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Scrambling for a New Site

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The Angel Orensanz Foundation for the Arts. Neilson Barnard/Getty Images for T.J. Martell Foundation

By Sarah Wildman

April 4, 2014

The moment Lisa Goldstein walked into the grand old former synagogue that is the Angel Orensanz Foundation for the Arts on the Lower East Side, she was in love. Ms. Goldstein, 33, said, “I always joked I picked the venue before the groom.” She and her fiancé, Keith Helman, 34, had booked the space for April 5, 2014. Invitations were sent. A Monique Lhuillier dress was picked out. Peter Callahan, the celebrity caterer, was booked.

Everything was set until March 31. During a benefit for the Soho Rep, the Fire Department evacuated the 1849 Gothic Revival building with cracked support beams threatening collapse. The New York City Department of Buildings issued a vacate order.

Some events were canceled. “I was in a total panic,” Ms. Goldstein said.

By 6 a.m. on April 2, Lindsay Landman, the couple's wedding planner, had a short list of new spaces — each capable of holding 150 people and welcoming to all the elements Ms. Goldstein had already paid for. If a wedding is theater, Ms. Landmann had to put up the play on an entirely new stage. The couple chose the High Line Hotel.

“We are like a SWAT team,” Mr. Callahan said. “People think we need six months to put this together. Obviously this isn't ideal, certainly not for the family, but we can do it. The show must go on, but it also must be joyous and celebratory.”

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Ms. Goldstein said: “This isn't a tragedy; it's just really stressful. The only thing that matters is that we're getting married on Saturday,” she continued, and then began to weep. She paused and then said, brightly: “The only way I was able to stay so calm is that Lindsay took on all the stress. I feel like I'm showing up as a guest at my own wedding.”

A version of this article appears in print on April 6, 2014, Section ST, Page 18 of the New York edition with the headline: Scrambling for a New Site. [Order Reprints](#) | [Today's Paper](#) | [Subscribe](#)

