**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**STEVN BARON**

Hello everyone.... if you’re within the sound of my voice, I think you will all agree that we have a great deal to celebrate.... there’s so much for us to appreciate.... not the least of which are love, tradition, family, friends, wide open spaces, and, of course technology!!! Wendy and I are so thrilled for Sloan and Aaron and we’re equally thrilled that all of you are able to be here, by hook or by crook .... or Zoom, to share our “naches.” (**Are you okay with using a little Yiddish? If not, use “joy.”**). Many of us have heard the Latin expression, “Amor vincit omnia”.... “Love conquers all....” I believe today’s festivities and Sloan and Aaron’s determination amply demonstrate that!!!

There are silver linings to be revealed as we navigate the “new normal....” This beautiful ceremony and all of your participation can now be preserved for all time....and while the original event would have included “**only**” three hundred and fifty of Sloan and Aaron’s “**nearest and dearest**,” the sky’s the limit now!!!! So, without further ado... I’d like to acknowledge some people.

To Rabbi \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for sharing your wisdom and support, and for the beautifully orchestrated ceremony. While we all are learning that there are new conditions and restrictions to which we must adapt, you’ve allowed Sloan and Aaron to navigate the bumps in the road while still focusing on the end game.... the breaking of the glass, the sealing of the covenant of marriage, and the joining of these two wonderful young people.

Among all of the blessings we are experiencing and acknowledging today, some of the best are that we have **TWO** grandmothers present.... Bubby Janka and Grandma Sylvia are here with us. To the two of you.... you’ve both seen a lot in your day.... I bet this is on the top of the list..... mostly for the sheer joy of it.... but also for the uniqueness!!! Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions Grandpa Ruby cannot be here today but he is watching! Grandpa Ruby.... that goes for you too!!! How wild is **THIS** set up??? And you thought the moon walk was big!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

To Aaron’s parents, Esther and Bernie, you’ve raised a wonderful son and we are proud to now officially call Aaron our son too. Thank you for your love, acceptance, and appreciation of our daughter Sloan.... I know she feels as much a part of your family as she does of ours. Wendy and I are thrilled that both of our families have grown together and blended and we look forward to many **MANY** more happy occasions and memories to make and share.... all of which will happily include the **FULL** brood... all **FOUR** of Aaron’s brothers... Johnathan, Noah, Shale and Elan, and, of course, Sloan’s sister Brittany.... If we didn’t have enough players for a football team (**or name the sport the families like**) before, we do now!!! All of you have already proven what great teamwork was involved to make this day happen And I can safely say, this has really been a **win** for all of us!!

To my wife Wendy, thanks for it all.... for being an incredible and loving wife, a wonderful mother to our daughters, and for all you’ve done to make sure this event would be as special as it is.

Sloan, from the day you were born, you’ve been an amazing light in our lives. There isnt anything your mother and I wouldn’t do for you. As you were growing up, we rooted for you, we taught you, we provided you with the guidance and encouragement that would lead you to live a loving, fulfilling, honest, inquisitive life filled with appreciation of family, faith, friends, and wisdom for the future. And you’ve shown all of us just how wonderful you are.... Every step you’ve taken reflects you, as a person, and the passion you have for life. You’ve made the best of all of it. We observed you as you blossomed into the beautiful young woman we see today..... someone who is smart, dependable, always willing to learn and to continue to grow and achieve more and more. I’d say you started to really learn who you were and how you would navigate through life during your earliest experiences, one of which was determined when your mom and I figured out how we’d give you some memorable vacations. When we decided to provide you with “fresh air and summers filled with exciting adventures, we had **NO IDEA** that our investment in sending you to Camp \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was probably one of the best, if not **THE BEST** decision we ever made for and with you!!! Who could **EVER** have imagined the **dividends** that investment would pay?!?! Volleyball... **CHECK**!,, Swimming...**CHECK**!!! Finding and marrying the love of your life....**CHECK CHECK CHECK!!!! (Wait for the laugh)**.

... And here you are, with Aaron, beginning the rest of your lives as husband and wife.... **BEST**. **REUNION**. **EVER**. The two of you are the living embodiment of the term , “**BASHERT**,” and while you may have taken occasional breaks from one another, it’s so clear to all of us that what is truly meant to be cannot be broken. Destiny has embraced the two of you. I can’t think of anything more beautiful or life affirming.

To Sloan and Aaron, let us lift a glass and toast to your future.... one that will continue to grow in love and health, partnership and prosperity. Thank you for honoring the legacy we’ve all built for you.....from Bubby Janka and Grandma Sylvia... from Grandpa Ruby and Esther and Bernie.... (**add the other grandparents as appropriate**) from your mother and me, and from all who have preceded us and made us who we are, congratulations.... it’s now your turn to go forth together, honor our traditions, and continue to build on our proud heritage. Congratulations!! We love you!!! Thank you all!!