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ALDO'S BAKERY - PAGE 7

THE Atlantic

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Block Island Weddings is an annual publication of The Block Island Times. The publisher is Southern Rhode Island Newspapers, which also produces The Block Island Times and The Block Island Summer Times, Block Island Dining, and House and Garden.

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Photos: Brad Smith Photography (Above), Steve Miller (Bottom)

Jennifer: 38, from South Kingstown, R.I.
Michael: 39, from North Kingstown, R.I.
Now reside in: Richmond, R.I.



JENNIFER ANNEAR & MICHAEL SIMEONE *August 24, 2024*



Jennifer Annear and Michael Simeone are both teachers in the same district in Rhode Island and in their spare time, they love taking the ferry to explore Block Island where they say they've had many happy memories, in all four seasons.

The two especially love to look for those elusive hand-blown glass orbs hidden along Greenway Trails and beaches that are part of Block Island's Glass Float Project. Jennifer says they are "avid orb hunters but have never found one in the years we've been searching, so Mike had a custom orb made by Eben Horton at the Glass Station in Wakefield, Rhode Island. On our first trip to Block Island in April, 2024, Mike hid the orb on the edge of the daffodil field at Clay Head, our favorite site from our first trip to the island together years ago. The orb was inscribed with 'Will you marry me?'"

Fast forward to summer, when the couple decided Block Island was the perfect place to get married because of the meaning it held for them, and they planned their entire wedding in just three weeks. For the ceremony, they choose the Southeast Lighthouse. "The beautiful ocean view and lighthouse provided the perfect backdrop for our wedding ceremony with our closest family and friends," say the couple. With perfect weather, "we held a unity ceremony after our vow, which included our three children, unifying our blended family."

The couple chose Painted Rock Designs to create an archway for the ceremony on the lighthouse lawn. "We sent Melissa a few pictures

and she created the perfect arrangement," they say. "All of our guests wore navy blue and white for the ceremony to keep with our nautical, beachy theme."

There was one little snafu, though. "We forgot the wedding rings in the taxi on the way to the Southeast Lighthouse and didn't realize it until we were in the middle of the ceremony. At the moment when our officiant asked our ring bearer to bring up the rings, he didn't have them. Our fathers both stepped up and handed us their own wedding rings to use in place of the rings that were intended to be exchanged during the ceremony. The taxis were called and brought the rings back for the end of the ceremony, and we were re-married with our real wedding rings."

The couple decided to celebrate their vows with a simple dinner at Dead Eye Dick's and an after party at Yellow Kittens. Originally, the couple planned to have a more formal and traditional reception with all their friends and family on the mainland at a later date, but have since decided they don't need to change a thing.

The staff at Dead Eye Dick's "was friendly and accommodating for the entire party, which included many young guests," say Jennifer and Mike. "All of the food was amazing, but the local seafood was the highlight of the menu." They also ordered a white wedding cake from Aldo's Bakery that was delivered to the restaurant. "The cake was delicious and everyone enjoyed it!"

"Block Island provided the perfect location for

the small, intimate wedding we were looking for," say Jennifer and Mike. "The focus was on unifying our families and our love for one another in a location that was special for us." And the mix-up with the rings? It's something they're still talking about - "the symbolism of getting married originally with our fathers' rings, who have both been married to our mothers for over forty years."

Top 3 Pieces of Advice:

1. Plan ahead as soon as possible, especially booking ferry reservations – many vendors were already booked due to short notice and having a car can definitely be helpful if you can plan far enough in advance.
2. Have a backup plan for weather if planning an outdoor ceremony.
3. Contact the island taxis to assist with timing and guest transportation prior to the event! The island was holding multiple weddings on our wedding day and we were fortunate to have planned for transportation ahead of time.

The Details

CEREMONY: [Southeast Lighthouse](#);
RECEPTION: [Dead Eye Dick's](#); AFTER PARTY:
[Yellow Kittens](#); DEPARTURE BRUNCH:
[1661](#); REHEARSAL DINNER: [The Barn at the Spring House](#); PHOTOGRAPHER: [Steve Miller](#); FLOWERS: [Painted Rock Designs](#);
CAKE: [Aldo's Bakery](#).

