

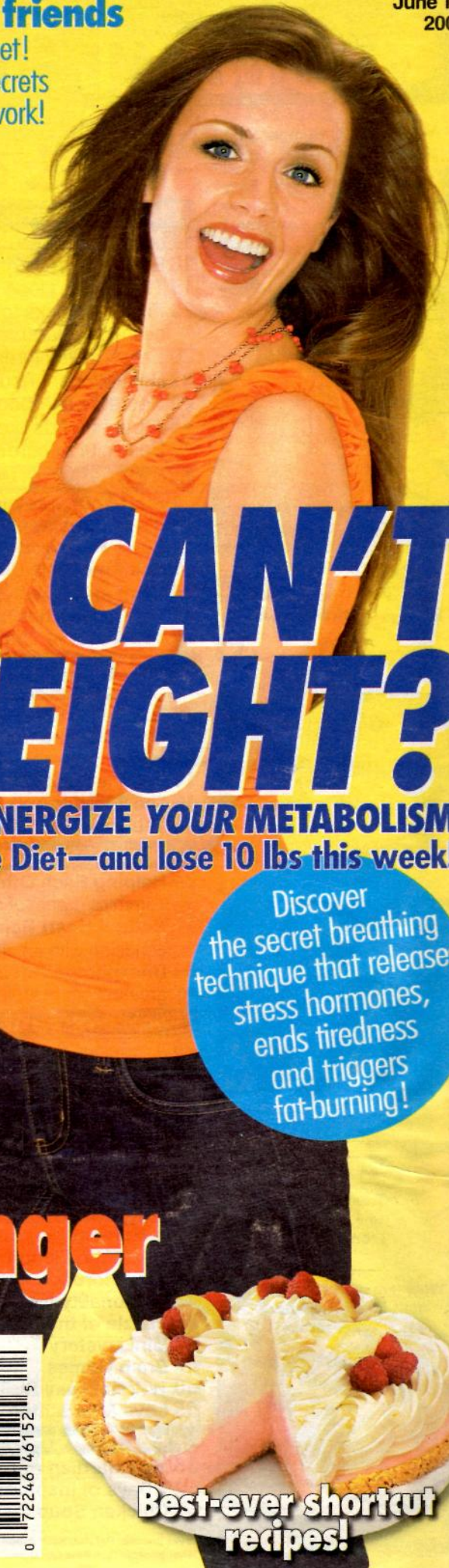
Woman's World

God Bless America

A great week made easy!

More for your money! \$1.79

Attract friends like a magnet! Charisma secrets that really work!



Take this pill to TURN ON YOUR HAPPINESS HORMONE—and End carb cravings!

TIRED? CAN'T LOSE WEIGHT?

ENERGIZE YOUR METABOLISM

with the 7-day Energy Surge Diet—and lose 10 lbs this week!

Discover the secret breathing technique that releases stress hormones, ends tiredness and triggers fat-burning!



Father's Day fun!

Secret health-boosters!

This chocolate-chip cookie trick will make your family healthier!

Look 8 years younger

and live 5 years longer! Fight the hidden cause of wrinkles, arthritis, heart disease, Alzheimer's!

SAVE \$\$\$! Fix-it-fast tricks to un-break lipsticks, china, cellphones and more!

Easy clutter cure! Turn empty potato chip cans into an amazing desk organizer!



Best-ever shortcut recipes!



Q "How can I throw a party for less?"

Summer is the season of celebrations! From baby showers to barbecues, the warm weather brings out the urge to party in all of us. Before you start to worry about the expense, let these top event planners show you a few easy tricks of the trade that'll score you big savings!

1 Host a budget-friendly baby shower!

Got a loved one who's expecting? Good news! You can plan a terrific celebration on a shoestring budget, says celebrity event planner Traci Phillips.

Choose one color theme!

Baby-patterned decorations almost always cost more than those in solid colors. Phillips suggests throwing the shower in a single color scheme, such as pink or peach for a girl, or blue or light green for a boy. Don't know the sex? Go for yellow. Then purchase monochromatic plates, napkins and tablecloths in that shade. You'll end up spending about 20% less!

Find fun favors for under \$1!

Want to find amazing favors for less? Hit your local dollar store for affordable party touches. Other spots for cute, cheap favors: 4showers.com, MyBabyShowerFavors.com and FavorFavorBaby.com.

Splurge here to save elsewhere!

A sure-fire way to impress your shower guests? Order napkins, cups, coasters or ribbons featuring the baby's name (or the mom's). It's easy: Just visit PartyInnovations.com, PersonalizedPartyFavor.com or



ForYourParty.com. It'll add a luxe touch that looks like you spent a fortune, which allows you to skimp in other areas! says Phillips.

2 Have your dream wedding for less!

Think you can't have your big day without spending lots of money? Think again! Wedding planner Sasha Souza promises you can save thousands, if you:

Time it right!

The most expensive time to have a wedding is a Saturday evening. But did you know the least expensive, according to nationwide surveys, is Saturday around noon? It's even cheaper than Sunday at the same time because it isn't as in-demand, so most venues will charge you thousands less!

Order invites online!

Instead of shelling out as much as \$10 per invitation, Souza suggests visiting BudgetWeddingInvitations.com or WeddingPaperDivas.com for great-looking invites that cost much less! Also smart: going online for linens! You can save about \$200 by renting them from LaTavola Linens.com or LinenNStuff.com.



Reach out to students!

Hiring a professional band or string quartet for the reception can cost as much as \$4,000! But if you're set on live music, why not hire students from a local music conservatory or college instead? In most cases, they sound as good as professionals (ask them to try out for you beforehand!)—and you could shave \$2,000 from your bill.

Do the icing switch!

Simply opting for buttercream frosting for your wedding cake instead of fondant can save you as much as \$4 per slice—and for 100 guests, that's a \$400 savings!

3 Trim any party budget!

Whether you're having a birthday bash or casual dinner party, these money-saving secrets from event planner Shawn Rabideau are guaranteed to make it an affordable affair to remember!

Go international!

Surprise! Local ethnic markets often sell the same cuts of meat and canned goods as your supermarket—at about 10% to 20% less, reveals Rabideau. This could save you \$100 or more!

Serve family favorites!

Top planners know that what makes a party great isn't expensive food—it's delicious, familiar favorites. Instead of shelling out for gourmet ingredients, dish up food your family loves! Try mini burgers that can be whipped up from frozen meat you already have, chicken wings that you douse with barbecue sauce and toss on the grill, or in-season veggie kabobs.

Have a signature drink!

Rather than buying many bottles of liquor that probably won't all be used, mix up a specialty cocktail, such as pitchers of sangria or mojitos (get recipes at DrinksMixer.com).



—Jenny Benjamin

Our expert panel



Event planner **Traci Phillips'** company, The Perfect Party, has organized events for celebrities such as Carrie Underwood and Martina McBride. She also planned Sheryl Crow's eco-friendly baby shower.



Wedding planner **Sasha Souza** started Sasha Souza Events in 1995. Since then, she's won many awards, and was named a top wedding industry trendsetter by *Modern Bride*. She has appeared on CBS' *The Early Show* and ABC's *20/20*.



Event planner **Shawn Rabideau** owns Shawn Rabideau's Events and Design, an event production and lifestyle company. He has appeared on the Style Network's *Whose Wedding Is It Anyway?*