

A Wedding in Three Weeks

KATHI LITWIN PHOTOGRAPHY



A family illness prompted California-based couple **Denise Pangelinan** and **Robert Nardelli** to cancel their destination wedding in Hawaii (planned for July 2007) and instead marry on April 28, 2007, in New York City. To the rescue came two talented and game-for-anything pros—Ellen Kostman, of SideKick Events (sidekickevents.com), and Marcey Brownstein, of Marcey Brownstein Catering & Events (marceybrownstein.com)—who were instrumental in helping Denise plan her wedding in three weeks, from 3,000 miles away. Here, how it all went down:

WEEK ONE

Sunday, April 8

The couple alerts their guests that their Hawaiian wedding has been cancelled and that the new event is to be held somewhere in the New York metro area. Denise emails Ellen Kostman, who (after checking her schedule) agrees to take on the wedding as planner, and immediately puts Denise in touch with Marcey Brownstein.

Monday, April 9

Both Ellen and Marcey call their contacts to find out who's available, and make venue suggestions to Denise via email.

Tuesday, April 10

Denise and Robert book a venue: 632 on Hudson, a three-story Greenwich Village spot, ideal for small weddings, with loads of built-in décor. (See another wedding at the site on p. 96).

Wednesday-Friday, April 11 to 13

Ellen and Marcey help Denise to book her vendors. "Florists and caterers can do more than one event per night," explains Marcey. "But photographers and bands can't, so we were fortunate that such great talent was available." A cocktails-and-dinner menu for 26 guests is finalized, and the wedding's new date and location are posted on the couple's wedding website.

WEEK TWO

Monday, April 16

Invitations, created by Denise and Robert on their home computer, are sent out. Ellen books the Rialto Restaurant, in Nolita, for the rehearsal dinner; guests are alerted on the couple's website. She also sends marriage license details to Denise.

Tuesday, April 17

Denise (along with Ellen and Marcey) continues to finalize contracts and discuss specifics with vendors. Hair and makeup trials are booked. Denise chooses her cake flavors, and, after a sketch of the cake is faxed over, the design is finalized (all-white buttercream with purple orchids—a nod to Hawaii—by The Cake Atelier, thecakeatelier.com).

Saturday, April 21

Final alterations on the gown Denise purchased in California four months prior are completed. Denise and her 11-year-old daughter, Asheley, find a lavender junior bridesmaid dress for her to wear, at David's Bridal in San Jose, CA. On Sunday, both dresses are overnighted to Ellen, in New York, who plans to have them steamed and delivered to the venue on the wedding day.

WEEK THREE

Wednesday, April 25

After taking a red-eye flight, Denise, Robert, and Asheley arrive at 7 a.m. in New York City. They check into their hotel, and then head directly to the Office of the City Clerk, on Centre Street, for the marriage license. That day, they also meet with their officiant and Denise has her make-up trial.

Thursday, April 26

Marcey and Ellen meet the couple for the first time, and walk them through 632 on Hudson. Afterward, photographer Kathi Littwin (kathilittwin.com) scouts the neighborhood with the couple for portrait locations. Finally, Denise heads to the Valery Joseph Salon for her hair trial.

Friday, April 27

Denise and her daughter get manicures while Robert does some sightseeing. That evening, the couple and 15 guests gather for the rehearsal dinner.

Saturday, April 28

The wedding goes off without a hitch. "I was just amazed at how it all worked out," says Denise. "Our families said it was the best wedding they've ever been to, and that we couldn't have planned a better one if we had had a year to do it!"



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