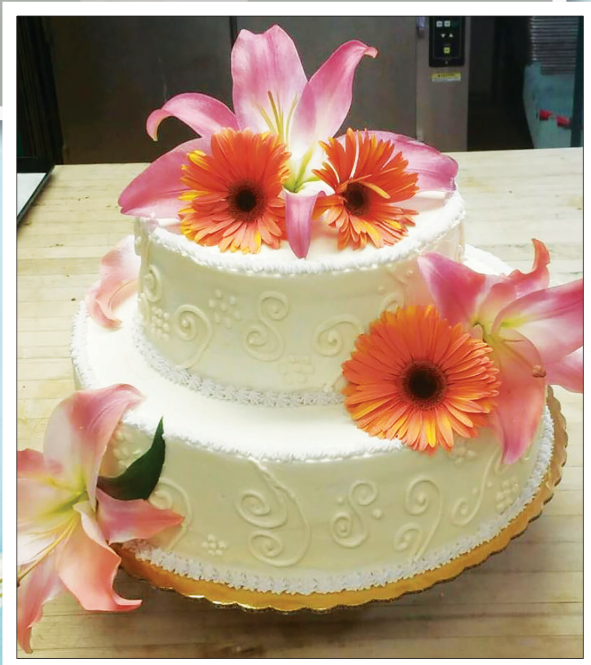
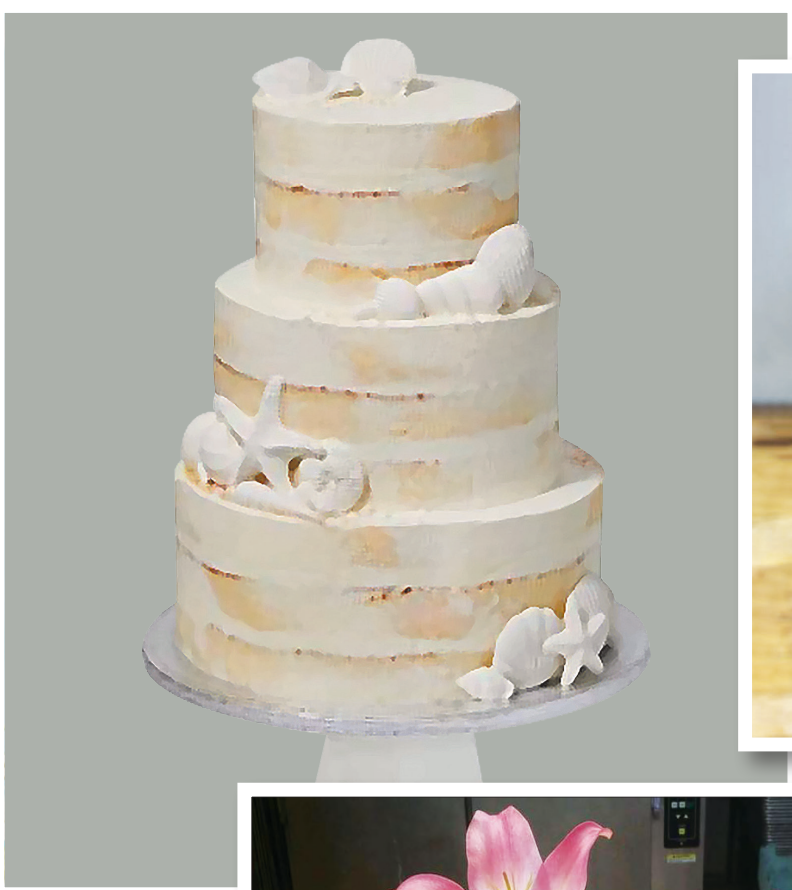


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ALDO'S BAKERY - PAGE 9



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Photos: Coli Michael Photography (Top), Created Coastal Photography (Bottom)



Samantha: 27, from Connecticut
Thomas: 26 from Connecticut

Photos:
Lesley Ulrich Helterline



SAMANTHA CANTONE & THOMAS BROWN *April 26, 2025*



For Samantha Cantone and Thomas Brown, meeting each other one summer on Block Island was fate. Sam says “We met briefly in New Hampshire while we were both at different colleges in the winter of 2020. The summer of 2020 came along and we were hanging out with mutual friends while we were working on Block Island. We didn’t realize we knew each other at first, but then after a few hours of chatting, we put it together that we had already met.”

The two love to hike – they became engaged when Tom surprised Sam at the top of Mount Lafayette in New Hampshire with a ring. There was just one other person there, and she became their photographer. “She said it was the best day of her life being a part of our proposal,” says Sam.

Since then, Block Island has become the couple’s year-round home and they and their young daughter have become a welcome part of the tight-knit community.

In keeping with their love of hiking, the couple chose to get married in the field of daffodils at the Lapham Property, a part of the Clayhead Nature Preserve.

“We chose to get married on Block Island because it’s more than a beautiful place, it’s part of our story,” say the couple. “The daffodil field has become one of our favorite spots, a place that feels like us. Getting married there feels especially meaningful as it reflects the new beginnings we’re creating together. This is where we’re raising our daughter, building our family’s memories, and finding joy in everyday moments. Having our wedding here makes our day even more special.”

Not everything went as planned. April can be a tricky month, and on the day of the wedding there was a storm predicted, with winds blowing at 50 miles per hour, so they had a “mini ceremony” the day before. The reception was held at Summer Hill, which the couple rented for the weekend. Sam says, “Lesley, our photographer put together a slide show for our guests of our ceremony in the daffodils, so they could see it.”

