



Bay Harbor Village Hotel

STORY BY RENEE RUDZEWICZ • PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHANDRA DEMERS-WHEELER





Kelly Connelly Jayson Poluka

July 17, 2010

BAY HARBOR VILLAGE HOTEL
BAY HARBOR



Chapter One: Our story begins in a wine bar in Scottsdale, Arizona. Girl is enjoying a night on the town with friends when a handsome Boy catches her eye.

So began the Save the Date card for Kelly and Jayson's wedding. If the 227 guests who arranged their schedules to make the trip from all corners of North America and places between couldn't tell by the flirty pink and grey invite that they were in for a storied time—they knew it once they arrived at the Bay Harbor Village venue with its drop-dead beautiful Lake Michigan beaches and fabulous dining, shopping and golf.

The jazzy-bluegrass strains of the couple's prelude choice, "I'm Yours" by the Vitamin Quartet, set the tone for the elegant and fun ceremony overlooking Lake Michigan. Aqua-hued waves and the bright fuchsia of the bridesmaids' dresses were only eclipsed by Kelly's radiant smile as her father escorted her down the outdoor aisle to Train's "Marry Me." Guests who drew their eyes away from the striking couple framed against the dazzling lake noticed birch logs painted with the names of loved ones who had passed. Other custom traditions the newlyweds embedded in the ceremony: A Celtic handfasting—the tying of their hands to symbolize their oneness, and mixing three colors of sand to unify the bride, groom and God becoming one.

The marina-side reception featured an outdoor cocktail bar and a grand tent popping with a casually chic fuchsia, grass green, black and white color scheme. As the night progressed, the old Irish song, "The Parting Glass," (an ode to the Connelly heritage) had the guests singing and swaying in a circle. The evening ended as the newlyweds passed down the line of guests waving sparklers against the velvety black sky.



Opposite page: Kelly, from Michigan, and Jayson, from Pennsylvania, met in Arizona where they live now. He is a construction project manager; she is a consultant for Chrysler Fiat. Rustic birch logs topped with cascading fuchsia set the wedding's theme of rustic luxe. The bridal party got ready, with the help of hair and makeup artists from Petoskey's La Dolce Vita Salon & Spa, in a quaint green Bay Harbor Village Hotel beach house that Kelly's parents rented for the occasion.

This page: Flowers by Bloom in Bay Harbor; White parasol umbrellas provided shade for guests at the ceremony while a home-made lemonade and water stand kept them hydrated; The bride's dress is from Kleinfeld Manhattan; the groom and groomsmen wore grey pinstriped suits from Express—which they purchased and will be able to wear again.





Clockwise: Roses and moss in birch-covered pots decorated the reception grounds; Pastor Cary Richert of the Lutheran Church of Redeemer in Birmingham officiated at the Lake Michigan wedding. The mother-son dance; The tent awaits the guests. Guests were treated to a sit down dinner of Northern Michigan surf and turf—Parmesan-encrusted whitefish and filet mignon.





Clockwise: Beachside wedding party photos are a breeze at Bay Harbor. The short but lovely trip from the beachside ceremony to the tent set up near the Bay Harbor Lake Marina. Birch bark in lieu of a linen tablecloth lends Up North elegance to the bridal party table. The couple served three types of cupcakes from Bella E Dolce in Cheboygan—baker of the six-inch anniversary cake, as well.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHANDRA DEMERS-WHEELER, HITCHING POST PHOTOGRAPHY, 231-275-5800, HITCHINGPOSTPHOTO.COM

VENUE: BAY HARBOR VILLAGE HOTEL, BAY HARBOR, 888-229-4272, BAYHARBOR.COM

EVENT PLANNER: N/M EVENT DESIGN, 231-330-3137, NORTHERNMICHIGANWEDDINGPLANNER.COM



Wedding Notebook

BAY HARBOR VILLAGE HOTEL



recreation

Guests traveling near or far will find plenty of options to pass the time while visiting Bay Harbor. Book a charter and set sail from Bay Harbor Lake Marina for a relaxing tour of Little Traverse Bay to catch a trophy fish or simply enjoy the open water of Lake Michigan. Or bring your clubs and challenge yourself to a round on the breathtaking links of the Bay Harbor Golf Club, ranked #8 of the top 100 Courses in America by *GOLF Magazine*. If relaxation is what you seek, claim your lounge chair and enjoy a stress-free and fun-filled day lying next to the pool or on the beach. Cruising the streets on a Segway, biking along paths offering stunning lake views, water sports, casino gaming, boutique shopping, unique dining options and horseback riding are additional area options. Winter guests can enjoy nearby downhill and cross country skiing, snowshoeing and ice skating.

Welcome to Northern Michigan's premier year-round destination!

