



**W**hen Melissa Rebecca Stern and Seth Seligman Meltzer stood together under the chuppah at The Townsend hotel on June 7, their marriage produced a legacy for Temple Shir Shalom. The chuppah, created especially for the couple by artist Jiro Masuda and purchased by Melissa's parents, Randy and Craig Rubin, is available for all future Temple Shir Shalom weddings.

According to Rabbi Dannel Schwartz of Temple Shir Shalom, the beauty is that the family thought of this idea that can be used from generation to generation. "Most people think of themselves during a wedding. This family is thinking of posterity and the congregation," said Schwartz.

All Temple Shir Shalom families will be able to use the chuppah with the proviso that they make a donation to the Temple. "Not only is the chuppah a beautiful artifact but it is a fundraising opportunity as well," noted Schwartz.

The design of the chuppah mirrors and complements the architecture of the synagogue. Each steel post displays a different Hebrew quote, chosen by the Meltzers. "Melissa and Seth had tremendous input," said Randy Rubin. "They researched it and found four quotes relevant to them."

The four chosen quotes are: *I am my beloved and my beloved is mine; The voice of joy and happiness are the bride and the groom; Blessed*

*are you O God who causes a man and woman to rejoice in each other; Wherever you shall go I shall go.*

Both Melissa and her mother, Randy, talk about "beshert" when describing the wedding and the chuppah. Melissa began dating her husband after an Israel mission. "My friend Brad 'Bubba' Urdin told me I would make great friends and possibly meet a wonderful man," said Melissa, acknowledging that Brad was correct.

Melissa and Seth soon realized their grandparents were once in business together, their mothers were bridesmaids at each other's wedding, and Melissa and Seth knew each other years ago because Melissa is friendly with Rachel, Seth's sister.

Mother and daughter both described the chuppah as a beautiful work of art. Rubin is happy to have created an heirloom to share with others. "I did it in tribute to their marriage." □



**Above:** Florist Don Mazur of Ferndale adorned the chuppah with a plethora of lilies. The chuppah was created exclusively for Melissa and Seth Meltzer by artist Jiro Masuda.

**Left:** After a beautiful wedding, the couple honeymooned in the Greek Isles and Italy. They are shown here in Positano, Italy.

