

the **wedding** of

Amy & Dev



**may 12, 2007**

terrace on the park  
52-11 111th street  
queens, ny 11368



# Dev and Amy

## wedding day itinerary

performed by Nikhil N. Trivedi

**2.00pm Baraat.** Dev arrives with his family and friends

**2.30 – 4.30pm Hindu Wedding Ceremony**

**6.00pm Cocktail and Reception**

\* Guests that wish to relax and freshen up during the break between the wedding ceremony and cocktail/reception may choose to take the shuttle or drive to the Crown Plaza Hotel. For those who do not have hotel accommodations, please feel free to enjoy the lounge in the hotel lobby. Please return to Terrace on the Park promptly by 6pm for the Cocktail hour!

Directions from Terrace on the Park to Crowne Plaza Hotel

- Go north on 111th St. toward 52nd Ave.
- Slight left onto 110th St.
- Turn right onto N. Blvd 25A
- Turn left onto 111th St.
- Turn left onto Ditmars Blvd



## The Hindu Wedding Ceremony

Marriage is considered the strongest social bond in the Hindu tradition. The marriage ceremony is conducted according to the ancient Vedic tenets that are thousands of years old. Amongst Hindus, marriage is meant to merge two souls spiritually into one harmonious whole, as the bride and groom enter *Grihasthashram* (household life).

Each *puja*, or religious ritual, in the Hindu wedding has a deep philosophical meaning and purpose. The majority of the ceremony takes place in the *kalyana mandapam*, or marriage alter. Chanted by the *Pujari* (Hindu priest) in Sanskrit verses, the prayers and symbolic gestures/acts comprise the ceremony, and ensure the bride and groom are united in the presence of God, family, and friends.

### **Barat (Wedding Procession) & Swagatam (Welcoming of Groom's Family)**

The original form of Barat is a procession that begins at the groom's home and ends at the bride's house, where the wedding ceremony is being performed. Dev arrives for the Wedding, accompanied by his family and friends. They are greeted at the door by Amy's parents and family. Amy's mother welcomes and blesses Dev by placing a "Tilak" on his forehead as a mark of respect to her new member of the family. Dev is presented a clay pot, "Sampat" that represents the world and material life. Dev steps on the clay pot with his right foot and breaks it, thereby declaring to Amy's family that he has not come to seek material comfort, but only to make Amy, his wife. He is then led to the Mandap, where the ceremony takes place.

### **Ganesh Puja (Veneration of Lord Ganesh)**

Every Hindu auspicious ceremony begins with the worship of the Lord Ganesh, deity of Peace, knowledge and wisdom. The Lord Ganesh averts misfortunes and removes any obstacles that may arise, so that the ceremony may proceed smoothly. Ganesh Puja is performed to worship the five basic elements of creation: earth, water, air, fire and sky.

### **Var Puja (Welcoming of the groom)**

Amy's parents welcome Dev. Amy's father bestows a great honor to the groom by washing his feet. This signifies their respect and affection for him, as they offer their daughter's hand in marriage.

### **Antarpat and Manglashtak (Invocation of Divine Blessing)**

A white curtain "Antarpat" is held by members of both families in front of Dev before Amy arrives at the Mandap to signify that they are still two separate individuals and that no spiritual, emotional or physical union has taken place between them. The priest and Amy's family chant Manglashtak, sacred verse, to bless the couple and to encourage them to show the same devotion to each other. Amy is escorted to the Mandap by her maternal uncles. Then, "Antarpat", which symbolizes the physical world which separates Dev and Amy is removed.



### **Exchange of Garlands**

Dev and Amy exchange floral garlands to signify the aromatic and colorful acceptance of one another into each other's life. Fresh flowers also symbolize beauty and mutual love.

