

An Explanation About the Ceremony



Much of the ceremony you are about to witness reflects the traditions of a group of religions, collectively called Paganism. This is an all encompassing term to reflect an assortment of polytheistic, Earth-centered belief systems that acknowledge the sacredness of all life. The Divine is worshipped in the form of both a Goddess and God. Pagans speak to the spirits of Nature and to the Elements of Life – Earth, Air, Fire, and Water – working in harmony with them while being attuned to the natural cycles of life as reflected by the seasons and the ever changing moon.

As Paganism is a polytheistic religion, this ceremony calls on a number of Gods and Goddesses. Astarte is a Canaanite goddess of wisdom and love. Juno Iugalis is the Roman goddess of marriage. Cernunnos is a Celtic god of fertility and the hunt. The Green Man is an all-encompassing name for the god of the forest.

The broom, a representation of clearing, sweeps away the past while still leaving the foundation for new experiences. The sword, a symbol of protection, stands for the ability to see the opinions and desires of both sides evenly, going to the point of the matter so that fairness can be assured.

There are also some Jewish elements of the ceremony. The wedding tent, or *Chuppah*, represents the home that the new couple will live in. The breaking of the glass is a symbol of the fragility of life, for even at the height of personal joy, sadness is remembered. It also serves as a reminder that relationships are delicate — a broken glass cannot be mended. Additionally, ancient tradition tells us that the sound of shattering scares off any demons attracted to the event.

Please turn off all cell phones before the Ceremony starts

The Wedding of Lady Allison King to Lord Jonathan Leary

June 18, 2005



The Bridesmaids

Megan Stivison
Meredith King
Shannon Petsa
Anna Pavlova

The Groomsmen

Matthew Barth
Thomas Olsen
Jeffrey Harding
Eric Hoffmann



The Officiant - Laura Wildman-Hanlon, HPS

The Harpest - Lorelei Greenwood



Ceremony Order



Welcoming Words

Please see the back panel for a general explanation of the ceremony

Processional In

Creation of Sacred Space

After the bride has arrived, we will begin by taking a moment to acknowledge the sacredness of this time and place, and opening ourselves to the circle of life with its many gifts that surrounds us.

Declaration of Intent

Exchanging of Vows

As the bride and groom exchanges vows, their wrists will be tied together with two cords in an act we call a handfasting. This is where the term tying the knot comes from and the act symbolizes the uniting of the couple's spirits.

Exchanging of Rings

Blessing of the Elements



Celtic Loving Cup

In Gaelic, anam cara means "soul friend." By entering into a partnership with their anam cara the couple is joined in an ancient and eternal way.

Libation

Sonnet 116 by Willaim Shakespeare

Read by Meredith King, sister of the bride and Maid of Honor

Breaking the Glass

It is customary to yell "Mazel Tov" after the glass has shattered.

Jumping the Broom and the Sword

The broom and the sword will be placed upon the ground to represent a threshold, becoming the platform from which the bride and groom can leap into the world and into their new future together.

Pronouncement of Marriage

Processional Out

Immediately after the ceremony there will be a social hour in the covered pavilion.

This will be followed by a reception in the Basset Room

