WEDDING SPEECH/TOAST

FOR

NANCY REED

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Hello everyone!! I’m sure each and every one of you will agree that it is truly a joy to be here today to share this incredible occasion…the marriage of two remarkable people-my brother Jerry to this wonderful, talented man Tucker. This is a beautiful, historic, and long awaited celebration, so **fasten your seatbelts**!!!.... **(Stop** **abruptly and say**) Oh. Wait a minute… **THAT’s** my **day** job!! (**Wait for the laugh**). **[To all of you “would be” Margo Channing’s with us** **today….]** don’t worry-I checked the weather report-there’s no more turbulence!! No bumpy rides!! There will be only smooth sailing ahead for these two!! I want to acknowledge Peter and Marta Salovey for your hospitality that is really beyond gracious!! Peter, your unflagging support for equal rights for everyone is an inspiration and I am proud and thankful for all that you have contributed to make this, and all gay marriage, possible.

I have to say that it’s a real honor to be able to stand up for my brother Jerry. I mean let’s face it… I couldn’t have asked for a better brother…. not that I didn’t try, mind you. Remember how you used to make me roll up the newspapers while you played in the pool??? Jerry, we were close but even those differences brought us closer together… really-to the point where we had to be separated…. as we dangerously approached getting a case of the **goofies**…(**Wait for the laugh**). But most of the time the three of us really loved to laugh and play and we always supported each other…. you, Linda and I… you always showed an interest in building things, and you really knew how to guide us to make those human pyramids… they were GREAT!! We were never as close as when we formed that ancient shape… As long as everyone remembered that the youngest kid got to be on top!! I just have to say that I’m so happy that Linda got to know Tucker and I am SURE she is looking down and smiling on this very happy day.

Jerry, who would have thought back then when you “met that guy who was rolling in dough” …. baked goods, Tucker…. **BAKED GOODS**… that you would be scrubbing your birch trees in preparation to “make it legal” twenty-three years later. I now know that dreams **DO** come true… and now that this is really official, I just want to make sure that Mom, who has been slaving away all week as baking support in the kitchen, making **THOUSANDS** of cookies for this day, knows what a great job she did …and by the way, I have to say Dad would be so proud… and happy that he doesn’t have to help with directing KP!! And one other teeny thing that I have to mention- now that Tucker and Jerry are married, Mom, let’s hope you now have an “all access pass” to Tucker’s recipes!! I mean…. \*\*\* Cue the Sister Sledge music\*\*\* … because **FINALLY**… “WE ARE **FA**-**MI**-**LY**!!! And more importantly, with the recipes and the rampant creativity and the fun comes Tucker’s 3 great kids, Conor, Isabell and Lucian. Combine that with Mom, Gene, and our kids Sheldon and Sharon, I’d say we hit the jackpot!! We really are blessed.

Jerry, growing up you were, and still are, an inspiration to me. You were my big brother. You were always building… searching for that next “thing,” always with a terrific sense of fun and humor combined with your childlike wonder and sense of awe…trying to identify and then travel on “the road not taken.” Ironically while you were focusing on the road not taken, I was travelling “the flight path many took,” but that’s for another story…. (**Wait for the laugh**)… but the great thing about you is that you took us all along on your amazing journey on that uncharted path and what a view we’ve had!!! Fortunately for all of us, there was and is a rainbow at the end of the path, and that’s where you found Tucker, and now you two will start on a new adventure and lead others who are lucky enough to find love in a new era. I hope we all realize the importance of this day and of this moment and I’m so happy for the both of you and our new family.

At my wedding Lin popped out Oscar the Grouch and in celebration of the childlike wonder in all of us and especially in the two of you, I would like invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to our very happy couple:

To Jerry and Tucker, Rod Stewart said it best when he wrote the lyrics to “Forever Young:” (**Speak the lyrics as though it were a poem**)

“May the good Lord be with you

Down every road you roam

And may sunshine and happiness

Surround you when you're far from home.

…..And whatever road you choose

I'm right behind you, win or lose

Forever Young”

Here’s to a lifetime together of love, laughter, health and happiness… and lots of **“dough”** and tons of **“dirt”** on whatever road you choose. Congratulations!! We love you!!