

“When you find the right person to share the rest of your life with, hold fast your love for that special person, and enjoy the journey the two of you will embark.” -Kristen Irene Mack

I met Nick briefly, for 5-minutes, in 2002 and then again in 2003 in Hoboken, New Jersey. We had mutual friends and started spending time together, but hadn't exchanged contact information for over 3-months in 2003. Our paths kept crossing for us to get to know one another. I had asked several friends to go to the New York City Village Parade, and they all backed out except for Nick. He had me laughing the whole ride over there on the Path. I knew then that Nick was special. I took him to Yakatori Taisho on St. Mark's Place afterwards to people watch and introduced him to Japanese food other than Sushi. A month later, Nick asked me to be his girlfriend.

On November 21, 2009, Nick took me to The Place on West 4th Street for an intimate dinner and proposed. I was elated, since I had been secretly wishing he'd propose 4-years prior to that night. All good things come to those who wait, and I knew one day Nick would commit to marriage. He is every bit the man I dreamed of meeting, dating and marrying.

Nick worked with Janine and Serge Lederman of George Lederman, Inc. on Madison Avenue using an heirloom center diamond that was his mother's, a square emerald cut diamond, and added two trapezoid side diamonds to enhance the center stone set in platinum. I was particular with the design of my wedding band and worked with Marisa Perry in SoHo to custom make a complementary comfort fit band with a flat edge design, also in platinum. Nick's wedding band is made of black ceramic and was purchased off e-bay.

My Uncle Fred had owned an offset print shop and had printed invitations for both my siblings. Since he had passed away several years ago, I wanted to keep up the tradition. I used Dauphine Press in California to custom design my letter press wedding invitations with online and phone support by Kendra Bellah.

Our wedding plans changed several times and we settled on having a short engagement with only several months to plan a simple, yet elegant wedding in New York City. I owned my own event planning business, Small Party NYC, and was able to organize my wedding details in about 1-month. Nick and I realized we had a set budget in mind and only wanted to do business with people we trusted for quality service.

We planned a 3-day wedding. We held a pre-rehearsal casual dinner party for 45-out of town guests, immediate family, and some co-workers at a Vietnamese restaurant near Union Square. Our rehearsal dinner was a semi-formal dinner and wine tasting celebration at Adour Restaurant at the St. Regis Hotel. I wore a custom made Kleinfeld's crystal headband my parents purchased for me as a wedding gift. I purchased a vintage metal mesh 1960's evening purse and light gray silk shoes with embellishments at DSW. My cocktail dress was a well

fitted off the rack vintage style Carmen Marc Valvo exclusively for Lord and Taylor in NYC only. Nick and I were so pleased to have Shira Weinberger photograph this special dinner party for our close family and friends whom helped raise us over the years. We had an intimate dinner party in the Wine Vault Room for 12-guests and a custom menu with wine pairing from the head Sommelier.

The day of the wedding was very special. We had wonderful weather on August 1, 2010 for an afternoon wedding at Belvedere Castle in Central Park. Mable Pang of Eve Pearl Make up Studio and Boutique came to the Waldorf Astoria Towers to do my hair at 7am. Shira Weinberger and her assistant Lauren arrived to photograph every detail. I also had Herberto Distant, head photographer and close friend from Eve Pearl Studio, take pictures at the wedding. Eve Pearl transformed me from an average looking person to a beautiful, confident, and radiant bride using her own crafted make up and supplies from her Eve Pearl beauty line. Eve Pearl is a 5-time Emmy winner for best makeup artist and had scheduled time to be at my wedding, and also for touch ups.

I wore a gorgeous ivory gown by Midgley and Sottero, the Gracie Gown from their 2010 collection sold at RK Bridal in NYC. I had my dress on rush delivery and altered at Ellen's Couture on the Upper West Side. The large pearl and diamond estate clip on earrings was a family heirloom from Nick's mother and were purchased in London. Since we had a lot of walking around in Central Park, I figured the most comfortable pair of shoes I could wear is a pair of ivory colored MBT sneakers. Nick had a custom fitted suit from Hugo Boss from the Time Warner Building, their flagship NYC store. With purchase of every suit are complementary alterations. He wore an ivory tie to match my gown and decided against wearing a boutonniere.

