

חֲפָה וְקַדוּשָׁין

Wedding outline and service
Prepared by Iris Karlin 2023

Wedding outline

Pre-service:

Signing licenses
Signing the Ketubah
Bedeken

Ketubah



This Ketubah, which you will sign before walking down the aisle together, documents what is written in the recesses of your soul.

Through the values of commitment and love demonstrated by your parents and passed on to you, you offer of yourselves to each other. Take hold of this Ketubah which you now receive.

This document represents a heritage of family and marriage that began with our ancestors.

We now entrust this heritage to you. By your acceptance, you agree to what you promised when you signed this document. Enhance it with your commitment and devotion; bestow it upon the generations to come.

Take it from my hands into yours and it becomes valid and binding.

Bedeken:

Parents (taking turns):

We thank You, God, for this precious moment.
How sweet it is for us to see our children married.
As we rejoice in seeing them stand under the chuppah,
we ask that You grant our children full lives and good health.
How can I express what I feel for my beloved child?
My heart is full to overflowing.
I remember the anxiety, and the joys.
Now, as my child joins hands with another
on the threshold of a new life,
I pray that the home they establish will be built on firm foundations.
May their love grow deeper through the years.
And may their union mature through shared tasks and constant effort.
May the family they create be a strong part of our larger family.
God of life,
let Your Divine Presence illumine their home and their lives,
blessing them with unfailing love.
Amen.

Procession & 7 circles

We are taught:

פֶּלֶס מִעֵגֶל רִגְלָהּ
וְכָל דְּרָכֶיהָ יִכְוֹנֶה

“Consider the circular path you will take,
and all your ways will prosper.”!(Proverbs 4:26)

As they prepare to come beneath the Chuppah
Itay and Keren
will engage in the ancient custom of circling.
As the form of the circle is perfect and unbroken,
so too do we pray that Keren and Itay’s marriage
will remain strong and unbroken,
resistant to challenges that may face them
from without and from within.
As the shape of a circle encompasses all that it surrounds,
so do we hope that Itay and Keren
will strive to continually be there for one another,
sharing in life’s blessings
and consoling one another in times of trouble,
as they now commit themselves to one another,
and begin to build a united family.

SERVICE order:

Title	Reading / music choice / comments
Bruchim haba'im	♫ Steinberg
Mi Adir	♫ Helfman
Words of welcome	Read Option D
Brief explanation of wedding parts – Kiddushin & Nissuin	
Brief Explanation of meaning of Chuppah	
Wedding Charge	
English reading of ketubah	
Kiddush and Birkat Erusin	
Vows	
Rings	
Brief Intro to Nissuin	
Sheva B'rachot	♫ Steinsnyder mix of Alter & Ganschoff
Declaration of marriage	
Optional priestly benediction	♫ Peri Smilow – May G!d bless you
Breaking of the glass	Read option B
Communal singing	♫ Mazal tov & Siman Tov



Bruchim Haba'im./ Steinberg

We welcome you to this holy space
and this ם ץ ף the symbol of a Jewish home.
You are surrounded by family and friends, your loving community,
who pledge their support for you now and always.
Your ם ץ ף is open on all four sides.
Your relationship, too, is open to the world.
At times, you will be buffeted by stormy gusts;
and at other times, blessed by calm cooling breezes.
And as you have been blessed with finding each other,
you, in turn, will return blessing to the world by your actions
both as individuals and as a couple.



Mi Adir / Helfman

We are all here today because of you.
We have come to celebrate with you
and to rejoice in the loving spirit
which you create when you are together.

We hope that in your home there will be peace and great joy
and also much courage.
May you find the courage to affirm one another,
and in gentle trust to unfold to each other your deepest selves,
your strength and your vulnerability,
your yearning and your secret pain,
and your most tender love.
And we pray for you as well.
Not that you may be happy ever after, for that cannot be.
Rather we who care for you pray
that you may be granted a generous measure of blessing.
In the years opening up before you,
may there be moments like this one
when all who are touched by your life are filled with hope.
May those years be kind to you,
and may the sweet goodness you already know
grow deeper and stronger with the passing of time.

The idea of holiness What is Kiddushin

“The root of the word *kiddushin*, the most common term used for a Jewish wedding, means to take someone or something that others might see as ordinary and to separate it out, to distinguish it, to elevate it for a holy purpose.”

- Rabbi Nancy Weiner, *Beyond Breaking the Glass*

Hosea 2:21-22 (chant)

וְאֶרְשָׁתִּיךָ לִי לְעוֹלָם וְאֶרְשָׁתִּיךָ לִי בְצִדִּיק וּבִמְשָׁפֵט וּבְרַחֲמִים:
וְאֶרְשָׁתִּיךָ לִי בְאֵמוּנָה וּנְדָעָה אֶת־יְהוָה:

And I will espouse you forever:
I will espouse you with righteousness and justice,
And with goodness and mercy,
And I will espouse you with faithfulness;
Then you shall be devoted to GOD.

