

The Wedding Ceremony of
Bob Wilson and Jon Dickman
Cherry Wood Village Chapel
Portland, Oregon
August 9th, 2014

Erev Shel Shoshanim

בְּרוּכִים הַבָּאִים בְּשֵׁם הָאֱהָבָה, וּבְשֵׁם הָאֱהָבָה תְּבָרְכוּ.

Blessed are all who come together in the name of love, and in the name of love we bless you.

We are here today to witness a very important and joyous event in the lives of Jon Dickman and Bob Wilson. We come together now to be with them as they enter into the promises and commitments of marriage.

Jon and Bob, your love for one another and your willingness to accept each other's strengths and weaknesses with understanding and respect will help cement the foundation for a strong and lasting marriage. Share your thoughts, experiences, and dreams with one another. Cherish the intimacy and understanding that comes with the passage of time. As you enter this union, your belief that marriage is a partnership between equal individuals with common goals, hopes, and dreams will give your lives special meaning and fulfillment.

Bob: We are happy today that we can share the joy of our love for each other with friends and family as well as have the opportunity to voice our aspirations for the future.

Jon: We aspire to help each other along our lives' paths—nurturing in each other the seeds of loving-kindness, compassion, equanimity, generosity, ethics, patience, joy, mindfulness, and wisdom.

Bob: We aspire to continue cultivating a love that makes both of us better people and that continues to give us joy and a zest for living, providing us with the energy to face the responsibilities of life.

Jon: We aspire to see all of life's circumstances, pleasant ones as well as challenging ones, as opportunities to help us to grow, to open our hearts; to accept ourselves, others and life itself; and to generate compassion.

Bob: We aspire to understand ourselves and each other, and to regard all the mysteries of life with curiosity and joy so we can be better friends to each other.

Jon: We aspire to preserve and enrich our affection for each other, and to share it with all beings. We will take the feelings we have for each other—of care, consideration, affection, and our vision of each other's potential and inner beauty— and we will look to these feelings as an example as we endeavor to open our hearts for *every* being.

Bob: We aspire to examine our own minds and continually have an open dialogue with each other so that this vision remains alive in our hearts.

Jon: We aspire that at the end of our lives we will be able to say: because we have loved each other, we have shared warmth and security and an inner peacefulness that has filled our hearts and been a blessing to our lives, and to the lives of others.

Bob: Together we will face all of life's experiences and share one another's dreams and goals.

Jon: We will be equal partners in an open, honest, loving relationship.

Vows **הַבְּטָחוֹת**

We now ask you to state your public commitments by exchanging vows of marriage. Turn and face one another and join hands.

Jon, do you take Bob to be your committed partner, your best friend, and your love?

Jon: "I do."

Will you commit your life to him, embracing all the joys and sorrows, all the triumphs and hardships; and will you love, honor, and be faithful to him for the rest of your life together?

Jon: "I will."

Bob, do you take Jon to be your committed partner, your best friend, and your love?

Bob: "I do."

Will you commit your life to him, embracing all the joys and sorrows, all the triumphs and hardships? Will you love, honor, and be faithful to him for the rest of your life together?

Bob: "I will."

Bob: Jon, it is my intention, with my utmost capabilities, to respect and support you, to be patient with and kind to you, to work together with you to achieve those things that are important to us, to accept you unconditionally, and to share life and love with you throughout the years.

Jon: Bob, it is my intention, with my utmost capabilities, to respect and support you, to be patient with and kind to you, to work together with you to achieve those things that are important to us, to accept you unconditionally, and to share life and love with you throughout the years.

Seven Blessings of Marriage

Because you have pledged yourselves to a life of concern and caring, it is our pleasure to pronounce these blessings of marriage:

יִתֵּן מֵעַשְׂיֵיכֶם שְׁלוֹם לְכֶם.

May your journey together bring you peace. May understanding foster a love that is not only passionate but serene. May this love between you be strong and enduring.

שְׁהַחַיִּים יַעֲנִיקוּ לְכֶם בְּרִיּוֹת בְּשִׁפְע.

May life bestow upon you good health in mind, body, and spirit. May you live long that you may share many happy years together.

שְׁפֹלָא הַטִּבַּע יִגַע בְּכֶם לֵלֵב.

May the wonder of nature continue to touch your heart.

יַעַר עֲלֵיכֶם אֹר הַחֲכָמָה.

May the light of wisdom shine upon you. May you continually learn from one another and from the world. Together, may you grow, deepening your knowledge and understanding of each other and of your journey through life.

שְׁתֵּהֶיָה לְכֶם מִתַּנַּת קְהִילָה.

May you have the gift of community. May you always be blessed with the awareness that you are an essential part of a circle of family and friends. May there always be within this group a sense of mutual love, trust, support, and respect.

שְׁתֵּהֶנוּ מִן הָאֲמֻנוֹת וְהַיּוֹפִי.

May you be blessed with art and beauty. May your creative aspirations and experiences find expression and bring you joy and fulfillment. May your sense of humor and playful spirit continue to enliven your relationship.

שְׁתֵּהֶינוּ תַּמִּיד יַדְדֵי-נַפְשׁ.

May you be best friends, better together than either of you are apart, working together to build a relationship of substance and quality, respecting each other's individual personality and philosophy, giving each other room to grow and fulfill each other's dreams.

Social activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton once wrote, "Nature, like a loving mother, is ever trying to keep land and sea, mountain and valley, each in its place, to hush the angry winds and waves, balance the extremes of heat and cold, of rain and drought, that peace, harmony, and beauty may reign supreme." Throughout your lives together, may you continue helping each other to calm life's tempestuous challenges, so that peace, harmony, and beauty may reign supreme for each of you.

The Glass הַזְכוּבִית

With the breaking of the glass, let us imagine that we are shattering the needless barriers that people erect between one another. May the bond between each of you that you strengthen with this marriage ceremony be a symbolic step toward all people strengthening their bonds with humanity, so that we may rebuild the world in compassion, unity, and peace.

After Bob and Jon break the glass, please offer your congratulations by loudly exclaiming the Hebrew words for “good fortune,” “*Mazel Tov*” (מַזֵּל טוֹב)! (Break the glass.)

All: “Mazel Tov!”

Bob and Jon, both of you have joined voluntarily in this ceremony of marriage, and have been formally united in the presence of your family and friends. And as you have declared openly your clear intention to be considered before all the world as a married couple, it is my distinct pleasure to declare you, Jon and Bob, two devoted companions. Complete this marriage ceremony with a hug.

Siman Tov and Mazel Tov

On the seventh day of the week, the thirteenth day of the month of Av in the year 5774, corresponding to the ninth day of August in the year 2014, here in Portland, Oregon, USA, in the presence of family and friends, the beloveds Jon Dickman and Bob Wilson entered into this covenant of marriage:

With this keubah we unite our hearts in tenderness and devotion. We will honor each other's culture as we link customs to form a trusting relationship. We will protect, support, and encourage each other as we create a loving future together. May our lives be intertwined forever and be as one in hope and in trust. As we share life's everyday experiences, we promise to strive for an intimacy that will enable us to share our innermost thoughts and feelings, to be sensitive at all times to each other's needs, to share life's joys and comfort each other through life's sorrows, to strive for spiritual and emotional tranquility. We promise to establish a home shaped by our respective heritages, a loving environment dedicated to peace, hope and respect for all people, a family filled with love and learning, goodness and generosity, compassion and integrity.

This marriage has been authorized by the civil authorities of the state of Oregon and the board of Kol Shalom, Community for Humanistic Judaism.

Groom

Groom

Witness

Witness

Officiant