

Subject: Weddings – Jewish Ceremony

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Jewish Ceremony

Welcome

This ceremony today signifies and initiates many wonderful things. Bringing their friends & family together here represents the promise of the home they will create together, a home that is open to all of you and to the community, so that they can make a meaningful contribution to – and receive support from – the people around them. As _____ and _____ look to their life together, they look forward to your continued presence in their home and participation in their family.

This ceremony represents their commitment, as a family, to their community, as well as a deeply felt hope that you will remain a part of their life.

Blessing Over the Wine

A Jewish tradition is the blessing over the wine. The cup of wine represents the cup of life, and as you share this cup of wine, you undertake to share all that the future may bring. All the sweetness life's cup may hold for you will be sweeter because you drink together. Whatever drops of bitterness it may contain will be less bitter because you share them.

And you choose to drink from only one cup to signify the blending of your lives, and the commitment to the One Life before you. May this cup symbolize the gratitude you hold for one another and your resolve to always remain connected.

Breaking the Glass

At the end of many wedding ceremonies, we hear church bells ringing and the sound of beautiful, happy music. And at the end of Jewish ceremonies we hear the breaking of a glass. Today we are blessed in the blending and observance of traditions.

Among the many interpretations of the breaking of the glass is that the breaking glass scares away anything that would ever do harm to the newly married couple. It says that, while there may be parts of our human life that are fragile, our relationship – our marriage – is strong. And another explanation simply says that we break the glass to mark the beginning of great celebration. As (_____, _____) breaks the glass, I invite everyone to shout, "Mazel Tov," which means in Hebrew good luck and congratulations.

(Breaks glass.)

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to present to you, Mr. and Mrs.

_____.