

## Letter of Support For Jonathan + Allyson Niemuth + Niemuth Manor

I, Jennifer Petty, of JeLau Photography, am writing a Letter of Support for Jonathan and Allyson Niemuth and Niemuth Manor and the events they host for various couples and organizations.

After 5+ years in the Wedding Industry, I have shot at 50+ venues across the United States, worked with 100s of vendors, and seen many do's and don'ts of the industry. I first worked with Jonathan and Allyson in July 2022 at a beautiful brunch wedding. I was pleasantly surprised at how they had maintained the venue, the clear directions they had for the couples' guests, and the complete respect they had for the land, guests, the couple, and the neighbors. As this was a brunch wedding, it was very laid back and relaxed. The brides had a small ceremony underneath the shade of the trees and then enjoyed a relaxing brunch before enjoying ice in the hot summer sun. The couple and all of their guests, at the request of Jonathan and Allyson, enjoyed the day with music at a low level and were not super rowdy. It was a lovely, relaxed wedding day where the brides and all of their guests had a lovely time.

There aren't many wedding venues in the Murphys area so I was really excited to work at Niemuth Manor and capture so much joy. Weddings are such a great way to bring in tourism (especially to an area where tourism is a huge part of the economy). It helps book hotel rooms, fills seats in locally owned restaurants, and introduces people to this growing wine region with unique wines and wonderful wine clubs.

I was fortunate to come back and spend more time with Jonathan and Allyson to discuss business, the wedding industry as a whole, and look forward to how we could work together in the future. During this time, both Jonathan and Allyson expressed their deep love for the area and respect for the surrounding neighbors. They spoke about how they require all of their couples to sign a contract that states that them and their guests will abide by their code of conduct, which includes being respectful of the neighbors in the way they act while on property, the noise volume, and how they arrive and depart the venue.

My family has had a house in Hathaway Pines for 20+ years and I've spent a lot of time in this area. I remember when Murphys was mostly odd little shops, antique stores, and small little restaurants like Pick n Shovel. I remember going into Murphys to get ice cream and go stick our feet in the water during those hot summer days, attending the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration at Ironstone Vineyards, and watching the Duck Race during Murphys Irish Days. Then I watched it change and shift into more and more of a wine country, with tasting rooms right and left, catering much more to an adult crowd rather than children and families. As our family has grown with my siblings getting married and having kids of their own, we've continued to bring

everyone up for family vacations. Each year it seems that there are fewer and fewer events for children under 18 years to do.

Why am I bringing this up? Because this is yet another thing that Jonathan and Allyson mentioned during our last meeting, how they have a passion for the community and hosting events that are family-friendly and safe for the community. They want to work together with local organizations to do dinners, award ceremonies, luncheons, celebrations of all kinds and also organize fun outdoor events in collaboration with local organizations during the summer. They are passionate about providing unique, specialized experiences for not just couples, but also for the community in which they live.

By allowing Jonathan and Allyson Niemuth to continue operating Niemuth Manor as a venue for weddings and event space for other community/family gatherings and events, you'd be allowing the growth of tourism to the area, exposure of the Murphys' wine region, and establishing a place for the community to celebrate together.

I am in full support of Jonathan and Allyson Niemuth and Niemuth Manor and am looking forward to seeing what they do for future couples and for the community and families of Murphys.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Petty', with a stylized, cursive script.

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