

Rabbi Brian H. Denker



- Identifies with Conservative & Reform movements
- New York Native
- Member of the International Federation of Rabbis
- Member of the New York State Chaplain Task Force
- Member Chaplain – New York State Fraternal Order of Police
- Lifecycle ceremonies: Civil, Religious, Non-Denominational, Interfaith, Spiritual, Same-Sex, Multi-cultural life-cycle events
- Will “co-officiate”
- Licensed to officiate throughout the New York Metropolitan area **and** New York City
- Available to officiate both religious & civil, non-denominational life-cycle events



Rabbi Denker believes that our strength as a Jewish people is rooted not only in the gift of Torah, divinely inspired in our belief that the “Lord our G-d, the Lord is One” but through the flexibility, willingness, and courage to integrate necessary changes while honoring age old traditions, teachings, and ritual practices as an inclusive and welcoming community to all. As an openly Gay Rabbi, Rabbi Denker is a leading voice and advocate encouraging policies and programs of greater diversity, acceptance, and inclusion. He is an active member of the International Federation of Rabbis, the New York State Chaplain Task Force and the New York State Fraternal Order of Police.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will you co-officiate? GLADLY! But let me share my very personal thought on that matter...I completely respect and gladly serve any couple who feels the importance of having two officiates, and I have happily and successfully been a co-officiate. However, in some cases, the presence of two officiates could give the perception of a division of faith. What I believe to be remarkable, however, is when one officiate can blend two faiths, with grace and meaning, bringing a true sense of unity to your ceremony. Either way, it is my pleasure and my honor to serve my couples, in whatever way they wish to be served!

Can we create our own ceremony? Absolutely! I am your facilitator. You hire me to perform the wedding YOU want to create! I am your guide. I help you understand what each component of a religious or spiritual wedding entails, and you choose how you want to incorporate it. I guide you through the order of the ceremony, and to help you envision your wedding, exactly the way you want it to be.

Do I need solid gold wedding bands? Jewish tradition tells us that the wedding band should be unbroken, to symbolize the eternity of the bond you are creating, through your marriage. If you are both Jewish, it is a lovely tradition to uphold, but not required. If you are Interfaith, it is my personal feeling that there are no religious rules governing an interfaith wedding. It is a personal decision you both make, and I am happy to accommodate your wishes!

Our family structure is complicated, how do we handle the processional? Many families today are mixed, and the relationships are often blurred. We discuss all the people you would like to include, and I have many innovative ways to include the people you love, creating a ceremony that highlights love and harmony. No worries or stress allowed!

How will you get to know us? I schedule regular sessions, and have you complete very in-depth questionnaires, so that I am able to really connect with you on many levels. When your guests leave your wedding or ceremony, they will feel as if we have known each other for years!

Do we need a rehearsal? Most of the time – no. Rehearsals themselves are rather outdated. Your coordinator and I will have everyone prepared as we line up, and each person will know exactly where to go. But if you wish to have one – feel free!

We do not belong to a synagogue, where can we have our ceremony? Anywhere that accommodates the number of people you wish to have! Most of my families hold their lifecycle events at hotels, restaurants, private homes, on the beach, anywhere you want!

We are not religious, but we want to include a few traditions that are meaningful to us. You are not alone! Today's couples want a personalized wedding that reflects who they are, without the obligation of outdated rules and traditions. Our traditions of our faiths have beautiful modern meaning, and your ceremony can be whatever you want it to be. I support and guide you through the process by incorporating the meaning and clearly explaining to all your guests, so everyone feels welcome, and an active part of your special day.

What makes you different? Your ceremony is the most important part of your wedding, and it is of utmost importance for your officiant to set the tone for your event. I am warm, loving, personal, spiritual, dynamic, and flexible. I have exceptional speaking skills, a loving heart, and add lots of fun to your ceremony!

How do you prepare for any unforeseen circumstances that may occur on our special day? Great question! Unlike many other officiants out there who may just be "Wedding Rabbis", I am not. Whereas they may solely operate as a wedding officiant booking sometimes two or more weddings in one day, it is my practice to only book one wedding or life-cycle event on any given day. Doing so allows me flexibility in my schedule to be able to accommodate any unforeseen circumstances that may arise. Should there be bad weather, traffic, the late arrival of special guest, I ensure that I am able to be there onsite with you until your ceremony is completed, without having to rush out to get to another venue or location which typically occurs when using an officiant with multiple weddings booked in one day.

How would past clients describe their experience working with you?

"what makes you so unique is your ability to explain how the traditions fit into modern living. THAT's what I have always looked for in a priest, and rarely find... I would describe your delivery as "intelligent and knowledgeable... with an amazing ability to tie old with new." You totally MAKE the ceremony!
- Margaret H

"I am slowly beginning to pick up the pieces of my life and am so grateful for all your help in making this transition more peaceful, in a large part, due to your 'judicial-like wiseness."
-Jo Ellen R

Rabbi Denker was friendly and made us all feel comfortable when planning our son and daughter-in-law's interfaith wedding. He was informative about how the ceremony would be conducted and worked exceptionally well with clergy and family to create a meaningful and personalized ceremony. He was attentive to every detail and shared a warmth and caring with all of us. I would highly recommend his services. – Rae Z.

Rabbi Brian performed our interfaith Ketubah signing ceremony, and it was definitely a ceremony to remember. It was so special, and he explained everything beautifully. – Liana R.

I would highly recommend Rabbi Brian. We are not very religious, but we wanted more of the spiritual and traditional aspects of a Jewish wedding and he was able to do just that. He is definitely more reasonably priced than any other rabbi that we looked into. He is kind and friendly, you can tell he really cares to make sure he can make the ceremony as special as can be. Also if you have a Saturday day wedding and still want a Rabbi he is willing to do it, that is what I had. -Alexandra R.

We used Rabbi Brian for our wedding... and were very happy with the ceremony. He kept it very short but meaningful just at the grooms request. Although it was a short ceremony he made sure he added in the little things that counted so the memories would last a lifetime. He incorporated some Jewish tradition and kept it very simple just how we had asked. We were Very pleased and would use Rabbi Brian again in the future. – Jennifer R.