WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

RON LEAVY

Hello everyone! Welcome to our final wonderful stop on the “2012 Leavy Love Tour!” For those of you who have been with us for all 3 weddings, we want to thank you for sharing our joy **(If you want to be funny, you can say, “…and for coming up with 3 great outfits!**”). To Leah’s family \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thanks so much for traveling from Mexico to be with us for this special occasion. It means so much to us that you are able share our joy here, in person. We also want to extend a special and warm welcome to our friends Mimmo and Clara Pappalardo, who came all the way from Italy to be here with us today. Having all of you guests here is so special to us and we will always remember how wonderful it’s been to have you share this day with us. Leah and I have had the time of our lives “kvelling” as all of our kids “make it legal” with their significant others throughout this wonderful summer. For those of you who may not know, “Kvell” is a Yiddish word that means, “burst with pride.” Can’t you tell? Leah and I have not been able to stop smiling for several months. It’s a good problem! I wonder if 2012 has any numerological significance, because it sure has meant something in **OUR** family! Of course, after tonight (**today?**), the both of us will either need a support group for “wedding withdrawal” or a really loooong vacation. Can someone tell us, what is life like without having to plan a wedding? (**Say this in a pleading tone and wait for the laugh**). Oh well-we can worry about that tomorrow-today we celebrate Josh and Jennifer!

As we all witness the wedding of Josh and Jennifer, it’s clear to me that the word of the day is “Bashert.” Yes, I am throwing you another Yiddish curveball!!! The conversation that fills this wedding will hopefully be lively and polyglot, so in between the English, Spanish and Italian, let’s have a little Yiddish! Bashert means “intended” or meant to be,” and from the moment Josh met Jennifer, this was clear. The way they met is classic yet modern, as is illustrated by the words “**bashert** and “**long board**” being used in the same thought. You see, as Jennifer tells it, the spark was ignited on the first day of their freshman year at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ University. The class was computer art and Jennifer was feeling a little shy, so she sat in the back of the classroom. The empty seat next to her was soon occupied by none other than Josh, who placed his long board under the desk and started a conversation with Jennifer. It turns out that not only did Josh and Jennifer both come from Burlingame; they grew up **right around the corner from each other** and knew several of the same people. Jewish legend has it that 40 days before the creation of a child, a heavenly voice proclaims, “the child of family A is intended for the child of family B,” and also just so happened to plunk these two down in Burlingame!! (**Wait for the laugh**). All of this just proves the point that if something’s meant to be, it happens, and we’re very happy it did!

Jennifer and Josh make a beautiful couple and a perfect match. Josh’s kinetic energy is complemented by Jennifer’s patience. As they blend together, the best of both emerge. Jennifer’s mellow; Josh is always on the move. Now Jennifer snowboards and Josh is considering slowing down for one or two seconds! They are both vibrant and bright and love the same things. From the Giants to the 49ers, they are a joy to observe as all of you know, and Leah and I are so happy to welcome Jennifer to our family. We would also like to congratulate our “Machatunim,” –that’s Yiddish for in-laws, (**If you want to say, as an aside, “Who I am sure are learning lots of new languages tonight”**) Jennifer’s parents, Maria and John, (**If she has brothers and sisters, you can mention them too**) and her brothers and sisters, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,. We are so blessed to have our sons find such wonderful mates and I am so proud of our expanded family!

(**If you want to propose a toast, you can say the following, or just say it without the “I’d like to propose a toast”)** [I’d like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast.] To Jennifer and Josh, I am sure the two of you are **walking (or “boarding”) on air**, and although, thanks to technology, in the near future life will be lived almost completely **“on a cloud”(-**in spite of Jennifer’s connections to real estate), I want to congratulate the two of you for being wonderful and “**down to earth**” people who share your joy of life for and with each other and with those around you. Congratulations and may you have a lifetime of love, health, happiness, patience and excitement-**it was meant to be**! We love you!

Thank you all!