

Ginger and Fred
June 23rd, 2013
1:00 pm
Lost Pond, Pinkham Notch

Welcome:

Welcome everyone! Today is a very special occasion, filled with hopes, dreams, and excitement. We're here today to celebrate the love that Ginger and Fred have for each other, and to recognize and witness their decision to journey forward in their lives as committed life partners.

A lifetime commitment enables two people to share their desires, talents, dreams, and memories, and to help each other through their uncertainties. It provides the encouragement to risk more . . . and thus to gain more. It involves facing together whatever promising challenge or adversity may arise.

Reading: *"I Love You"*, by Roy Croft

A writer named Roy Croft is often attributed with a beautiful poem which speaks of the power of committed love. The poem reads:

"I love you, not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. I love you, not only for what you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of me.

I love you, for the part of me that you bring out. I love you, for putting your hand into my heaped-up heart, and passing over all the foolish, weak things that you can't help dimly seeing there, and for drawing out, into the light, all the beautiful belongings that no one else had looked quite far enough to find.

I love you, because you are helping me to make of the lumber of my life, not a tavern, but a temple. Out of the works of my every day, not a reproach, but a song. I love you, because you have done more than any creed could have done to make me good, and more than any fate could have done to make me happy.

You have done it without a touch, without a word, without a sign. You have done it by being yourself. Perhaps that is what being a friend means, after all.”

Intentions:

Ginger and Fred, you have made a very serious and important decision in choosing to publicly declare your commitment today. This is a decision that is not to be entered into lightly but rather undertaken with great consideration and respect for both the other person and oneself.

The quality of your relationship is up to you. As individuals, and together as a couple, you will choose each day what kind of shared life you will create, promote and allow through your thoughts, feelings, and actions.

Fred, do you understand and accept this responsibility, and do you promise to do your best each day to create and sustain a loving, healthy, and happy home with Ginger?

Fred: I do.

Ginger, do you understand and accept this responsibility, and do you promise to do your best each day to create and sustain a loving, healthy, and happy home with Fred?

Ginger: I do.

Vows:

Fred, please repeat after me:

I, Fred Davis, take you, Ginger Jones
to be my committed partner from this day forward.
Whatever life has in store for us,
I promise to love you,
to be kind and patient, forgiving, and faithful.
I promise to honor our differences and to learn from them.
I will encourage you and stand by you in our life together,
and I will grow with you in the shelter of our love.

Ginger, please repeat after me:

I, Ginger Jones, take you, Fred Davis
to be my committed partner from this day forward.
Whatever life has in store for us,
I promise to love you,
to be kind and patient, forgiving, and faithful.
I promise to honor our differences and to learn from them.
I will encourage you and stand by you in our life together,
and I will grow with you in the shelter of our love.

Ring Exchange:

May I have the rings, please?

Rings are circles, symbolizing unity, eternity, and renewal. As arms that embrace, the rings you give and receive this day reflect the circle of love given and received that you'll share as life partners.

Fred, as you place the ring on Ginger's finger, please repeat after me:

Ginger, I give you this ring as a symbol of my love,
and as a constant reminder that I have chosen you above all others
to be the one to share my life.

May it belong to your hand as my heart belongs to you.

Ginger, as you place the ring on Fred's finger, please repeat after me:

Fred, I give you this ring as a symbol of my love,
and as a constant reminder that I have chosen you above all others
to be the one to share my life.

May it belong to your hand as my heart belongs to you.

The rings you have just exchanged are gifts to each other to remind you and those that gaze upon their beauty that you have pledged your love and commitment to each other. And when you have been together for a long, long time, you will look at these rings, and you will feel the indentations that have made on your fingers, and you will know that these rings contain all the memories of your life together. May they always serve to remind you of how great your love is for one another.

Handfasting II:

[As fabric is draped and/or wrapped over clasped hands]

May your love find lasting permanence, bound together in the fabric of life.

May the protection of your commitment to each other 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 that 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 bound together, never be torn asunder.

Closing:

Ginger and Fred, there is a wonderful life ahead of you. Live it fully. Love its changes and choices. Let life amaze you and bring you great joy. I wish for you the wisdom, compassion, trust, and constancy to create and sustain a peaceful sanctuary where you can both grow in love.

Pronouncement:

Fred and Ginger, inasmuch as you two have come before this company and have declared your love and devotion to each other, I am happy to join with those who are present in affirming your vows.

You may kiss your love.