

Wedding Website content editing, 06-27-2024:

Home tab:

11:00am, Sunday, September 8, 2024

[The Mountain Lakes House](#)

Princeton, NJ

Cocktail attire

Hotel tab:

We have reserved a room block at the [Homewood Suites Princeton](#), which is a 15-minute drive (4 miles) from the venue. Please note that the parking lot at the wedding venue only has room for 30 cars.

To reserve a room at the discounted rate, please go to [this link](#).

Schedule tab:

10:30am – 11:00 am	Guests arrive
11:00am – 11:30am	Ceremony starts on time
11:30am – 12:30pm	Cocktail Hour
12:30pm – 2:00pm	Lunch

Gifts & Tzedakah tab:

It always brings us joy when, on an occasion for gift-giving, someone chooses to give in our honor to those who are in need. After all, we are blessed to already have what we need, and the principle of tzedakah (charity, or justice) is very important to us both.

We're big fans of [GiveWell](#), an organization that identifies charities which help people in need as much as possible per dollar. We would love for guests to [donate](#) in our honor to the [Against Malaria Foundation](#) or to any other GiveWell [top charity](#) of your choice. If you do so, please dedicate the donation to us by checking the box for "Would you like to dedicate this gift to someone?" and filling in our names and our email address (benjenny100@gmail.com).

COVID Safety tab:

Indoors/Outdoors

We are planning on holding the wedding outside unless the weather makes this impossible. Specifically, we plan to hold the ceremony outdoors, the cocktail hour outdoors and indoors, and the reception in a spacious tent with a high ceiling.

Masks

As of two weeks before the wedding, we're not planning to require guests to wear masks, but this could change, especially depending on weather affecting where the wedding is held. Please bring a mask just in case! We will bring extra masks for those who do not bring their own.

Vaccination

All guests over age 12, as well as the musicians, photographer, and videographer, will be vaccinated. The venue staff may or may not be vaccinated but will be masked. Children under age 12 will be asked to take COVID tests within 3 days before the wedding.

If you have coronavirus safety concerns, please feel free to reach out to us at benjenny100@gmail.com. Our final guest count is due Monday 8/16, so if possible please let us know before that date if you won't be able to come for coronavirus safety reasons or otherwise.

And of course, if you are not feeling well, please stay home! We will miss you but we'll be grateful for your help in making sure our wedding is safe.

Jewish Traditions tab:

Will kippot be provided? Can non-Jews wear kippot during the ceremony? Is a kippah the same thing as a yarmulke?

Yes, but feel free to bring your own. Sure, if you'd like! And yes, "yarmulke" is the Yiddish word for it and "kippah" is the Hebrew (and "kippot" is the plural form).

What is a chuppah? What will your chuppah be made of?

The chuppah is the canopy under which we will stand during our wedding ceremony. It represents the new home we will build together. Our chuppah will be made of Ben's father's tallit (traditional shawl worn during prayer), under which Ben's parents Pam and Dean were also married.

What happens during a Jewish wedding ceremony?

First, there is the hakafot, or circling, in which the bride and groom will circle each other seven times. Seven represents the number of days of creation, and our marriage is an act of creation as well.

Next, there will be blessings over wine and over the bond of marriage, followed by the exchange of vows and rings. Rings are traditionally placed on the couple's pointer fingers (not ring fingers), because of an ancient belief that the pointer finger is connected directly to the heart.

After some words by our officiant, Rabbi Julie Roth, we'll continue with the Sheva Brachot, which means "seven blessings." These blessings over the marriage are connected to the themes of creation and of celebration. They will be read in Hebrew by Cantor Jill Pakman with a traditional melody, and our parents and grandparents will give English translations or blessings.

Next comes the Birkhat Kohanim (priestly blessing), which will be given by Rabbi Beth Janus, Ben's aunt. In ancient times, this blessing was given by the Kohanim (priests) over everyone. In less ancient times, the blessing is traditionally said over one's children on Shabbat.

Finally, we will break a glass, symbolizing the fact that even at our most joyous occasions we also remember the continued brokenness of the world.

What's a yichud?

The yichud is the traditional period of seclusion in which the newlyweds spend the first few minutes of marriage alone together, immediately after the ceremony. Then we'll join the cocktail hour!

Why will the bride and groom be lifted on chairs during the celebratory dancing?

Tradition! [Cue Fiddler on the Roof]

Other Info tab:

Food

The food will be all vegetarian.

Shoes

The outdoor area has a stone floor, so guests may want to avoid wearing pointy heels.