Wedding Charge:

Shutafut

As we navigate through the twists and turns of life,
we are all looking for strong and healthy relationships.

For trust, for love, for passion & harmony
For being cherished and feeling safe,
For a home -where the heart is,
and where you can be yourself.

Here, in this beautiful home,
we are gathered today to celebrate a Shutafut.

- A partnership of two beautiful souls,
that have found each other,
and entwined their paths in a nurturing, devoted relationship.

Today we embrace the love and the union of Itay & Keren,
as they are making their commitment to face life's challenges together.

Commitment to equality and shared responsibilities.

Commitment to cherish, support, and nourish each other,
in a holy union, a sanctification of marriage - chuppah and kiddushin.

Love is not bound by time, nor space.

We grow into it, and we grow with it.

We share it... we give it... and we gift it.

From generation to generation.

Keren & Itay will symbolize gifting their love in partnership,
through an exchange of rings.

Rings, that have been in their families for generations;

Rings that sustained love stories:

Of held hands, providing warmth when its cold,

Support when failing

Sturdiness when shaking

Strength over fear

Security over doubt

Comfort in distress

This new section of their journey, united, starts here today,
surrounded and supported by love of friends, and family,
who will be holding the poles of the chuppah-
that symbolizes the creation of a new Jewish home,
sanctifying the structure with their own tallitot,
overlaying their support and livelihood.

Today is, יג באב, The number 13 represents the word love in Hebrew – Ahava.
Love in a month known for blessings, grace and mercy.

And with mercy and grace, I would like to bestow upon you this blessing:

May your union only strengthen with the years,
expanding with love and success.

May you be able to look on the half full glass,
and fill each other's needs.

May you be a blessing not only to each other,
but also to your surroundings,
and may your love infatuate and inspire your community.

May G!d bless you with health and happiness,
to cherish and appreciate each other,
and celebrate your togetherness all of your lives.

Through the twists and turns of life,
May your path and your home be safe,
and filled with joy, patience, understanding,
and a true and strong shutfut. Together.

Mazal tov

Presenting and possibly reading parts of the Ketubah (according to their wishes)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְמַן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu,
v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who has kept us alive,
sustained us, and brought us to this season.

Kiddush and Birkat Erusin

As you will share the wine from a single cup,
so may you, under God's guidance,
share contentment, peace, and fulfillment from the cup of life.
May you find life's joys heightened,
its bitterness sweetened,
and all of its moments hallowed
by true companionship and love.
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגֶּפֶן:

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe,
Creator of the fruit of the vine.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
וְצִוָּנוּ עַל הַמִּצְוֹת שֶׁבֵּין אָדָם לְחֶבֶר
וְזִמְנָנוּ שְׁנֵי בְנֵי אָדָם יַחְדָּיו
לְהִיטֵּת דְּבָקִים זֶה בְּזֶה בְּאַהֲבָה
וְלִהְיוֹת "לִבָּשָׁר אֶחָד" עַל יְדֵי חֲפָה וְקִדּוּשֵׁין.
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי, מְקַדֵּשׁ עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל
עַל יְדֵי חֲפָה וְקִדּוּשֵׁין.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe,
whose mitzvot add holiness to our lives,
whose will guides our behavior in all aspects of our relationships,
and who brings one human being to cleave to another in love,
so that they “become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24)
through the rituals of, הַפָּה הַזֶּה the wedding canopy,

and קדוּשִׁין the sacred rites of marriage.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God,
Who sanctifies Your people Israel through Chuppah & Kiddushin.

Vows

(they made their own vows)

Rings

As a token of these vows of commitment you have made,
you each give and receive a ring.
I ask you, Itay, to take this ring
and place it on your beloved's finger
and say these traditional words of commitment. . .

הָרִי אֶת מְקַדְּשֶׁת לִי בְּטַבַּעַת זֶה כְּדַת מֹשֶׁה וְיִשְׂרָאֵל

Harei at m'kudeshet li b'tabaat zo k'dat Moshe v'Yisrael.

Be consecrated to me with this ring as my wife
in keeping with the heritage of Moses and Israel.

And now I ask you, Keren, to take this ring
and place it on your beloved's finger
and say these traditional words of commitment. . .

בְּטַבַּעַת זֶה אֶתָּה מְקַדָּשׁ לִי כְּדַת מֹשֶׁה וְיִשְׂרָאֵל

B'taba'at zo ata mekudash li, k'dat Moshe v'Yisrael.

