

Family Affair in Blue and White

A baby boy on the way was an excuse for a party, one that drew on the whole clan's talents.

Text by Haley Longman Photos by Adam Okimatsu Photography

Sarah Galdieri of Edgewater has always dabbled in and thoroughly enjoyed event planning—she happily handled all the minutiae of her 2021 bridal shower and nuptials, a task some brides find tedious. But when it came time to plan a baby shower for her and her husband Michael's first child, she knew she wanted it to be a family affair. She had, you see, a gifted family.

For the blue-and-white-themed party for her baby boy, held in May 2022 at Alpine Country Club (her bridal shower was at the same venue), an integral part of the décor was the floral arrangements. Galdieri's father, Toshio Okimatsu, has been a sensei (teacher) of Ikebana Japanese flower arranging for 30 years, so naturally he was put in charge of the centerpieces and the flowers that topped the cake from A Little Cake in Park Ridge. "For almost a month, my dad and I experimented with different dyes and flowers to get them to be the perfect shade of blue and to see what worked well," Galdieri tells BERGEN. In addition to other seasonal blooms such as baby's breath, eucalyptus and roses, they chose a white carnation that sat in dye for about two days prior to the party to get the blue hue just right.

Meanwhile, Galdieri's brother, Adam, a professional photographer based in

Pooling the talents of her floral-arranging expert dad, photographer brother and ultra-organized mother, Sarah Galdieri helped plan the perfect blue-and-white themed baby shower at Alpine Country Club for the arrival of her and husband Michael's son.



Among the take-home favors were growNOTES, bits of plantable seed paper that sprout into flowers. The two-tier cake from A Little Cake was the highlight of the dessert table, which also included personalized, heart-shaped cookies from Etsy. The Eos lip balms are the cutest mini baby bumps!

Carlstadt, took the photos at the event, and their mother, Dreyana, helped with the invitations, party favors and décor. "I wanted this party to be a family unit," says Galdieri of her Woodcliff Lake-based crew. "We're all very close, so I wanted to use everyone's strengths and talents."

Galdieri was inspired by cute baby items she had seen on Etsy, and she says that ordering and assembling the decorations and favors was a mother/daughter bonding experience. Her mother and mother-in-law had a lot of surprises in store for the mama-to-be; the 50+ guests played break-the-ice games such as "Who is wearing a floral dress?," looked around the room for hidden pacifiers and placed their bets on the baby's arrival date via a printed-out calendar. After enjoying a brunch that featured bagels, lox and an omelette station, each guest went home with party favors, including an Eos lip balm, blue-and-white swirl lollipops, personalized cookies and baby blue cigars, all purchased online. "We also put personalized 'Baby Galdieri' stickers on our favorite bottle of wine, and everyone seemed to like that because it was different," says the new mom. "Giving out a bottle of wine is never a bad idea."

And though dad-to-be Michael wasn't on the official invite list for the girls-only soirée, his wife says he essentially emceed the party. "My mom bought him a 'Dad' hat, he helped with opening gifts and was walking around wearing the baby carrier," she says with a laugh. "He just floated around to see his friends and family."

Baby Colton turns one year old in July—and you can bet that this new mama is already planning his Bachelor-themed first birthday party.

Clockwise from top left: It was all in the details for this mama-to-be's baby shower, with sweet (blue!) macarons from Cafe Kai Sweets in Edgewater, lollipops from Etsy, a personalized cap for dad and framed baby photos of parents-to-be, Sarah and Michael, flanking the table décor.

