



Contact : Norman Birnbach
781.639.6701
birnbach@birnbachcom.com



InterfaithFamily.com

Encouraging Jewish Choices & A Welcoming Jewish Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

InterfaithFamily.com Offers New Resource and Tips for Interfaith Weddings

In Time for Peak Wedding Season, “Wedding Ceremony Ideas for Interfaith Couples” Offers Helpful Suggestions for Inclusive Weddings

Boston – May 31, 2005 – In Hollywood, cultural differences between the bride’s and groom’s families are often played for laughs, like in last year’s “Meet the Fockers.” In real life, as interfaith weddings become more common, cultural differences can add more stress to the occasion, especially if couples seek to honor both religious traditions. That is why Interfaithfamily.com (www.interfaithfamily.com), an independent non-profit publisher and advocacy membership association, has developed a unique new resource and tips to make weddings more inclusive and ease the stress for the growing number of Jews and non-Jews who are marrying each other.

“Wedding Ceremony Ideas for Interfaith Couples,” available to the press before June 7, 2005 by email request to press@interfaithfamily.com, and available generally as of June 7, 2005 as a free downloadable booklet at www.interfaithfamily.com/weddingceremonies, is comprised of poems, prayers, readings and rituals from Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Chinese, non-denominational, and even Native American sources. It also offers suggestions for the order of the ceremony and sample definitions of terms that can be used in wedding programs. The content came directly from InterfaithFamily.com’s readers, who shared ideas from their own wedding ceremonies, ceremonies they had attended or at which they had officiated.

To make the booklet as useful as possible, the ceremonies span interfaith couples where one partner is Jewish and any other religious, ethnic or cultural tradition, as well as straight and gay weddings. InterfaithFamily.com compiled the booklet because of numerous requests from people looking for sample inclusive wedding ceremonies and for rabbis who officiate or co-officiate at intermarriages.

“In real life, cross-cultural weddings occur more than ever, including Jews marrying non-Jews. Fortunately there are rabbis who are accepting and participate in interfaith weddings because they have found that the number of Jewish households increases as a result, despite the rate of intermarriage,” said Edmund Case, publisher, InterfaithFamily.com. “One of the biggest issues for our readers and members is planning weddings that honor both backgrounds. We continually field questions from people who ask for advice and ideas, and we know that our readers are most interested in how other people like them have dealt with similar situations. ‘Wedding Ceremony Ideas for Interfaith Couples’ will serve a useful function by providing appropriate readings and

rituals that others have used to acknowledge the love that unites two different lives and backgrounds.”

According to Milltown, NJ, contributor Angie Wallerich Millman, who got married in April, 2005 in a ceremony that honored her and her husband’s Jewish and Catholic heritage, what made a difference was their “involvement, along with the rabbi, in creating a meaningful ceremony. Jon and I chose the readings, we chose most of the explanations, we chose the vows and ring exchanges. Had we gotten married in a ‘traditional’ format, we may not have had as much of an opportunity to create something that so uniquely represented who we are. I had several guests tell me at the reception that this was the most moving ceremony they had ever attended because it was such an intimate expression of us as individuals and as a couple.”

In addition to the “Wedding Ceremony Ideas for Interfaith Couples,” InterfaithFamily.com is also making available (on the same basis as the booklet) a short set of tips on how to make a wedding inclusive. Also, the two June issues of InterfaithFamily.com’s Web Magazine will include wedding-related stories to provide additional perspectives. The June 7 issue will feature personal stories from interfaith couples about planning their weddings, and the June 21 issue will feature articles by rabbis explaining why they do or do not officiate at intermarriages. These will be available at www.interfaithfamily.com/magazine.

About InterfaithFamily.com

InterfaithFamily.com (www.interfaithfamily.com) is an independent non-profit publisher and advocacy membership association that works to encourage Jewish choices by interfaith families and increase acceptance of interfaith families by the Jewish community. InterfaithFamily.com publishes a bi-weekly Web magazine that reaches out directly to interfaith families, delivering helpful, non-judgmental information about how to handle various situations that arise for interfaith families. InterfaithFamily.com also produced the first-of-its-kind anthology, *The Guide to Jewish Interfaith Family Life: An InterfaithFamily.com Handbook* (Jewish Lights Publishing), to offer much-needed support for interfaith families seeking to explore Jewish life. InterfaithFamily.com is the only national organization that focuses exclusively on reaching out to and helping interfaith families themselves, and advocating on a grass-roots level as their “voice.”

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EDITOR’S NOTE: InterfaithFamily.com has developed “**Wedding Ceremony Ideas for Interfaith Couples**” and “**Tips for Inclusive Wedding Ceremonies**” that are designed to help interfaith couples make their weddings more inclusive for family and friends of different faiths. If you are interested in receiving free copies of the two documents, please send an email to press@interfaithfamily.com.