Be consecrated to me with this ring as my husband
in keeping with the heritage of Moses and Israel.

Our tradition says that before marriage, the two people walk two different paths.
But when they marry, their paths join, and together, they create a new path. The
ancient Jewish mystics would say that their souls become intertwined and are
bonded together.

This begins the part of the wedding ceremony known as the *Sheva B'rachot* – The
Seven Blessings, which comes from ancient teachings. The blessings focus on joy,
celebration, and the power of love.



Sheva B'rachot

(I sing a blessing, and then a chosen family member translates in English)

1. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,

Creator of the fruit of the vine.

2. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהִפֵּל בָּרָא לְכָבוֹדוֹ.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,

Creator of all things for Your glory.

3. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, יוֹצֵר הָאָדָם.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,

Creator of man and woman.

4. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר יָצַר אֶת הָאָדָם בְּצַלְמוֹ, בְּצִלְמֵ דְמוּת תְּבִנְיָתוֹ, וְהִתְקִין לּוֹ מִמֶּנּוּ בְּנִין עַדִּי עַד. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', יוֹצֵר הָאָדָם.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,

who creates us to share with You in life's everlasting renewal.

5. בְּקִבּוּץ בְּנֵיהָ לְתוֹכָהּ בְּשִׂמְחָה. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', מְשַׂמֵּחַ צִיּוֹן בְּבָנֶיהָ ^[1], שׁוֹשׁ תְּשִׁישׁ וְתִגַּל עֲקָרָהּ.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,

who causes Zion to rejoice in her children's happy return.

6. שִׂמְחַת תְּשִׂמַּח רָעִים הָאֲהוּבִים, בְּשִׂמְחָה יִצְרִיךָ בָּנוּ עַדֹן מִקֵּדֶם. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', מְשַׂמֵּחַ חַתָּן וְכַלָּה.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,

who causes bride and groom to rejoice.

May these loving companions rejoice

as have Your creatures since the days of creation.

7. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא שְׂשׂוֹן וְשִׂמְחָה חַתָּן וְכַלָּה, גִּילָה רָנָה דִּיצָה וְחִדּוּהָ, אֲהָבָה וְאַחֲוָה וְשָׁלוֹם וְרַעִיּוּת. מִהֲרָה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִשְׁמַע בְּעָרֵי יְהוּדָה וּבְחוּצוֹת לְרוֹשְׁלִים, קוֹל שְׂשׂוֹן וְקוֹל שִׂמְחָה, קוֹל חַתָּן וְקוֹל כַּלָּה, קוֹל מִצְהָלוֹת חַתָּנִים מִחֻפָּתָם, וְנִעָרִים מִמִּשְׁתֵּה נְגִינָתָם. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', מְשַׂמֵּחַ חַתָּן עִם הַכַּלָּה.

8. Cantor:

We praised Adonai for the fruit, for creation, for humanity, for blessings of life renewal, for joy and rejoicing, for love and companionship, laughter and song, pleasure and delight, harmony and celebration, peace and friendship.

And we wish all these blessings upon you, to harmonize and celebrate your friendship, your union, as we declare now, in the presence of all these witnesses, our Jewish community and before G!d, that Itay & Keren are united in קידושין, the sacred bond of marriage.



Priestly Benediction 🎵 Peri Smilow – May G!d bless you

At this moment,
as you are about to break the glass,
we recall the Talmudic tradition
of remembering the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. (BT B'rachot 30b–31b)
Even in this moment of joy,
we recognize that there is sadness in our history and in our world.
It is inevitable that the two of you will face moments of difficulty in your life together.
Like the Jewish people, may you overcome the challenges that you will face
and may you carry the joy of this moment with you forever.

Itay had asked to chant the traditional ancient text from Psalms 137:5-6, that his ancestors had all said upon stomping on the glass and starting their marriage journey together:

Im eshkech Yerushalayim
Tishkach y'mini
Tidbak leshoni lechiki
Im lo ezkerechi,
Im lo a'aleh et Yerushalayim
Al rosh simchati.

אִם אֶשְׁכַּח יְרוּשָׁלַיִם
תִּשְׁכַּח יְמִינִי,
תִּדְבַק לְשׁוֹנִי לְחִכִּי
אִם לֹא אֶזְכְּרֶנּוּ,
אִם לֹא אֶעֱלֶה אֶת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם
עַל רֹאשׁ שִׂמְחָתִי.

[Stomp on the glass.]



סִימָן טוֹב וּמִזָּל טוֹב
וּמִזָּל טוֹב וְסִימָן טוֹב
יְהִי לָנוּ
יְהִי לָנוּ יְהִי לָנוּ
וּלְכָל יִשְׂרָאֵל

And if they haven't yet...

You may now kiss as a married couple...