

Interfaith-Intercultural-Interspiritual Wedding Ceremonies

Cell Phone: 734-239-1901
Email: laurenzinn@zinnhouse.com
Website: www.zinnhouse.com

Lauren Isenberg Zinn, Rev., Ph.D. (2016)



CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Philosophy My philosophy is to help you create the ceremony that expresses You! I work with you to incorporate traditions and rituals from various faiths or cultures in your ceremony or ceremonies, and/or to design new ones that are meaningful to you.

Ceremony Style varies across the following interfaith spectrum...

- Uni-Faith= the rituals of a single faith tradition are represented in the ceremony although they may be modified to meet contemporary and/or secular tastes.
- Multi-Faith (Side by Side, or Back and Forth)= rituals from more than one faith tradition or culture are included but not integrated. Each tradition is represented by itself as it is, either before or after the traditions of another. Presented to one audience/community in the same location.
- Integrated-Faith = elements of different traditions are combined to create new custom-made rituals *while maintaining the integrity of each*.
- Secular-Ethical = this style includes secular ceremonies that incorporate universal ethics and humanistic principles.

I offer a free 30-minute interview in person or by phone.

Co-Officiation: I am happy to co-officiate interfaith ceremonies and have done so in the past for baby namings/welcomings, coming of age/mitzvahs, and weddings. Fees are based on my role and the degree of collaboration. This often requires MORE time.

Couples are expected to provide contact information, all ritual items to be included in the ceremony, programs if desired, a valid license, a pen with **black ink**, and witnesses. A 50% deposit is required at the first meeting to hold the date. The remaining 50% is expected directly after the wedding ceremony.

Interfaith Coaching. Being aware of the bridges that might need crossing down the road, without the pressure of needing to know now, if or how you will cross them, helps many couples feel confident as they enter into inter- lifestyles. I help couples identify those bridges that may need crossing, the possibilities for navigating them, and the joys that may be shared along the way.

“Faith, wrote the great scholar Wilfred Cantwell Smith, is the way a believer connects with a religious tradition. A tradition, wrote the poet T.S. Eliot, is not simply inherited; it is something acquired only by great labor.” Eboo Patel, Acts of Faith, 114

My goal is to support you in that labor, before and/or after the ceremony. My private consulting rate is a sliding scale of \$95 - \$125/hr (and may include homework). Sessions are preferably in person but can be held by phone or Skype.

My Credentials.

I earned a PhD in interdisciplinary studies (Urban, Technological, and Environmental/Educational Planning) from The University of Michigan and have worked as a program developer in the training and development field. I am confident in designing and delivering programs, instruction and keynotes. I have taught all ages in a variety of subjects and am capable of guiding you through the design process. I am also confident in leading you and your attendants through a rehearsal, if you have one.

I am also an artist and gaming designer so I enjoy coming up with new ways to create unique ceremonies for each couple.

I am a seminary-ordained interfaith minister (All Faiths Seminary 2002) and studied under Rabbi Joseph H. Gelberman (z'l). I also completed the coursework for the Modern Rabbi program of Rabbinic Seminary International but did not apply for final ordination. (I felt that one title was enough.) I have studied Biblical Hebrew, Interfaith Relations, Mysticism, Spirituality, and more. I teach religion with an evolutionary worldview to young people, design and tutor children for interfaith bar/bat mitzvahs/coming of age, design and lead interfaith community programs, and study groups for adults. I served for three years on the board of directors of a local Interfaith Round Table.

I founded and led a congregation of Jewish-Interfaith families — Jewbilation: Jewish Roots with Intefait Wings, for six years, and I am in a loving interfaith marriage of over 25 years. In addition to a strong Jewish background, I practiced a sect of Hinduism for ten years. These experiences and more allow me to consult

and coach others based on weaving wisdom from many spiritual paths into life's multi-textured fabric of faith.

Your marriage license: Each county has slightly different rules and sometimes changes them. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to obtain the license, select witnesses, and *READ THE DIRECTIONS* on the marriage license and **FILL OUT THE FORM completely and properly BEFORE the ceremony.** You must sign with your married name and use black ink unless otherwise noted! Note: For license-signing purposes, my legal title is "Reverend" or "Rev" (not rabbi).

Fees: Couples may choose among options described below.

Option A: For couples who want a short ceremony (10-20 minutes), are planning on a small number of witnesses, but prefer not to be married by a Judge or Justice of the Peace, I meet with you once (over the phone/Skype or in person) for one hour and then again to perform the wedding. (No rehearsal is included.) The ceremony consists of an exchange of vows and rings and two other features that you may choose. Also included is a short personal homily. Style can be Uni-Faith or Multi-Faith. (Integrated Faith style requires an Option B ceremony.) The fee for Option A is \$600-\$900 depending on location, season, and circumstances.

