

LETTER OF REFERENCE FROM THE CLIENT:

To Whom It May Concern

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in praise of the incredible services of Judy Basso of Judy Basso Events &

Décor, of Kamloops, B.C. Without the support and experience of Judy my wedding may not even have taken place. Judy has specifically asked me to mention all of the many amazing suppliers that were part of her team in this letter. True to her personality, it shows how much she cares.



From the beginning Judy was a wonderful influence with amazing ideas and suggestions that helped me have the wedding of my dreams. My fiancé and I looked at many venues in preparations for this special day, but after viewing many sites we found that there was no place more perfect than my parents' estate. Their gardens with waterfalls and terraces and fabulous views would be the most beautiful spot... but how would we ever organize something like this? Judy Basso came to our rescue.

To start with Judy was excited and full of energy, supporting our wish to have the event at the family estate. I had always wanted to have the cherry blossom for my wedding theme, but did not think this was possible for a wedding in August. Judy quickly informed me that anything is possible, and if I wanted a cherry blossom themed wedding, that is what I would have. Her enthusiasm and confidence put me at ease and we started the plans for the event of a lifetime.

Judy's experience and respect in the community made it very easy to find suppliers that were the top of the line experts in their fields. She immediately engaged Neil of Interior Display Tents & Events who was

up at the estate within days, discussing were tents, stages, dance floors, tables and many other items that I would never think of, would go and what would be needed to get them there. Judy worked with Neil and his team and helped to explain what we wanted in the technical terms that were not my forte.

The next step was the food. With a family like mine that discuss how dinner will be prepared while we are eating breakfast, food is of the utmost importance. My family was truly stumped as to how we could find someone who could supply the type and quality of food that we expected in a small city like Kamloops. Judy was not to be stumped, and brought in the amazing talented chefs of At Your Service Catering. Shawn and his expert team were able to create a menu that was complex and refined enough to sate our “foodie” friends from the city, and delicious enough to fully satisfy those guests who did not have such experienced palates. My father is an avid fisherman and gardener, and Shawn was able to feature my father’s fresh caught salmon and home grown organic vegetables into the menu as well. Kristi, of Fine Art Bartending, was appointed for her Sommelier and bartending services and was able to pick out the perfect wines to go with each of the courses. After a few tastings, which were all a pleasure, the perfect menu was set.

As we were feeling confident that our dream wedding was going to happen, save the date cards were mailed to our guests to ensure that they would be able to join us in the happy occasion.

Our next step was to find invitations. We were having a very difficult time finding invitations that encapsulated the cherry blossom theme of the wedding as well as the tone and atmosphere we wanted the event to have. Winton’s was suggested. So we travelled to Vancouver to Winton’s Social Stationary to find our perfect invitations. Winton’s helped us design just the right invitations that had the theme but were not too formal or too childish, and really just the right thing. The custom design was very classy, not pretentious and inviting. They set the tone for the wedding to come perfectly.

It was at this point in our preparations that events took a major swing. Just two months before our wedding my fiancé was in a very serious accident and was in intensive care for over a week. Doctors had no idea how long or if he would recover. Wedding plans on my end came to a dead stop. I informed Judy of the uncertainty of my fiancé's future and the great possibility that the wedding may not take place. Judy responded with encouraging words of support and positive thinking that proved that she was not just an amazing event planner, but also a woman full of great caring and wisdom. Her positive words helped me to visualize my fiancé and I being married in the garden just how I had dreamed, and this gave me strength at a time when it was greatly needed.

While I was nursing my fiancé back to health, Judy, my Mother and all the suppliers that Judy had organized worked non-stop to prepare for different options of event length, type and form. Preparations were made for various possibilities.

After weeks of uncertainty my fiancé's health began to improve in leaps and bounds and we decided that we would go ahead with the wedding as originally planned. The daunting task of finishing organizing a half-planned wedding this close to the event date now fell on us, but once again Judy was there to save us. The work that her team of suppliers did while my fiancé was ill made the task easy and enjoyable once again.

Sarji of Winton's Social Stationary was a dream as she rushed to print and assemble the invitations in days, and in doing so producing the loveliest invitations I have ever seen. The invitations were mailed and within days friends and family were responding.

