



# Casually Elegant Weddings

individualized service for quality results in Las Vegas

## CEREMONIES WITHIN YOUR CEREMONY

### Jewish Ceremonies

#### **Breaking the Glass**

This ceremony is associated with Jewish weddings but may also be included with the Wine Ceremony. There are nearly as many interpretations of the meaning of the breaking of the glass as there are Rabbis. At the conclusion of the wedding, the officiant will ask the best man to place a wine glass (*it is safer and acceptable to use a fragile light bulb in place of a sturdy glass – wine glasses may roll, resist breakage, and result in dangerous shards*) wrapped in a white cloth or in a special bag the couple provides, under the Groom's right foot. Some couples use a delicate crystal wineglass so that the shattered pieces may be kept as a keepsake in a velvet pouch.

After the Groom breaks the glass, in Jewish weddings the guests shout "Mazel Tov" ("Congratulations!"), clap their hands, and may embrace and sing as the couple departs.

If you are using this breakage to conclude your Wine Ceremony, the individual glasses from which the wedding cup was filled may be wrapped in cloth or a special bag and now broken, symbolizing that the old has gone and only the new remains.

We prefer to interpret Breaking the Glass thus: "This marriage will last as long as this glass remains broken and will contain as many years of blessing as there are shards of glass."

#### **Chuppah**

A chuppah (also spelled chuppa or huppah) literally means a canopy or covering. You'll find beautiful illustrations on the Internet – showing ways to create and personalize a chuppah. Jewish weddings may use the Groom's tallit (prayer shawl). Chuppahs, however, are not only for Jewish weddings. These canopies are symbolic of the home that the couple will build as husband and wife.

Just as with decorated arches, we hope you'll construct your chuppah tall and wide enough for the wedding couple to stand comfortably underneath it. Chuppahs can be used with or without ceremonial words denoting their significance.



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### Ketubah

A ketubah is a special type of Jewish prenuptial agreement. It is not a ceremonial document, scripture, prayer, legal or state contract – so it is not typically presented as a part of the wedding ceremony – though it is considered an integral part of a traditional Jewish marriage.

It is not an affirmation of perpetual love. It is the Groom's acknowledgement of the fundamental responsibilities imposed by the Torah upon him in relation to his Bride, therefore providing the framework of love. The ketubah is a unilateral commitment by the Groom, guaranteeing to his Bride that he will meet certain minimum human and financial conditions which are inseparable from marriage.

A ketubah is not a mutual agreement; the Bride agrees only to willingly accept the husband's proposal of marriage. The ketubah is an ethical statement designed for the woman's protection; every nuance was developed so that her husband shall not regard lightly anything that might result in him being unworthy of her trust.

The modern ketubah is, more often than not, also a beautiful work of art intended for display in the couple's home. Ketubahs can be purchased on the Internet, or created, for couples from all religions and cultures, including interfaith and multicultural marriages.