

## NHJPA

New Hampshire  
Justice of the Peace  
Association

[www.nhjpa.org](http://www.nhjpa.org)

[www.findajp.net](http://www.findajp.net)

Visit us on 

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### NHJPA Events

We have two meetings a year that provide information about the association.

- 2016 -

#### Educational Seminar

Sunday, November 6  
Valentino's Restaurant  
Hudson, NH  
Time: Noon

- 2017 -

#### Board Meeting

Sunday, February 5th  
Valentino's Restaurant  
Hudson, NH  
Time: Noon

#### Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 5  
TBA

# NHJPA



# Times



2016

## Educational Seminar

### Sunday, November 6

### "How to get noticed on Twitter and Facebook"

*Keynote Speaker: Wendy Thomas, Author and Educator*

Join us at our upcoming FREE Educational Seminar, Sunday, November 6. Meet our Guest Speaker, Wendy Thomas. Know someone who may be interested in this Seminar, bring them along. Guests are always welcome.



Wendy has taught courses on getting noticed on the Internet at New Hampshire Community Collage and Merrimack Adult Education. Wendy is an award-winning journalist, columnist, and blogger who believes that taking challenges in life will always lead to goodness.

She is the mother of six funny and creative kids and it is her goal to teach them through stories and lessons. Wendy's current project involves writing about her family's experiences and lessons learned living with chickens (yes, chickens).

Visit her blog at [www.SimpleThrift.Wordpress.com](http://www.SimpleThrift.Wordpress.com)

**To Register email: John Scuto: [blueskyweddings@comcast.net](mailto:blueskyweddings@comcast.net)**

Also, walk-ins welcomed

Date: Sunday, November 6

Time: Noon

Location: Valentino's Restaurant  
142 Lowell Road, Hudson, NH (603-889-9900)  
(Click on [here](#) for directions)

Cost: Free

(Attendees responsible for their cost of lunch) (Menu choices available registration table)

Check our website for updates—[www.nhjpa.org](http://www.nhjpa.org)

**NHJPA Officers  
(elected March 2016)**



President: Judith Wilhelmy, Nashua  
[watersideweddings@gmail.com](mailto:watersideweddings@gmail.com)

Vice President: Nancy Lavalley, Danville  
[nalavalley@comcast.net](mailto:nalavalley@comcast.net)

Secretary: Robert Bates, Nashua  
[RNBates001@comcast.net](mailto:RNBates001@comcast.net)

Treasurer: Irwin Bluestein, Nashua  
[ibluestein@aim.com](mailto:ibluestein@aim.com)

Chairperson of Membership:  
Kristen Lochhead, Milford  
[jkristen@yahoo.com](mailto:jkristen@yahoo.com)

Chairperson of Education and Partnerships:  
John Scuto, Brentwood  
[blueskyweddings@comcast.net](mailto:blueskyweddings@comcast.net)

Chairperson of By-Laws, Nominations and Elections  
Susan Miele, Nashua  
[nhweddingsbysusan@gmail.com](mailto:nhweddingsbysusan@gmail.com)

*Welcome*

A hearty welcome to NHJPA's newest members Kelley Hayden-Wimpory of Jefferson and Denise Schaaf of Goffstown.

**Membership Renewal**

Annual membership dues are \$50.00. Make your check Payable to NHOA and mail to:

Irwin Bluestein, Treasurer  
1917 Blackstone Drive  
Nashua, NH 03063

For Membership information contact  
Nancy Lavalley [nalavalley@comcast.net](mailto:nalavalley@comcast.net)

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**NHJPA Mission Statement**

The New Hampshire Justice of the Peace Association promotes Professionalism and Integrity by requiring members to comply with a Code of Ethics and provides Education through meetings, workshops and networking.

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**Member Benefits**

The New Hampshire Justice of the Peace Association (NHJPA) was established in October 2014. It is registered in Concord as the New Hampshire Officiants Association (NHOA). It was established to support and educate Justices of the Peace in New Hampshire. All Justices of the Peace are welcome.

Members have the following benefits:

- Listing on 2 Websites [www.nhjpa.org](http://www.nhjpa.org) and [www.findajp.net](http://www.findajp.net)
  - Referrals from other Members
  - Professional Support from other Members
  - The opportunity to help the organization become stronger by serving on the Board
  - Information such as presented in this newsletter
  - Information regarding changes in the law
  - \*Annual Meeting is held in the Spring. This meeting provides networking opportunities, meaningful ceremony inclusions, and NHJPA organization updates.
  - \*Educational Seminar with Guest Speaker is held annually.
  - Facebook & LinkedIn
- \* Meetings, Seminars and Workshops are free—attendees responsible for the cost of Lunch

## Destination Weddings

written by Judith Wilhelmy, NHJPA President

### *What couples need to know.....*

What could be more romantic than getting married on the deck of a ship under the moon and the stars? Or a destination wedding on a beach in Cancun, Jamaica or the Bahamas with your nearest and dearest basking in the sun as you promise to love each other forever?

Fast forward to two years later when you need another original wedding certificate for a passport with your marriage name, or to legally adopt, or to probate property, or a divorce or a myriad of other legal reasons. Can you just contact the Clerk's Office in the town hall where you got your original marriage license (as you would if you married in NH) pay a small set fee, and within days have it in your hand? No indeed. Be wary of the time, fees, bribes and frustration involved in trying to obtain an original in many Caribbean countries.