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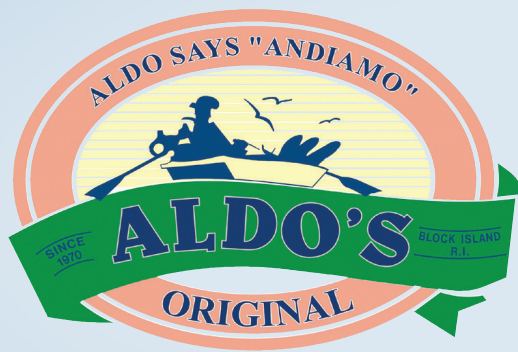
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They Baked For Thousands of BI Weddings

And no two were ever alike!

By Rona Mann

It's YOUR special day, and because it is uniquely yours it deserves something uniquely special for dessert.

A traditional three-tiered wedding cake showcased by beautifully sculpted layers topped with the bride and groom?

A modern wedding cake with only a couple of layers, little or no frosting, and lots of beautiful fruit and flowers to adorn it?

A small cake just for the traditional cutting and a photo op or two surrounded by a petits fours buffet of scrumptious cannolis, eclairs, and tiramisu perhaps?

Or maybe you've envisioned something completely different. If you're calling on Aldo's Bakery to help you design your dessert and make your wedding dreams come true, you're calling on the right baker because Aldo Leone has flour in his DNA...flour and talent that his famous father put there!

For the last 55 years, Aldo's Bakery has been THE one to call to make your Block Island wedding something your guests will talk about for a long, long time. That's right, 55 years ago, Aldo's parents emigrated from Italy to Providence where Aldo, Sr. learned and perfected his craft. In 1956, Aldo was invited to be the head baker at The Spring House and Narragansett Inn, and he didn't have to think twice about accepting the honor! While working on the island, an abandoned firehouse caught his eye, and in 1970 Aldo and his wife, Maria began building their long tradition and outstanding reputation in that very place. It didn't take long for both the locals and visitors to find the bakery and make it their favorite place for the authentic taste of homemade bread and pastries.

Now in its 55th year, the legacy that began with Aldo and Maria has been passed down to Aldo, Jr. and his nephew and partner, Stephen Papa, a legacy that comes with a spotless reputation of knowing how to please customers...especially when it's their wedding.

No two weddings are alike because no two brides and grooms are alike, so Aldo takes time – plenty of time – to meet with the couple, arrange a private tasting, look at their photographs, and show them ones from Aldo's Bakery's previous showstopping weddings. "We want to hear what impressed them at other weddings they've attended, and also, what they didn't like, so we



can work together to make this part of their Block Island wedding as individual and special as every other piece of their event," says Aldo, Jr.

A very popular choice at weddings, rehearsal dinners, and after-parties is the Del's Cart since Aldo's Bakery is the only one on the island to offer it. Aldo brings the cart filled with Rhode Island's famous Del's frozen lemonade to the hotel, house, or wedding venue before the ceremony. The Del's cups are the perfect way to start the party and let people know THIS is going to be an awesome wedding!

The awesomeness continues when you arrange for Aldo's Bakery to take care of everything sweet. They can deliver baked goods, breakfast sandwiches, fresh fruit, and hot coffee to wherever your guests are staying or invite them to come celebrate the beautiful Block Island morning with them for a breakfast buffet under the covered patio at Aldo's. Why not pre-purchase breakfast coupons for the wedding party and guests staying on the island so they can choose their breakfast sandwiches and pastries just before boarding the ferry back to the mainland? Once more, it will be that little "extra" that your guests will talk about for years to come, that made YOUR wedding stand out from all the

others.

If all this sounds special, it's because it is "special." And it is special because Aldo's Bakery always goes that extra mile. They LISTEN to what you want...then they deliver! It's a whole lot more than just a typical wedding cake. Matter of fact, nothing that Aldo's Bakery does is "typical."

Now, they've even got candy! Delicious salt water taffy in an assortment of flavors, homemade fudge, and other assorted candies to put in gift bags or grab as a treat to take with you on the ferry. One bite, and you'll never forget how much fun this wedding was and how Aldo's Bakery made the usual, unusually tasty.

