**WEDDING SPEECH (Friday night)**

**FOR**

**HOWARD KLEIN**

Hello everyone… (**Tap the mike and say**) **TESTING**… can you hear me in the back? (**And wait for the laugh**)… we've been caught up in this wedding whirl and a few months back, Pearl came to me and mentioned she was going to plan a rehearsal dinner for the Friday night before the wedding… you know… intimate… friends and family…. (**Turn to your wife and say**) Honey…. You didn't even give me a chance to have stage fright!!! (**wait for the laugh**). But it's all good. I mean… **TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY** of our nearest and dearest… this is **TRULY** a **MITZVAH**… the only down side is apparently… **VERSAILLES WAS BOOKED FOR THE EVENING?!?! (Wait for the laugh)…** I've learned over the years, size is relative and it's not like we had to book Wrigley Field or anything like that… I also want to mention that for any of you that have had the good fortune to play golf with Pearl, well, you might have noticed her math is …. Uh…. A little fuzzy. You know that after each round you might have to tabulate the score… three…. Four times…whip out a calculator to double check… see where the mistakes might be… see if anything might have been “left out,” but let me tell you…. She can look around this room with military precision and **KNOW… WITH ONE HUNDRED PERCENT ACCURACY, ALL 250 PEOPLE** here tonight, their geographic quadrants, which chair they're sitting on…. And she can do it **ALL** without so much as a **GLANCE** at a note or her phone. What a remarkable woman my wife is!! **(Wait for the laugh**).

As I just said, being here with so many true close friends and family is the real gift in life and I want to acknowledge all of you for taking the time to travel from far and wide to be with us and share our joy. Thank you for coming here from Canada…. From Mexico… from all over the United States… it really means so much to us. I would like to make a very special acknowledgement to the Levin family who braved the crosstown traffic…. possibly without snacks or bottled water… and **STILL** made it here in **one piece**. It's such a comfort to know that Amy comes from such strong and determined stock… (**Wait for the laugh**)

Well….We finally made it….and here we are to share in Amy and Daniel’s wedding weekend. I'd like to take a moment to welcome the Levin’s to our family and I can't wait to see what the future holds for all of us. Pearl and I have been blessed with two amazing children…. Daniel and Erin, and now we have a third, our wonderful daughter-in-law, Amy. I will never forget **THE CALL.** Daniel let us know he was bringing a young woman to Florida for the weekend… come to think about it, that's probably when Pearl started planning **THIS** little shindig… (**Wait for the laugh**) … let’s think of Pearl as **proactive**…. Anyway, I, too, had a feeling this might be serious and I was very curious…. And observant. Upon her arrival, Amy engaged me in conversation and asked me all sorts of questions…everything from my early childhood to my professional career. It didn't take long for me to understand that she wasn't just making conversation….Amy was truly interested to learn about Daniel’s family because she sincerely cares (**Do you want to add**) … and after all, I **AM ME**…. (**And wait for the laugh**) As Amy is really Ms. Fashionista, she dazzled us with several wardrobe changes and with great foresight…. **again**… Pearl had arranged to have some professional family photos taken, and Amy didn't miss a beat…. She refined our looks… she showed us where and how to stand… she demonstrated that she was a real take charge kind of girl and she fit right in…. I knew then we all hit it off immediately… of course I saw Pearl occasionally drift off in reverie…. Working on the seating arrangements for tonight…. (**Wait for the laugh**).

So here we stand at the precipice of our son’s marriage. A new exciting chapter of his…. and Amy’s life has begun and we couldn't be happier. Of course these occasions naturally prompt reminiscence (**Do you want to add**) and I can hear the dulcet tones of Zero Mostel whispering “Sunrise Sunset…” (**Wait for the laugh)** but I also recall when Daniel was just a little boy…. Daniel, do you remember when you were six years old and you told us you wanted to run away from home? I want you to know that I’’m really glad you changed your mind. You've been the perfect son… oh. Wait… almost perfect… you don't golf (**wait for the laugh**)… but we still love you beyond words.

And I want to say that truth be told, I can't take **ALL** of the credit for how great Daniel and his sister Erin turned out… just most of it. As the book title says, It Takes a Village to Raise A Child…. And I want you all to know that Pearl is the Mayor of that village, and she had lots of support and encouragement….all of the help in Cherry Hill from friends who are really more like family… our family and friends from Montreal… all of whom Daniel LOVES to spend time with… Daniel’s GW and Kellogg buddies… and of course the “crews” from Florida and Aspen… ALL of you have contributed to making Daniel the man he is today. There is an expression that goes, “I am part of all that I have met.” Thank goodness it's true, especially with this crowd…. We could not have wished for better, more caring family and friends.

Amy, Daniel, as you embark on life together, there are some small things I want you to know. Daniel, you're a brilliant young man… you've travelled the world… you have passions and interests that continue to mold and shape you into the wise and caring man you’ve become…. You're independent… single minded… driven….and that's all great, but there's one thing we might have failed at as parents and it's Amy’s turn to try…please show him how to get to the trash can in the garage. Thanks (**wait for the laugh**). Maybe you can add a GPS or drop a permanent pin on his maps app? Maybe hide a book at the bottom so he homes in on it? You’ll figure it out. I have faith…

To Jay, we are so happy to now have an orthopedic surgeon in the family… especially for all of the dancing we anticipate tomorrow… after the bar opens up. Also with the Canadian health care system, I'm gonna guess your phone is going to get pretty busy waiting for you to give free advice to family members… Brenda, thanks for sharing your home and hospitality… we feel so welcomed and look forward to celebrating many more happy occasions. To Melissa, Dan, and Dina, Brian and Sarah, welcome to the Global Village. You're all now a part of a very extended family!

Pearl and I have been waiting for this moment for a very long time. To have the joy and blessing to dance at our son’s wedding, especially since it's to such a wonderful young woman, is a dream come true. I know we’ll have a great time because it means so much to Daniel and Amy, and they both played a huge part in the planning of this great event. So… no pressure…. But **CELEBRATE**! Have the time of your lives in honor of these two!

I'd like to propose a toast…. to Amy and Daniel… as you look around this room…. If you can see that far…. (**Wait for the laugh**) know that each smile represents a thousand good wishes for your health and happiness for a long and fruitful marriage. May the two of you know the best of all worlds and continue to grow in partnership and love. Let the celebration begin!