



Chandra Collier & Juris Kupris

the location:

FORDUNE ESTATE, SOUTHAMPTON NY

the photographer:

LA COUR PHOTOGRAPHY

the first time they met

Chandra and Juris met at a friend's party when Juris approached her and asked her to dance. Then they went outside to talk and discovered they were both new to New York City and lived within blocks of each other. Their discussion led to making a date for three days later, but it turned out to be a fateful day, September 11, 2001.

In a way, the tragedy brought Chandra and Juris together quickly. Given the day's events, Juris wanted to see his relatives and asked Chandra to go along. She said yes, because after knowing each other just three days, a strong bond was already formed.

the proposal

After dating for several years, it was time to visit Chandra's relatives this time. And on that trip, after asking her grandparents for their blessing, Juris and the grandparents concocted a scheme to take Chandra to the "Breaks" summit overlooking Kentucky-Virginia Stateline. There, in front of her relatives, Juris proposed.

the wedding

For their beachside wedding at the Fordune Estate in Southampton, former home of Henry Ford, the couple wanted many natural elements. Driftwood became a main theme, with engagement photos displayed on driftwood easels, hand-painted driftwood directional signs, and hand-painted driftwood table numbers. Juris built a driftwood chuppa by binding together pieces he collected along the beach. Natural, organic papers were used for their papergoods, and raw jute with wheatgrass strands was used for napkin rings. Burlap table runners topped the linen table cloths to introduce natural texture and earth tones.

Continuing the beach theme, the officiant was a sea captain the couple chose because of his focus on life and love.

Music was non-traditional and causal, ranging from Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" when the wedding party walked down the aisle, to Bob Marley's "One Love" as bride and groom walked back up the aisle.

Chandra wore a custom Chantilly lace gown by Christos from Belle Vie Bridal Couture in Chicago, and her reception gown was by Valentino. Juris was in a Ralph Lauren suit.

In what turned out to be a fun twist, a huge storm the day before the wedding had Juris and his groomsmen working flood control and driving quickly-procured golf carts to transport the 120 guests down a path that flooded from an overflowing pond.

the honeymoon

The couple honeymooned in Anguilla, British West Indies before returning to their homes in Southampton and Manhattan where Chandra is a personal assistant and Juris owns Juris Kupris Fitness.

● SUSAN HART HELLMAN



Ceremony & Reception Site: Fordune Estate, Southampton; **Photographer:** LaCour Photography; **Wedding Publicist:** Hermes & Associates CC, Rita Hermes; **Bridal Designer:** Christos; **Bridal Salon:** Belle Vie Bridal Couture; **Reception Gown:** Valentino; **Hair & Makeup Stylist:** Nadia Gonzalez; **Bridesmaid Dresses:** Lazaro; **Flower Girl Dress:** Kaya Couture; **Formalwear:** Ralph Lauren; **Wedding Cake:** Alviva Schneider of New York; **Invitations:** Pen & Paper, Linda Pasca; **Florist:** Karen Lenahan Designs; **Rentals:** Party Rental Ltd; **Entertainment:** (Reception) Hank La Music; Karen Strauss & Co; (Ceremony) Vivian & the Merry Makers; **Disc Jockey:** Abby Klein; **Gift Registry:** Bloomingdales, Williams Sonoma, Crate & Barrel, Home Depot