

Wedding Charge: Sara Falk and Soren LaGaard  
October 21, 2021  
Cantor Lindsay Kanter

Sara and Soren:

What a gift, after many months of planning and replanning amidst a pandemic, to have finally reached this moment. While this may not be the moment that you had originally envisioned, nothing can take away from this beautiful, intimate moment, surrounded by your closest family and friends. It's been a joy to share this journey with you.

I was fortunate to spend several months working with Sara and Soren in preparation for this day, and right away, I could see just how much you love and understand one another. You're both lawyers, and one day in the fall of 2015, you found yourselves both working for the Department of Education, and struck up a conversation. You discovered that you both shared a love of history, and Sara, you asked Soren to go with you to visit the National Archives, and Soren- you didn't even realize that it was a date! Nonetheless, you hit it off, and that date led to many others.

In the fall of 2016, you took a trip to Thailand, and this 17 day trip solidified your relationship and opened up your love for traveling. Together you have traveled to China, Thailand, Morocco, Croatia, Austria, France, Mexico, & Bosnia.

It was in Bosnia in November of 2018 that you found yourselves sitting on a private balcony in Mostar, when Soren suggested that when you get back, you should start looking for rings.

That led to a proposal the following summer, on a vacation to France. Soren was so nervous carrying that ring around, that he proposed first thing in the morning, on the first day of the 2 and a half week trip! Sara was so startled, and she wasn't wearing her glasses, so she wasn't even sure what she was saying yes to! But, this engagement was so perfect for Sara and Soren. They spent the next 2 and a half weeks in France enjoying this private time, telling strangers in French that they got engaged, and just being together.

I asked Sara and Soren to each share a list of the 10 things they love most about one another. One of the things that stood out to me the most is how much you admire one another.

Soren: You described how Sara challenges you everyday to be a better human being in ways both small (frequency of cleaning your house) and large (outlook on humanity).

Sara: You called Soren a true Renaissance man. You have never met anyone who knows so much about so many different things (space, history, electrical work, literature).

You love spending time together:

Soren: You love that you end every night together with Sara's head on your chest watching either a Survivor episode or dozing off to Jean Luc Picard's melodious interstellar speeches on Star Trek.

Sara: You love Soren's goofiness, which helps to bring out your non-serious side, and how Soren makes running every day errands fun.

You support each other:

Sara: You described how Soren is incredibly supportive, believing that you are capable of doing anything in the world even when you don't believe it yourself.

Soren: You described how much you admire Sara's strength of her faith and the traditions that she honors and has shared with you during your relationship, including this beautiful wedding ceremony.

You even love the cringeworthy things about each other.

Sara: You love Soren's terrible, corny jokes.

Soren: You love that Sara is so forgiving of your utterly poor taste in bagels (pre-packaged store-bought bagels with dried fruit inside--Sara deigns to call them "bread products" as they are not worthy of bagel status).

Most of all, you bring each other peace.

Sara: You described how Soren makes you feel incredibly safe both within your relationship and in the world, and how Soren is so caring, not only to me, but to his friends and family.

Soren: You said that holding hands with Sara prompts a wave of relaxation over you and you feel at peace. Always.

Sara and Soren: it is truly apparent to everyone here just how much you love and care for one another. Your love of travel has just begun, as you now embark on the trip of a lifetime, together.

May you be strengthened by the love and encouragement of those gathered here today, and may happiness and joy be a hallmark of your relationship. May the goodness you already know grow deeper and stronger with the passage of time, and may your love and care for each other nourish the Divine image in each of you.