



make it a family affair ...

YOU WANT A WEDDING THAT'S UNFORGETTABLE — WITH GREAT AND LASTING MEMORIES FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR FRIENDS. YOU CAN DO THAT BY MAKING IT ONE-OF-A-KIND, REFLECTING WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU VALUE. HERE ARE THE STORIES OF THE SEACOAST WEDDINGS OF TWO COUPLES WHO DID JUST THAT.

BY CINDY KIBBE



It has been said that when a bride and groom get married, they don't just marry each other, they marry families. In the case of Erin and Christopher Duhan, their families married them — or at least provided every detail to make their wedding day special.

Wendy and Scott Harrington, Erin's mother and father, hosted four weddings in as many years for family and friends, so they were determined to make their youngest daughter's day special.

For a ceremony location, the Harringtons didn't have to look much further than their own Hampton home. The house was built in the 1750s. It was once owned by Dr. Charles Sanborn, a physician and an abolitionist, who purportedly helped those escaping slavery in the South by offering his cellar as a stop on the Underground Railroad during the Civil War.

"We've lived here for 18 years," says Wendy Harrington, "and we're only the fifth family to own the house."

With such rich history to the home itself, Harrington then set out to make the property just as remarkable.

"We knew Erin wanted lots of pinks, so we planted lots of annuals and perennials," she says. She, Scott and sister-of-the-bride Kate planted literally thousands of blooms early in

one-of-a-kind weddings



the season, watering them for nearly three hours a day, so they would be in full color for Erin's August 13 wedding.

As Erin's and Chris' wedding day drew closer, the family used flowers from the gardens to fill decorative containers and hanging baskets. Peonies and roses floating in the family's heirloom milk glasses served as table centerpieces. Harrington also fashioned chair decorations with silk flowers and ribbons.

To introduce guests to the history of the property and the wedding party, Harrington handcrafted hardcover wedding programs. She also lent her calligraphy skills to the seating chart hand painted by a family friend who is an artist and art teacher.

Harrington, also an accomplished seamstress, sewed the flower girl's dress. Seven-year-old Laura, Chris' daughter, wore a sleeveless pink taffeta dress with a full skirt overlaid with beribboned organza.

For the bride and bridesmaids, Harrington crafted purses from lively tropical-print fabric that she and Erin picked out. "I have a funky taste," says Erin. "I wanted my style to match for each bridesmaid and fit their style, too." Inside, she placed a pearl bracelet for each bridesmaid as a gift.

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Bride's dress and bridesmaid gowns:

Occasions Bridal, Portsmouth

Bride's pearl tiara:

Winters & Rain, Campton

Florals: "F" as in Flowers, Exeter

Photography:

Kymerly Burns Photography

Tent rentals:

Exeter Rent-All, Exeter

Invitations:

The Paper Patch, Portsmouth

Keyboard rental:

Darrel's Music Hall, Portsmouth

Bridesmaids bracelets:

Quicksilvers, Hampton

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Father-of-the-bride Scott was not to be outdone. A finish cabinetmaker by trade, he created perhaps the most poignant wedding pieces — the altar and flower pedestals.


Family and friends provided music for the ceremony and reception. As talented with the drums as he is a hammer, Scott played with the pianist (a family friend) and even sang "A Song For My Daughter" to Erin and his new "son" Chris. Erin's sister Kate sang "Have I Told You Lately I Love You," a favorite song of Chris', to the bride and groom.

The wedding day was certainly filled with sentimental touches, but there were some whimsical elements, too. Erin, 24, an early childhood educator at Appleseeds Day School in Exeter, and Chris, 25, employed at Foss Manufacturing in Hampton, enjoy fun and flavorful martinis, so Erin and mom Wendy created a special cocktail for the day. The "Love-tini" combined Erin's favorite flavors of raspberry and cranberry with vodka to create the signature drink. They served the martini in hand-painted martini glasses — painted in Erin's pink. These also became favors for guests to take home.


"They were a real hit. There were none left over," says Erin.

To bring the day to a spectacular close, the bride's uncle, a firefighter, provided a fireworks display.

For a wedding day filled with special memories, Erin says it was difficult to pick just one favorite. "So many stand out. The toast my mother gave at the reception comparing the growing and blossoming gardens to our relationship, the altar my father built for us, the gardens," says Erin. "They gave us the best day of our lives. I couldn't have asked for anything more." **NB**



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