**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ROBERT FOGEL**

[**ROBERT**] Thank you all for coming and sharing this wonderful day with us. What a joy it is that Sarah and Adam have married and we couldn’t be happier to have a new daughter join our family. Sarah, we were thrilled when you said, “Yes” and, if it’s possible, we are even happier that the two of you have finally said, “I do” today. (**I’m naming Sarah’s father and mother separately since they are divorced. Not sure if it’s necessary to name their spouses... what do you think?**). We’d like to extend to you, Marsha, and to you, Bruce, congratulations and many thanks for raising a wonderful, intelligent, lovely.... **daughter-in-law**!!! We know this is just the first of many happy times for our growing, blended family and we are thrilled.

[**NANCY**] Since he was a young boy, Adam has always been rather brilliant, very focused, fiercely independent, highly tolerant, totally self motivated, and **modest**... and we want all of you to know that we say this from a **COMPLETELY** neutral position... it wasn’t like he was the first born **PRINCE** I mean male child in a traditional Long Island Jewish **dynasty**, mind you... (**Wait for the laugh**).

(**If you think this will make sense, ROBERT can step in and say**)... and when he was a baby it wasn’t like we walked around the house holding his little swaddled body over our heads and singing the soundtrack from “Tommy” by The Who .... “ **A SON!!! A SON!!!** (**Wait for the laugh**).

[**ROBERT**] Adam has always reminded us of the story of the “Little Engine That Could. He was an adorable, determined little boy…who wore glasses and braces…he was short and didn’t grow till his mid- teens... It took time for him to “ripen” but in his own time he evolved into a tall, dark, handsome doctor…with a great heart and soul…and neither Nancy nor I can imagine being more proud of him than we already are.

[**NANCY**] I remember one time that he received a very special Lego set from his grandmother and even though we had just returned home after a very long flight from Hawaii he stayed up all night to complete it. We would spend time seeking out mom/son activities, so we signed up for Karate when Adam was 10yrs old. It took years for us both to become black belts …I have such sweet memories of us practicing our “kadas and pinions” together in the living room and passing our black belt test together. Over the years our skills have diversified... as most of you know, Adam now has a “black belt” in Psychiatry and I’ve swapped mine out for a slightly more fashionable number (**Name the hot designer.... Is Gucci too pretentious? Coach? Fill in what works for you**) from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**and wait for the laugh**).

Years later Adam and I learned to play golf together…it wasn’t easy being on the course in those early days- missing shots regularly and playing in our sneakers next to experienced players. But Adam kept it up... remember that **determination**... and started playing with his dad and others, and today his golf skills have really improved ….especially with a cigar and a Budweiser in hand. (**Robert, you can step in and say**) Adam? One thing...Just please remember to blow that cigar smoke in the other direction... psych out our opponents!!! (**and wait for the laugh**).

[**NANCY**] Adam rarely complains…and while he likes his luxuries as much as anyone, like **a true prince among men**, he is able to live with the bare necessities. In college he chose to live off campus with friends. When the only room available was the unheated attic, he rejected our offer to live in a brand new apartment with amenities. Bees flitted in and out through the broken attic windows and the only person who could stand in the attic was me, his 5ft. 2in mother! [**ROBERT**] He reminded us that “heat rises” and that he would be fine living in the attic in the winter in Binghamton, NY and to get to the washer he literally had to walk a plank in the basement as the floor was muddy!! The attic turned out to be the best room in the house! Adam lived in that house for two years and never complained once! The day after graduation, the house was condemned by the town and destroyed. (**You can add**) [**NANCY**]. Yeah... he made the most out of living in that apartment. I do wonder, though, if he ever started a side business selling the honey from those bees... legend has it he didn’t tell us everything....

[**ROBERT**] Funny you should mention that, Nancy... We **KNOW** Adam has always been **very** independent. ... He **RARELY** ever wanted to bother us or scare us with adventures gone awry... but I guess college kids.... even fabulous and brilliant **scions** overlook details... Will we **ever** forget **that time**... during a college party he fell and received stitches at the local hospital? Did he call us? No! Adam tended to his own medical needs... uh... Adam... did you forget we would probably notice a **hospital bill** for $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?... Because it arrived... weeks later...**SURPRISE**!!!

[**NANCY**] After college we encouraged Adam to take a gap year and travel before pursuing his next move. Not Adam. Totally self- directed, he rejected our suggestion and began medical school immediately. Ten years later he is a board certified psychiatrist with a brand new job!

[**ROBERT**] Yes... the awkwardness... the uncertainty... the semi Bohemian air has all morphed and matured...and we can imagine, as all of you gaze admiringly at this handsome groom with his beautiful bride, that Adam has come a long way... You might be wondering, “How could this specimen to the glory of youth and potential even have **had** “cave man” days??? But he **HAS EVOLVED**... …he is a talented cook with a sophisticated palate…he can whip up great lasagna and Caesar salad with appropriate wine paring.

[**NANCY**] ... and let’s not forget that he can be very funny in a sarcastic way! [**ROBERT**]... I think it’s pretty clear where **THAT** comes from!! (**Wait for the laugh**).And also keep **THIS** in mind, all you Patriots fans... Just know he is a fearsome Jet fan so beware of the tempest.... He survived killer bees and condemned houses... his loyalty to the Jets will **PREVAIL**!!!

[**NANCY**] Sarah and Adam, you are now husband and wife... you’ve built a bridge between families that represents the span of generations... you’re both blessed with family that love you... and your grandparents, Iris, Bunny, Lily, and Lenny, knock on wood, show us all that vitality knows no age... to them 92 is the new 75! (**Wait for the laugh**)... what it really means is that we are **ALL** blessed with a legacy and we know that this marriage will honor both past and future generations...

[**ROBERT**] I’d like to invite you all to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Sarah and Adam... here’s to a life filled with love and conversation, partnership and prosperity, independence, and constant, inspiring, growth. Congratulations! We love you!