**CANCUN MEXICO** - To get married in Cancun, a city in the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico you will need:

- Original current passport of both parties
- A scanned copy of each passport sent prior to arrival
- A copy of each visa or tourist card
- Four witnesses, and a copy of each of their passports and tourist cards
- A medical certificate and prenuptial blood test for both the bride and groom
- Fees in US dollars:
- Wedding application fee: \$450.00
- Medical certificate and blood test: \$70.00
- Marriage certificate with Apostille seal: \$100.00
- Wedding certificate mail delivery: \$90.00
- Legal Fees: Weekdays: \$990.00
- Legal Fees: weekends \$1990.00
- Wedding Officiant Fee: \$550.00
- If translation into Spanish is required the fee is \$50 per page. The civil marriage process is handled by the judges from the Civil Registry Office and the Marriage Certificate is filed in that office in Chetumal, capital of the state of Quintana Roo.



**BAHAMAS** - The Dept. Of Tourism would really like you to spend your money there so they have made it relatively easy for anyone over 18 to get married there. They even have the application forms on the internet. Both parties must produce a valid passport, birth certificate, and photo ID. You must show 24 hour residency by producing a Bahamas Immigration Card, an entry stamp on the passport, or a letter from your cruise ship's purser stating that the ship has been in Bahamian waters for 24 hours. The fee for a marriage license is \$120.00. The International Marriage Certificate can have an Apostille attached (a special seal) 30 days after the request for an additional \$120.00. All transactions take place in the office of the Registrar General in Nassau weekdays between 9:30 and 4:00. Unless they are celebrating a holiday of some sort.

**BELIZE** - In Belize one of the parties getting married must be there 24 hours prior to applying for a license and it can be picked up 2 days after it is approved and must be signed by a Justice of the Peace. The cost is \$250.00, but the couple can reduce the cost to \$100.00 by being "domiciled" there for 3 days. In addition to passports with a date of entry stamped on it, original birth certificates must be provided that includes the (note) father's name. If you are over 18 you don't need a blood test.

**BERMUDA** - Even romantic Bermuda requires you to submit a Notice of Intended Marriage, which is then published in the official Gazette twice. After a 15 day waiting period, a license valid for 3 months is issued. Perhaps these facts and quirks can convince some of our couples who dream of a destination wedding, to have us provide a brief elopement ceremony with a marriage legally solemnized in New Hampshire. They can then have the wedding of their dreams (vow renewal) anywhere in the world and be confident that with wars, hurricanes, fires and revolutions, they will be able to safely obtain that all important document.

## Why a Wedding Officiant Costs THAT Much

- Article by Kim Forest ([Wedding Wire](#))

Wedding officiants are experts in crafting a beautiful, personal ceremony for you. And yup, that does cost money. Especially if you're having a short ceremony from a time perspective, you might be wondering why officiants cost what they do. Well, turns out that there's a lot more that goes into officiating a wedding than just showing up on the day of and officiating - seriously, a lot.



Photo: [Bethel Nathan](#)

**Prep Work** - A professional wedding officiant is not simply showing up on the day of your wedding and winging it. Far from it. First, you'll need to have a consultation with him/her to make sure that you'll be able to work together. Then, your officiant will work with you to customize and craft a ceremony that's unique to you, perhaps including religious elements, any family traditions you want to incorporate, readings you love, and more. This can take quite some time - usually three to four hours of advanced preparation, which doesn't include edits or any additional back-and-forth that may occur after the initial draft is presented. And if you're writing your own wedding vows, your officiant will likely provide even more personal assistance. So a good portion of what you're paying for is a true professional creating a ceremony just for you.

**Travel and Event Time** - This is probably the most obvious part - you are paying for your officiant's travel, presence, and services on your actual wedding day. And usually your officiant will arrive well before your ceremony begins to set up and prepare, and stay well after - and if your wedding is running late, that's even more time.

**Business Expenses** - There are lots of costs associated with running a business - and these costs aren't just for your officiant's benefit, but for yours, too. You probably want your officiant to reply to your phone calls and emails in a timely fashion - they need phone service and Internet to do that. And a computer and printer/copier to provide your ceremony script,

You'll also want to make sure that your officiant is licensed to perform weddings in your state - that license costs money, too.

**Rehearsal Time** - Your officiant may or may not attend your rehearsal, but if so, that's usually an additional charge. If possible, it's a nice idea for your officiant to come to your rehearsal (especially if you don't have a wedding planner) to make sure that everything runs smoothly on the big day.

**Expertise and Education** - When you hire an experienced wedding officiant, you are paying for their expertise to ensure that your wedding ceremony will run perfectly - and that you and your spouse will actually, legally be married when all is said and done. Professional wedding officiants are always looking to stay fresh and improve. With that comes education, from conferences to courses and more.

**Marketing and Advertising** - Officiants need to market themselves and potentially advertise in order to have couples like you find them. Whether it's advertising on websites or in print, attending wedding shows or other events, officiants need to be able to connect with couples-and it usually costs money to do so.

**Equipment** - While sometimes a music or audio-visual company will provide sound equipment for your officiant to use, some officiants are able to provide this for your ceremony. It's obviously important for your family members and friends to hear your ceremony proceedings, and sound equipment, which can include wireless microphones and speakers, do cost money to purchase and maintain.

**License Handling** - Without an official marriage license, you and your spouse are not actually married—and that's a bit of a problem, right? While you and your future spouse are responsible for actually obtaining your marriage license, your officiant is the one who will ensure that it is properly filled out, signed, and returned within your state's required timeframe. The approved marriage license will then be returned to you. This is obviously a big deal, and you'll want an experienced officiant handling it, so the handling of your marriage license is an important part of your officiant's fee.

We are always looking for your stories, news and information you may want to share in our Newsletter. Feel free to contact Nancy Lavallee [nalavallee@comcast.net](mailto:nalavallee@comcast.net)

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