

November 11, 2011

Mr. & Mrs. Mitchel Rosner

The Woodlands
One Southwoods Road
Woodbury, New York

To Margaret Brower & staff at The Woodlands:

It would be impossible for one to put into words the day we experienced last Sunday at our daughter Jennifer's wedding to her wonderful groom, Dmitriy. We had a beautiful dream (Mom & bride in particular) of Jen's wedding which from the time she was a little girl, grew into a vision that together we painted in our minds. After Jen's engagement, the vision and the season and kind of setting she imagined took shape with more details and color. At times what we were looking for to achieve this dream seemed almost unattainable. That was until the day, early last September, that we landed on the doorstep of your magnificent venue, The Woodlands. We had searched for six months for just the right stage on which to set Jen's special day.... and upon entering the lovely entry hall of the estate, we knew we had found it. The event we were planning needed to create magic and bring forth an experience unlike any other. The venue had to be historical, a place with a story all its own that would blend into Jen & Dmitriy's wedding story seamlessly. Other historical homes and places we had seen both on Long Island and in Westchester, were all beautiful, but something was missing. The vision we had was of a return to a time of elegance and sophistication, combined with the intimacy of visiting a Goldcoast turn of the century estate. This was the stage we longed for on which our own story was to be set. I, myself, as the grand master of delivering this vision, spent almost a year researching the history of the Woodlands as well as interviewing the house vendors (all superb). Endless hours were spent sketching and formulating all the elements which would be necessary to successfully achieve, what at times seemed impossible, this painting we had carefully etched in our minds. That one September day last year, when we entered The Woodlands, and met our banquet manager, Margaret Brower, we all knew that we had met the person, the place and the staff that would become part of our "theatrical team" and help bring forth every part of the vision with dedication and attention to every detail. As the journey over the course of the year continued and the vision became more fine tuned, Ms. Brower and her management team continued to meet every challenge no matter what they were. The greatest one from the beginning of the process, was the transformation of the historical, handcarved, wood paneled drawing room into an intimate setting for the wedding ceremony. With brainstorming and patience, we worked together in combination with all my sketches and lists of details to create magic... not only in the drawing room but in the entire entry areas. We couldn't have asked for a better team to execute every detail of how we wanted everything to look, even down to the outside porch, the mantles, entry rooms, reception ballroom and more. The staff, each and every one of them (see separate note) were dedicated, attentive and caring. The organization and execution of the event were all superb. Under the direction of general manager, Steve Dumeng and the Maitre'D Raymond, with assistance by Maitre'D, Dennis, we were in very experienced and wonderful hands. The additional and incredible assistance of the bridal attendant, Iris as well as the

caring and patient, mother of the bride assistant, Erica, made the day run so smoothly and without worry. A special mention to Tito, the house maintenance person, who was instrumental in setting up the seating in the drawing room as well as helping us assemble our chupah the night before the wedding.

As the fall days slowly fade into the holidays coming ahead, I find myself now like a person who went on a long voyage, perhaps to the heavens or somewhere out in the universe and traveled almost two years. Now, I finally get to return home and resume a normal life. But like all space travelers... I now am in a decompression chamber for several days after being in the clouds. I need to learn to slowly breathe in the air on earth and readjust myself to everyday life after a once in a lifetime event. We all were on this incredible journey but I, most of all. A beautiful dream came true.... like the beautiful dream we had when our baby girl, Jennifer, came into the world (followed five years later by our second miracle, her brother, Jonathan). Thankfully, for Jennifer's wedding to Dmitriy, we landed on the doorstep of a magnificent and elegant Gold Coast mansion from the early 1900's, now called, The Woodlands. The fact that it originally was called, The Three Ponds (three is our favorite number), was designed by the famous architectural team of Delano & Aldrich, and later was a wedding present to a daughter from her loving father..... all this just was the icing on the wedding cake. From the moment we were greeted by the warmth of our incredible banquet manager, Margaret Brower... I in particular, knew I had met my co-pilot for the voyage. Her smile as she introduced herself, won us over and we knew that "il destino" (destiny) had brought us to the Woodlands. From that moment on, the journey to Jennifer & Dmitriy's wedding began in earnest. With Ms. Brower, Steve Dumeng and the staff at The Woodlands holding our hands (literally for me with Erica), we were led into the dream that we had painted for so long, all of us. Now, as the fall evenings bring darkness earlier and earlier with winter approaching, we all can sit back with the warmth of our memories from that day. I can relive every moment over and over in my mind. In the end, I let go of my checklists, my sketches, my reminders, and all and turned everything over to the wonderful staff of The Woodlands. I, as well as my husband, Mitchel, the bride and groom themselves, family and friends, all were guests at an unforgettable event, our daughter's wedding. What's most incredible of all is realizing that it wasn't a dream..... through the caring dedication of people like all of you at the Woodlands... the fairy tale became a glorious reality.

Thank you all, forever and always,
Robin & Mitchel Rosner

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Additional note on Woodlands staff from Robin & Mitchel Rosner
Wedding – November 6, 2011

The Woodlands staff guided us through our paces like a fine tuned, well oiled machine, every step of the way, following all our directions on staging and guest management. Every effort was made to bring our vision into a reality and more. The staff assisted us into transforming the house into our own for a night. Also a note on the house vendors we used, they all were excellent. We are sure that Mr. Morawetz was smiling from the mantle in the entry hall once again happy to be in his original home and witnessing such an elegant and classy event.

Special mention to:

Steve Dumeng – general manager

Steve took us by the hand with his charm and easy going manner and put all our worries at ease. He made all our concerns and worries over things we wanted done disappear. The greatest gift he gave to me, the mother of the bride, was in assigning me my own attendant, Erica, for the event. She was wonderful.

Raymond – Maitre'd

Raymond was a wonderful maitre'd at the event. We met a few days before and his first words were "no worries". His warmth and charming personality let us know that all would be taken care of in every way.

Dennis – Assistant Maitre'd

Dennis was an additional support throughout the evening. He checked in with us from time to time and asked if we needed anything throughout the event. It was nice to know he was around.

Iris & Erica – bridal & MOB assistants

Two wonderful girls! Iris was a wonderful assistant for Jennifer and made the day carefree for her. She attended to every need and was invaluable as a support. Erica was an angel who showered me, the mother of the bride, with caring and patience, holding my hand, my camera, getting me drinks, feeding me during the cocktail hour, having tissues ready and more. I was able to be a guest at my own event thanks to having her by my side. I highly recommend this additional option in the future for the MOB..... it made such a difference.

Tito

Tito in the maintenance staff was quietly behind the scenes helping set the stage for our event. He helped organize the seating in the drawing room to perfection, assisted with all the staging details and above all, helped my husband and I build the chupah the night before the event. With his assistance under the direction of Margaret Brower and the staff, a most unique and incredible setting was created that blew away every guest that attended.

Connie (at reception desk)

Connie at reception deserves a special mention. When Connie learned that the bride was disappointed that the Woodlands entry porch did not have the beautiful fall display it had last year, she came to the rescue. Calling anyone she knew in the town of Oyster Bay, Connie came through and delivered the most incredible fall display at the entrance. There are no words for a staff member who goes that extra mile. The look on the bride's face when she saw it (and my own) was worth all the effort put in. Thanks so much.

For anyone we missed, just wanted to say thank you to all of the staff at The Woodlands, from the girls at reception, those in management, Debbie, who we met at the tasting evening and gave us our homework, Patricia, our waitress at the tasting evening, to all the waiters, waitresses, maintenance and more. We couldn't have had the spectacular day we did without you.

Thanks so much,
Robin & Mitchel Rosner