's vision comes to life - that everything goes off without a hitch... and most importantly of all - that everyone is having a good time.

Cynthia started her career as a retail buyer for Stewarts, purchasing china, silver, crystal and fine linens for the well-known department store. "I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge, and was working with brides from the very beginning of my career," said Cynthia. When Stewarts went out of business, she was transferred to New York, and lived in New Jersey for 3 years. When she returned to Baltimore, she accepted a job at the National Aquarium as the Director of the Gift Shop. "I was responsible for manufacturing merchandise that represented the Aquarium collection. It was an incredible experience collaborating with people from the Smithsonian, the National Gallery of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art and the San Diego Zoo. For 4 years I traveled all over the world developing new merchandise for the Aquarium," smiled Cynthia.

When Cynthia married her husband George they moved to Harford County. George is the CFO for the Special Olympics Maryland, and Cynthia has been catering the local Polar Bear Plunge for the last eight years. Her community participation doesn't end there. Cynthia is an Executive Board Member of the Harford County Public Library Foundation, President of the Friends of the Abingdon Library, and was appointed by the County Executive to be Harford County Chairperson for the Abingdon Bel Air Emmorton Citizens Advisory Board. She serves on the Board for Greater Excellence in Education, graduated from the Harford Leadership Academy in 2013, and is a member of the Harford County Chamber of Commerce, NACE - National Association of Caterers and Event Planners and Chesapeake Professional Women's Network.

One of the accomplishments Cynthia is most proud of is the work she does fundraising for the Abingdon Branch of the library. With her wonderful team they are able to contribute to the needs of the Abingdon Library with small monetary contributions to enhance programs, some of which include, musical instruments for babies story time, support for the ever popular teen overnight lock in and a supporting donation to the award winning Innovation Lab. The Innovation lab is only located in the Abingdon branch and it features 3D printers, MAC computers and all the equipment to make your own videos. This includes green screen, cameras and sound equipment. All of this is available to use for free to anyone in Harford county!

Cynthia had been successfully catering small parties for friends for many years, and when she moved to Harford County her goal was to grow her part-time hobby into a business. She worked part time for Richardson's Florist and spent the rest of her time developing "Events by I Did It Myself". "I love that I'm able to work with different groups of people based on their individual needs, large or small. It's fun to be able to go from the business groups to the non-profits and switch focus to each organizations individual needs," smiled Cynthia.



Cynthia celebrating with Lisa Pitcock Mittman and Mary Hastler at Abingdon Public Library.

She is now responsible for some of the hottest parties in the County including the Harford County Library Foundation Gala, Dancing for the Arts and Dazzle in Denim. "The coolest thing I get to do is work with the various non-profits and give back so that they can fulfill their mission," smiled Cynthia. "To see the vision of the collaborative effort of a team of people is so satisfying. To make other peoples dreams come true is rewarding," she added. Cynthia is well known for making obscure ideas a hard reality and loves to throw in an element of surprise to all her events.

When it comes to brides Cynthia handles everything from an intimate affair to an elegant wedding with a royal guest list. She knows all the best venues and can talk for hours about all the exotic locations she has orchestrated weddings. A wealth of information on all things bridal... Cynthia is always happy to consult with her brides and provides them with everything from advice to full service party planning and management.

When it comes to the details, Cynthia leaves nothing to chance and everything is accounted for. "I want to make sure that everyone has the same vision that the bride has... so I contact all the vendors personally, until I'm satisfied that everyone is on the same page," she explained. Her retail background really comes in handy. "I know where to get things, and I really enjoy the process of putting everything together," she added. Whether it's the bride or the guests... Cynthia is always sensitive to everyone's needs. "I always say the unsung hero of any wedding is the mother of the groom. She's the only one who doesn't have a job to do - and she is the one who is losing her son. So I always try to give her special love and attention," smiled Cynthia.

If you are planning a wedding or special event - don't go it alone. Cynthia can guarantee not only that your party will be fabulous... but that you'll be able to enjoy it too! For more information contact her at **410-979-3754** or **Cynthia@Hergenbahn.net**.