



The wedding is over. The gifts are put away. You're sitting at the table staring at a stack of gift cards. The creamy beigeness of your new monogrammed stationery waits expectantly for you to pen just the right words, but your mind is just as blank as that sheet of paper.

"Thanks."

"Thank you so much!"

"I don't know how to thank you enough."

The seemingly simple task of writing thank you notes to those wonderful friends and family

members who sent you gifts now seems monumentally difficult.

Experience is the best teacher, so take a cue from four Golden Isles residents who are the very personification of class and grace. Each has provided some thank you note examples of their own, some insight on how they choose their words, and some words of advice for writers seeking the right words:

Marianna Elias is the owner of Mimi's on St. Simons Island. Her store specializes in personalized stationery, invitations, cards and

gifts. She knows the importance of the handwritten note and has everything you need to write the perfect thank you. When drafting her own notes, she says that there are two books she uses as her guide: "The Art of the Handwritten Note – A Guide to Reclaiming Civilized Communication" by Margaret Shepherd; and, "Just Write – The Art of Personal Correspondence" by Molly O'Shaughnessy.

Her note thanking a hostess for a dinner party shows that a note doesn't have to be long to communicate your gratitude.