

Wedding Program

Tasha Benson

and

Larry Lennhoff

April 9, 2000



A Note on Translations No language can fully describe the Ein Sof, the One without beginning or end. We have chosen to use a more modern, mystical style of translation for the translations in the Erusin section, and more traditional translations in the remainder of the document.

Synagogue Etiquette

Men of all religions cover their heads while in the building (during the service and the reception). There will be a supply of blue kipot (head coverings) at the entrance to the sanctuary. They are personalized with the wedding date and our names. They are meant as keepsakes for our guests. Women may wear the kipot as well. Flash photography is prohibited during the service.

Before the Ceremony

Ufruf The Shabbat (4/8/2000) before the wedding, Larry and Tasha will recite a blessing over the reading of the Torah. Larry will also read a section of that week's reading.

The Day of the Ceremony Prior to the actual ceremony, several things happen at the synagogue. These include the signing of the marriage contract (Ketubah) as well as the veiling of the bride (Bedeken).

The Ketubah This is the legal marriage contract. It is written in Aramaic rather than Hebrew. There is an abbreviated English translation at the bottom of our Ketubah. This document spells out the obligations of the groom towards the bride. This document is signed not by the bride and groom but by two observant Jewish men who are testifying that the groom has "acquired" the bride in the prescribed manner and agreed to support her.

Bedeken The groom veils the bride. This custom developed from the biblical story of Jacob, who married Leah by mistake, instead of Rachel, the woman he loved.

Processional The groom will be escorted by his parents and the bride by her parents as well as other friends and family to the chuppah.

Chuppah This is a wedding canopy. This comes from The Book of Joel (2:16) states: "Let the bridegroom go forth from his chamber and the bride out of her pavilion."

Circling the Groom The bride circles the groom 7 times as Joshua circled the wall of Jericho seven times, and then the walls fell down. So, too, after the bride walks around the groom 7 times, the walls between them will fall and their souls will be united.

Erusin/Kiddushin This is the betrothal ceremony. Originally there was a year between the Erusin and Nissuin (wedding ceremony). In the 11th century the separation of these ceremonies was ended. Erusin begins with several blessings said in greeting to all.

The 1st blessing:

yy \cb abh]wrb

Barukheem haba'im bShem Adonai
Welcome in the name of Adonai

The 2nd blessing:

yy tybm \kwkrb

Barakhnukhem mi'beyt Adonai
Welcome in this house of Adonai

Next is a blessing of invocations:

l kh l u ryda ym

l kh l u]wrb ym

l kh l u lwdg ym

h l kh taw }tjh ta]rby

Mi Adir el hakol,
Mi Baruch el hakol
Mi Gadol el hakol
Hey'varesh h'hatan v'hakallah

Splendor is upon everything
Blessing is upon everything
Who is full of this abundance
Bless this groom and bride.

Kiddush/Blessing for the 1st cup of wine:

}pgh yrp arwb \lwuh]lm wnyhla yy hta]wrb

Baruch ata Adonai Eloheynu Melech Ha-olam, borey p'reee ha-gaffen

Holy One of the Blessing, your presence fills creation forming the fruit of the vine.

Birkat Erusin/The betrothal blessing:

ברוך אתה יהוה יהי היום הזה
הוא יצאנו מארץ מצרים
הוא יצאנו מארץ מצרים
הוא יצאנו מארץ מצרים

Baruch ata Adonai Elohaynu melech ha'olam asher kidshanu bemitzvotav, ve-tzivanu al ha'araiyot, ve-asayr lanu et ha'arusot ve-hitir lanu et hanisu'ot lanu al yidei chuppah ve-kiddushin. Baruch ata Adonai, mekadaysh amo Yisrael al yeday chuppah ve-kiddushin..

Praised are you Adonai, Ruler of the universe, who has made us holy through Your commandments and has commanded us concerning sexual propriety, forbidding to us (women) who are merely betrothed, but permitting to us (women) who are married to us through chuppah and kiddushin. Blessed are You, Adonai, who makes your people Israel holy through chuppah and kiddushin.

