

“Personalize Your Wedding”

A wedding is a personalized event. From the guest list, to the favors, and even to the music at the reception, all the small details give clues to the personalities of the bride and groom. If a wedding reflects a couple's personal style and the things they value, then Jay and Leslie Ragojo are truly a unique, down-to-earth, fun-loving, and family-oriented couple. The couple was married on October 6, 2007 on a beautiful beach on the windward side of Oahu. Their wedding was a relaxed, intimate, beach house affair with their families and closest friends.

The couple met in March of 2006 through mutual friends. Leslie, an IT professional and Nebraska native, had just moved to Dallas from New York when she met Jay, a Senior Telecom Engineer. One date had lead into another and they soon found themselves completely in love. They chose Hawaii for their wedding as Jay grew up in the islands and Leslie's family had never been to Hawaii. They wanted



their wedding to be in a place “...where everyone could be together in a relaxed atmosphere.” The couple had looked at hotels but found them to be expensive and full of restrictions on which wedding vendors they could use and so they opted for a secluded beach house in Ka'a'awa. Leslie says, “We had the mountains behind us, the ocean across the street, a huge lanai, a pool, a hot tub, and a big kitchen.” They couldn't have asked for more!

In planning the wedding, the couple worked together, researching ideas in magazines and websites. They altered ideas to fit their venue and style. Their wedding was truly unique as it was a collaborative event. Jay's mom made the flowers and did all the cooking. Jay's sister played guitar and ukulele, while his brother set up the tents, tables, and



chairs. The entire family helped in manning the BBQ grill. Leslie says, "Jay's mom is a wonderful cook...Jay's special requests included Kalbi short ribs, lumpia and a few other staples from his childhood--we skipped the SPAM!"

When asked what they enjoyed most about the wedding, Leslie replied, "I enjoyed having the people who love us the most share our day with us. I loved the fact that no one had to go home and that we could continue the party for as long as we wanted. In fact, it went on for a few days after the wedding." Jay replied, "Throughout the celebration I'd look around, and I enjoyed seeing our families and friends together laughing, smiling, eating, and "talking story!"

Leslie has two best wedding memories. The first being when the couple walked along the beach after the ceremony was over "...Our photographer was taking pictures but we were in our own world. Time just seemed to stand still for a few minutes." Jay still remembers "...seeing my beautiful bride in her dress being escorted by her parents." Leslie's other best memory came at the end of the night "...when the entire wedding party jumped in the pool together with our wedding clothes on!"

When asked what qualities she most loves in Jay, Leslie replies, "He's not just another handsome face, he is one of the most genuine people I have ever known. He has a kind soul. There is something about him that calms me and brings out the best in me. I love his smile, his laugh, his jokes, his music, his hugs and how loved he makes me feel."

Jay says "...Leslie is a thoughtful and caring person... She is beautiful inside and out! As classy and elegant as she is, she would still roll up her sleeves to shovel dirt in the garden."

The couple would like to thank their families and closest friends for helping make their day a success. "Everyone was so helpful and made the day stress free for Jay and me. I couldn't have asked for a more perfect day. I would also like to thank Jose and Picture This! Photography for the

amazing pictures" says Leslie.

Jay and Leslie are now happily married and living in Texas. Thinking back on their day, they provide insightful advice to future wedded couples:

"Make your wedding day about you and your fiancé, not about what someone else wants. Make it as stress free as possible, whether that means having a wedding planner or just doing things your own way. It doesn't have to be expensive to be memorable or beautiful." ~ Leslie

"I don't like the mentality of a groom "just showing up for the wedding". There's a lot of stress with all the preparation, so anything you can handle for the bride will be appreciated." ~ Jay

By: *Melissa Motosue*

Photography By: *Jose Raбр of Picture This! Photography*