Planning a wedding on beautiful Block Island? Then call the man with the flour in his veins now and start the conversation, make an upcoming appointment, start looking at pictures, and just wait till you taste what Aldo's Bakery can do for you and your guests!

From now until May 15th, call Aldo at (954) 609-7163

After May 15th, Aldo may be reached at (401) 466-2198

Lily: 40, from Ridgefield, Conn.
Lucas: 41, from Palmerton, Pa.
Now reside in Riverdale, N.Y.



LILY MLECZKO & LUCAS ANDREW BUCK *August 24, 2024*



As bride Lily Mleczo shares in her top three pieces of advice, “Don’t be afraid to get creative to do exactly what you want,” and getting creative is exactly what she and her husband to be, Lucas Buck did. They had a spectacular and unusual wedding on a floating dock in Block Island’s Great Salt Pond.

The couple doesn’t think of their wedding as a destination one, rather it felt like coming home, as Lily spent summers growing up and working on the island. She says the island remains her favorite place on earth and the place she feels she can truly call home. “There was never a question of the wedding anywhere else.”

The couple say, “We love the water and most of our events were held on, or near the water.” Lily adds, “As I was boating over to the ceremony, a pod of dolphins crossed our path. One of them got so close I could have reached down and touched it. I felt like it was my mom saying she was there on our special day.”

Like most Block Island weddings, the

couple and the guests enjoyed more than just the wedding day. They had a welcome party with a bonfire on Scotch Beach where they had guests toast hotdogs and marshmallows for s’mores.

The rehearsal dinner was at Lily’s family home on Cormorant Cove and was catered by Sediment, which specializes in lobsters caught just offshore in island waters. Lily, who spent summers working at Finn’s Seafood Restaurant, says, “Having Freddie and Debbie Howarth’s grandson host our rehearsal dinner added something really special. Plus, they always do a fantastic job.”

The day before the wedding, the couple

The Details

WEDDING VENUE: [The Block Island Club](#);
RECEPTION: [Block Island Maritime Institute](#); PHOTOGRAPHER: [Allegra Anderson](#); LIGHTING AND DECOR: [Ryan Designs](#); CATERER: [Valencia Luncheria](#);
OYSTERS: [Perry Phillips](#); CAKE: [Kate Musso of Oddfellows Café](#); FLOWERS: [Blooming Blossoms](#); HAIR AND MAKEUP: [Salt Hair Shop](#).



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held a pickleball tournament at Ball O'Brien Park. "It was pretty epic with personalized trophies and cups and napkins – even a banner. The event was entitled 'Last Swing Before the Ring,'" say the couple.

The wedding itself was held at the Block Island Club with the ceremony taking place on the club's floating dock just offshore and guests watching from shore. As the bridesmaids proceeded down the main dock, Luke and the couple's minister, Reverend Eletha Buote-Greig of St. Anne's-by-the-Sea, shared a boat ride out to the ceremony. "She was such a sport!" say the couple. As the couple waited for the bride to make her entrance down the dock, she surprised everyone by arriving by boat with her father instead. And a special boat it was, her grandfather's 17-foot Boston Whaler named *The Lily Putt Putt*.

After the ceremony, the guests got to take a boat ride of their own, crossing the pond to the reception at the Block Island Maritime Institute. The reception was catered by Valencia Luncheria, a Venezuelan restaurant in Norwalk, Conn. that was featured in the TV show, "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." Lily says, "My mom and I used to go there religiously for brunch." There were also fresh oysters from Block Island Oyster Company that even the ring-bearer slurped up.

Lily says, "The cake was made by our friend Kate Musso, who owns Oddfellows Café. I've known Kate for a long time and have sampled many of her desserts, but by far, my favorite is her carrot cake. Luke and his dad made a multi-tiered, beach-themed cake stand specially for the wedding. The top tier was her special carrot cake and then each of the subsequent lower tiers were a mix of her famous desserts like lemon bars, brownies, cupcakes, etc. It was so cool!"

The guests "loved the food and the band, our beer boat, the mix of desserts – everything," say the couple. "People were enchanted with the beauty of the island and I think they really felt a connection to us being in such a special and significant place for us."

