**PARENTS OF GROOM SPEECH**

**FOR**

**SIMON AND LANA SHKOLYAR**

**\*\*\* Below is the suggested way to break up the speech between the two of you. Please feel free to switch parts either of you feel more comfortable/appropriate saying**

**SIMON**: Hello everyone and welcome to this wonderful moment. We're so happy to see all of you at this, the wedding of our son, Gene, to the beautiful and brilliant Elizabeth. Whether you came from nearby or from far away.... we appreciate the efforts all of you have made to be here to witness our joy and we also know that there is one thing foremost on everyone's mind.... **PARKING**! (**Wait for the laugh**) all jokes aside, when love, celebration, and Uber are involved, somehow it all works out.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Elizabeth's family (**Name the father and mother and mention any siblings or any special relatives**). To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**mother**) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**father**), and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we are so happy to be a part of this newly expanded family. You know how much we love and respect Elizabeth and we know how important family is to both Of our kids and we look forward to many more exciting, loving, family gatherings.

**LANA**: What can a mother say about her son? That he's handsome? Brilliant? Thoughtful? Compassionate? Considerate? .... Well, I know I can say that without hesitation! (**Wait for the laugh)**

**SIMON:** Clearly he takes after **ME!!!** (**Lana- look at Simon with a sidewise sneer and wait for the laugh)**

**LANA**: no, really.. he was always a very special child... he seemed to be wise beyond his years and as bright as ..... well... okay... as bright as the lights in a surgical theater... how's **THAT** for a plug? Even as a young child, he was intent on establishing traditions. Each night as he got ready for bed, he would not fall asleep until I read to him... always the same book, the Goodnight book (**Do you mean "Goodnight Moon?" I think it would be really cute if you got a copy of the book, wrapped it up and said this**) ... and it had to be the **ENTIRE** book.... **EVERY. SINGLE. NIGHT.**. And did he catch me if I skipped a page? **ABSOLUTELY**...Knowing of Gene's love of family and traditions and the importance of a good night's sleep, Elizabeth, I pass the "**TORCH**" to you (**hand Elizabeth the gift wrapped book and wait for the laugh**).

SIMON: Yes. His determination revealed itself at a ripe young age. He would always tell us that his practice or sports event started thirty minutes earlier than actual to make sure we were there on time.... What kid **DOES** that??? And he showed the same spirit, respect, and focus when he learned how to dive, how to snowboard...and he's used that same concentration and drive in his career as a surgeon. Lana and I are so proud of him!

**LANA**: Does a mother shed some tears when her son says he's going to move out... not around the corner or down the block or into another borough, but to .... **LOS ANGELES?!?! (Wring your hands a bit and say) WHAT?** We don't have decent medical schools and teaching hospitals here in **THE CENTER OF THE ~~UNIV~~**... I mean New York? Who would read him his bedtime storybook... which by the way would probably have advanced to **Netter's Atlas of the Human Anatomy.**... only the pictures aren't as cute?? (**Wait for the laugh**) .... as it turns out.... destiny had a bigger better plan...

**SIMON**: I guess it's admirable that our son is a formidable multitasker, because while he was **SUPPOSED** to be concentrating on medical school, he met and fell in love with Elizabeth, our new daughter. The two of them are a beautiful couple and a dynamic team... driven dedicated surgeons... and now Lana and I have **TWO** fantastic doctors to call ours!

**LANA**: we are a family of immigrants. We left the former Soviet Union and we know the importance of strength in family. Although our roots began halfway around the world, we also know that Elizabeth and her family, with their roots so deeply planted here in this country for so many generations, share the same love, respect, and focus on the importance of family. It's that HUMANITY and LOVE that connect all of us.

**SIMON**: Gene, Elizabeth, we are so proud of you and we are so gratified to witness your happiness. (**If you want to propose a toast you can mention that or go into the final sentence**)

[I'd like to invite all of you to raise a glass as we propose a toast to the bride and groom]:

Bertrand Russell said, "The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge." Elizabeth and Gene, you've been blessed with both as well as the wisdom to recognize and honor those gifts. May your life be filled with happiness and health, honor, love and respect, and more of everything you might ever wish for!

**SIMON AND LANA:** Congratulations! We love you!