

**Robyn and Jim**

**July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Jackson Falls, 4:00 pm**

### **Opening Words**

Welcome everyone and thank you for joining us on this magnificent day in the White Mountains. Your presence and participation today means a great deal to Robyn and Jim and we are all very pleased that you could be here. We are particularly pleased that Sean is well enough to participate today.

### **Reading read by James**

**Kim says "And now, a reading by James-From "The Velveteen Rabbit" by Margery Williams"**

"What is REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room.

"Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

### **Marriage Description**

A marriage that lasts is one which is continually developing and in which each person continues to grow as an individual. Deep knowledge of another person is not something that can be achieved in a short time and real understanding of another's feelings can only develop with years of intimacy. This grows out of caring for the other so much that one wants to understand what the other is feeling or as much as is possible. Marriage is about sharing not only the joys and successes but the burdens of sorrows and failures as well. To be known in this way is very special.

## Reading-read by Sue

**Kim says, "and now, a Reading by Sue-From "The Irrational Season" by Madeleine L'Engle"**

Ultimately there comes a time when a decision must be made. Ultimately two people who love each other must ask themselves how much they hope for as their love grows and deepens, and how much risk they are willing to take. It is indeed a fearful gamble. Because it is the nature of love to create, a marriage itself is something which has to be created. To marry is the biggest risk in human relations that a person can take. If we commit ourselves to one person for life this is not, as many people think, a rejection of freedom; rather it demands the courage to move into all the risks of freedom, and the risk of love which is permanent; into that love which is not possession, but participation. It takes a lifetime to learn another person. When love is not possession, but participation, then it is part of that co-creation which is our human calling.

## Intentions

Jim, will you have Robyn as your wife, in times of good fortune as well as adversity, forsaking all others to be a kind and faithful husband? Do you promise to base your life with Robyn on love, caring, and understanding? Do you pledge to speak and to listen, to give and to receive, and to be considerate of her wishes and desires?

*Jim:* I will

Robyn, will you have Jim as your husband, in times of good fortune as well as adversity, forsaking all others to be a kind and faithful wife? Do you promise to base your life with Jim on love, caring and understanding? Do you pledge to speak and to listen, to give and to receive, and to be considerate of his wishes and desires?

*Robyn: I will*

### **The Hands Ceremony**

Jim and Robyn, Please face each other and take each other's hands, so that you may see the gift that they are to you.

*(Cloth is draped over hands)*

These are the hands of your best friend, strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow and forever.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that hold you when fear or grief temporarily comes your way.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These are the hands that tenderly hold your children.

These are the hands that hold you tight as you struggle through difficult times.

These are the hands that give you strength when you need it.

These are the hands that give you support and encourage you to chase your dreams. Together, everything you wish for can be realized.

*(Cloth is tied into a knot.)*

May your love find lasting permanence, bound together in the fabric of life. May the protection of marriage surround you, sustain you and comfort you. In the binding of this cloth, may you remember the binding of your words: The vows of fidelity and trust you make today. Though the cloth has two sides, it is of one piece; so now there are two lives, but bound together in one heart, one home. May these lives be bound together, never to be torn asunder.

### **Vows/Pledge**

**Jim, please repeat after me**

I, Jim

Take you Robyn

to be none other than yourself.

I promise to stand by your side;

To encourage you,

and be open and honest with you;

To laugh with you, and cry with you;

To always love and honor you;  
Both freed and bound by our love,  
For as long as we both shall live.

**Robin, please repeat after me:**

I, Robyn  
Take you Jim  
to be none other than yourself.  
I promise to stand by your side;  
To encourage you,  
  
and be open and honest with you;  
To laugh with you, and cry with you;  
To always love and honor you;  
Both freed and bound by our love,  
For as long as we both shall live.

The knots of this binding are not formed by these cords, but rather by your vows. For always, you hold in your own hands the making or breaking of this union.

**(Knot is slipped off.)**

**Closing**

Today I am privileged to share with you the moment you begin your new life together. In the years ahead, may you always apply tenderness and strength to the trials that may befall you. May your love be a shield from the unpredictability of life. May you remember to rejoice in good

times and good fortune and may you always appreciate the life that you found with each other.

Now, it give me great pleasure to say, by the power vested in me, by the State of New Hampshire, I pronounce you husband and wife.

You may kiss the bride