Top 3 Pieces of Advice

1. Our caterer did not provide glasses and plates so we ordered them from Quality Rental on the mainland and then worked with the freight office to ensure they arrived safely. There isn't really any place to get rentals by themselves like that on the island any more. Caterers will provide though, if you book an island caterer.
2. Don't be afraid to get creative to do exactly what you want.
3. Luckily we know this already, but make those ferry reservations early!



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Lesley: 50, from Hubbard, Iowa and Mesa,
Arizona
Kenneth: 57, from Providence and Johnston, R.I.
Now reside in: North Providence, R.I.





Ken Panciera's connection to Block Island goes all the way back to 1978 when he was in fifth grade and had a teacher who liked to talk about a porkchop-shaped island off the coast of Rhode Island. "I was 11 years old and couldn't convince my parents to take me there," Ken says. "Fast forward to 1992, when I was working for Block Island's radio station, 99.3 WBLQ-FM. My first visit was on the Fourth of July of that year, getting a chance to do color commentary for the parade on the deck of the National Hotel. I haven't missed a chance every year since to visit the island!"

Unbeknownst to the couple until recently, Lesley's connection to Block Island goes even farther back – all the way to 1661, when the first white settlers arrived. A genealogy done by her aunt revealed they were descended from the James Sands family.

"Given all of this, plus Block Island's unique qualities and of course being

surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, it just made sense to pursue wedding plans here," say Lesley and Ken. "We wanted the wedding to be an intimate event at a unique location, near the water, that would also feel unique to friends and family who lived in Rhode Island, and especially those friends and family who lived out of state."

"Just like many love stories in the 21st century, we connected via the internet on Match.com," say the couple. Soon afterward, Lesley started referring to Ken as her "sweet boyfriend."

That sweet boyfriend also happens to

The Details

CEREMONY: [The Manisses](#); RECEPTION: [Block Island Oyster Bar and Grill](#); REHEARSAL DINNER: [Tigerfish](#); PHOTOGRAPHY: [Danielle at Bellafoto Studios](#); VIDEOGRAPHY: [One Cut Productions](#); DJ: [Your Way DJ](#); FLOWERS: [Painted Rock Designs](#); CAKE: [Aldo's Bakery](#).

be a hobbyist videographer and he got especially creative in planning his proposal. He created a two-minute video that he hoped would be shown at the bar where the couple first met, but when that didn't work out, he rented a mobile digital billboard instead. He "strategically parked the vehicle near the pedestrian footbridge in Providence where we stopped for a stroll before our Valentine's dinner. What looked like a movie about to be played, to Lesley's surprise, was a two-minute presentation before the big ring reveal." Ken even arranged for a friend to hide and capture the entire moment. It was at that point, say the couple, that Ken became Lesley's "sweet fiancé." Later, when choosing rings, Lesley had one specially engraved to "My Sweet Husband."

The search for a venue was "challenging," say the couple, as they only started planning in April in the off-season. "Lesley was mildly frustrated, and created a Plan B to elope to New York City, where she had a venue and photographer ready to go," says Ken. But they ended up choosing the Manisses for their wedding venue, where they could either exchange their vows under the willow tree out back or indoors, if the weather didn't cooperate. The weather did,



though, and as family and friends waited for the ceremony to begin just before noon, some chickens showed up and joined the party, much to the delight of both old and young. The couple say that's one of the things they're still talking about.

They're also still talking about the food. Block Island Oyster Bar, inside the Manisses, provided the food and "absolutely all of it was delicious," say the couple. "The guests are still talking about it to this day!"

The cake, from Aldo's Bakery on Block Island, was also a hit. Ken says, "Steve Leone was incredible to work with and talked us through the planning phase. It was an easy, stress free experience, and the cake was so delicious that Lesley ordered a second cake to bring home with her!"

Some extra special touches were provided by friends. In addition to the speeches, and ordering a custom-made glass orb from Eben Horten of The Glass Station for a wedding gift, some snuck out to the island a few weeks before the big event, went to Painted Rock. "Yes, THAT Painted Rock," say the couple, and they left their mark, taking photos to include in a video that was shown at the reception. "What's more Block Islandy than this?" they say.

