

Bonnie Nilsen and Joel Kann

Wedding Ceremony, April 16, 2020

Laney Margolis, Ph.D., Humanist Celebrant

1. Call to Order 7:00 pm

Song: Beatles: In My Life

Thank you for joining us. Joel and Bonnie have asked that you please silence your phones in order to be fully present during the ceremony and with each other. Thank you!

Bonnie and Joel face each other.

2. Welcome

We warmly welcome you to this joyful occasion of the marriage of Bonnie Linda Nilsen and Joel Robert Kann. Today is a celebration of love and life, a celebration not to create a bond or a union, but to celebrate and honor all that they already share.

4. Marriage Discussion

Bonnie and Joel, today is the public affirmation and acknowledgment of all that you are to each other. Seemingly, your relationship will be as it has always been; yet, there is power in the spoken word. May that power bring you all the warmth, comfort, joy and happiness the world has to offer.

5. Declaration of intent

Nothing is easier than saying words, and nothing is harder than living them day-by-day. The promises you will make today must be remembered and made anew each day. You will be legally married from this day forward, but you will decide each day and each month of each year, that you want to be married.

Real love is something beyond the excitement and romance of being “in love.” It is caring as much about the welfare and happiness of your partner as about your own. But real love is not total absorption in each other; it is looking outward in the same direction – together.

Love lightens your burdens and increases your joys because both are shared. Love makes you stronger, allowing you to reach out and engage the world in ways you dared not risk alone. Love is essential for a good marriage, but it is not sufficient. Loyalty, patience, understanding, optimism, and forgiveness must join with love to create a lasting marriage.

There is no doubt that you have carefully considered the beauty of the obligations assumed when lives are wed. Joel and Bonnie, are you ready to exchange vows and become husband and wife?

Response together: ***We are***

6. Handfasting

Bonnie and Joel face each other and hold hands.
Simple handfasting.

Joel and Bonnie, look at one another and remember this moment in time.

Joel, do you have anything you wish to say to Bonnie?

Bonnie, do you have anything you wish to say to Joel?

7. Vows

- a. **Joel and Bonnie you have come here today before me and your friends to state your intentions and your love for each other.**
- b. **Joel, do you take Bonnie to be your lawfully wedded wife, to profess your love for her, to provide for her, to protect her and put her above all others, and to be her husband and lover and most faithful friend so long as you shall live?**
- c. **Joel: *I do***
- d. **Bonnie, do you take Joel to be your lawfully wedded husband, to profess your love for him, to provide for him, to protect him and put him above all others, and to be his wife and lover and most faithful friend so long as you shall live?**
- e. **Bonnie: *I do***

6. Pronouncement of marriage

Joel and Bonnie, may you have many joys, and be the light of each other's days. May you always see and encourage the best in each other. May the challenges that life brings your way make your marriage grow stronger. May you always bring laughter to each other. May you always be each other's closest friend and greatest love.

Now, by the power vested in me by the American Humanist Society and the state of North Carolina, I pronounce you husband and wife. You may now kiss.

7. Presentation

It is my great honor and privilege to present to you for the very first time, Joel Kann and Bonnie Nilsen, husband and wife.

Joel and Bonnie face the audience

8. Signing of the Wedding License