

# Naperville woman seizes the day — every day

**Hilary Decent**  
FOR THE SUN

Life is not just about keeping up appearances for plastic surgeon's wife Wendy Rubach.

She's been married for 19 years to Naperville facial and reconstruction surgeon Bryan Rubach. Although this 45-year-old likes to look good, she also believes in working hard and playing hard.

One minute you'll find her organizing her three teenage children, the next hosting a dinner party. Something of a party planner, she's chaired super successful fundraisers.

Unusually she started her working life on the TV screen advertising her family's automobile business in Wisconsin. We caught up with her just in time, as she was preparing to leave on her next getaway.



**"We're very blessed to have the friends and family that we have and I genuinely love life — love people — and everything about them!"** said Wendy Rubach shown here in her Naperville home. Rubach is the first-place winner in The Sun's "Real Women of DuPage and Will Counties" contest. **"It was such a surprise! I'm deeply honored and very excited,"** said Rubach about being chosen as a finalist. **A friend entered her in the contest without her knowing.** DANIELLE GARDNER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**If you had a life's motto, what would it be?**

"Life is not a dress rehearsal. You have to live for here and now and make every day the best it can be."

**If your cosmetics bag accidentally fell into the bath tub, which item would you rescue first?**

"My lipstick! I used to wear red in my thirties, I love bright colors, but

nowadays it's more likely to be light pinks and natural colors."

**I hear you enjoy vacations. What's your favorite?**

"Every summer we spend two weeks at our place in Aspen, Colorado.

I just love the quality family time we spend there. We go hiking in the mountains, white water rafting, golfing and horseback riding. We also go in the winter for skiing. We've all been skiing since we were two years old."

**I hear you like to party...**

**a) Disposable or china?**

"China for adults, disposable for children."

**b) CDs or live music?**

"I've done both, but my husband is the mix master. His iPod has over 10,000 songs. He even uses it in

the operating room. Patients can choose their favorite to go to sleep to."

**c) Catered or do it yourself?**

"I love to cook. People say I'm pretty good at it."

**d) Dinner party or potluck?**

## Fabulous prizes for a fabulous lady

First-place winner Wendy Rubach wins a prize package with an estimated value of \$2,000. Prizes were donated by: Schmid's Gifts, Le Frou-Frou, Brizan, Downtown Naperville Alliance, My Left Foot, Vini's, The Promenade Bolingbrook, Lisle Park District, Maid Brigade, Lisle Dental Center, Hilton Lisle, Home Design Center, Massage Envy, Charles Ifergan, Foot Solutions, Camp Cosmetics, Little Luxuries, Window Wardrobe and Lillian's.

"Dinner party. I want people to come to our home and not have to do a thing."

**Favorite type of exercise and how often?**

"Power walking. I walk a six-mile prairie path with friends four times a week. We also have a home gym, plus all the exercise we do in Colorado of course."

**You recently renewed your vows. Tell us about that.**

"We spent eight days on the Amalfi Coast in Italy in May and thought it would



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## RUBACH

FROM PAGE 3

be a perfect place to renew our vows. The Grand Capri Hotel has a manager of marriage, a bit like a Justice of the Peace. We had a cake, champagne and wrote our own vows. It was very romantic. I know it was our 19th anniversary, but who says you have to wait for 20?"

**Tell us about your charity work.**

"Three years ago I orga-

nized a ball for Rush-Copley Hospital. We had 625 guests and raised enough money for the hospital to buy a digital mammography machine. I had a great team I was very proud of and was just thrilled."

**Dresses or pants?**

"I'm a dress girl, with heels."

**What is your favorite color and where would I find it in your house?**

"Red, gold and coral. I love, love, love those. I have some gold walls, a red read-

ing chair and my kitchen cabinets are hand painted pomegranate red."

**Do you have a favorite cocktail?**

"I love a good buttery Chardonnay because my husband comes from the California wine country and we go there often. Also French Martinis, which he makes for me."

**What, to you, is the meaning of life?**

"To love and to be loved, or as my daughter says: 'Love is the closest thing to magic.'"

## HOW TO HAVE A DIVALICIOUS LIFE:

### Avoid this prime-time makeup mishap

Wende Zomnir, co-founder of Urban Decay, offered this cosmetics tip in a Sun-Times Media story published earlier this year:

"There are many makeup mistakes out there, from outlining the lips in a dark pencil to wearing bold

eyes and lips at the same time to over-plucked, badly shaped brows (my personal peeve). But I would say the worst makeup mistake is one that is easily remedied: not using primers and setting sprays to create a long-lasting face of makeup. There are so many

great products for making your makeup last, from our Eyeshadow Primer Potion to our All Nighter Makeup Setting Spray. It saddens me to see makeup melting down in the middle of the day when it doesn't need to be!"

— Sun Times Media

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## From the letter of nomination:

"I've often thought about writing a book called the 'Real Housewives of Naperville.' One of the first women I think of when envisioning the characters is my friend Wendy Rubach. ...

"She celebrates every day with her contagious laugh and the energy of a woman half her age. Birthdays, vacations, anniversaries, holidays, graduations or hosting dinner at her beautiful home are met with even more enthusiasm.

"She can whip up an impromptu party in minutes flat and not only remember to serve your favorite food but make your family feel like royalty in her home. All this could be after having company for a week,

but she would never let you know how hard she's worked or tired she may be. I'm not quite sure she ever gets tired.

"Between taking care of her three children, husband, home and chairing fundraisers she manages to take care of herself with the same amount of zest! She gets regular workouts, eats healthy, takes care of her skin and even indulges in spa days with sisters or friends.

"This 'Real Woman of Will County' is an inspiration for so many reasons but the adoration and respect she has for husband, Bryan, who recently renewed wedding vows, her children, her family and friends makes her truly admirable!"

## Just for fun

**Wendy, what is your favorite indulgence?:** Reflexology (foot massage).

**Favorite fragrance:** Elizabeth Taylor White Diamonds.

**You love shopping for:** my family.

**Best bargain you've scored:** Darling wedge sandals for my two daughters and myself recently at Steve Madden in Oak Brook.

**Favorite fashion accessory from over the years:** A Simon G bracelet given to me by my husband.

**Favorite dessert:** lemon sorbet.

**You can't function if you don't have:** eight hours of sleep.

**You wouldn't be caught dead without:** my debit card.

**One day, you hope to meet:** Donald Trump for his business acumen.

**You've had a challenging day. You need a little pick-me-up. You would:** Take a walk, read a good book and enjoy a glass of wine (only if after 6 p.m.!)

**Fill in the blank: My BLANK is my sanctuary:** My husband and children are my sanctuary ... where ever we may be.

**Thank goodness for:**

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