

*Julie*

*&*

*Gabriel*



“Behind every couple that meet, there is a chain of events that stretches back through the eons. If we trace the chain back to its very beginning, we find that it goes back to creation.”

– *Aryeh Kaplan*

*The Wedding of*  
*Julie Dina*  
&  
*Gabriel Meyer*

Sunday, the tenth of June  
Two thousand twelve  
at four o'clock in the afternoon

*Chesapeake Bay Beach Club*  
Kent Island, Maryland

# Dear Family & Friends

Thank you so much to our family and friends for sharing our wedding with us. We are excited you are here to celebrate the commitment we are making today. Our wedding reflects months of creativity and thoughtfulness, integrating our diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. We both feel incredibly fortunate to have so many wonderful people in our lives and to be surrounded by so much love.

We are also extremely thankful to Julie's siblings, Aleeza and Dima, for being such role models and inspirations in our lives.

Finally, we would especially like to thank our parents for their endless love, patience and support throughout the years, and for making us into the people with whom each of us fell in love. We cannot thank our families enough for the immense effort they have put into making our wedding weekend a beautiful *simcha*.

We hope that our marriage, which we embark upon today, is the beginning of a new journey we will share with all of you in the years to come.

With love,

Julie & Gabe

# Wedding Symbols & Traditions



## Before the Wedding Ceremony

### The Groom's Tisch & Kabbalat Panim

When you arrived, you were invited to join Gabe at his *Tisch* (Yiddish for “table”). Traditionally at the *Tisch*, family and friends recite words of *Torah*, offer toasts, sing songs and entertain the groom. While Gabe was at the *Tisch*, friends and family escorted Julie to a chair, where she sat as a queen and prepared for the *Bedeken*. Julie greeted and welcomed guests to the wedding during this time known as *Kabbalat Panim* (Hebrew for “receiving the faces”).

### Bedeken – Veiling

At the end of Gabe's *Tisch*, Gabe was escorted with music, dancing and fanfare to his bride. Gabe “checked” that it was indeed Julie and then lowered her veil. This tradition stems from the Biblical story of Jacob's mistaken marriage to Leah rather than Rachel, his true beloved. Jacob labored for seven years for the right to marry Rachel, only to find that the veiled bride he had just married was Leah, Rachel's older sister.

### The Ketubah – Marriage Contract

The *ketubah* is the Jewish marriage contract, tracing its origins back over 2000 years. It discusses the personal, financial and spiritual obligations of the bride and groom to one another. The text of the *ketubah* is written in Aramaic, the legal language of the *Talmud*. For the *ketubah* to be legally binding, it was accepted by Julie and Gabe and signed by designated witnesses. Julie and Gabe are honored that Glen Bochner, Jamie Hirsch, Adele Igersheim and Dorothy Regensteiner agreed to serve as their witnesses. At the conclusion of the *ketubah* ceremony, Gabe was danced away from Julie, soon to be reunited under the *chupah*.

# *The Wedding Procession*

## **Officiants**

Rabbi M. Bruce Lustig  
Cantor Mikhail Manevich

## **Grandparents of the Groom**

Roland and Irene Atahias  
Harriet Hankin

## **Grandparents of the Bride**

Ganna Nemirovskaya and Filpp Desyatnik

## **Groomsmen and Groomsmaid**

Stanley Wei, Cousin  
Jonathan Hankin, Cousin  
Margaret Dennis, Friend from Childhood  
Charlie Kirschner, Friend from Emory

## **Best Man**

William Carl Burns III, Friend from Childhood

## **Groom with His Parents**

Joelle, Gabriel and Steven

## **Bridesmaids**

Wendy Kleinman, Friend from Emory  
Diana Schapiro, Friend and Sorority Sister from Emory  
Ellerie Weissbrot, Friend, Roommate and Sorority Sister from Emory  
Michal Telem, Friend from New York City  
Libby Smoler, Friend from New York City  
Lisa Harrow, Friend and Sorority Sister from Emory

## **Sister-in-Law and Brother of the Bride**

Aleeza and Dmitry Nemirof

## **Niece and Nephew of the Bride**

Yona and Sivan Nemirof

## **Maid of Honor**

Julia Kay Preis, Friend from Childhood

## **Bride with Her Parents**

Sophie, Julie and Paul

# During the Wedding Ceremony

## **Circling**

After Sophie and Paul escort Julie down the aisle, she and Gabe will each circle the other seven times. Circling is a symbol of mystical protection that spiritually binds Julie and Gabe to one another. Traditionally, the number seven signifies wholeness and completion; here it signifies the completion of the couple's search for each other and the creation of a more complete being.

