

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEDDING BELLS RING AT GURWIN JEWISH NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER

In a clinical setting, a little room for love

Commack, NY -- On the 28-bed respiratory care unit at the Gurwin Jewish Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Commack, one might not expect to twinkle lights, champagne bubbles and a chuppa, but that's just what the staff and residents saw when Nicole Hartstein and her then fiancé, Edward Guida, surprised Nicole's mother, Jane Hartstein, with a wedding.

Jane, who was completely shocked upon seeing her daughter in her wedding dress, has been on a ventilator for more than three years, living at Gurwin for almost that long after a stroke. "I can't believe this," she said when she was wheeled into the decorated family room on the unit. "I'm just so happy, I can't believe they did this."

According to Nicole, she and her fiancé wanted her mother to be part of their wedding, but knew she could not make the trip to the New Jersey wedding venue. So instead, they decided to get married at Gurwin prior to their scheduled wedding and reception, officially changing their anniversary, if only for those in the know. The 'wedding' went on as planned at the West Mount Country Club in Woodland Park, NJ, (and Jane live-streamed it on her TV at Gurwin), but Nicole and Edward knew that the important ceremony had already taken place.

For that ceremony, Gurwin staff transformed the family room on the respiratory care unit into a wedding chapel, complete with lights, Mr. & Mrs. signs and tulle. And when Jane was wheeled in, she burst into tears, so happy to be able to share in her daughter's joy.



The happy couple Edward Guida and Nicole Hartstein-Guida with mom Jane Hartstein

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Gurwin Jewish Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

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When Nicole saw her mother's tears, she had to wipe her own away, as well. "I know you wanted to be at our wedding, so we're bringing our wedding to you," she said, hugging her mom before she took her place to walk down the makeshift "aisle" outside the family room.

"A Thousand Years" by Christine Perri played and staff and residents watched as Nicole was escorted by her uncle, James Jacobs, into the family room where a small group of her family, including her mom, waited with the priest and rabbi. Nicole beamed as the ceremony made her officially Mrs. Guida. "This is amazing," she said.

An eight-year relationship lead up to this point, and Edward knew that his bride-to-be needed her mother to be at her wedding. "I just want Nicole to be happy, and I want her mom to be happy, too. We knew we wanted to do this," he said.

As the kiss was exchanged and congratulations were expressed, Jane sat watching the festivities. "I can't believe it," she said, tearing up. "This is the best gift anyone could ever have given me."

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The Gurwin Jewish Nursing & Rehabilitation Center is a 460-bed nursing care facility located in Commack, Long Island, and is part of the Gurwin Healthcare System, a renowned health-care provider offering a full continuum of healthcare and senior living services for the frail and elderly. The Center was named by Fortune Magazine as the #1 Best Workplace in the nation for Aging Services, and is the 2019 Best of Long Island award winner for rehabilitation, adult day care, health aides and assisted living. Services provided at the Center include skilled nursing care, rehabilitation therapy, advanced care, ventilator and respiratory care, on-site dialysis and infusion therapy, memory care, and palliative and hospice care, as well as both medical and social adult day programs and home care programs. The 34-acre campus is also home to Gurwin Jewish~ Fay J. Lindner Residences assisted living community, and a proposed independent living community, Fountaingate Gardens. For more information, visit www.gurwin.org, Follow Gurwin on Facebook (bit.ly/GurwinNursingRehab) and on Twitter ([@GurwinJewish](https://twitter.com/GurwinJewish)).

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