Other highlights of the reception included a raw bar, lamb lollipops, and a three-tier funfetti wedding cake made by the couple’s friend Camryn Tierney. “Everything was so beautiful from the

detail on the wedding cake, the china plates we thrifted, all the flowers, and everyone we love being there to celebrate us,” says Sam. “I think what our guests loved most was the food, the party afterwards, and obviously, seeing the love we have for each other.”

But for the couple, the highlight of their wedding was, “Our daughter Sedona being there and staring up at us while we said our vows. It was so special for us.”

Top 3 Pieces of Advice:

1. Don’t let planning take over your life. It should be a fun experience.
2. Set a budget.
3. Expect the unexpected.

The Details

CEREMONY: The daffodil field at the Lapham Property and Payne’s Dock;
RECEPTION: Summer Hill;
PHOTOGRAPHER: Lesley Ulrich Helterline;
CATERING: Kimberly’s; CAKE: Camryn Tierney; FLORIST: The Farmer Florist; HAIR & MAKEUP: Jessica Cantone; DJ: Jon O’Neill, Island Wedding Entertainment.

Kimberly: 30, from North Kingstown, R.I.
Jack: 30, from Pepper Pike, Ohio



Photos:
Coli Michael Photography



KIMBERLY ALICE MEILUN & JACK NEE *May 31, 2025*

Kimberly Meilun and Jack Nee first met in 2013 while freshmen at Brown University and have been together ever since. Despite a love for travel – Jack proposed in front of the Rodin Museum in Paris, France – the couple chose Block Island for their wedding. After all, Kimberly has been coming regularly to the island since she was five months old. “Our winter, summer, and fall trips to the island are special traditions for us, as a family and as a couple, and when it came time select a wedding destination, we knew it had to be Block Island. We only toured one venue after we got engaged in 2023 – the Spring House – and then we booked it,” say the couple.

With their love for and familiarity with the island, all the do-it-yourself touches and wedding favors had a local flare. Every table at the reception was named after an island landmark and Kimberly painted and framed each one. “We also painted seashells that named each departed loved one, which we glued onto the picture frames on our memorial table. We also made Aldo’s breakfast coupons ourselves, as well as metro-card themed taxi tickets,” says Jack.

“We tried to make nearly every aspect of the wedding meaningful to us and represent us as a couple, from our first dance song to our penguin cake toppers, to our table décor, to the second dress I wore during the reception that incorporated my mom’s wedding headpiece and wedding gloves, and the traditions from both cultures that we incorporated into our wedding and made our own,” says Kimberly.

One of those cultural traditions was a Chinese wedding ceremony, wherein the bride and groom honor their parents and the families become one. It was incorporated into a sunset welcome dinner on the side porch of the National the night before the wedding. “It made our sunset dinner extra special and set the tone for the wedding festivities to come (joy, love, connection, unity).”

For late May, the weather wasn’t cooperative, but it didn’t seem to dampen the mood. Kimberly says, “It rained the week leading up to our wedding, plus it was dense, chilly fog on Friday and sporadic rain on Saturday. One of our guests commented on how beautiful the fog was on the eve of our wedding as it settled over Old Harbor. On wedding day morning, it was bright sun, but then it rained for about 20 minutes during the ceremony – right when we started the program! We proceeded with the outdoor ceremony anyway and busted out the umbrellas.”

Jack says, “Guests had umbrellas and jackets over their heads. Kimberly’s veil blew off during the ceremony, but she snatched it mid-air and shoved it back on her head.”

“Luckily, the dance floor and reception area of the Spring House were covered, and the rain eventually stopped so guests could take photos outside on the Spring House lawn after dinner,” says Kimberly. “Our guests loved the energy of the reception. Everyone was having so much fun and there was so much love in the air. Guests made new friends, chatted with people they didn’t know, and danced and celebrated with old friends.”

“Our after party at Ballard’s was supposed to be a bonfire with s’mores, but the wind was too strong for a fire according to the fire marshal, and we had an indoor after party at

Ballard’s instead,” say the couple. “Yolanda at Ballard’s was incredibly flexible and resourceful, pivoting plans when our bonfire didn’t pan out due to high winds, and creating an indoor party experience for our group. They set up a great area indoors for us, with food and easy bar access, and our guests didn’t even mind the pivot!”

Top Pieces of Advice:

1. If you have guests coming from out of state, especially those using public transit, send several follow-up messages about travel logistics. Many guests don’t realize how much coordination needs to happen to get to the island, and much of that planning can’t be done at the last minute.

2. Do everything earlier than you think you should. If you have time to work on something for the wedding, work on it. Your future self will thank you.

3. Some things won’t go exactly as you envision, but you need to roll with it and let things evolve.

Designate a bridesmaid and groomsman to coordinate your getting-ready morning. There are little things, like who’s going to steam your dress, making sure people stick to the schedule, drying off bouquets before your bridesmaids hold them, and more that you’ll want someone else to manage on the day of.

The Details:

CEREMONY & RECEPTION: [Spring House](#); AFTER PARTY: [Ballard’s](#);
WELCOME PARTY & TEA CEREMONY: [The National](#);
PHOTOGRAPHER: [Coli Michael Photography](#); FLORIST: [Painted Rock Designs](#); CAKES: [Aldo’s Bakery](#) and [Silver Spoon Bakery](#);
LIGHTING & DECOR: [Ryan Designs](#); BAND: [Rickie Louise Miller Band](#); HAIR & MAKEUP: [Kinga Kaminska of Salt](#).