The 1st cup of wine is now drunk by groom. The mother of the bride raises the veil. Then the bride drinks from the cup. The veil is then put back in place. Those under the chuppah will now each drink from the cup.

The Ring Jewish law requires the groom to give something of value to the bride - the customary gift is an unbroken plain ring. Larry will recite:

הללך חמך תדב תבבך, הן תדבך תהן

Haray at mekudeshet li, betaba-at zu, kedat Moshe v'Yisrael.

By this ring you are consecrated to me (as my wife) in accordance with the traditions of Moses and Israel.

The ring is placed on the right index finger; folklore states that there is a direct lifeline from the index finger to the heart.

Tasha will respond with:

הללך חמך תדב תבבך, הן תדבך תהן

Haray atah mekudash li, betaba-at zu, kedat Moshe v'Yisrael.

In accepting this ring, I consecrate myself to you as your wife in accordance with the traditions of Moses and Israel.

הן תדבך תהן

Ani ledodi vedodi li

I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine.

Reading the Ketubah Since the Ketubah would have been drawn up between Erusin and Nissuin, it is read by the Rabbi at this time.

The Rabbi will then hand the Ketubah to Larry who in turn will hand the Ketubah to Tasha.

Nissuin The wedding ceremony.

This begins with the seven wedding blessings and ends with the breaking of a glass.

Shevah Brachot The Shevah Brachot (seven wedding blessings) are recited, in Hebrew and in English, over a second cup of wine. They reflect the joy of the couple as well as the sense of renewal and hope the marriage represents for the Jewish people.

1.

ברוך אתה יהוה יהי היום הזה

Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu melech ha'olam boray pri hagafen.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

2.

ברוך אתה יהוה יהי היום הזה

Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu melech ha'olam shehakol bara lichvodo

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has created all things to Your glory.

3.

ברוך אתה יהוה יהי היום הזה

Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu melech ha'olam yotzyr ha'adam.

Praised are You, Adonai, Sovereign of the Universe, Creator of the human species.

4.

,wtynbt twmd \lxb,wmlxb \dah ta rxy rca , \lwuh]lm wnyhla yy hta]wrb
 .\dah rxwy yy hta]wrb .du ydu jynb wmm wl jyqthw

Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu melech ha'olam asher yatzar et ha-adam betzalmo,
 betzelem demut tavnito, vehitkin lo mimenu binyan aday ad. Baruch atah
 Adonai yotzayr ha-adam.

*Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has made
 humans in Your image, after Your likeness, and has prepared for humans, a
 perpetual fabric out of his/her essential self. Praised are You, Adonai, Creator
 of the human species.*

5.

jwyx j mcm ,yy hta]wrb .hj mcb hkwtl hynb {wbqb ,hrquh lgtw cycct cyc
 hynbb

Sos tasis vetagayl ha-akarah bekibutz baneha letocha besimchah. Baruch atah
 Adonai mesamayach tziyon bevaneha.

*May Zion who was barren be exceptionally glad and rejoice when her children
 joyfully gather around her. Praised are You, Adonai, who makes Zion joyful
 through her children.*

6.

j mcm ,yy hta]wrb .\dqm }du jgb jryxy j j mck \ybwhah \yur j mct j mc
 hlkw }tj

Samayach tesamach rayim ha-ahuvim kesamaychacha yetzircha began ayden
 mikedem. Baruch atah Adonai mesamyach chatan ve-kallah.

*O make these loving companions rejoice greatly, just like you gladdened the
 creatures in the Garden of Eden. Praised are You who make brides and grooms
 rejoice.*

7.