Quaintly located on five miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and nestled above boutiques and eateries in the charming Village at Bay Harbor, the Bay Harbor Village Hotel is a world-class

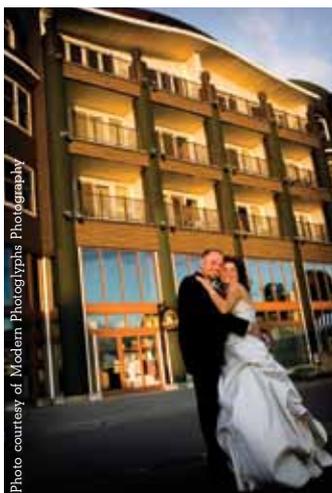
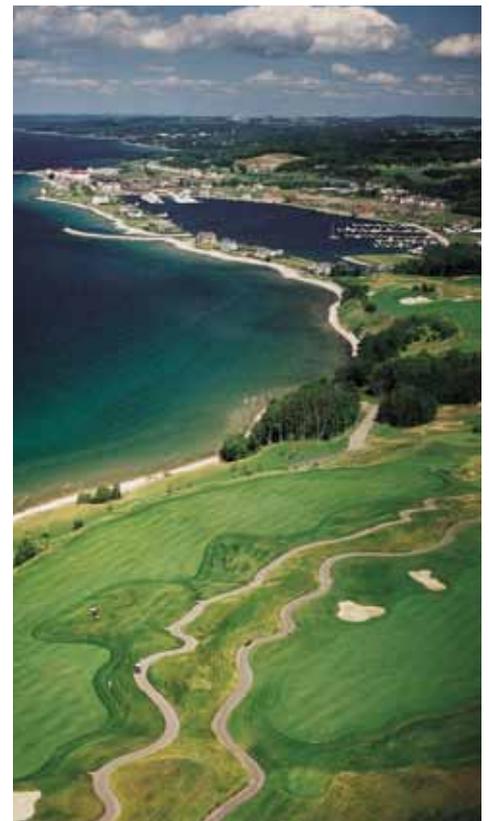


Photo courtesy of Modern Photography Photography

destination. Awake to the beauty of the lakeside, marina or Village and enjoy all the gorgeous amenities within walking distance of your hotel room. Guests will enjoy strolling the brick-paved roads, browsing the selection of boutique shopping and dining in one of our four delicious restaurants. Say "I do" on the beautiful shores of your dreams and begin your happily-ever-after in a truly unique and stunning destination.



accommodations

Bay Harbor Village Hotel offers a variety of rooms, including beautiful one-, two- and three-bedroom suites all with unique beauty and décor. For larger groups, enjoy the charms of Village living with extended stays in one of our Vacation Home Rentals. Each of our private homes is charming, beautifully designed and tastefully furnished. Our accommodations



provide the finest in comfort. Every time you stay with us you can have a totally different experience, but be assured you will always enjoy the splendor that Bay Harbor has to offer. We invite you to be our guest while enjoying the beauty of Bay Harbor.

services

The Village at Bay Harbor features options for every aspect of your special day. Located in the Village, not only will you find breathtaking venues for your event, but also a wide variety of services from Northern Michigan's finest wedding professionals. You will find services for floral and event design, specialty décor and papery, photography, hair and nail design, catering and cake design, as well as plentiful options for the rehearsal dinner and after-party. For an all-inclusive resort wedding, Bay Harbor Village Hotel offers the perfect destination for a memorable event!



event facilities

Whatever your vision for your special day, Bay Harbor Village Hotel has the backdrop you've been searching for. Available locations include a variety of unique indoor and lakefront venues. Exchange vows on our picturesque Sunset Beach or surrounded by water on our Observation Platform. Dance the night away underneath the stars on our Marina Lawn Panel or indoors overlooking the Village in our Lake Michigan Room. For a completely different feel, the Bay Harbor Equestrian Club offers a rustic, yet upscale, option. Guests will enjoy breathtaking views of the rolling hills and beautifully landscaped grounds. The Equestrian Club Lounge offers a warm and cozy atmosphere for a smaller event complete with a copper-topped bar and plush seating. For a more intimate occasion, our Village at Bay Harbor Intimate Wedding Package provides an all-inclusive, stress-free and cost effective option for elopements or events up to 50 guests.



Photo courtesy of Marco Antonio Photography

BAY HARBOR VILLAGE HOTEL

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bayharbor.com



Sales Manager
Megan Nickerson

Reception Capacity
Up to 300
varies by venue

Reception Venues
3

Ceremony Locations
4

Guest Rooms
90

Vacation Home Rentals Available

f a b u l o u s



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fête

Bay Harbor Village Hotel
bayharbor.com/weddings



fotos

Weber Photography
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foam

Knot...Just a Bar
knotjustabar.com



food

Galley Gourmet
galleygourmet.com



villageatbayharbor.com



fare

cava
lakeandhoward.com



fantasy

NIM Event Design, LLC
nmeventdesign.com



flowers

BLOOM
bloomupnorth.com



frill

TABLEAU Event Design & Creative Services
tableauevents.com