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

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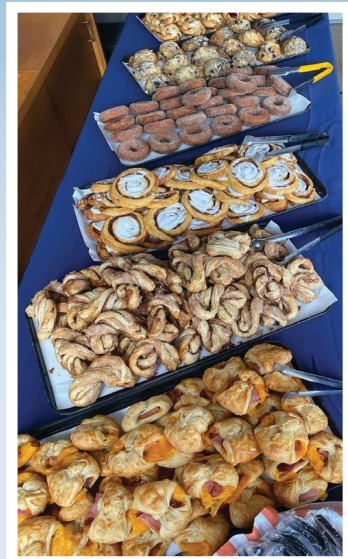
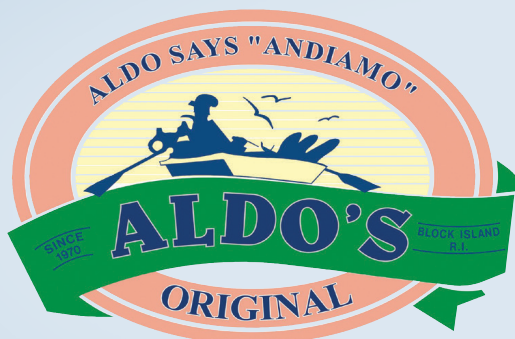
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By Rona Mann

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!

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BLOCK ISLAND ENGAGEMENT

MATT & LENA *June 2, 2025*

Every year we go to Block Island searching high and low for a glass orb while we hike all the trails around the island. Despite coming up empty handed on all our searches in 2024, we built amazing memories while hiking at Rodman's Hollow, and I immediately knew this was where I wanted to propose to my fiancée.

I did more than propose though.

After I bought the ring in January 2025, I contacted The Glass Station, the studio that makes the orbs about making a custom one for me to use for the proposal. I selected a purple orb, my fiancée's favorite color, and had it engraved with "Lena, will you marry me?"

Fast forward to June 2. We took a Monday trip to Block Island for some early summer hiking, but little did my fiancée know that I was carrying the orb and the ring in my bag. As we got to the view of the cliffs and ocean at Rodman's Hollow, I told her to walk ahead of me to search the ground for orbs. I slowed my pace, and once she got out of sight, I knew I had to act fast. I dug the orb out of my bag and placed it on the ground, then put the ring in my pocket. I called Lena back to me. When she got close, I said nothing and instead pointed at the orb on the ground. Amazed, she picked up the orb and couldn't believe we found one.

I let a few seconds pass by before I said I saw some writing on it.

After reading the message, my fiancée's jaw hit the ground and she was speechless. I dropped down on one knee and proposed, and, after a few seconds of silence (which made me nervous!), she



gave me an emphatic yes. I slid the ring on her finger and we took some amazing selfies with the ring and the orb, with our favorite view behind us.

Block Island has been a special place for my fiancée and me. It has given us everlasting memories, and Rodman's Hollow specifically, will always hold a special place in our hearts.



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Nicole, 28, from Madison, Conn.
Conor, 32, from Guilford, Conn.

Photos:
Hilary B. Photography



Nicole's aunt and Conor's mother were old friends, spending summer vacations together on Block Island every year. The couple grew up in bordering towns in Connecticut and aside from those vacations, the two didn't see each other until they caught up one holiday season and soon started dating.

Fast forward a few years and the couple, who were then living in Washington D.C., found themselves planning a Block Island wedding with 200 guests.

"For us, we acknowledged this was a destination, as we had family and friends coming from as far as Hawaii and Spain to attend," say the couple. "Block Island has always been the backdrop of our love story. We started as family friends who have spent every summer of our lives vacationing together on Block Island. We have countless childhood memories of beach days at Scotch and State Beaches, banana boating, fishing at Coast Guard Beach, and collecting rocks at the north point during amazing sunsets. So when we started dating, we knew without question that one day we would return to the place that has always felt like home to say, 'I do.'"

Many family and friends spent a full week on the island, and the couple planned several activities. They held a welcome party on the porch of the National on Thursday night and then hosted a beach day on Friday.

"We had beautiful weather again and many of our guests with young children were able to bring them to the beach to play and meet some of the other younger children who were on the island for the weekend. This event was particularly memorable, as it allowed our guests to experience one of our favorite aspects of the island, to relax on the beach, soak in the sun, and get perspective on why Block Island is so special to the two of us."

The couple had planned to get married on the lawn at the Sullivan House, but the weather did not cooperate, so they pivoted and held an intimate ceremony with their wedding parties and immediate family on the porch, and then repeated it in front of all their guests on the dance floor under the tent.

The couple had worked with vendors to transform the tent into a beautiful space with additional lighting, draping, bar fronts, a drink and dessert cart, chairs, linens, menus, place cards and florals. Music was provided by electric violinist "Big Lux," who Nicole's mother had discovered playing at the Spring House. "He did a beautiful job with our ceremony, and the energy his music provided was such a hit for cocktail hour," say the couple.

The rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding, and the cocktail hour and reception were catered by Block Island Gourmet. "The food was amazing," say Nicole and Conor. "We knew it was going to be

after attending the tasting the summer before when we got to try all of the options. For the wedding day itself, we opted for family style service, as we are foodies and enjoy the feeling of togetherness that that type of service offered. Both the short ribs and halibut were a hit, and our personal favorite for the cocktail hour were the bacon-wrapped scallops. For the rehearsal dinner, we splurged and opted for the filet mignon with lobster claw, which was perfection!"

Despite regretting not having a back-up plan for the rain, Nicole and Conor say all their vendors were great at making last minute adjustments to move the ceremony and cocktail hour to under the tent, and although the rain was a "bummer," they wouldn't have changed a thing.

Top 3 Pieces of Advice:

1. Be patient and hire help. We highly recommend booking a wedding planner for full or partial services who has planned other weddings on the island before.
2. Reach out to as many hotels and inns as much in advance as possible to reserve room blocks.
3. Build time into your schedule to enjoy the island. We went there a week ahead and were able to meet with vendors in person over last minute details, which was so helpful to ensure everything ran smoothly for the wedding day.

The Details

CEREMONY AND RECEPTION: [The Sullivan House](#); CATERING: [Block Island Gourmet](#); DESSERT: [The Ice Cream Place](#); PHOTOGRAPHER: [Hilary B. Photography](#); FLORIST: [Michelle Jeanne Floral Designs](#); LIGHTING AND DÉCOR: [Ryan Designs](#); VIOLINIST: [Big Luxe](#); DJ: [Luke Renchan Entertainment](#).

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



Photos:
Jessica Pohl

Riley, 30, from Cranston, R.I.
Nolan, 32, from South Kingstown, R.I.



RILEY KATHLEEN MARTIN & NOLAN KYLE DUBOIS *August 23, 2025*

For Riley Martin, getting married on Block Island was like coming home. After all, her mother grew up on the island and her grandmother was the late Mary Donnelly, affectionately known as Mary D. who was the island nurse for decades. Riley spent many a summer on the island and got to know many of the local people, including some who would become vendors for her big day. "By getting married on Block Island with such a small community, you know everyone will take care of you like your family."

Since both Riley and Nolan grew up in Rhode Island, it didn't seem like a destination wedding and they made sure to coordinate the ceremony and reception times with the ferry schedules so their guests could easily do a day trip if they wished.

The ceremony was at St. Andrew Church with Reverend Joseph Protano officiating and music provided by Jayme and Megan Hennessy. It was particularly significant as Riley's parents were married there 41 years ago, and the Hennessy sisters sang then too. "St. Andrew is very special to my family where we have had many family services with Megan and Jayme singing, from baptisms, weddings, to funerals," says Riley. "Jayme singing 'Amazing Grace' was a highlight to remember all our family members who have passed away."

After the ceremony, guests took a bus to the reception at Champlin's Resort and Marina while the newlyweds rode in style in a vintage car belonging to a family friend. "It was so fun to drive around in his car, which had cans in the back to show we were just married. We felt like we were celebrities," the couple say.

"The guests loved the location of Champlin's," say Riley and Nolan. "Many of our guests have never seen that part of the island." Even the bus was a hit. "This was a great way for our guests to see different parts of the island.



When they got to Champlin's, they loved being right on the water and seeing incredible views from there."

"The chef at Champlin's did an amazing job and the trays of food just kept coming. So many of our guests came up to us about how good the food was!"

That food included several types of passed hors d'oeuvres including scallops wrapped in bacon, coconut shrimp cocktail, asparagus wrapped in smoked salmon, and marinated tomato and mozzarella skewers. For starters there were imported and domestic cheeses, and for the main, there was Cavetelli Alfredo with Chicken, Penne Vodka with Peas, and a carving station featuring prime rib.

As part of their package, Champlin's also offered a variety of desserts but the couple also chose to have a traditional wedding cake from Aldo's Bakery.

With Megan Hennessy as DJ with a perfectly custom-curated play list, the only thing the couple says they would have changed was more time for dancing. "I just felt like it went by too fast and we didn't have enough time after cocktail hour, dinner, speeches,



pictures and dances to just to have fun and dance with everyone we love," says Riley. "It just goes by so fast, but other than that, I wouldn't have changed a thing. It was perfect!"

Top 3 Pieces of Advice:

1. Utilize ferry schedules to help guests who may want the option of a day trip.
2. Hire a wedding planner.

Ours made everything so easy for us. She was so responsive and made everything run smoothly, taking away a lot of the wedding worries and stress.

3. Communicate with guests about bookings, the boat, parking, car reservations, and make sure you give them plenty of time to book ahead.

The Details

CEREMONY: St. Andrew Church; RECEPTION: Champlin's Marina and Resort; CAKE: Aldo's Bakery; PHOTOGRAPHER: Jessica Pohl; VIDEOGRAPHER: Trevor Holden; CHURCH MUSIC: Jayme Hennessy; DJ: Megan Hennessy; FLORALS: Weed Weavers; WEDDING COORDINATOR: Ryann Liguori.

BLOCK ISLAND ENGAGEMENT

DAKOTA & TREY August 9, 2025

My name is Dakota O'Brien and my fiancé, Trey, and I had the most dreamy engagement at Dickens Point on Block Island on August 9, 2025.

Block Island was the first weekend getaway we took as a couple back in 2021, where we rode scooters around the island, relaxed on the beach, and got to know each other over breakfast at Ernie's.

