

erik Contzius

baritone
cantor
composer

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Jewish Wedding Checklist

Six months to a year:

- Select the date and location for the ceremony and reception
- Choose a clergy person to officiate (that's Cantor Contzius!)
- Prepare & Enrich (premarital counseling)
- Talk about the Jewish Wedding elements
 - Find out your Hebrew names and your parents' Hebrew names
 - Talk about Ketubah options (do not purchase until reviewed by Cantor)
 - Purchase and read Anita Diamant's book, "The New Jewish Wedding"
 - Purchase and read "Getting the Love You Want: A Guide for Couples, 20th Anniversary Edition"

Four to six months:

- Choose the type of khuppah (floral, tallit, cloth, etc.)
- Decide on an "aufruf" if desired; set a date
- Choose and order Ketubah
- Shop for wedding rings (it's okay if it's not a solid band)

Two to four months:

- Send in "love letter" to Cantor (a letter written to one another about your relationship but sent to the Cantor to be included in the ceremony)
- Determine and invite the witnesses for legal documentation
 - Witness for marriage license can be anyone over 18
 - Witness for ketubah should be Jewish, male or female, over 13, and not blood related
- Set ceremony details with Cantor
 - Circling (yes or no, traditional or egalitarian)
 - Level of tradition, explanation for guests
 - Names to be mentioned in memoriam (relatives no longer living)
 - Choice of wine (white preferred due to white clothing)
 - Vows (optional)
 - Music for procession, recession, and during ceremony
- Review Cantor's policy with regard to photography
- Investigate what is required for a marriage license (blood test, documentation, etc.)
- Check that documents are in order (legal, insurance, financial, medical, etc.)
- If desired, work on program with details about Jewish weddings for guests (Cantor should edit for accuracy)

One to two months:

- Have programs designed and printed
- Obtain marriage license
- Receive completed Ketubah

Two to four weeks:

- Wrap wine glass or light bulb (preferred!) for breaking
- Make sure you have the rings!

Day before:

- Make preparations for fees due on wedding day, including Cantor's!
- Bring the wedding license
- Ask a friend to handle ritual elements:
 - Ketubah
 - Khuppah
 - Kiddush cups (one from bride's side, one from groom's)
 - Rings
 - Glass for breaking
- Bear in mind that no matter what happens, it will be a wonderful day!
- Get some sleep!!!