

FASHIONABLE ROMANCE

Sandra Raubuch and Mark Millender

July 8, 2007

Mark and Sandra first met online, but neither one really appeared like themselves. For their profile pictures, Sandra, who was hesitant about online dating, disguised herself with big sunglasses, while Mark donned a baseball cap.

Needless to say, when they first met in person, Mark was not what Sandra was expecting. She jokes that, on top of the surprise of his bald head, Mark could have used some help in the clothing department. But, his personality more than made up for it. And, as their relationship grew, Mark took Sandra's fashion advice to heart.

One thing he didn't need advice on was how to propose. After less than two years of dating, Mark made secret plans to propose to Sandra. The only problem was, he wanted to ask her parents' permission, but they were in Germany and spoke only German! Luckily, Sandra had a close friend from Germany who lived nearby, so Mark recruited her to be the official translator. A couple days before the surprise proposal, Mark and Sandra's friend called her parents to ask their permission.

Mark proposed a couple nights later at home. They had been getting ready to go out to dinner when Mark came out of the bedroom wearing a tuxedo. Sandra didn't know what to think. Scared Mark may be back to his old way of dressing, she asked, "You're not going to wear this for dinner, are you?" That's when Mark revealed the true reason for his formal attire – he sat down next to Sandra and asked her to marry him. Soon after, they headed out to dinner to celebrate their engagement. But first, Mark assured Sandra he had learned a thing or two about fashion by changing out of his tuxedo before leaving the house.

The newly-engaged couple then set a date and with only about six months to the big day, they had to start planning right away. Sandra knew she wanted a summer beach wedding, but being on the East Coast, her options were limited. Mark and Sandra took the

opportunity to take weekend trips to different locations, including Cape Cod. But, Sandra was having a hard time finding the perfect fit. Finally, she found Belle Mer in Newport, Rhode Island. Sandra loved the look of Belle Mer because it was her style – "Very modern, clean, simple, but elegant," she says.

To complement the simple elegance of Belle Mer, Sandra chose a color palette of white, green and yellow. Calla lilies, her flower of choice, helped create tables with a clean, fresh look. To match the fresh decor, place cards were placed in wheat grass. Even the food served – fresh seafood, including a variety of sushi – tied into the look. And, while Sandra kept everything simple, Belle Mer's chandeliers added a touch of glitz to the affair.

The wedding was definitely elegant, but it wasn't without fun. A photo booth was stationed near the bar so guests could take pictures while they waited for their drinks to be mixed. It was so popular, Sandra says there were over a thousand pictures taken in the booth. Another fun detail of their wedding was a bicycle taxi that escorted the couple, wedding attire and all, to the ceremony.

Before the reception festivities began, Mark and Sandra, Jewish and Catholic, respectively, had an interfaith ceremony. It worked out well that their rabbi was able to do a very modern, personal ceremony that also incorporated some meaningful Jewish traditions. Sandra looks back fondly on the ceremony itself. "The green grass and the white building and the blue ocean – it was just beautiful scenery," she reminisces. Not to mention, Mark was very well dressed. 🍷



Sandra's "something blue" was this personalized tag sewn into her dress.



Sandra loved this table at Belle Mer so much she decided to use it for her place cards.



STYLE FILE

Theme
Modern and Elegant Summer
by the Ocean

Religion
Jewish and Catholic

Colors
White, green and yellow



STYLE TEAM

Bridal Salon
Silberherz Brautmoden,
Saarbrücken, Germany

Bridal Gown
Pronovias

Bridesmaid Dress
Vera Wang

Bridal Shoes
Christian Louboutin

Groom's Tuxedo
Hugo Boss

Groom's Shoes
Hugo Boss

Engagement & Wedding Rings
Marquise Jewelers

Hair & Makeup Stylist
Anemone Makeup

Ceremony & Reception Location
Belle Mer, Newport, Rhode Island

Save the Date
FineStationery.com

Invitations & Place Cards
Print Icon

Thank You Cards
Ketubah Tree

Officiant
Rabbi Keith Stern

Florist
Stoneblossom

Reception Music
Rhythm Productions

Photography
Kristin Spencer Photography

Videographer
Bellevue Productions

Cake & Favors
Cappuccinos

Rehearsal Dinner
International Tennis Hall of Fame,
Newport, Rhode Island

Honeymoon Destination
Los Angeles, Bora Bora and Tahaa



Even the maid of honor's dog
got all dressed up.



What was your biggest obstacle in planning your wedding and how did you overcome it?

One of Sandra's biggest obstacles was that she had only around six months to plan her wedding. At first, she was reading timelines in bridal magazines and they recommended one year for planning. "It kind of freaked me out a little bit," Sandra admits. "I was thinking, how am I going to do this?" But, she says once she and Mark found the perfect venue, they were done with planning in two or three months.