Trey chose Block Island for our engagement not only because of our fond memories, but also because of a deep family history. When we first visited, Trey's late grandmother, Carla Dickens, had shared that her ancestors had lived here in the 1800s. She even had the last name to prove it! This is a

text she sent Trey when we visited in 2021:

"Go look for Dickens Point, that is our family's connection to Benedict Arnold and the history of it is pretty amazing. It was in our family around the Revolutionary War and the last living person was Elizabeth Dickens. She started kind of a bird sanctuary on Dickens Point...The property then became part of Block Island. I believe now you can actually go visit it. Years back when I was there, it was closed. I love you and have fun."

This provided the perfect guise for Trey to get me to come visit this part of Block Island. We took a golf cart to visit Dickens Point, where



unbeknownst to me, Trey was incredibly nervous as he tried to find this beautiful secluded area that held so much family history and also would be the

place we'd make the decision to spend the rest of our lives together.

When we arrived, I was immediately in awe of the beauty of the landscape and view of the sound. There was a photographer, who I later learned to be Lynne Damiano, taking photos of a couple that looked like they had just been engaged. As it turns out, it was just a ploy and Lynne secretly followed us as we made our way closer to the water where Trey popped the question. After I said yes and we celebrated, we had a photo shoot with Lynne, who captured photos that mean so much to us and will definitely be passed down to future generations.

Carla sadly passed away from leukemia in September 2024, and while her absence as we enter this new chapter of our lives cannot be understated, we are so thankful that her spirit and history got to be part of this day.

We currently live in Norwalk, Connecticut but are sure to come back to Block Island many times again in the future.

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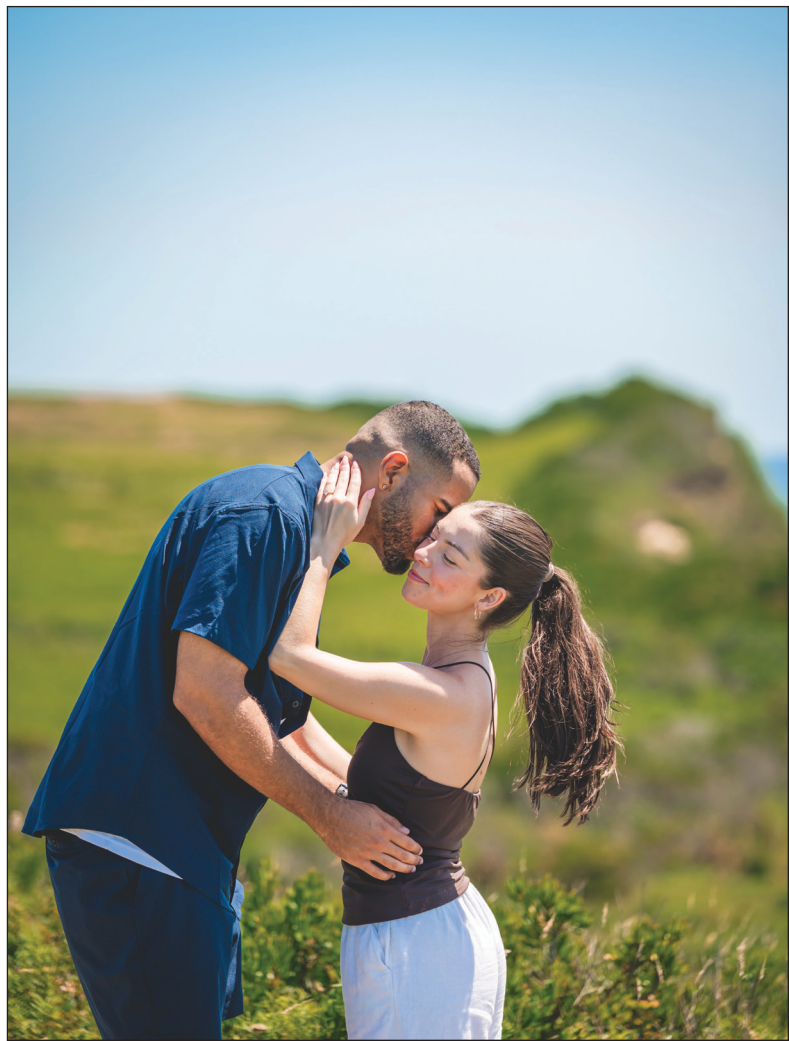
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WEDDING CHECKLIST 4 to 6 Months Out

Book Hair Stylist And/Or Makeup Artist

Select and order invitations

Order bridesmaid dresses and accessories

Select and order tuxes and accessories

Meet with ceremony officiant and begin planning ceremony

Meet with caterer and begin finalizing menu details

Give guest list to bridal shower hostess

Make honeymoon reservations

Purchase wedding rings

Select style for escort cards, place cards, table numbers, menus, and programs

Order what can be ordered ahead of time

Schedule bridal gown fittings

Write all payment and contract deadlines on calendar

Balances due, final counts due, menu choices due, rental order due

WEDDING CHECKLIST 2 to 3 Months Out

Mail invitations

Mail rehearsal dinner invites

Order linen rentals

Order or start making favors

Confirm that bridal attendants have purchased their attire and accessories

Take rings for sizing and engraving

Purchase gifts for bridal

attendants and parents

Don't forget a gift for the person you will be marrying

Decide who will be reading and/or performing in wedding ceremony

Finalize reception menu

Select ceremony music

Select reception music, must play and do-not-play lists and special dances and toasts



Photo: Coli Michael Photography

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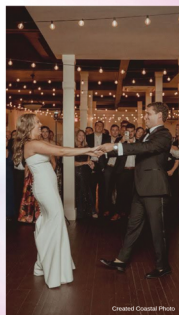
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WEDDING CHECKLIST 1 Month Out

Order wine, liquor and/or champagne, if necessary

Select readings for ceremony

Meet with officiant to finalize ceremony details

Do trial runs for hairstyles and makeup

Schedule pedicure and manicure for day before the wedding

Schedule ceremony rehearsal time

Decide when and where you will get your marriage license

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.)

