

Calley O'Neill Instar Weddings
www.SunsetLoveWeddings.com

DESIGNING YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

BRIDE and GROOM'S FULL NAMES (as you want it spoken ~ traditionally first, middle names and last)

HOME ADDRESS: City and State

EMAIL ADDRESS:

BRIDE:

GROOM:

HOME PHONE:

GROOM'S MOBILE PHONE:

BRIDE'S MOBILE NUMBER:

BRIDE'S AND GROOM'S PARENTS' NAMES:

(seen and unseen, all those that you want acknowledged and spoken)

DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN, AND IF SO WHAT ARE THEIR NAMES AND AGES?

Will they be in attendance?

GRANDPARENTS YOU WOULD LIKE MENTIONED, ALIVE OR HERE IN SPIRIT:

AND ALL OTHER NAMES OF IMPORTANT FAMILY MEMBERS TO NOTE:

NAMES OF BEST MAN AND MAID OF HONOR:

BRIDESMAIDS AND USHERS:

BOTH OF YOUR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS (if any)

WHAT IS YOUR WORD OR WORDS FOR THE DIVINE?

YOUR PARENTS' RELIGION, AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS (if strongly present in their lives)

What is the religion and culture of your upbringing? What cultural traditions and rituals would you like to include? Would you enjoy the honoring/including the Hawaiian culture, nature and LOKAHI, the oneness of the Divine Source, nature and humanity?

HOW MANY GUESTS WILL ATTEND THE CEREMONY? WILL THEY BE SEATED?

Will the ceremony be held indoors or outdoors? Generally, will it be formal and traditional or personal? Time of day?

WILL THERE BE A WRITTEN CEREMONY PAGE FOR YOUR GUESTS? (not necessary)

DO YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR MY DRESS or its color?

(I usually wear a floral Hawaiian style dress.)

THE WEDDING CEREMONY

THE CEREMONY: Please plan to sit down and relax and take some special quiet time together to envision the ceremony, the feeling you long for, the atmosphere, the words, the time of day, the setting, the vows, the joy of the occasion...and then respond in writing with any and all thoughts and visions that come to you, so that I can see what you see.

GATHERING OF GUESTS: This can be done with the blowing of the PU to the 7 direction, or the ringing of bells or a song or a call prior to the processional, that indicates sweetly to all that your arrival is about to commence.

Where will you and your Best Man and Maid of Honor and Family be standing?

THE PROCESSION: Will there be a processional? What will be the order of the processional? Have you chosen music? Live? Will the bride walk with a family escort? The groom?

HAWAIIAN EXCHANGE OF LEIS:

A beautiful tradition here is the exchange of leis, symbolizing the beautiful, delicacy and fragrant sweetness of love and the passing of time shared together. Will you be offering each other leis? Your parents or children leis?

THE CONVOCAION, INVOCATION AND ADDRESS: How would you like me to welcome your guests, open your ceremony, and speak to the union of marriage. Contemplate the feelings, and traditions... and any words you would like to offer. It is the personal magic of you two that I want to reflect. Would you like the story of your meeting, or relationship told, briefly and poetically? Are you open to a minute of silence, alignment and some slower deeper breathing to gather everyone's attention, energy and align our intentions to create a sacred space around you? This is important to do and works very well, even with conservative guests. Are you open to offering this as a time for a renewal of vows within love's celebration for all present? If there are words that speak to what this union means to you, please offer them. Add any thoughts on why you are choosing to marry at this time.

THE BLESSING OF A CHILD: If you are pregnant or have children, young or older, would you like the children acknowledged and blessed? Has the forthcoming birth been announced previously? Are the children to be present?

PRAYERS AND READINGS: Do you have prayers, poetry, verses, and readings in mind, and friends or family to offer them? Do you have family traditions to honor and uphold? Do your parents want to offer prayers of importance to them for you?

In addition to prayers and special readings, I love the Seven Blessings, inspired by the Hebrew tradition. Are you open to 7 or 9 family and friends offering a one sentence blessing, after which everyone present responds in unison ~ "WE BLESS THIS MARRIAGE". This creates a very special feeling in the ceremony. What are the 7 or 9 most important qualities of love and life to you both together? Also, Kahlil Gibran on Marriage, and on Love is classical and wonderful.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE: May we take a few minutes for music...live or CD? Acoustic music and/or a vocalist are wonderful. I love Kealii Reichel's The Road that Never Ends as it creates sacred space for Hawai'i so beautifully, so quickly. There are many, many love songs in many genres that work beautifully.

MUSIC is wonderful, before, for the processional, during and after the ceremony.

INTENTIONS AND THE BLESSING OF THE RINGS: Do you wish to speak from the heart of your intentions, or write some for me with which to shower the rings with blessings. Some couples like to pass their rings around to have each guest present touch and offer their own personal blessing upon the rings.

THE CALL TO VOWS AND THE SACRED PROMISES: Will you write your own vows, or do you have special words or phrases you do or do not want to include in your vows? There are infinite possibilities here. Do you want to speak softly to each other or proclaim your vows to those present so that they may be touched, and bear witness. You may look online for ideas if you choose. I have beautiful traditional vows with uplifting words. Do you want to repeat after me (often the least stressful), speak them from the heart (delightful, requiring spiritual courage and panache) or memorize them. I can keep a copy to prompt you if you forget. Some bring it on their phones... paper seems more appropriate.

THE PRONOUNCEMENT: What will the Bride's name be? If your name will not change, the pronouncement acknowledges that by speaking it.

BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE: very brief closing prayer...requests welcome. The Apache Ideal is perfect for this. Do you know it? This is terrific is spoken in unison by everyone present.

THE APACHE IDEAL

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter to 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 you.
Now you are two bodies, but there is but one life before you.

Prepare now to go eventually to your dwelling place,
To enter into the days of your oneness and meaning.

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

THE PRESENTATION AND WALK OF THE NEWLYWEDS: Will you have a recessional? Do you have recessional music? live? Will there be a shower of rose petals, small flowers or sesame seeds?

COCONUT WATER TOAST AND SIGNING OF THE MARRIAGE LICENSE:

Would you like to toast with the purest, most nutritive water on Earth: water that literally has never touched the ground? This can be done immediately after the presentation and before the walk or just after signing with your two witnesses in a slightly different location?