



Another concept also ran through the wedding, that of family and friends. “People that love you will really help you,” Michelle says, and so it was that a sister’s father-in-law, Rev. Rick Ballif, officiated, and her godfather acted as emcee, “telling jokes and keeping everything running smoothly.” Most of all, she says, “I’m blessed by my brother’s wife, Anna Wroble.”

It was Anna who served as wedding coordinator. “I don’t know what I would have done without her,” says Michelle, “She’s totally creative and totally crafty, and she understood the theme.” Anna used her skills with crafts, with a little inspiration from Pinterest, to make all the decorations. She even ordered the flowers and made all the centerpieces, bouquets, corsages, and boutonnieres. “It was insane,” says the bride, “She’s very talented.”

Michelle and Matthew turned to Chris Holen and Baked Alaska Restaurant for the food. “He was wonderful to work with,” Michelle says. The couple lives in Seattle, and she hadn’t eaten at the restaurant but

she says, the samples he prepared for them “were so good.” She found her wedding day to be emotional enough that she ate little, but Michelle remembers the great salad, the chicken, and the piece de resistance, cold-smoked salmon.

A family friend, Marva Hall, made the cake. “I grew up with her daughter,” Michelle says. “She makes delicious cakes. She was the obvious choice.”

On the day of the wedding, Michelle says, “We were being ushered from one event to the next. It’s really from looking at the pictures that I remember all the details, seeing how everything looked. Bryce took such wonderful pictures.”

One of Michelle’s sisters had been put in charge of finding a photographer, and she presented the couple with three possibilities. They looked at the websites and chose Bryce Jenkison, in Hood River. They corresponded with him and discovered that he was familiar with Astoria and was used to traveling to various locations, and they met with him before the wedding. >>

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