Be fitted for bridal gown

Select or write vows

Begin drawing up an itinerary of wedding day details

Think about when you would like the following 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?

Begin writing ceremony program

Purchase ceremony accessories

Unity candle, ring pillow, etc...

Purchase reception accessories

Card box, toasting glasses, guest book, cake knife, garter, etc.

Begin receiving RSVPs in mail

Track meal choices and accommodations

Write thank you notes as you receive shower and/or wedding gifts

Arrange for a babysitter if necessary

Get a pre-wedding haircut

Create a rain contingency plan





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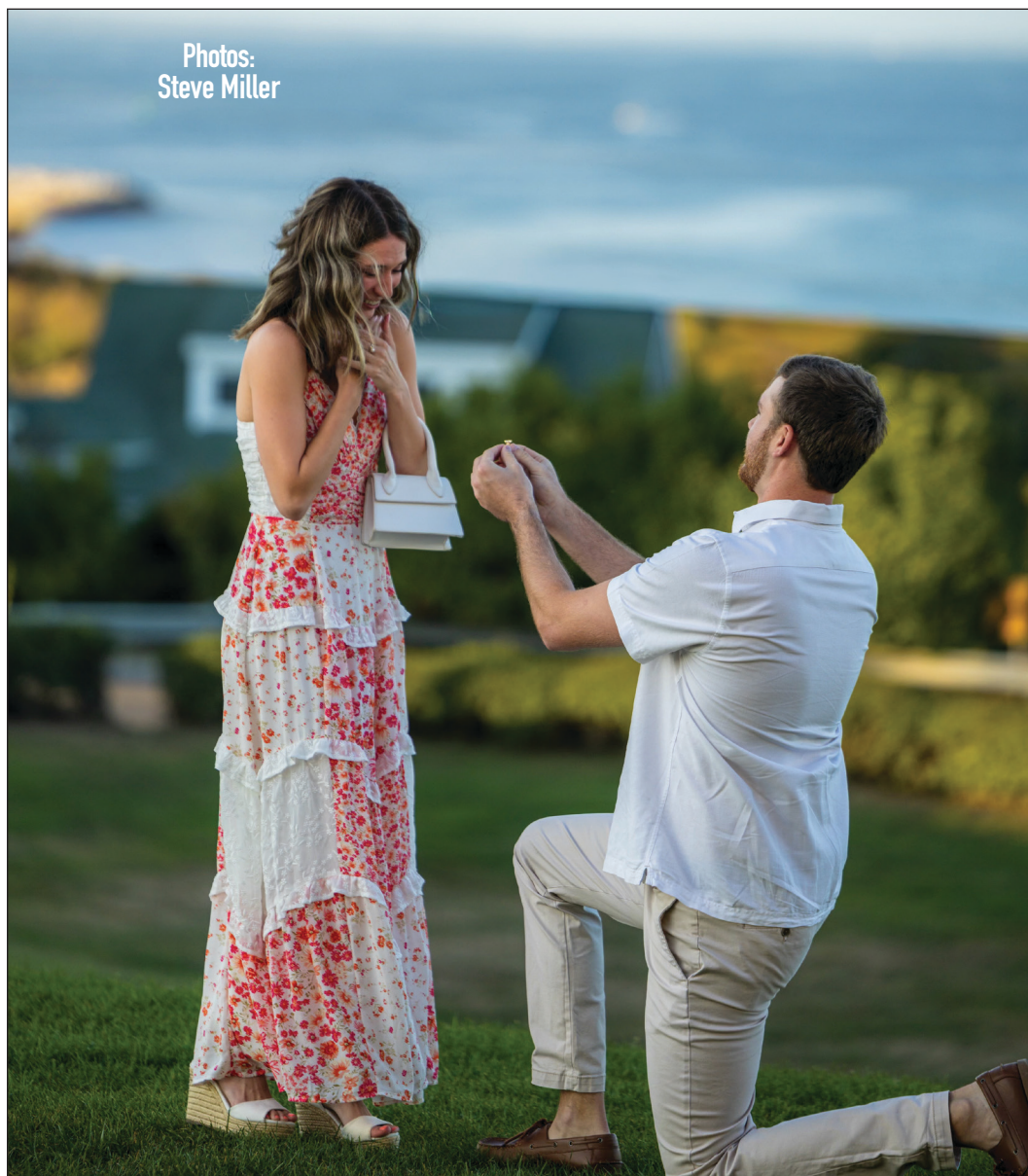
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Photo: Created Coastal Photography

BLOCK ISLAND ENGAGEMENT

KAITLYN & PATRICK *September 22, 2025*

Photos:
Steve Miller



Patrick and I traveled up the east coast on a road trip from Atlanta, Georgia and arrived on Block Island on September 20, 2025. Patrick knew how much the island meant to me and my family after all of the stories I have shared with him, and planned a surprise proposal in front of the Spring House hotel. He started coordinating with photographer Steve Miller in May 2025, and we are forever grateful for the cherished memories Steve was able to capture that day. The staff at the Spring House even delivered us complimentary champagne after witnessing the proposal!