Nick and I hired Tulis McCall, a wedding officiant, since we were going to be outdoors in a non-secular ceremony. We took her to brunch at Park Avenue Summer to get a feel for the space and conversation went well towards hiring her to carry-out our service. She emailed us a couple's questionnaire to get to know us and to share with our guests the story of how we two met. Tulis' delivery was on target with what we wanted others to know about us, professional, and brought everyone into the real reason why they came to witness our marriage. We stood under the large pavilion overlooking Turtle Pond, while our guests stood below in this amphitheater like setting looking up at us exchange vows. I wrote my vow in a poem I wrote for Nick several months ago. I had rehearsed it several times, but was choked up the day of my wedding. I was so overwhelmed knowing how much he loves and cares for me, I couldn't hold back my emotions or the tears. It helped that Nick and I stood side-by-side during the ceremony and with one arm wrapped around each other. The service was less than 20-minutes as we had requested. We did not want a large wedding party, so we only had flower girls and ring bearers, our nieces and nephews dressed in black-and-white.

My flowers were mutually picked by Diana Ruiz of D Events and myself. Diana is a wedding planner and event florist. I wanted mostly white flowers, a hint of soft pink and a splash of green from Parrot Tulips. Diana came highly recommended by co-workers in North Bergen, New Jersey and I liked her from the moment we met. Sometimes ensuring you have the best quality craftsmanship is to let the professionals handle their end of the job. Diana delivers fresh flowers and creative design elements. She personally selected for the bridal bouquet: white & pale pink Dahlias, specially imported from Holland white & green Parrot Tulips & white Lisianthus wrapped in black double face satin ribbon. Finished with a silk black & white jacquard specialty ribbon from MJ Trimming in NYC. The centerpieces: white & pale pink Dahlias, Akito Roses, Porcelina Spray Roses, white mini Gerbera Daisies, imported from Holland: white & green Parrot Tulips and white Lisianthus. Finished with a touch of Queen Ann's Lace in black 12" ceramic rectangular containers sitting on custom black & white flocked damask 10ft table runners with black double face satin trim.

There were 3-rectangular arrangements of romantic flowers on a black and white print runners on each table and a special vase I purchase from Juliska for the bride and groom table to match my dinner pattern Berry and Thread, as well as the cake plate. The wedding cake from Sylvia Weinstock Cakes was designed especially for this bride. It is unique and one of a kind. The pale pink Anemonies with black centers were all hand made out of sugar with a black sugar ribbon around the bottom of each butter cream white tier. Emily Roediger assisted on this project.

The reception was an afternoon sit down lunch. I hired Salut D'Amour, a string quartet, to play my favorite wedding song, Butterfly Waltz by Brian Crain, as our first dance. Park Avenue Summer's Denise Culver, event planner, is an amazing woman and oversaw every last detail at the restaurant. to be my favorite place to host parties. The food is amazing, presented well, and service is always friendly a. Park Ave Summer, designed by avroKO, where one of my friends Krista Ninivaggi works is my favorite restaurant to host small parties. Service is always friendly, professional, and prompt. My wedding was held on the second level, the Archive Room for 50-guests. We enjoyed a three course meal and of course our wedding cake, also.

I am a novice photographer and selecting a photographer to document our wedding was critical to how I wanted my albums presented, style of photo journalistic pictures, and creative portraits. I did not want the typical albums other photographers had offered and had searched online for days for the right photographers to interview. The biggest investment in my wedding was the photographer. Nick and I did not want to have a videographer, we love still photos done in an elegant and classic style. I chose to have my albums made by Queensberry, a company in New Zealand, for the ultimate quality in craftsmanship in binding, hand mounted pictures, and unique layout options. Shira happens to have an account with this company, so this was an easy decision for us to trust her to capture beautiful images. She is wonderful, talented and honest. I loved her presentation of her Cypress albums and will use that for the

parent albums and coffee table portfolios as extra gifts. Shira provides high definition digital pictures, in addition to digital editing, and non-watermarked proofs on special paper. She provides complete coverage of the day and is not limited to a few set poses. She is a dynamic individual. She had several cameras with different lens attachments to capture every moment. I would not hesitate to hire Shira Weinberger and her professional second shooter. Shira's creative edge, delivery, and quality are unsurpassed. Thank you Shira for helping us remember and relive each beautiful, emotional, and touching moment through the photographs you captured for our wedding.

Sincerely,

Kristen and Nicholas of NYC

Songs:

At Last by Etta James

Butterfly Waltz by Brian Crain