Top 3 Pieces of Advice:

1. Put your trust in the vendors, especially ones from Block Island who do this all the time. They are very experienced and work together often. When you think you don't have someone to officiate the wedding, that person just might be married to the person who is doing your flowers. You never know.

2. Visit Block Island multiple times during the planning stages. You may find something to consider that you haven't thought of. Even if something doesn't seem to be working out, trust that something else will present itself and it might even be better than your original plan.

3. Relax – you're getting married on Block Island.

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WEDDING CHECKLIST 10 to 12 Months Out

Pick a Date and discuss a budget

Decide on three different preferred dates for your wedding and list in order of preference. Remember that June and September are peak wedding months on Block Island – venues may have restrictions that don't meet your guest count or budget. Most hotels will have a three-night minimum required of your guests in July and August. If you are on a tight budget, consider having your wedding on a day other than Saturday.

Come up with an estimated guest count

Make a list of all the people you would like to see at the wedding. Make an A list and a B list and be prepared to trim the guest list if budgets require.

Discuss what kind of wedding and reception you envision

Formal or casual, tented or indoor, buffet, plated, or passed hors d'oeuvres

Discuss what your priorities are

Food? Good music? Decor? Location?

Book ceremony location and pay deposit

Book reception location and pay deposit

Reserve blocks of rooms for wedding guests

Book ferry reservations for vehicles

Begin gathering ideas from bridal magazines and websites

See what your tastes are regarding flowers, decor, cakes, dresses, invites. Gather pictures to show these vendors your vision.

Select your bridal party

WEDDING CHECKLIST 7 to 9 Months Out

Finalize guest list

Send out a save-the-date

Your guests will require more information due to the special circumstances regarding a Block Island wedding. An informational insert or e-mail along with the save-the-date will encourage them to make their travel arrangements early.

Things to include:

- Any other events outside of the wedding day that you would like to invite them to, such as a rehearsal dinner or Sunday brunch.
- Transportation info: ferries, plane, taxis.
- Room blocks or recommended accommodations.

Book caterer and pay deposit

Book DJ or band and pay deposit

Book ceremony music and pay deposit

Book photographer and pay

deposit

Book videographer and pay deposit

Book officiant and pay deposit

Book cake designer and pay deposit

Book a florist and pay deposit

Book bride and groom's accommodations

Book vendor accommodations and ferry tickets (if applicable)

Order bridal gown and accessories

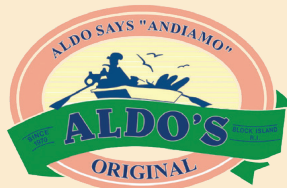
Book rehearsal dinner location

Begin researching invitations and wording

If you are inviting all of your guests to the rehearsal dinner, consider integrating this into your invite and RSVP. Pocket-fold invitations are very useful for presenting information about multiple events, as well as gathering RSVPs.

Shop for wedding bands and get ideas for engraving

Begin researching honeymoon spots



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Jia: 32, from Northern New Jersey
Drew: 37, from Northern New Jersey
Now reside in: Jersey City, N.J.





Like many Block Island wedding couples, Jia Li and Drew Jacob wanted to share the island they love with all their friends and family and this couple did just that by spreading the festivities over several days and venues. Although they met on a dating app in 2019 and got engaged while on vacation in Ireland, the couple consider the island their second home.

Jia and Jacob began their wedding day going to favorite island locations for pictures, including the North Light, The Hodge Family Wildlife Preserve, and the breakwater in Old Harbor.

Then came the main event at the Spring House. "Sharing our vows in front of friends and against the sweeping backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean," was what made the ceremony truly special, says Drew. "We were lucky to have an officiant who is a good friend from the local congregation, and we also borrowed a beautiful custom chuppah from another friend in the island community."

The couple kept it simple, foregoing bride's maids, groom's men, and a dance floor. Instead, the couple held a luncheon where guests got together for trivia and games. For wedding favors,

Drew and Jia made custom, Block Island-themed playing cards for their guests to take home.

The couple held a trivia competition and they say, "the trivia included a section on Block Island that became intensely and hilariously competitive." For prizes, the winning table won candles crafted by a local artisan. "There were speeches that were funny and heartfelt, an impromptu round of acapella singing from the groom's high school classmates, and we entertained guests by playing the Shoe Game," say the couple.