Kaitlyn has a significant connection to the island that goes back generations and she writes:

Helen August Winslow Mansfield, wife of William Mansfield, is my great great grandmother. She was a notable figure associated with Block Island. She was born on the island in August 1873 and was the daughter of Abner Clinton Winslow and Anna Willis. She is a direct descendant of an original settler of Block Island, Nathaniel Winslow.

Helen was a Block Island Historical Society pioneer and compiled the cemetery records for all of the Block Island cemeteries. Legend has it that she wrapped bags around her feet to avoid being bitten by insects as she walked around the cemetery gathering information off the headstones.

William Mansfield II, her son, purchased a home on the island in 1956 from Brainard Day, and I am the fourth generation to visit the island regularly in the summer since that time. My mother, Suzanne Mansfield, and my father, Damon Werner, were married on the island in the summer of 1997.

Helen died in 1958 and is buried in the Block Island cemetery. My family remembers her every year at the annual winter fundraiser by lighting a candle in her memory in the window of the Block Island Historical Society.

WEDDING CHECKLIST 2 Weeks Out

Pick up wedding bands
Final bridal gown fitting
Complete events schedules
Finalize event tent and/or table layout
Plan order of processional and recessional
Have wedding program printed
Print escort cards/chart, place

cards, menus, ceremony program
Wrap attendant gifts and attach a note of thanks
Call guests who have not yet RSVPd
Confirm head count for vendors
Confirm menu choices to vendors
Obtain marriage license
Purchase items for guest welcome

bags
Create a welcome letter with info for guest bags
Include a schedule of events, transportation, what to do around Block Island, the couples favorite places, etc.
Compile a list of where guests are staying
This will make gift bag distribution much easier.



Jacklyn, 28, from Barrington, R.I.
Benjamin, 29, from Barrington, R.I.

Photos:
Created Coastal Photography



JACKLYN FLORIO & BENJAMIN COOGAN *September 20, 2025*

Jacklyn Florio and Benjamin Coogan were high school sweethearts who found their way back to each other during the summer of 2019 when Benjamin was a lifeguard at Ballard's Beach. And then, in 2024, Ben proposed on Mansion Beach over Labor Day weekend. "This was one of our annual trips to Block Island," says Jacklyn, "and he had a house full of our friends and family waiting to celebrate with us for the whole weekend."

"Block Island holds a very special place in our hearts as the setting of where we reignited a spark that never faded," say the couple, so it was natural that they chose a venue right on Mansion Beach to tie the knot. "We found the Cushman House to be the perfect location as it overlooked the beach where our journey truly began."

They also hosted their rehearsal dinner there, which was catered by Sediment, a local business that is known for bringing lobster dinners to people's backyards. For a welcome party, though, they chose Payne's Dock for welcome drinks.

The couple say the highlights of the ceremony and reception were "the incredibly heartfelt speeches and the gorgeous backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean. Everyone said it was a big love fest! Everyone could feel the love in the room between the bride and groom, but also our friends and family who have molded into one over our lifetimes. Everyone was enjoying being together."

The food wasn't bad, either. The couple says, "Kimberly's catered the reception and all the food was amazing. We got the most compliments on our hors d'oeuvres, which included lamb lollipops, chicken skewers, and mini crab cakes."

Their cake was a simple chocolate cake with vanilla frosting from Aldo's Bakery, with 'Just Married' written on it.



"At each of the dinner tables we had pictures of ourselves with our guests to reflect on the amazing memories we have made together," say Jacklyn and Ben. "These pictures ranged from our toddler years up until a few years ago – depending on how long we've known them. It was a really special way to acknowledge how important each person is in our lives and how they've helped shape the people we are today."

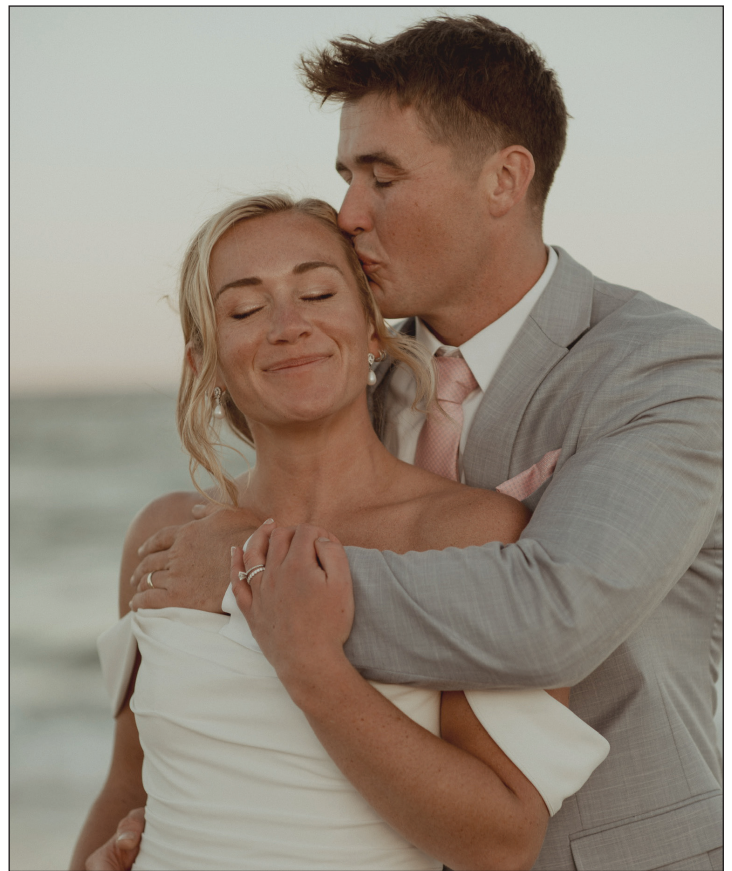
It was a perfect September weekend the couple say. "The whole wedding was a success – we really wanted to ensure that everyone had fun, and I think we accomplished that!"