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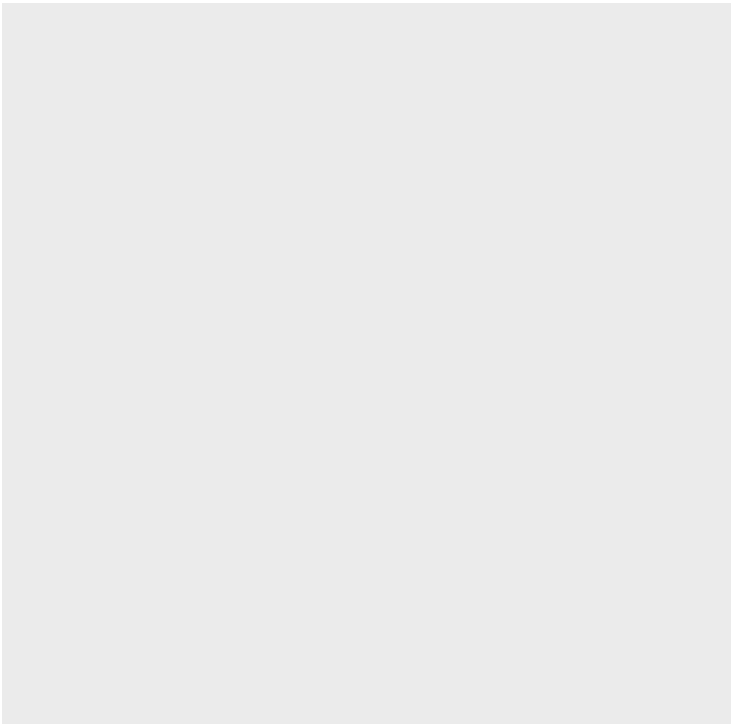
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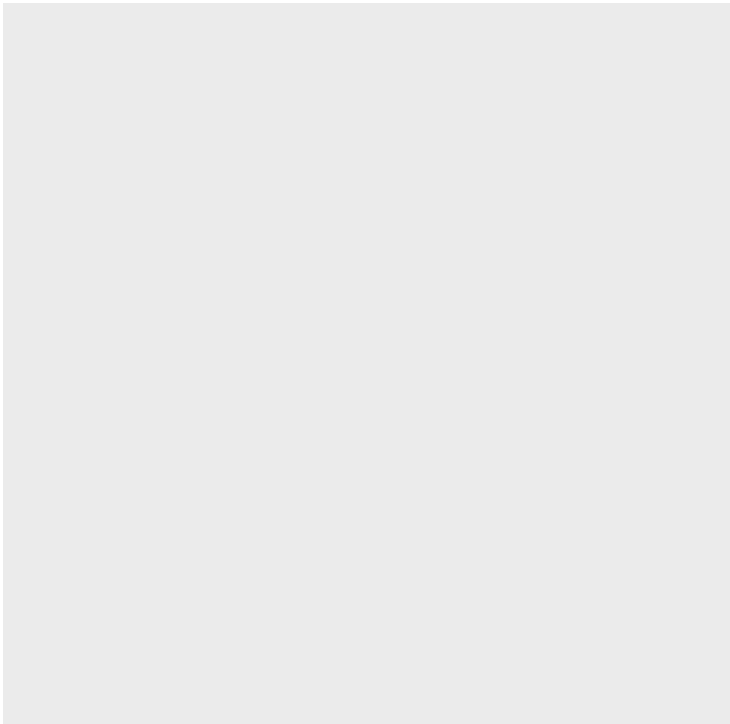
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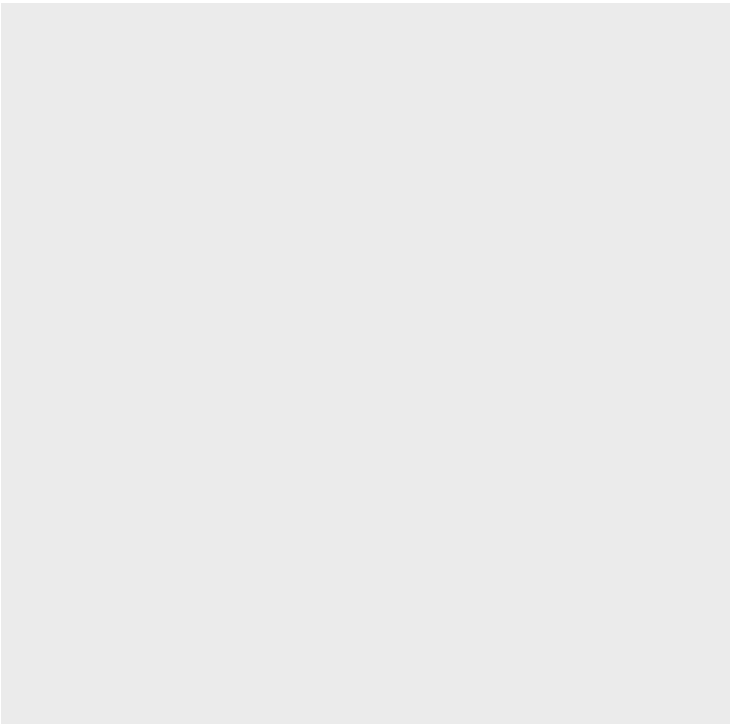
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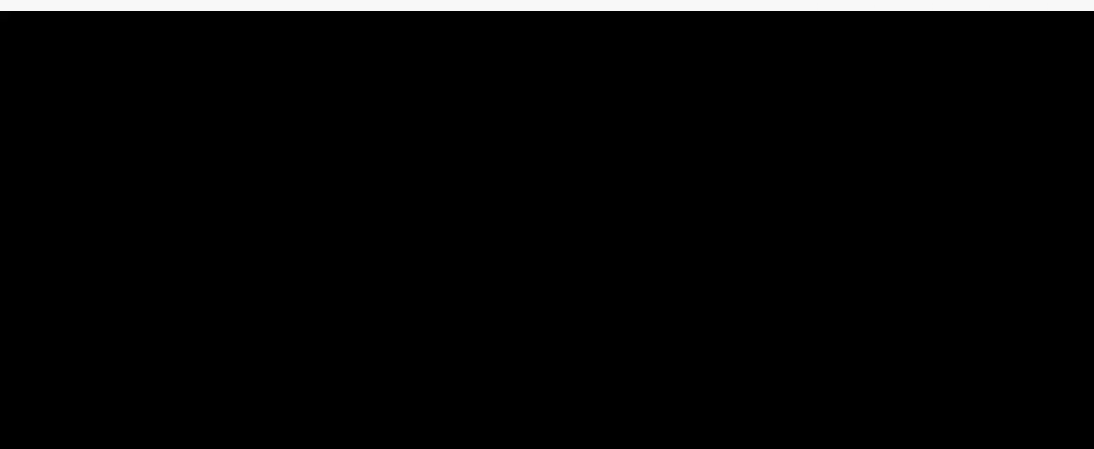
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