Option B: For those who want a longer, more customized ceremony (20-40 minutes), are planning on many guests, and want the option of an integrated faith style ceremony, we meet twice for 1.5 hours each and again to perform the wedding. The first meeting is devoted to understanding your wishes and collaborating on the ceremony design. The second meeting focuses on finalizing the design that I develop, and on hearing your love story, personal backgrounds, and forward visions. In addition, some time is reserved to talk about interfaith relationships. The ceremony includes vows and ring exchange, a personalized talk, options such as creative ways to include family members or friends whom you may wish to honor, and/or design features reflecting your faith traditions, cultural heritage, or symbols of/for your life together. A timely rehearsal is also included. The fee for Option B is \$1,000-\$1,400 depending on location/travel, season/holiday, and special circumstances.

Option C: For those who have hired a cleric of another faith but want a Co-Officiant to represent the Jewish perspective, we meet once for me to become familiar with your ceremony. This Option starts at \$500. The final fee depends on the degree of my involvement and/or collaboration with the other officiant.

Choosing an Option: To create a customized wedding takes time and energy for both you and for myself. If you have the time and want a ceremony that's unique and personalized, then Option B is best. If your goal is a more simple, but efficient

ceremony, then Option A is appropriate. Be aware that prime time weekends are often reserved for Option B weddings.

I do charge for travel time and transportation expenses for ceremonies that are located more than 15 miles from Ann Arbor.



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not just a tribe.**

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DESIGN OPTIONS

All Weddings include a Vow Exchange, Ring Exchange, and optional Pronouncement. Licenses will be signed directly before the ceremony with two pre-selected witnesses.

Option A (Choose from below)

Processional/Recessional (limited to bride, groom, parents, best man, and maid of honor)
Sacred Space, Sacred Time (may include a Chuppah for Jewish participants)
One Reading (a poem, blessing, prayer, or song)
Breaking of the Glass or a comparable Pronouncement
Signing the License or Marriage certificate

Option B (includes rehearsal, if desired, and personal talk) (Choose up to 7 from below)

Processional/Recessional/Other
Sacred Space/Sacred Time (Chuppah for Jews)
Signing of License (May be combined with Ketubah -Jewish or Las Arras- Hispanic, etc.)
Blessing over Wine (Kiddush for Jewish participants)
Reading or Poem
Song, Blessing,5 or Prayer
Circling the Bride/Groom / 7 wedding blessings
Unity/Havdallah Candlelighting, Colored Sand Mixing, Hand Fasting, El Lazo, Wine
Pouring
Story/Midrash
Silence/Meditation/Remembering
New rituals or combination of rituals- can be secular-based
Pronouncement/Breaking of the glass

Option C: (design elements are determined in consultation with the couple and/or co-officiant) In this case, I usually represent the Jewish perspective and couples choose elements to balance those from additional traditions.

Some Items to discuss

Inclusion of family members/friends
Secular vs G-d language: Is God language desired and if so, in what form.
Attire for the occasion/clergy attire.
Microphone. Is it needed for the space?
Podium or Table. Is it needed or desired?
Runner?

The wedding couple is expected to come to the first planning meeting with some ideas of what they want, what excites them, how they envision their ceremony, and what would make it feel special to them and their communities to the extent they want to consider this. After we determine the general design, I send you an outline for your approval before further developing the ceremony.

Acknowledgment of Ceremony Agreement

If you choose to engage my services, I look forward to working with you.
By providing the following information, you are agreeing to the above conditions.

Groom/Bride's Name:

Address:

Cell &/or Home Phones:

Faith, cultural, and spiritual background:

Bride/Groom's Name:

Address:

Cell &/or Home Phones:

Faith, cultural, spiritual background:

Wedding Date (day/date/year):

Start Time of

ceremony:

Wedding Location/Address:

Expected number of guests:

If there is a rehearsal, it is limited to one hour.

Rehearsal Date: Start time: Location (if different):

Groom/Bride's Family Tree (Yes, make a drawing.)

Indicate names and relationships of immediate family members.

Deceased family members (and their relationship to you) who you may wish to acknowledge and remember during the ceremony:

Bride/Groom's Family Tree (You, too.)

Indicate names and relationships of immediate family members.

Deceased family members (and their relationship to you) who you may wish to acknowledge and remember during the ceremony: