

Sushi and serendipity

Local couple's courtship coloured by coincidence



Cliff and Judy at their wedding

CLIFF LIBRACH AND JUDY SIBLIN-LIBRACH

first met in 1993 on a “blind date.” Set up by mutual friends (Cliff’s sister-in-law Heather and Judy’s best friend were the co-conspirators), the local couple hit it off immediately. The day after their first date, Cliff sent Judy a bouquet of exotic flowers. On the card he had written: “I had an incredible evening with you, and I’d love to see you again.” After several years of dating,

Judy and Cliff decided to see each other exclusively — for the rest of their lives. Cliff and Judy share their story:

How they met:

Judy: “We met on a blind date set up by one of my best friends, Sari Sonshine, and Heather Librach. The two were neighbours and Heather said, ‘My brother-in-law Cliff is a real doll. Do you know anyone for him?’ And Sari said, ‘My very good friend Judy is also a doll. How can two dolls go wrong?’”

The first date:

Judy: “Our first date was at a Japanese restaurant called Nami. It was the first time in my life that I ate sushi.”

Cliff: “When I made the reservation I asked the restaurant to get us one of their private booths. I’m so glad I did that, because it created an incredible atmosphere for getting to know each other.”

Judy: “My late grandmother, Lily Siblin (who I was extremely close to) was born on October 31. And while I was having dinner with Cliff, I felt like I had met him before. There was something so familiar about him. Finally, I asked, ‘Cliff, when is your birthday?’ And he answered, ‘October 31st.’ I was in total shock. Even the Rabbi who married us said, ‘It is more than a coincidence that of all the eligible Jewish males, that you would meet and fall in love with someone who was born on the same day as your beloved Grandma.’”

The courtship:

Judy: “Our courtship reminded me of those scenes in Hollywood movies, where the couple is always holding hands in all kinds of romantic and exotic locations and it’s all a whirlwind of love and

roses, excitement and adventure.”

The proposal:

Cliff: “I knew that I had to find a very unique way to propose to Judy. So I found toys and items that represented some of the highlights of our time together. For example, I got plastic sushi to represent our first date, a toy plant for the first play we saw together (*Little Shop of Horrors*) and even plastic gold-coloured wine glasses to represent us sharing great wines together. The final item was a pulp fiction book called *A Man of Few Words* that was taped shut. On that special day, I took Judy to a beautiful location on the shores of Georgian Bay.

“I sat her down on a log and opened the box. I gave her the items one at a time. The last item was the book. She looked at it and said, ‘What is this for?’ I simply said, ‘Open it and look inside of the front cover.’ I had written there ‘Judy, will you marry me?’ Luckily she said yes.”

The wedding:

Judy: “Our wedding was beautiful. We got married in a white tent in my in-laws’ garden on Dunvegan Road. They called our wedding ‘The Garden of Dunvegan.’ It was like *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

“The honeymoon was also spectacular. We went to France,

Italy and Greece for almost three weeks and it was romantic and beautiful and we had the best time of our lives.”

Their lives today:

Judy and Cliff: “Life is much busier, but wonderful in the Librach family. We now have two beautiful children: Max, 10, and Lily, 7. Cliff’s fertility practice has expanded greatly and he heads Create — one of the largest clinics in Canada (affiliated with the University of Toronto). Judy is a television broadcaster, author, columnist and life coach. She has appeared on TV as an entertainment and lifestyle reporter, and hosted her own show, *In the Spotlight*. She writes a regular column in the Canadian Jewish News, called the *Life Coach Corner* and has recently written a book, *Love Mommy, Writing Love Letters to your Baby*.”

“... they called our wedding the Garden of Dunvegan.”

The couple and their family today

other no matter what, and enhance the other person’s life as much as they enhance yours.”

Every couple has a story to share. If you would like to share yours, please contact the editor at 416-250-7979 ext. 225 or news@postcitymagazines.com.

Words of wisdom:

Judy and Cliff: “Laugh a lot and hold hands and protect each