Suppliers that Judy had been engaging with during my forced hiatus were all lined up and ready to meet with us. Another evening of tasting was organized so that we could test the signature Cherry Blossom cocktail that Kristi of Fine Art Bartending created for us. The drink we chose was the perfect combination of sweetness and

tartness, and the light colored pink reflected the Cherry Blossom theme perfectly. Food preparation continued and Sanbiki Japanese Restaurant was engaged to create a signature sushi roll for the event. Sweet Spot Cup Cakes was setup to design and bake a beautiful three tiered wedding cake as well as mini cupcakes and cookies that would be added to the wonderful dessert buffet that At Your Service Catering was assembling. To go along with all the planned scrumptious dessert delights, macaroons from Thomas Haas and handmade chocolates (including ones with cherry blossom design) from Chocola Tas were added.

Flowers were to be an integral part of the event and to supply the perfect effect, Paige from Kamloops Florists was employed. With Judy's help, Paige had the perfect insight into how we wanted the garden wedding to be. She knew that with the Japanese gardens and slightly Asian theme of the event that the flowers were to enhance the area and not be the focus while flowers for tables, hair and bouquets would be used to add beauty and femininity.

And so plans progressed and finally the day arrived.

The day started out as dreary and overcast, with rain expected. For a garden wedding this was not the perfect weather, but Judy had a backup plan organized in case this should happen.

Our videographer, Pat from Pro-Video Services arrived early in the morning and was able to film as Judy and her team organized the rentals from Roger's Rental. Weather had not permitted much of the decorating to be completed before hand, but Judy's organization and well tuned team ensure that seat covers, table setup and all the "frou frou" were all in place. Neil and crew were busy setting up lighting and stages. Shawn and his team were busy in the kitchen preparing the many dishes for the cocktail party and served plated dinner. Paige arrived with her beautiful flowers and bouquets. Nicole and Andrew from High Country Photography pulled in to record the day on film. The fabulous makeup and hair team from Visual Influence and Jessica

Lepp began working on my bridal party. Amid all this hustle and bustle I was surprisingly relaxed and truly enjoying the excitement and anticipation of sharing my marriage vows with my husband to be. It was because of Judy's wonderful organization and leadership qualities that I was able to take such pleasure in all that was unfolding around me.

The event was perfect in every way. The sun appeared at the perfect time, providing light and just enough warmth on what may otherwise be an extremely hot or rainy day. The wedding service was romantic and heartfelt as we realized how blessed we were, and are, to be together after so much misfortune. Small details like cherry blossom fans, environmentally friendly confetti and fabulous programs, made the service very special. The bouquets were perfect with the colors reflecting the cherry blossom theme while the amazing makeup and hair of the bridal party was accentuated with the addition of gorgeous flowers. Many tears of joy were shed as our union was celebrated.

Judy was able to organize three perfect musical ensembles for the day. Cvetozar Vutev and Co., on violin and cello, bestowed the perfect classical music for the marriage ceremony. The great jazz band Take 5 provided a fabulous background for the cocktail party, and the Jon Kelly Band was the ideal band to take the party into the night.

The food was unbelievable and guests were astonished at the quality. Guests of all ages were attended to from 3 months to 90 years, with special meals and seating supplied. The table setting and decor was marvellous as it reflected just the perfect balance of formality and ease, allowing all guests to feel comfortable. The menus provided by Winton's once again added an elegant touch. Hand folded origami crane mobiles, made by my Mother, danced in the lights of lanterns. Many guests remarked on how wonderful it was to be at an event where all the guests, many strangers, were at ease talking and celebrating together. My husband and I left the event passing through a forest of sparklers lighting up the night sky.

One of our guests has been to several high end celebrity weddings in North America and England, and he said that, by far, this was the best wedding he had ever seen and experienced! Well after the wedding, several of our guests are still raving about what an amazing wedding it was. They had never seen anything like it!

All of this was possible because of Judy Basso. She kept us all on track in an efficient and stress-free way allowing us to enjoy the perfect celebration of our love. Beyond a doubt, Judy Basso made our wedding an event that all our guests, family and especially my Husband and I, will never forget.

Joanne Branch