

מזל טוב

Mazel Tov



So, You're Getting Married

On behalf of our synagogue family, we wish you a hearty Mazel Tov and we are pleased to be part of your simcha. May you have many joyous years together with the true blessing of joy and love that is the hallmark of a Jewish home.

Setting the Wedding Date In accordance with tradition weddings should not be scheduled during the following periods of mourning: Rosh Chodesh Iyar until Lag B'Omer, and the 17th of Tammuz through Tisha B'Av. Additionally, weddings cannot be performed on the Sabbath, the High Holidays, Sukkot (including intermediate days), Passover (including intermediate days), and Shavout (two days). When scheduling a wedding on the evening that concludes a holiday or on Saturday night, please consult the Rabbi to ensure that sufficient time is allotted for travel after sunset.

Wedding Location The wedding ceremony is a religious event. As such, the Rabbi strongly advocates that a kosher caterer be selected. Please note that the Rabbi will not be able to stay afterwards for the wedding reception if it is not kosher.

Selecting a Ketubah The Ketubah is a document that was enacted by rabbinic injunction in order to protect the rights of women in marriage and, God forbid, divorce. Civil law has taken jurisdiction over the issues of communal property, support, etc. and the Ketubah remains simply as a ritual document. Many artistic Ketubot are available, or the Rabbi can digitally generate an 11x14 in. custom Ketubah. (you can view an example of a digitally generated Ketubah at www.BethShalomNJ.org/download/Ketubah.pdf). If you are purchasing a Ketubah the text must be approved by the Rabbi

Wedding Bands/Rings The wedding bands can be made from silver, gold, or platinum. They cannot contain any stones at the time of the wedding. Stones can be added afterwards.

Attire In keeping with tradition, the bride is encouraged to select a veil that has a blusher. This will facilitate the tradition of wearing a veil while walking down the aisle. When selecting the wedding gown, one should be mindful of the fact that the wedding ceremony is a religious occasion.

Your Ceremony The basic ritual of every wedding ceremony is the same. However, the Rabbi encourages you to incorporate any customs or family customs that may enhance your simcha (celebration). During your meeting with the Rabbi, you will discuss the ceremony in detail to ensure that this day best reflects your vision and dreams within the framework of tradition. Recommended reading: The New Jewish Wedding, by Anita Diamant.

Meeting with the Rabbi Please contact the Rabbi @ 973-835-9785 to arrange a meeting to discuss your wedding plans. The Rabbi will want to meet with both bride and groom. Please bring the completed data form (follows this booklet) to your first meeting.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the bride need to go to Mikvah? While Mikvah is not a prerequisite to the performance of the wedding, the Rabbi strongly encourages this ritual. It can be a beautiful experience which can be shared with close friends of the bride.

Is the bride required to circle the groom seven times? This is totally determined by the couple. Some couples elect to alternate circling each other three times and then circling together, while others opt to eliminate the custom altogether.

Is photography permitted during the ceremony? Photography is permitted and encouraged during the ceremony. This is your special moment and we want you to cherish it forever. Please instruct your photographer not to use direct flash during the ceremony.

Can we read our own vows? May couples do opt to read their own vows. This can be a very beautiful part of the wedding ceremony.

Can relatives who are not Jewish participate as part of the wedding party? The Rabbi encourages proper respect for and inclusion of all relatives, regardless of their tradition of faith.

Will the Rabbi perform a wedding without a marriage license? It is illegal to perform a religious marriage with the absence of a marriage license.

Will the Rabbi co-officiate with a Rabbi or Cantor from another denomination? The Rabbi will co-officiate with another Rabbi or Cantor provided that the ceremony is conducted in accordance with Jewish law.

What is the appropriate honorarium for the Rabbi? The following recommendation for non-member honorariums has been established for weddings in the Pompton Lakes, NJ area: \$500 honorarium to the Rabbi as well as a \$100 donation to the Congregation Beth Shalom – Discretionary Fund. Members of the congregation may opt to give an honorarium to the Rabbi, or a donation to the discretionary fund.

Congregation Beth Shalom

"A community as a family"

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Immediate Past President

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Cemetery

Mered Frankel
Community Relations

Herb Kalmeyer
Finance & Budget

Barbara Goll
Education

Debbie Robbins
Fundraising

Barbara Tepper
Membership

Sandy Yenik
Memorials

Dr. Lou Lees
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Website

Randi Cohen
Youth Activities

Trustees

Ed Case

Herb Goldstein

Debbie Lees

Thelma Kalmeyer

Sid Lerner

Blossom Lerner

Lester Wolfson

Howard Youngman

Date of Wedding: _____ Invitation Time: _____ Time of Ceremony: _____

Location: _____

Name of Caterer: _____ Kosher: Yes _____ No: _____

Name of Bride: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____

Cell: _____ Email address: _____

Hebrew Name: _____

Mother's Hebrew Name: _____

Father's Hebrew Name: _____

Previously married? Check one: Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, was a Get obtained? Check one: Yes: _____ No: _____

Please provide a copy of Get certificate where available.

Are you a convert to Judaism? Check one: Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, please provide a conversion certificate.

Name of Groom: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____

Cell: _____ Email address: _____

Hebrew Name: _____

Mother's Hebrew Name: _____

Father's Hebrew Name: _____

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