## **Chupah**

The wedding ceremony takes place under the *chupah*, a canopy representing the home Julie and Gabe will build together. Open on four sides, it resembles the tent of Abraham and Sarah, a tent always open to family and friends. Gabe's great grandfather's *tallit* has been incorporated into the top of the chupah to symbolize the importance of family and tradition in Julie and Gabe's lives.

## **Kiddushin and Nissuin – Betrothal and Marriage**

The wedding ceremony begins with Julie and Gabe's parents reciting a blessing over them, wishing them health and happiness. After the blessing by the parents, Julie and Gabe's close family and friends will recite the *sheva brachot*, the seven marriage blessings, which reference the seven days of creation. The blessings praise God for fruit, creation of the world, creation of humanity, wisdom, intelligence and free will of man, and the couple's joy and happiness. The final blessing wishes the couple delight, cheer, love, harmony, peace and companionship.

The *sheva brachot* will be recited by the following family members and friends in English followed by Julie's brother and sister-in-law, Dmitry and Aleeza, in Hebrew:

Natalie and Boris Vinokur (Julie's Aunt and Uncle)

Gail and Larry Hankin (Gabe's Aunt and Uncle)

Nancy and Doug Kay (Close Family Friends of the Nemirovskys)

Harriet Hankin and Janice Lettas (Grandmother of the Groom and Her Sister)

Laura and Louis Offen (Close Family Friends of the Nemirovskys)

Abigail Hankin-Wei (Cousin of the Groom)

Adele and Roy Igersheim (Godparents of the Bride)

After the recitation of the *sheva brachot*, Julie will drink wine out of a Kiddush cup from her family and Gabe out of one from his. Wine from both cups will then be combined in a new Kiddush cup. Julie and Gabe will drink from this cup, symbolizing the new life they will share together.

Following the Kiddush, Gabe will give Julie a ring, placing it on her index finger.

This tradition stems from the ancient belief that the index finger is directly connected to the heart. In return for the *Ketubah* that Gabe presented to Julie during the *Bedecken*, Julie will offer Gabe a ring. Julie and Gabe's friend Yossi Hoffman will then read the *Ketubah* aloud in Aramaic, and Julie and Gabe's parents will wrap a *tallit* around them. The *tallit* is a gift from Gabe's maternal grandparents. The design that Gabe's grandmother embroidered on it is the same design she embroidered on Gabe's grandfather's *tallit*, further symbolizing *dor l'dor*, the continuity of traditions from generation to generation.

### **Breaking the Glass**

The breaking of the glass is a reminder that, even in our moments of greatest joy, we should not forget the ideal of a rebuilt Jerusalem and our obligation to fix the many imperfections of the world. Reflecting on these ideas, Gabe will break a glass, signifying the end of the wedding ceremony.

# After the Wedding Ceremony

## Yichud

Julie and Gabe, now husband and wife, will then be joyously escorted to the *Yichud* room by your singing and dancing! The *Yichud* room is a private room where they can share their first moments alone as husband and wife.

## Seudat Mitzvah – The Wedding Feast

After a few moments of seclusion, Julie and Gabe will join the reception to celebrate with family and friends. The music will change and the bride and groom will enter the room with fanfare through arches held by their friends.

Immediately all guests will join in a circle to dance the *Hora*.

During the evening, Julie and Gabe's parents will be honored with a special dance called the *Mezinka*, signifying the accomplishment of marrying off their last child. Both sets of parents, wearing wreaths around their heads, will sit in chairs. Guests will circle them to increasingly faster music, kissing them and wishing them well as they pass by. The dinner feast will conclude with *birkat hamazon*, grace after the meal. The seven blessings recited under the chupah will be repeated once again by family and friends over a cup of wine.

*In Loving Memory*

At this time of joy we remember our beloved grandparents  
who cannot be with us today.  
They are in our hearts now and always.

Richard Hankin  
Ida Hankin-Reed  
Vladimir and Dina Lishnevsky

In honor of their wedding, Julie and Gabe plan to contribute to HIAS and Emory Hillel, two organizations that have had a major impact on their lives.