**BIRTHDAY SPEECH**

**FOR**

**EDWARD KHALAMEIZER**

Hello everyone and thank you for being here to share this great occasion!!! Tonight we’re here to celebrate a milestone for a woman that means so much to all of us.... she’s a wonderful daughter to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, sister, and sister-in-law, cousin.... a super mom to our beautiful children, Abigail and Gregory... a great friend and reliable colleague... and of course, to me, a devoted, loving and fierce champion, partner, and wife. Of all the blessings I have had in my life, Frieda is at the root of almost all of them, and although it’s fun to have parties like this one, the truth is that I celebrate and thank G-d every day for the life we have built together. (**If you want to make a little joke, turn to Frieda and say**).... Honey... did I get that all correct??? I tried to memorize your notes... (**and wait for the laugh**).

Anyone that knows Frieda.... and that would be **ALL** of you, and then some, knows how important facts and figures are to this very special woman... so is precision, focus, and discipline. As I was thinking of what to say tonight, I realized that our meeting... our marriage... and our life together can be broken down by the numbers.... so here goes.... it was **TWENTY** years ago that I had the great good fortune to meet a young woman named Frieda... we met through a mutual friend, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at a party in Los Angeles. I remember playing tour guide and showing Frieda and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who is here tonight, the sights and sounds of LA.... I must have been really thorough..... after all, well... **LA**... sprawling, exciting, exhausting city that it is... we must have gotten a huge dose of fresh air and a good amount of culture shock from the sights and sounds...Beverly Hills... Hollywood... the Santa Monica Pier (**Or name three other places you took them**) ... but clearly the insane traffic gave us time to connect... to bond... to get to know each other over the honking horns and the cast of characters we met along the way.

As I recall, I had been working for **TWENTY-FOUR** hours prior to our mini-tour and I was exhausted... so much so, that when our tour was completed, I crashed and conked out on the floor of their hotel room ... of course to someone that barely knew me, Frieda had the right to be cautious.... okay, let’s be real...**SCARED**... but something inside me sensed the future and I didn’t want to leave. I **DID**, however, **REALLY** want to sleep... (**Wait for the laugh**). I woke up, pulled myself together, and the rest is history...

The distance between LA and Dallas is about **1436.5 miles**. After **TWO** years of long distance dating, my future beckoned... the beautiful brainy woman I met at that party in LA inspired the move... called my name... and set us both on a new course of life. We married in\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.... many of you were there.... and our life together keep building... the joy keeps adding up... the memories **multiply**...

I am so proud of our life together... of our family... of the way Frieda brings her devotion to all of us... **EH**... some more than others... her focus is legendary... of course she’s a wiz at math...her skills with budgets, planning.... organization, are remarkable, which is really good because me??? **Not so much**... (**Wait for the laugh**). she keeps her phone on mute... doesn’t check her messages... she’s concentrating... remember??? She is an independent thinker.... and is willing to go that extra mile to prove her point... but let’s keep politics out of it tonight!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Her analytical mind is a gift... her ability to coordinate the kids’ sports schedules, provide a loving home for Abigail and Gregory and me, keep the “books balanced” in every aspect possible, is amazing.... she can be a tough disciplinarian... with Abigail and me... but **BOY** does her soft side come out when it comes to Gregory!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Okay... I admit it... she spoils our son... and so do I!! Maybe it’s because we named him after Frieda’s wonderful father, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and although we miss him every day, he remains in our hearts and thoughts.

So, there you have it... **ONE** singular woman... someone who’s **always** right... in the **best** way possible.... but you know what? I was right when it **REALLY** counted...when I realized what a treasure she was and is when we first met...

Frieda turns **FORTY FIVE**... celebrating with so many good, loving friends and family.....acknowledging **COUNTLESS** blessings... I would say here’s to **FORTY-FIVE** more... but that wouldn’t be enough. I’m selfish... Let’s say, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** and **ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY MORE**...

(**If you want to make a toast, you can say)**.... Ladies and gentlemen (**and if kids are present)**.... and kids.... Let’s raise a glass as I propose a toast to our birthday girl...

To Frieda... thanks to you, life **adds up**... here’s to happiness... love... devotion...good health, and more than you might ever wish for in the future... and thanks for not kicking me out of that hotel room **TWENTY** years ago!!! I love you!!! Thank you all!!