WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

GEOFF BLAKE

Ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered here ~~tod…..~~ Oh wait a minute-someone else already said that. I thought it sounded familiar… **(Look a little puzzled and wait for the laugh. If they don’t typically say, “we are gathered here today,” substitute a more typical expression used in French weddings that would fit here and get a laugh**). Okay… let’s try that again… Ladies and gentlemen, Mesdames et messieurs… It is a great privilege to welcome all of you here today to celebrate the marriage of Bertrand and Sam. It’s wonderful to witness the joy and love our grooms share and it’s a real testament to the times we live in that with all that is going on in the world, two people who truly love each other can finally and legally…. make each other miserable… or elated… your choice!! It’s particularly momentous when parents can share such joy and I want to extend special congratulations to Bertrand’s parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and to Sam’s parents as well, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Although we don’t really know each other yet, sharing this very special moment brings us all together. Every time we, as human beings get the chance to celebrate gay marriage, history is made and I live for the day when distinctions are blurred and everyone, throughout the world, has the right to marry… (**If you feel it’s appropriate to get a little “saucy” you can say**) and argue with… whomever they choose. As it was so tunefully advised to us by several chaps whose wit and wisdom informed generations, “Always look on the bright side of life,” and by George, I think this wedding serves to encourage all of us to find optimism and faith in the human race. Yes, we’ve all come a long way, baby!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Bertrand and I have been friends for several years…. Okay six… so I knew him, but I had no idea what he might have wanted when he first approached me several months ago…. I mean, what was I expecting…. The **SPANISH INQUISITION???**  **NOBODY** expects the Spanish Inquisition!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I was rather relieved when all he needed was to ask if I would be his best man. Of course I was rather surprised when he asked, seeing as how we really didn’t know each other **THAT** well and I knew very little about the first twenty-five years of his life…. and then I realized… that was the tipping point!! That was why I was probably selected!! He thought he was safe, but my two greatest weapons as best man are fear and surprise… and ruthless efficiency… wait a minute… my three greatest weapons as best man are…. anyway…One secret Bertrand may not know about me is that I’ve only been a best man one time in the past. (**Turn to Bertrand and say**) Don’t worry-we’re still talking…. Is the couple from that marriage still talking? **THAT’s** another story….. But tonight WE will celebrate!! We will drink wonderful wine!!! We will eat delicious food!!! We will all enjoy this spectacular scene and get to know each other and maybe even practice some silly walks… We will keep Bertrand guessing as to what cringe-worthy and embarrassing stories I dug up about him, and those of you who may not have known me before this wedding will turn to one another and say…. “Pourquoi???” Why him??? **Wait for the laugh**)

Bertrand and Sam, before I go on and on and on and…. and risk the chance of enchanting all of these beautiful guests to the point narcolepsy, I want to thank you… for the privilege of having the opportunity to honor you, embarrass myself, and share your happiness. You are gregarious, and hospitable, well traveled and supportive, my daughter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thinks you’re wonderful and we all know where she gets **HER** taste from…. and I know from our friendship that you and Sam make a wonderful couple… he told me to say that… actually he gave me a long list of how to properly behave…oh wait… never mind… I got that mixed up with the warning letter I received from Human Resources at work…. Okay forget you ever heard that….(**Wait for the laugh**).

I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to Mr. and Mr \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

In the words of a gawky but gifted troubadour of our time named Eric Idle (**These are the lyrics to “Always Look on the Bright Side of Life”-use all or part of what you think is appropriate. Recite this part with gravitas and eloquence)**,

Cheer up….You know what they say.

Some things in life are bad,

They can really make you mad.

Other things just make you swear and curse.

When you're chewing on life's gristle,

Don't grumble, give a whistle!

And this'll help things turn out for the best...

And...

…Always look on the bright side of life!!

If life seems jolly rotten,

There’s something you’ve forgotten!

And that’s to laugh and smile and dance and sing,

When you’re feeling in the dumps

Don’t be silly chumps,

Just purse your lips and whistle—That’s the thing!

And…. **Always** look on the bright side of life!! (**Whistle the best you can**)

Congratulations Bertrand and Sam and here’s to a long life of love, happiness, health and humor… on the bright side of life!!! Thank you all!