Drew says, "Many of our guests thought this was great, because it provided a relaxed atmosphere

The Details

FRIDAY WELCOME DINNER: [Aldo's](#);
SATURDAY CEREMONY AND LUNCH
RECEPTION: [The Spring House](#); SATURDAY
DINNER: [The National](#); SUNDAY BRUNCH:
[Atlantic Inn](#); PHOTOGRAPHY: [Brad Smith
Photography](#); VIDEOGRAPHER: [Endeavor
Weddings](#); DJ: [Arpeggio Wedding
Entertainment](#); FLOWERS: [The Farmer
Florist](#); CAKE: [Aldo's Bakery](#).



for folks to socialize, and a lot of new friendships were formed that weekend.”

At lunch, the Spring House chefs prepared a raw bar with oysters and the swordfish “was excellent,” say the couple. The cake, too, was delicious – a vanilla frosted cake with flowers prepared by Aldo’s Bakery.

But one of the couple’s favorite moments was when they went to Block Island’s iconic Painted Rock where the “bride’s sister, a talented artist, decorated the landmark to commemorate the occasion.”

The couple weren’t the only ones out enjoying the island. “We ran into our guests in between events exploring the island, lounging on the Spring House lawn, and strolling downtown,” say the couple.

“Working with on-island vendors was great,” say Jia and Drew. “They did a fantastic job at every event and allowed us to showcase the best of Block Island’s venues and food downtown. We were also lucky to have beautiful weather. But whether it was our friends renting mopeds to tour the island, stargazing on the beach, friends’ kids meeting their first emu at the animal farm, or an impromptu orb hunt on the Greenway, what made it most special was just being able to share Block Island’s beauty in big and small ways with our guests.”



“The weather was perfect all three days,” say Jia and Drew. “Nobody missed their ferry reservations, and everything went according to plan with no real hiccups! We had to break down the chuppah ourselves early Sunday morning before the next wedding on the Spring House east lawn that day, and in the process of doing so, we got to see a beautiful sunrise – the perfect way to start our first day as a married couple.”

Top 3 pieces of advice:

1. Start planning early – we decided on our venue over a year in advance and still had limited options for time slots.
2. Be patient when working with local vendors and their response times – we are city folks who expect everything to happen fast, but things move



at a different pace on the island and it’s important to be respectful of that.

3. Over communicate with guests about travel logistics – we put together an online slide deck for guests breaking down the options for getting to Block Island.



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WEDDING CHECKLIST 4 to 6 Months Out

- | | |
|--|--|
| Book Hair Stylist And/Or Makeup Artist | Purchase wedding rings |
| Select and order invitations | Select style for escort cards, place cards, table numbers, menus, and programs |
| Order bridesmaid dresses and accessories | Order what can be ordered ahead of time |
| Select and order tuxes and accessories | Schedule bridal gown fittings |
| Meet with ceremony officiant and begin planning ceremony | Write all payment and contract deadlines on calendar |
| Meet with caterer and begin finalizing menu details | Balances due, final counts due, menu choices due, rental order due |
| Give guest list to bridal shower hostess | |
| Make honeymoon reservations | |

WEDDING CHECKLIST 2 to 3 Months Out

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Mail invitations | Take rings for sizing and engraving | and/or performing in wedding ceremony |
| Mail rehearsal dinner invites | Purchase gifts for bridal attendants and parents | Finalize reception menu |
| Order linen rentals | Don't forget a gift for the person you will be marrying | Select ceremony music |
| Order or start making favors | Decide who will be reading | Select reception music, must play and do-not-play lists and special dances and toasts |
| Confirm that bridal attendants have purchased their attire and accessories | | |