Top 3 Pieces of Advice:

1. Start planning early! Especially if you want to use on-island vendors. There are only so many, so if you want first pick, definitely start as early as you can.

2. Trust your vendors, especially the on-island ones. They know what they're doing.

3. Relax and enjoy every minute – the time goes by so fast, just remember to look up and take it all in.



The Details

CEREMONY AND RECEPTION: [The Cushman House](#); CATERING: [Kimberley's](#); REHEARSAL DINNER CATERING: [Sediment](#); CAKE: [Aldo's Bakery](#); WELCOME EVENT: [Payne's Dock](#); PHOTOGRAPHY: [Created Coastal Photography](#); HAIR AND MAKEUP: [Maria Piccardi Beauty](#).

Heather: 49, from East Haven, Conn.
Matthew: 49, from East Haven Conn.



Heather Page and Matthew Farley have been visiting Block Island since they were very young, she with family, coming for summer vacations and staying on Connecticut Avenue, and he with his Boy Scout troop, camping just down the street. They didn't meet though, until ninth grade when Heather sat behind Matt in algebra class. "We started dating during senior year and were high school sweethearts who reconnected 25 years later when Matt reached out and sent me our prom photo, reminding me how cute we were back then. We started chatting and have been back together ever since," says Heather.

As this was the second wedding for both of them, the couple decided to elope on Block Island, spending a few precious days away from their busy schedules in New York, where Heather is a public school principal in New York City and Matthew is a business jet captain. "We specifically chose the off-season and this particular date for its sentimental meaning and the quiet, romantic atmosphere the island affords in late autumn," say the couple.

The couple planned for a long weekend on the island, staying at a dog-friendly cottage that is part of the 1661 Inn with their 10-pound rescue pup, Nugget, and the day before the wedding, they left their message on Painted Rock, something they say they always wanted to do.

Matt says, "We didn't have a rehearsal dinner but we did eat at the Barn the night before our wedding. While we had a pre-dinner cocktail in their bar, we overheard patrons at the bar talking about the painted rock and

wondering who was getting married in November. Heather excitedly let them know it was us!"

They chose the North Light as the back drop for their vows, with New Shoreham First Warden Keith Stover officiating. "He was kind and caring and felt like an instant old friend," say the couple. "The highlight was reading the vows we wrote and exchanging rings while we stood on the sand in front of the light house. It was a perfect moment."

After the ceremony, the couple drove around with their photographer who took them to all the sights and take pictures. They had drinks at Poor People's Pub and Yellow Kittens before having dinner at Eli's Restaurant. "We enjoyed stopping at our favorite spots in our wedding clothes, which we know was not a normal sight on a Sunday night in November on Block Island. We had a lot of fun talking to everyone we interacted with and telling them our elopement story."

Heather and Matthew may have secretly eloped, but they left no detail undone. The couple says, "There were so many moving parts that we were able to handle by ourselves without our friends and families finding out, we kept our elopement secret. We had to get to the island and not forget any wedding items. We had to pick up our flowers in Connecticut before the wedding since there were no vendors available on island in the off

season, and we had to keep the flowers fresh for a few days."

They also purchased a collection orb from the Glass Station that is similar to the glass floats hidden all over the island as part of the Glass Float Project. "We got the orb etched with our names and wedding date and used this to hold our rings for the ceremony. Afterwards, we put a little sand from the North Light beach in the orb to celebrate the day."

The couple plans to have a reception for friends and family in Essex, Conn. in May when they will have a traditional New England clambake with lobsters, "because Heather loves lobster."

Top 3 Pieces of Advice:

1. Everyone wants to get married in summer or early fall, but consider the off-season. The quiet and stillness allow the island's natural beauty to shine. The light in late fall is low and perfect for photos. Bonus: less crowds means fewer chances of photo bombs and it's easier to get around the island.

2. When considering vendors, consider flexible arrangements for getting them to the island. We flew the photographer in because the ferry service was limited; this maximized our time with him and shortened his commute for the day.

3. Don't wait until the last minute to get your marriage license, make sure you pay attention to the instructions and deadlines. We went to town hall in September and had a great "bonus" night on Block Island.

The Details

CEREMONY: *The North Light*; POST-WEDDING DINNER: *Eli's*; OFFICIANT: *Keith Stover*; PHOTOGRAPHER: *Trevor Holden*; HAIR AND MAKEUP: *Kinga Kaminska, Salt*.

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

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.

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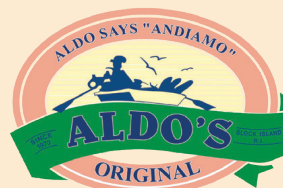
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