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Updos for Special Occasions

It's updo time in Barrington with prom and summer weddings approaching. Whether it's all the way or half up, or partial pieces of hair pulled back, it's a new look. Accessories can be added as well, such as crystals, pearls, combs, barrettes, hairpieces, braids, fish line with sparkles attached, hair extensions, ribbons, or flowers. It's all about what makes the client feel the most beautiful. If a client has naturally curly hair, she might prefer her hair straight or vice versa. You always have to be open to temporary change. As for brides, a suggestion may be subtle change, because years from the wedding you still want to look like you.

The newest trends are reflected more in gossip magazines with celebrities, rather than bridal or couture magazines. They seem to focus on more the gowns or clothing of the season and don't want you to take your eye away from looking at the clothes — a result you won't get many new ideas for your hair. Hair designers want to reflect your face and focus on your individual look.

The Oscars this year reflected a more classic look. It has been mentioned that things were toned down because of the economy, which proved less is more. Jennifer Aniston wore her signature hair straight with a charming braid crowning across her forehead and down the side of her face. The simplicity of this style worked, and its popularity is growing.

The International Hair Show this year in Chicago was showing styles from different decades such as the '20s, '40s, '60s, and '70s, taking old styles, freshening them up, and making them new. For example, a silent film star, Louise Brooks, from the 1920s was noted and her bob was updated. It's rumored to be the most perfect bob ever created, even before Vidal Sassoon. They took the original movie *Breathless* and revived a very short haircut, which Victoria Beckham has been wearing lately. A 20-year-old will look very trendy in a vintage look; however, a 50-year-old would just look old fashioned. An example is mixing hair classics and fun accents with a classic twist with twisty knots and a feathery texture on it. The new trend is mixing different styling techniques in one hairdo. The designers always take into consideration the client's age, personality, and desire for change.

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Bride Julie Scholle

PHOTO: NEIL GATES

If makeup is done professionally, it makes a big difference overall especially in photographs and how long it stays looking fresh. Summer brides are the focus, although every season is special and has its own look. The bridesmaids' hair can be designed along side with the bride's request in mind. It may be a very different look from the bride herself; after all, she is the star of the day. The bride may want the women standing beside her to all have the same look, or she may let them find a style that suits them best as an individual. This is usually decided at the consultation. Sometimes the bridal party does not live nearby, so preplanning is involved. Bridal planning may start a year in advance for hair — you need time to decide the length and the wanted look. Trial runs are a good idea so everyone is happy and comfortable with their look. It's also a good idea for brides to keep a booklet or journal with tips, reminders, and a time line chart. It helps the bride stay focused and organized with all the planning she already has. Future brides can purchase a personal bridal guide I have put together, which is available at my salon.

The season starts with homecoming, turnabout, prom, and ends with the summer brides. Spring is here and the metamorphosis is taking place all around. Now is a great time to try out a new look, whether it's for a dance, wedding, or just because.