WEDDING CHECKLIST 1 Month Out

- | | |
|--|---|
| Order wine, liquor and/or champagne, if necessary | events to take place: bride and groom's first dance, parent dances, best man's toast, maid of honor toast, bouquet and garter toss. Are there special announcements or other special toasts that you would like to include in the reception events? |
| Select readings for ceremony | Begin writing ceremony program |
| Meet with officiant to finalize ceremony details | Purchase ceremony accessories |
| Do trial runs for hairstyles and makeup | Unity candle, ring pillow, etc... |
| Schedule pedicure and manicure for day before the wedding | Purchase reception accessories |
| Schedule ceremony rehearsal time | Card box, toasting glasses, guest book, cake knife, garter, etc. |
| Decide when and where you will get your marriage license | Begin receiving RSVPs in mail |
| If both the bride and groom are legal residents of Rhode Island, you must obtain the marriage license from your local town clerk. If out of state, you must obtain your license on Block Island (can be done as late as the Thursday before your wedding.) | Track meal choices and accommodations |
| Be fitted for bridal gown | Write thank you notes as you receive shower and/or wedding gifts |
| Select or write vows | Arrange for a babysitter if necessary |
| Begin drawing up an itinerary of wedding day details | Get a pre-wedding haircut |
| Think about when you would like the following | Create a rain contingency plan |

WEDDING CHECKLIST 2 Weeks Out

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Pick up wedding bands | program | welcome bags |
| Final bridal gown fitting | Wrap attendant gifts and attach a note of thanks | Create a welcome letter with info for guest bags |
| Complete events schedules | Call guests who have not yet RSVPd | Include a schedule of events, transportation, what to do around Block Island, the couples favorite places, etc. |
| Finalize event tent and/or table layout | Confirm head count for vendors | Compile a list of where guests are staying |
| Plan order of processional and recessional | Confirm menu choices to vendors | This will make gift bag distribution much easier. |
| Have wedding program printed | Obtain marriage license | |
| Print escort cards/chart, place cards, menus, ceremony | Purchase items for guest | |

WEDDING CHECKLIST

1 Week Out

- Prepare a must-have photo list for photographer and videographer
- Check weather forecast – rain plan?
- Call all vendors and confirm all details
- Complete escort cards and table numbers
- Plan ceremony seating
- Groom haircut
- Make sure all grooms attendants try on tuxes and have obtained all accessories
- Obtain/print final checks for vendors
- Prepare tip envelopes for vendors
- Finalize seating chart for reception and rehearsal dinner
- Designate people for wedding day errands
- Finalize wedding day time line and distribute to vendors and wedding party

1 Day Out

- Decide if a rain plan will need to be put into place
- Attend pedicure and manicure appointments
- Inform attendants of their duties
- Gather ceremony and reception items and give to your coordinator (or other designated helper)
- Obtain a beach fire permit from police station if having a bonfire. (Permit valid for 24 hours.)
- Rehearsal – bring marriage license
- Rehearsal dinner

Day of

- Attend hair and makeup appointments
- Attend photography portrait sessions before wedding if applicable
- Provide snacks and drinks for attendants
- Bride and groom! Don't forget to eat something, and drink water.
- Make sure to sign marriage license!

After

- Gather ceremony and reception items
- Return linens and any other rentals
- Change bride's name if applicable and notify important parties
- Mail wedding thank you notes within three months after wedding
- Review proofs and order photos/video and/or albums
- Settle financial matters

Kate: 34, from Hopkinton, Mass.
Matt: 32, from Taunton, Mass.





Kate MacDougall grew up spending summers on Block Island, so when she met Matt, she of course introduced him to Block Island, too. Choosing Block Island for their wedding was not so much a destination, but a coming home.

Like others with family homes on the island, Kate wound up working several summer jobs at various stores and restaurants. As a result, “through this whole community, she was able to hire people who she knows, and who know her, and who really went the extra mile to make this wedding for us,” says Matt.

The couple kept their wedding small with just 50 or so guests. “The simplicity of it really felt like us,” say the couple. “Having a wedding on Block Island can be a whole to-do, but this felt so easy and wonderful. It was amazing to have just a small group of our most loved ones, have vendors who we really trusted, and have everyone else meet us at the bar later to celebrate.”

Rather than a full reception, Kate and

Matt followed their ceremony outside at the Block Island Maritime Institute with a cocktail hour and dinner inside. The couple say the site was perfect for an outdoor ceremony and small reception, with a built-in bar, tables, chairs, a commercial kitchen and even a dance floor.