### **Kanyadan and Hastamelap (Giving away the bride & the joining of hands)**

The offering of a daughter's hand in marriage is considered the greatest of all gifts. Amy's father holds her right hand with her palm facing upward while Amy's mother does the same with Dev's hand. Amy's parents recite the ancestral heritage of Amy and Dev while pouring holy water on their hands. The process ends with Amy's father placing her right hand into Dev's right hand. This is called "Hastmelap". A raw cotton cloth symbolizing different characteristics and virtues of human life is put around the shoulders of the couple. The threads of white cotton which bind them together remind the couple that from now on as partners in life, each must fulfill their respective roles. Dev faces Amy's parents and officially accepts their daughter as his wife.

### Granthi Bandhan or Cheda Ganthan (Tying of the knot)

A portion of Amy's Sari and Dev's shawl are tied together symbolizing the sacred union and an unbreakable bond between them.

### Agni Puja

Prayers are offered to Agni, the lord of fire by placing Ghee, rice and flowers on the flame which dispels darkness and ignorance from the lives of the couple and leads them to eternal light and knowledge. This sacred fire symbolizes



not only the illumination of the mind, knowledge and happiness, but is also pure witness to the ceremony.

### Mangal Fera (Circling the Sacred Fire)

Advait, the bride's brother, places rice in both Amy's and Dev's hands as an offering to the Havan Agni. The bride and groom circle around the sacred fire 4 times. The first three rounds led by Dev, represent the goals

of life that are set forth in Hindu scripture: Dharma(duty), Artha(wealth) and Kama( pleasure). The final goal: Moksha(liberation from the continuous circle of life and death) is considered an individual goal. Amy declares her independence by leading this last round signifying that no one can be forced in the matter of the soul, its liberation, and its religious convictions.

### Saptapadi (Seven sacred vows)

- one. To Prosper and fulfillment of the material necessities of life
- two. To develop mental, physical and spiritual strength
- three. To achieve wealth through righteous and honest means
- four. To acquire knowledge, happiness and harmony by mutual love and trust
- five. To raise children who are virtuous and healthy in mind, body and soul
- six. To remain faithful lifelong partners
- seven. To cherish each other and our families in sorrow and happiness

### Sindoor and Mangal Sutra

Dev places Sindoor (red powder), the traditional mark of a married woman, along the parting of Amy's hair. He also places a Mangal sutra, a necklace made of black beads and gold, around her neck to symbolize his abiding love, integrity and devotion towards her. It is also at this time that Dev and Amy exchange their wedding rings.

### Kansar (sweet meals)

The bride's mother feeds sweets to the newly married couple. They then feed each other as a display of their love for each other.

### Akhanda Saubhagyavati Bhavah

Married women from both families congratulate the couple and give Amy advice as she takes her new role as a married woman.

### Ashirvad (blessing)

The bride and groom bow to the priest and their elders asking for their Ashirvad (blessings).

### Vidai (farewell)

The wedding ceremony ends with an emotional farewell to Amy. She now begins a new phase of her life as Dev's wife and becomes a part of his family. Amy throws a fistful of rice behind her, signifying a leaving behind of childhood ties.

the  
*Wedding Party*

**Mr. Vijay and Mrs. Meena Shah**  
parents of the bride

**Dr. Ramesh and Mrs. Maria Eva Patwa**  
parents of the groom

**Dr. Advait Shah**  
brother of the bride

**Roshni Melia**  
matron-of-honor

**Diana Sfera, Theresa Labella, Prashanthi Rao, Leena Bhattacharya, Shaily Shah, Sarika Patel, Joanne Ilustre**  
bridesmaids

**Jason Kohn**  
best man

**Shaishav Patwa, Hemal Patwa, David Mercado, Francis John Alamo, Veevek Agrawal, Baiju Gohil, Shawn Ciecko, Raj Sutaria, Jason Starace**  
groomsmen

**Shreya Parikh and Janvi Vora**  
flower girls

**Ria Parikh and Alina Shah**  
var bediyu girls



**Importance of Marriage.** While we were preparing and planning for today's events, we also took considerable time to reflect upon our intentions and purpose. As the priest performs the traditional ceremony, we would like to share with you specific values that we aspire to instill and nurture throughout our new-found relationship. We also ask that each of you continue to challenge us to ensure that we are holding true to these virtues.

