

The Wedding Ceremony

of

Tony Felt and Marianne Hart

July 13, 2008

Memory Garden, Monterey, California

The Wedding Ceremony

- ♥ Processional (Music?)
- ♥ Welcome, Reverend Ted Altenberg
- ♥ Native American wedding blessing, Katie Hart
- ♥ "Transforming" and "See Clearly" from the *Tao Te Ching*, John NAME
- ♥ "What I Love About You," Tony & Marianne
- ♥ "On Marriage," *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran, Reverend Ted Altenberg
- ♥ Wedding Vows, Marianne and Tony
- ♥ "The Newly Wedded" by Winthrop NAME NAME, Kathey Felt & Ann Hart
- ♥ Exchanging of the Rings, Tony and Marianne
- ♥ Pronouncement, Reverend Ted Altenberg
- ♥ Recessional (Mariachi music)

♥ **Welcome, Reverend Ted Altenberg**

Beloved family and friends of Tony and Marianne: We have gathered together today to witness the marriage of these two lovely young people. They have chosen to commit themselves to each other, to spend their lives together, to love each other, to grow together. We—as their family and friends—are here to serve as witnesses to their vows, and also to support and celebrate their love and commitment. A wedding is, by its very nature, more than just a ceremony for two people. It is a community event; it is a couple's public proclamation of their love and commitment to one another, and in a sense they are making a commitment to us as well. Marianne and Tony are here today vowing to be a loving couple, a positive influence on their family, friends and community, as well as upon one another. So let us be mindful that this is a celebration for all of us, as we join in celebrating the heartfelt love between Tony and Marianne.

Marianne's sister Katie will now read a Native American wedding blessing.

♥ **Native American wedding blessing,
read by Katie Hart**

Now you will feel no rain,
for each of you will be shelter for the other.

Now you will feel no cold,
for each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there is no more loneliness,
for each of you will be companion for the other.

Now you are two persons,
but there is only one life before you.

Go now to your dwelling place,
to enter into the days of your togetherness.

And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

Tony's dear friend John Hou will now read two passages from Lao Tzu's *Tao Te Ching*:

♥ **"See Clearly" and "Transforming," Lau Tzu,
read by John Hou**

Your love is a great mystery. It is like an eternal lake, whose waters are always still and clear like glass. Looking into it you can see the truth about your life.

It is like a deep well, whose waters are cool and pure.

Drinking from it you can be reborn. You do not have to stir the waters or dig the well. Merely see yourself clearly and drink deeply.

Your love contains the power of a thousand suns.

It unfolds as naturally and effortlessly as does a flower, and graces the world with its blooming. Its beauty radiates a transforming energy that enlivens all who see it. Because of you, compassion and joy are added to the world. That is why the stars sing together because of your love.

Marianne and Tony will now read a love poem of sorts. They have each written a few brief statements about what they love about each other; they have not shared what they've written with each other, until this moment.

♥ "What I Love About You," Tony and Marianne

Tony: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Marianne: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Tony: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Marianne: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

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Marianne: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

♥ **“On Marriage,” *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran, Reverend Ted Altenberg**

Here now is the sage advice of Lebanese-born artist, poet, writer and philosopher Kahlil Gibran, from his classic book *The Prophet*.

You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore. But let there be spaces in your togetherness, and let the winds of the heavens dance between you. Love one another, but make not a bond of love: Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls. Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup. Give one another your bread but eat not from one loaf. Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone, even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music. Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping. Stand together yet not too near together: For the pillars of the temple stand apart, and the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

Wedding Vows, Marianne and Tony

Tony and Marianne will now pledge their vows to each other:

Tony: Marianne, I promise to be faithful, supportive, and loyal and to give you my companionship and love throughout all the changes of our life. I vow to bring you happiness, and I will treasure you as my companion. I will celebrate the joys of life with you. I promise to support your dreams, and walk beside you offering courage and strength through all endeavors. From this day forward, I will be proud to be your husband and your best friend.

Marianne: Tony, I take you to be my husband, my friend, my love, and my lifelong companion: to share my life with yours. To build our dreams together, while allowing you to grow with your dreams; to support you through times of trouble, and rejoice with you in times of happiness; to treat you with respect, love, and loyalty through all the trials and triumphs of our lives together; and to give you all the love I can give my whole life long. This commitment is made in love, kept in faith, lived in hope, and eternally made new.”

♥ **“The Newly Wedded” by Winthrop Praed,
read by Kathey Felt and Ann Hart**

Now the rite is duly done, Now the word is spoken,
And the spell has made you one
Which may ne'er be broken;
Rest you, dearest, in your home,
Roam you o'er the heather:
You shall rest, and you shall roam,
Shall you not? together.

From this hour the summer rose
Sweeter breathes to charm you;
From this hour the winter snows
Lighter fall to harm you:
Fair or foul – on land or sea-
Come the wind or weather,
Best and worst whate'er they be,
You shall share together.

Death, who friend from friend can part,

Brother rend from brother.

Shall but link you, heart and heart,

Closer to each other:

You will call his anger play,

Deem his dart a feather,

When you meet him on your way

Hand in hand together.

♥ **Exchanging of the Rings, Tony and Marianne**

Ted: Marianne and Tony will now exchange rings.

Tony: With this ring, I thee wed, as a symbol of love that has neither beginning nor end.

Marianne: With this ring, I thee wed, as a symbol of love that has neither beginning nor end.

♥ **Pronouncement, Reverend Ted Altenberg**

It is my supreme honor and pleasure to pronounce you, Tony and Marianne Hartfelt, husband and wife!