,hnr ,hlyg ,hlkw }tj ,hj mcm }wcc arb rca , \lwuh]lm wnyhla yy hta]wrb
 twxj bw hdiwy yrub umcy wnyhla yy hrhm .twurw \wl cw hwj aw hbha ,hwdj w hxyd
 \tpjm \yntj twlhxw lwq ,hlk lwqw }tj lwq ,hj mc lwqw }wcc lwq \yl cwy
 .lkh \u }tj j mcm ,yy hta]wrb .\tnyg htcmm myrunw

Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu melech ha-olam asher bara sason ve-simchah,
 chatan ve-kallah, gilah rinah, ditzah ve-chedvah, ahava ve-achvah ve-shalom ve-
 rayut, mehayrah Adonai Elohaynu, yishama be-aray Yehudah u-vchutzot
 Yerushalayim, kol sason ve-kol simchah, kol chatan ve-kol kallah, kol mitzhalot
 chatanim maychupatam u-ne'arim mimishtay neginatam. Baruch atah Adonai
 mesamaych chatan im ha-kallah.

*Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has created
 joy and gladness, bride and groom, mirth and exultation, pleasure and delight,
 harmony, peace and fellowship. Soon may there be heard in the cities of Judah,
 and in the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of joy and gladness, the voice of the
 groom and the bride, the jubilant voice of lovers from their chuppah, and youth
 from their feasts of song. Praised are You, Adonai our God, who causes brides
 and grooms to rejoice.*

Larry and Tasha now drink from the second cup of wine handed to them by the
 bride's parents.

The Rabbi now makes the legal statement according to civil law "By the
 authority vested in me by the state of Massachusetts..."

Breaking the Glass The ceremony officially ends when Larry breaks a glass
 under his foot. The custom of breaking a glass under the chuppah is derived from
 the Talmud. It is written that a rabbi broke a vase during a wedding feast in order
 to warn those present against excessive joy. Even during times of great joy, we
 should remember the tragic destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.

At this point many people will start singing Mazel Tov/Siman Tov. The bride
 and groom are often showered with nuts, raisins, and candies.

Yichud A short time of seclusion immediately following the marriage when the Chatan (groom) & Kallah (bride) spend a period alone together. This was originally the time of consummation of the marriage. Today it is used as a respite for the wedding couple as well as the first time they will have eaten all day as it is traditional for the bride and groom to fast on their wedding day. The bride and groom are seen as “purified” from the wedding ceremony, starting out fresh.

Wedding Feast and Entertaining the Bride and Groom A dairy buffet will be provided immediately following the ceremony. The MC, Dennis Fischman, will lead the group in the blessing over bread while Larry and Tasha are still in Yichud. The blessing over bread is called HaMotzi.

Sometime during the meal the Larry and Tasha will emerge from Yichud. After a short interval with their photographer they will join the celebration. They intend to begin the music and dancing with their entrance. Both will continue at intervals throughout the celebration. A CD Jukebox has been rented for the guests’ pleasure. It will include both Jewish and secular music CDs. After the initial dance, everyone is welcome to select the songs they desire. There is no charge for the jukebox.

We request that everyone sign our chuppah during the reception. The chuppah will be on a table in the reception area. Fabric markers are provided. There is plenty of room, so please inscribe your wishes or advice for the couple, or draw a picture, along with your name. It is considered a mitzvah (good deed) to make the bride and groom happy on their wedding day. Therefore, guests tend to sing, dance, make a toast, or otherwise perform for the pleasure of the couple. Those who wish to entertain the bride and groom should contact the MC, Dennis Fischman.

Now it is time to eat, dance, and have a good time.

Sometime during the celebration there will be a dance in honor of the parents of the bride and groom. They will sit on chairs in the middle of the floor while all who wish will do a circle dance around them. Towards the end of the celebration we will say Birkat Hamazon (Grace after meals) and then the Shavah Brachot again. Traditionally, each meal the bride and groom eat for a week after the wedding will include the sheva brachot to extend the joy of their wedding to the rest of their friends and neighbors.

Shevah Brachot The Shevah Brachot (seven wedding blessings) are recited, in Hebrew and in English, over a second cup of wine. They reflect the joy of the couple as well as the sense of renewal and hope the marriage represents for the Jewish people. Blessings 1-6 are recited over the second cup of wine.

1.

