SAME SEX COMMITMENT SPEECH

FOR

RON LEAVY

Hello everyone and welcome to the Leavy Summer of Love-Round 2!!! Leah and I are still floating on air as we experience the joys of commitment and true love as seen through the eyes and hearts of our 3 sons. We have been so blessed to have such wonderful children, and we are doubly blessed that each one has found his life’s mate. Today we celebrate Ethan and Matt …. and Winston, and the power of **Bashert**.” Thanks to modern technology and probably the unofficial foremost resource for knowing **ANYTHING**-otherwise known as Google, we can all know what that means. One’s Bashert is one’s soul mate, or some people think it can also mean something that is “meant to be.” Legend and technology conspired and formed something of a “perfect storm” when it came to the meeting of Ethan and Matt.

Their love story is truly a modern one, filled with websites, searching, persevering and **Bingo**! **Success**!!!! Of course, **some** may call it success, but we believe it was Bashert. They originally saw each other on iDate, but due to “budgetary restrictions,” hesitated to make a connection. When something is meant to be, it happens, and sure enough, they got to meet through another website, and now Ethan and Matt can attest to the fact that, as the line goes, 1 in 5 dates ends up in marriage! It also makes me think that with the pervasiveness of Apple products dominating our lives and lifestyles, did it ever occur to any of you that Steve Jobs had a missed opportunity-he could have revamped the way we marry and it simply would have been called, “**Ido!**!” Get it-ipod, ipad, ido? (**Wait for the groan**).

Matt, although you grew up on the other side of the country in **Short Hills**, New Jersey, what’s a little geography when it comes to something that was meant to be? You found your way out west to San Francisco, or, as we like to call it-just to make you feel a little more at home … **TALL Hills** …(**Say this with a little exaggeration and wait for the groan**) and met your destiny. Leah and I and Ethan’s brothers and their families are thrilled to welcome you to the Leavy family and we embrace you as our newest son. I also want to extend a truly heartfelt Mazel Tov to your parents, Gayle and Steve and to your brothers and their families. The Leavy-Kernkrauts make quite a team!

As I was researching some information to put together thoughts for this beautiful event, I wanted to read more about what “Bashert” really means. Although we already know it means soul mate or something that was meant to be, I wanted to dig a little deeper and find some more information. I found out that, according to the Talmud, 40 days before a male child is conceived, a voice from heaven announces who he is going to marry, making it a “match made in Heaven.” Ethan and Matt, you 2 were destined for each other, and today we witness the proof of that. It seems that voice from heaven had another announcement concerning our happy couple-it’s clear that Winston was bashert for the both of them as well! The 2 of you are fine young men who make a positive and indelible contribution to your families, friends and the world around you, and we’re all very proud of you.

It’s very fitting that Ethan and Matt have chosen to be married in this beautiful and historic **shul**. Temple Emanu-el has been a beacon of acceptance, community and compassion since 1850. We think of Tikkun Olam as the healing of a broken world, and sometimes we think the **rest of the world** is broken and it is our mandate to heal **THEM**. There are many parts of **our** world that need healing and some of those parts are very close to us. Being able to stand in this beautiful and historic temple and witness my son marry the man he loves shows me that although it’s not quite there yet, some parts of **our** broken world may be healing, bit by bit. To Ethan and Matt, the roots of Temple Emanu-el were planted and nurtured with a true pioneer spirit, and from the bottom of my heart, I congratulate the two of you as you stand before us and commit yourselves to each other. We all live for the day when everyone will be free to marry whomever he or she chooses, wherever they choose. Thank you or having the courage to love each other and to share your joy with us, and to you, let us all lift a glass and say, **L’Chaim**!