

ORDER OF CEREMONY

CHUPPAH

PROCESSIONAL

Rabbi Colin Brodie
Officiant

Elise Ross
Sister of the Groom

Matthew Schulman
Brother of the Bride

Meghan Jackson
Friend of the Bride

Seth Offenbach David Ullmann
Friends of the Groom

Stephanie Falcioni
Friend of the Bride

Andrew Concatelli
Friend of the Groom

Spencer Ross
Escorted by his Parents
Marc and Nancy Ross

Judith Schulman
Escorted by her Parents
Jonathan and Linda Schulman

CIRCLING

KIDDUSHIN (BETROTHAL)
BIRKAT ERUSIN (BETROTHAL BLESSING)
RING CEREMONY

READING OF KETUBAH (WEDDING CONTRACT)

NISSUIN (NUPTIALS)
SHEVA BRACHOT (SEVEN BLESSINGS)
BREAKING OF THE GLASS

YICHUD (SECLUSION)

CEREMONY

KETUBAH (MARRIAGE CONTRACT) & BEDEKEN (VEILING CEREMONY)

Before the ceremony, Judi and Spencer will begin by signing a ketubah, which is a Jewish legal document written in Aramaic that specifies the groom's obligations to the bride. Their ketubah (featured on this program's cover) is also signed as witnessed by two of their close family friends.

Before proceeding to the chuppah (canopy), Spencer will lift and cover Judi's veil to make sure he's marrying the right woman. He wants to avoid making the same mistake that Jacob made when he first married Leah instead of Rachel, the woman he loved.

CHUPPAH (WEDDING CANOPY)

The chuppah symbolizes the home that Judi and Spencer will create. The sides are left open to signify that all friends and family are welcome into their new life and home.

CIRCLING

As in Ashkenazi communities, Judi will circle Spencer several times upon arriving at the chuppah. With these circles, Judi is creating an invisible "wall" around Spencer; into which she will step – to the exclusion of all others.

KIDDUSHIN (BETROTHAL)

Rabbi Brodie will recite the blessing over a cup of wine before saying the birkat erusin (betrothal blessing), which thanks G-d for sanctifying us with the mitzvah of betrothal. Judi and Spencer will both drink from this cup. Spencer will then place the wedding band on Judi's finger. While putting the ring on her finger, he recites the haray aht: "With this ring, you are consecrated to me according to the law of Moses and Israel." Judi will then do the same for Spencer.

NISSUIN (NUPTIALS)

The marriage ceremony begins with the sheva brachot (seven blessings) recited for the bride and groom over a second cup of wine. The first blessing is the blessing for wine, and the remaining six are marriage-themed blessings, which include special blessings for the newlywed couple. Judi and Spencer once again sip from the wine in the cup.

A cup is then wrapped in a large cloth napkin and placed beneath Spencer's foot. After he stomps and shatters the glass, everyone yells "Mazel tov!" Although there are many interpretations of this practice, including its symbolism of the destruction of Jerusalem, Judi and Spencer's favorite is one that takes its roots in Kabbalah. In this interpretation, the breaking of the glass symbolizes Creation, and reminds us of our Judaic obligations to Tikkun Olam (repairing the world).

YICHUD (SECLUSION)

Following Jewish tradition, after the ceremony, Judi and Spencer will spend their first few minutes alone as a newlywed couple before rejoining everyone in celebration.

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for their love and support and are grateful that you are all here today to celebrate the start of this new chapter of our relationship.

B'ahava,
Judi & Spencer



ANI L'DODI V'DODI LI
I AM MY BELOVED'S AND MY BELOVED IS MINE

*With love and affection,
we remember those who are not here with us today in person,
but whom we know are here with us everyday in spirit.*

Phillip Schulman
Grandfather of the Bride

Leo Teich
Grandfather of the Bride

Gladys Teich
Grandmother of the Bride

Frank Chartoff
Grandfather of the Groom

Sadye Chartoff
Grandmother of the Groom

Annette Epstein Ross
Grandmother of the Groom

Mary Epstein
Great-grandmother of the Groom

WELCOME TO THE WEDDING CEREMONY OF Judith Samara Schulman & Spencer Mitchel Ross



On the first day of the week, the seventeenth day of the month of Cheshvan in the year 5789, which corresponds to the sixth day of the month of September, in the year 2009, in Trumbull, Connecticut, the groom, Spencer Mitchel Ross, son of Nancy and Marc, and the bride, Judith Samara Schulman, daughter of Linda and Jonathan, entered into the holy covenant of marriage before God and these witnesses and said each to the other: "I betroth you to me forever. I betroth you to me in everlasting faithfulness. In the spirit of Jewish tradition, I will be your loving friend as you are mine. Set me as a seal upon your heart, like the seal upon your hand; for love is stronger than death. And I will cherish you, honor you, uphold and sustain you in all truth and sincerity. I will respect you and the divine image within you. I take you to be mine in love and tenderness. May my love for you last forever. May we be associated, one to the other, by these rings. Let our hearts be united in faith and hope. May your hearts beat as one in times of gladness as in times of sadness. Let our home be built in Torah and loving-kindness. May our home be rich with wisdom and reverence." This ketubah has been witnessed and signed according to the laws and traditions that began with Abraham and Sarah and continued through Moses and the people of Israel. It is valid and binding.

Bride
Groom
Witness
Witness
Rabbi

Sunday, September 6, 2009
Congregation B'nai Torah
Trumbull, Connecticut