Dinner was catered by Pearce Farms, a new business on the island. “Meaghan and Adrian were so easy to work with, and the food was unreal,” say Kate and Matt. “We were so lucky to work with them in their first year of this business, and they really

The Details

WEDDING CEREMONY AND DINNER: [Block Island Maritime Institute](#); WEDDING CATERING: [Pearce Farms](#); MUSIC: [Cameron Greenlee](#); PHOTOGRAPHER: [Lesley Ulrich](#); FLOWERS AND DECOR: [Mary Anderson and Ned Phillips, Jr.](#); REHEARSAL DINNER: [Atlantic Inn](#); DEPARTURE BRUNCH: [Catering by Persephone's](#); FAVORS: [Littlefield Bee Farm](#).





catered the menu to what we wanted and our price point. Everyone raved about the food, and it's so nice to support a small local business. The cognac dijon chicken was delicious."

Kate's mother Amy, who makes soups and baked goods for the Block Island Farmers Market, made a delicious wedding cake, salted caramel. Kate says, "She even had two figurines of our dogs made that she stuck in the middle so they could be part of our wedding."

Then they went to Yellow Kittens later in the evening where they met up with more friends from the island. Kate says, "an incredible band, 'He Said, She Said,' played at 10! They were the best wedding band I didn't have to pay for. It was amazing dancing with friends and strangers and getting to wear a wedding dress to Kittens."

For a welcome event at a private residence, the couple got appetizers from several island restaurants "to showcase island specialties and so people could take themselves out to dinner after. The tuna nachos from from Eli's were gone almost immediately," they say. A departure brunch was also at a private residence, this time with catering by Persephone's, who brought pastries, quiches, and coffee.

"Everyone really came together to make our wedding happen and make it special," say the couple. "We got ready at Kate's family's place on the North Point where we stayed with all our friends, and every place we celebrated was full of special memories from our experiences on the island. The weather also turned into a 70-degree sunny day after a few days of cold wind. The night we arrived, we got a Northern Lights show, which was incredible!"



Kate and Matt say their guests loved the small size of the event, "so they could all really get to know each other. They also loved being able to go to different parts of the island for different events so they could get to know this special place!"

Top 3 Pieces of Advice:

1. Pick vendors you trust.
2. Pick island vendors, so if there's bad weather, they won't get stuck on the wrong side during storms.
3. Have a contingency plan for the weather.

Getting your Block Island marriage license

The Town of New Shoreham Clerk’s office can issue a marriage license if you are planning a Block Island wedding and you live outside the State of Rhode Island. We also issue marriage licenses to residents of New Shoreham.

Call us to schedule an appointment (401-466-3200). We will meet with the marriage couple in person during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. to see original documents, sign your worksheet and issue your marriage license.

Send your paperwork in advance: Please mail or e-mail good quality copies of your worksheet, birth certificates and proof of termination of previous marriage, if any. We will review your paperwork and contact you if we have questions. If any of your documents are not in English, ask us for translation guidelines. You must appear in person (see above) to obtain your license, so bring all original documents and your photo ID with you at that time. State law requires us to see your original documents before we issue the marriage license.

Worksheet: It is critical that you complete both pages of the worksheet. Include daytime telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, date of marriage, officiant information including name, address, phone number and denomination, and location of your wedding. You will sign the worksheet at Town Hall when issued your license. We keep the worksheet.

Birth certificate: We need to see an original certified copy of

the birth certificate issued by a state, county or city, and will look for a raised seal. We will return this document to you. We cannot accept a notarized copy, or hospital or baptismal certificate.

If this is not your first marriage: Provide proof of termination of most recent marriage/civil union. We can only accept original documents, either a final divorce decree certified by the Clerk of the Court or a certified death certificate. We will return this document to you.

Fees: The application fee is \$24.00. Per the State of Rhode Island, the first certified copy ordered in person at the counter is \$22, but the same document requested through the mail is \$25. In either case, additional certified copies ordered at the same time cost \$18. We accept checks or cash. Your certified copy(s) will be mailed to you after your officiant returns your signed and dated marriage license to our office.

Please be Advised...

Town Hall Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Closed on federal holidays, and the second Monday in August, a Rhode Island holiday.

Please call to schedule an appointment: 401-466-3200

New Shoreham Town Clerk, 16 Old Town Road, PO Box 220, Block Island RI 02807; lpayne@newshorehamri.gov

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