דַּבְּרָה אֶת אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהָאֵל מֵעַד הָאֵל יָצַר אֶת כָּל הַבְּרִיָּה

Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu melech ha’olam shehakol bara lichvodo
Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has created all things to Your glory.

2.

וְדַה רַחֲמֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם יוֹצֵר אֶת הָאָדָם

Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu melech ha’olam yotzyr ha’adam.
Praised are You, Adonai, Sovereign of the Universe, Creator of the human species.

3.

וְיִתְּנָה לָנוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֶת אֲדָמָתְנוּ כְּשֶׁנֶּחֱמָה לָנוּ לְהַשְׁכִּיחַ אֶת הָאָדָם בְּתַזְמוּנוֹתָיו

Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu melech ha’olam asher yatzar et ha-adam betzalmo, betzelem demut tavnito, vehitkin lo mimenu binyan aday ad. Baruch atah Adonai yotzayr ha-adam.
Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has made humans in Your image, after Your likeness, and has prepared for humans, a perpetual fabric out of his/her essential self. Praised are You, Adonai, Creator of the human species.

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hynbb

Sos tasis vetagayl ha-akarah bekibutz baneha letocha besimchah. Baruch atah Adonai mesamayach tziyon bevaneha.

May Zion who was barren be exceptionally glad and rejoice when her children joyfully gather around her. Praised are You, Adonai, who makes Zion joyful through her children.

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j mcm ,yy hta]wrb .\dqm }du }gb }rxy]j mck \ybwhah \yur j mct j mc
hlkw }tj

Samayach tesamach rayim ha-ahuvim kesamaychacha yetzircha began ayden mikedem. Baruch atah Adonai mesamyach chatan ve-kallah.

O make these loving companions rejoice greatly, just like you gladdened the creatures in the Garden of Eden. Praised are You who make brides and grooms rejoice.

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twxj bw hdmhy yrub umcy wnyhla yy hrhm .twurw \wl cw huj aw hbha ,hwdjw hxyd
\tpjm \yntj twlhxm lwq ,hlk lwqw }tj lwq ,hj mc lwqw }wcc lwq \yl cwy
.lkh \u }tj j mcm ,yy hta]wrb .\tnyg htcmm myruw

Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu melech ha-olam asher bara sason ve-simchah, chatan ve-kallah, gilah rinah, ditzah ve-chedvah, ahava ve-achvah ve-shalom ve-rayut, mehayrah Adonai Elohaynu, yishama be-aray Yehudah u-vchutot Yerushalayim, kol sason ve-kol simchah, kol chatan ve-kol kallah, kol mitzhalot chatanim maychuputam u-ne'arim mimishtay neginatam. Baruch atah Adonai mesamaych chatan im ha-kallah.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has created joy and gladness, bride and groom, mirth and exultation, pleasure and delight, harmony, peace and fellowship. Soon may there be heard in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of joy and gladness, the voice of the groom and the bride, the jubilant voice of lovers from their chuppah, and youth from their feasts of song. Praised are You, Adonai our God, who causes brides and grooms to rejoice.

The last blessing is said over the first cup of wine.

7.

}pgh yrp arwb \lwuh]lm wnyhla yy hta]wrb

Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu melech ha'olam boray pri hagafen.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

The contents from the two cups of wine are combined. The bride and groom now drink the mixed contents of the two cups of wine.

Thank you for celebrating this wonderful simcha with us.

Our Parents:

Roberta Benson and John Friedrich

Gunther and Thelma Lennhoff

Rabbi: Rabbi Charles Popky, Temple Beth El

Chuppah Bearers:

Erica Friedrich, Steve Friedrich, Mike Belanger, & Eileen Friedrich

Best Man: Stan Heckman

Maid of Honor: Lynne Henderson

Emcee: Dennis Fischman

Special thanks to:

Dennis and Rona Fischman for the wedding invitation sample that we adapted for our own.

Jonathan Herzog and Amy Thomas for a copy of their wedding program, the "Guide for the perplexed"

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