**God and Humility.** Words do little justice in describing how important God and spirituality are to us. Day to day, we believe that humility is to never let the ego supercede the spirit: to always appreciate the role God plays throughout our successes, and to not get overcome with and attached to material possessions.

**Friendship.** To us, the relationship of a husband and wife is rooted in friendship. As a couple, our goal is to constantly nurture and grow together in friendship: to be open and honest with one another and above all else to simply enjoy one another's company. Beyond our own friendship, the relationships with friends and family are extremely vital to us. Who we are today is a direct result of the experiences that we have and will continue to share with our friends and family. Without your support and love, we would not be here today.

**Fun.** We both aspire to never let the trials and tribulations in life wear too deeply into our spirit. Life is too short to take so seriously. It is a fact of life that challenging and difficult situations will cross our paths. Knowing this to be the case, we aspire to welcome those experiences while maintaining a sense of humor and light-heartedness throughout. Everyone knows laughter and goofiness is the best medicine.

**Loyalty/Commitment.** We realize that a healthy marriage requires work. With this wisdom in-hand, we will wake up every day realizing that our union is a choice and will forever be committed to its health and prosperity.

**Compassion.** Compassion and kindness are qualities all of us have within. In marriage, this can be expressed in many forms, large and small: a hug, taking care of the other person when they are sick, or even letting go of a grudge from an argument (picking your battles). These acts are what make a marriage stronger, and we hope to always express compassion towards one another. We will also be mindful of our good fortunes and will continually pay homage to those less fortunate through service. Having this perspective will allow us to be appreciative of what we have while keeping us humble.

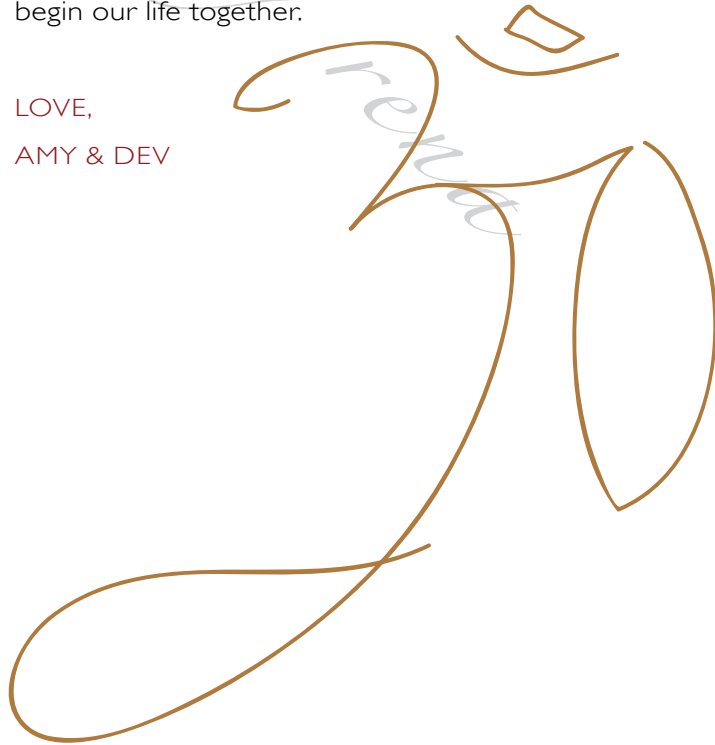


## Message from the Bride & Groom

### TO OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Thank you for celebrating one of the most memorable days of our life. It is your presence and blessings that make this day very special. We appreciate all the love and support each of you have given us as we begin our life together.

LOVE,  
AMY & DEV



may 12, 2007

*designs by rena*

interested in getting a custom design made  
for a special event or business?  
contact [rena.sampat@gmail.com](mailto:rena.sampat@gmail.com)

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