

# The Courier-Journal

## Locals celebrate Will, Kate's royal wedding with royal fuss with Chef John Varanese's menu.

BY TAMARA IKENBERG • APRIL 27, 2011



On Friday morning, Springhurst resident Sylvia Bruton is presenting a proper brunch with traditional English treats in honor of Prince William and Kate Middleton's marriage. As a British native, she's conditioned to celebrate the spectacle.

"I must watch it. It's very important to me because I grew up there and I know a lot about the royal family. I've lived here a long time, but I'm still very British," said Bruton, who left England 50 years ago.

As the golden couple weds at Westminster Abbey on Friday, Louisvillians will add their own pomp and circumstance from across the pond, whether they're having a get-together at home or attending the viewing party at The Frazier Museum that begins at 4:30 a.m.

The wedding commences at 6 a.m. our time, but Bruton is giving her guests a break. Her husband is recording it, and her brunch starts at 10 a.m. She's preparing foods such as Maid of Honor tarts.

"They're little tarts with almond paste in them. Typically they're supposed to have a little criss-cross on the top, but I never get to doing that," she said.

She isn't insisting that her guests dress formally, although she plans to deck herself out accordingly.

"I shall probably put on my red, white and blue," said Bruton, who teaches at Spalding University. "All my English things will be on me."

The guests at Chris Fulkerson's wedding party will not have the luxury of a late viewing. That party starts at 5 a.m. Fulkerson, an image consultant who lives in Middletown, said her guests can feel free to wear their pajamas if they choose. It will make the arrivals all the more amusing.

"As they come in, everybody will be announced," Fulkerson said.

Guests will be addressed as "Lord" or "Lady," followed by their first name, then the street they live on. And all the ladies will receive veils.

"We're all going to be Kate Middleton's bridesmaids," Fulkerson said. "This is like real-life Disney stuff going on here. Who wouldn't want to be in Kate's shoes? She's a commoner. She's found her prince."

The only "lord" scheduled to attend at this point is John Varanese, owner of Varanese restaurant on Frankfort Avenue, who is catering the party.

He said he plans to whip up some frittatas accompanied with fresh fruit.

He said that he expected "probably a lot of crying women. I might have to go around with a tissue box."

He added that working that early in the morning will be a challenge.

"I'm actually going to go home and take a nap so I'm not grumpy all day, and then go to work," he said. "Thank goodness I don't do lunch."

Lynda Lambert of 102.3 The Max FM is also attending Fulkerson's event, and the party will be broadcast on her station.

The Frazier Museum, which will serve champagne and wedding cake, will be a hot spot for wedding watchers as well.

Diane Buster, a member of the English Speaking Union, is attending the event with a tableful of friends.

"I feel a connection to England," she said. "As Americans we like to watch this sort of thing happen. It gives us something positive to focus on during these difficult times."

She added that after the tragedy the royal family faced with Princess Diana's death, she's looking forward to seeing that they are "coming together in a supportive way for William as a young up-and-coming king."

Highlands resident and Brown-Forman employee Melody Schenk, who is going to the Frazier party with a friend, also is psyched for the prince's special day.

"I've always rooted for Prince William, especially since his mother's death," she said. "I feel like he's carried himself in a very nice manner. And I like that Kate is a commoner — they just seem like a great couple, and a lot of people are excited for them."

Schenk said she's also on pins and needles waiting to see the wedding gown Middleton will be wearing.

Schenk herself plans to don a blue hat and dress with gold shoes.

The hat and dress are "actually recycled from last year's Derby," she said. "I'm going green."

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