

Subject: Middle school 6th grade

Mayan wedding ceremony

MONICA & JEREMY

Light (Unity) and Forgiveness Ceremony

Hotel Tolimán, Lake Atitlan

Friday August 19th, 2016, 3pm

Participants: Ajq'ij* Eduardo Takatik, and Ajq'ij Leanne Heinbaugh in English.

* Ajq'ij: Mayan Spiritual Guide

Time	Activity	Music	Person Responsible
to be determined			
3 pm	The bride and the groom walk down to the gardens	Applauses, whistles	The audience
3.01	Welcome, brief explanation of the ceremony. This can be omitted and we can go directly to the ceremony.	None	Chati, Juanita translates
3:03	In the garden there is already a place designed for the fire Call to the Ancestors	Very soft background	Spiritual Guides

	<p>The bride and the groom taking turns, say the name of their ancestors not present, while adding candles (color by sex) to the fire.</p> <p>The spiritual guide ask all of the ancestors to be present now and always at M&J life together.</p> <p>Monica gives thanks for the life of her grandmother Nana Belle who could not travel to be here.</p> <p>Jeremy thanks for the presence of Grandma Andreita, who came from Honduras, and today is having her 94th birthday.</p> <p>The spiritual guide blesses the lives of Grandma Nana Belle and Grandma Andreita.</p>	music, Tun & Chirimia	Music Prof. Cheyo
3.10	<p style="text-align: center;">Ceremony of the Light</p> <p>Parents of the bride light up the candle to the left. Parents of the groom light up the candle to the right. The bride and the groom grab his/her own candle and together at the same time light up a third candle at the center. Here we have two options: the bride and the groom put out their correspondent candle to signify that they are now one being, or, leave their own candles lit to signify that though they are uniting their lives into one, they keep their independence and personality within this union.</p> <p>Their guests were already given each a candle. There are two options here: the guests can approach the bride and the groom and light up each candle with theirs, or the bride and the groom pass among the guests lighting up each candle. If there are too many guests, only the ones that are closer use the couple's candle to light up theirs, and pass the light to the others next to them.</p>	<p>Background music</p> <p>Local Drums and Flute</p>	<p>Ceremony: Chati</p> <p>Music: Prof. Cheyo</p>
3.30	<p style="text-align: center;">Ceremony of Forgiveness</p> <p>The spiritual guide announces the ceremony of forgiveness, asking the audience that each of them from their</p>	Background music, a bit louder	The Ajq'ij and translators Prof. Cheyo

	<p>own spirituality, accompany the bride and the groom in this humble moment of surrender.</p> <p>Brief dialogue between M&J (could be in loud voice, or private) in which they first forgive themselves; then ask for forgiveness to their loved ones, for any offense they might have caused to them; and last the couple ask for forgiveness for offenses that could have been inflicted to one another during courtship, to start a new life together. At the end they merge into a tender embrace.</p> <p>At this time, the spiritual guide asks the guests to deposit their lit candles in a ceramic pot (they produce a big fire), and explains that with this wax, the couple will make a single candle, and during difficult moments of their life together they will light it up, and in that light will be represented the thoughts and best wishes of all present.</p>		
3:50	<p>Delivery of the bride to the parents of the groom, and vice versa</p> <p>The spiritual guide holds the bride by her shoulders and approaches the parents of the groom saying, here is your new daughter, express your acceptance and commitment to care for and protect her as your very own daughter. Then holds the groom and present him to the parents of the bride saying, here is your new son, express your acceptance and commitment to care for and protect him as your very own son.</p> <p>Both sets of parents can speak at this point.</p>	Soft dramatic background music. To be chose.	Spiritual guide and Prof. Cheyo
4.05	<p>Reading of a poem meaningful for both M&J. Jeremy will read it in Spanish, and Monica will read it in English. It can be a haiku or something written by each of you. In Nick & Marie's case, they explained what love meant for each of them.</p>	Very low background music	Jeremy & Mónica xxx
4.15	<p>The bride or the groom, or both, one in English, one in Spanish, thanks everyone for their presence, and invites everybody</p>		J & M

	to toast and celebrate. Buffett, music and dancing follows.		
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Please, add your ideas, changes and suggestions.

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