



# *The wedding of Sherry & Neal*

## *Wedding at Temple Aaron in southern Colorado*

*Photos by Mike Tranter*

*By Larry Hankin*



Neal Paul and Sherry Glickman

**T**emple Aaron in Trinidad, Colorado is very special to Sherry Glickman and Neal Paul. Both have been on the board and have poured their blood, sweat and tears into saving the 133-year-old synagogue from the wrecking ball, breathing new life into it.

Temple Aaron is so special to Sherry and Neal that their wedding on Sept. 5, 2021 became the first at Temple Aaron since 2010.

“We spend a lot of our free time working on all things Temple Aaron — managing events, finances, communications, fundraising and so on,” says Sherry. “As anyone who has been there knows, it is really a special place and it holds a very special place in our lives, so it was only natural that we would be married there.”

Sherry and Neal’s story began when they met in a class in Denver in 2016. Members of the class were supposed to reach out to one another as part of an assignment for the following week. Sherry called Neal.

Sherry recalls: “We had a good long talk on the

phone, and that prompted us to go for a walk one day in Washington Park. That led to a coffee, then a dinner and . . .”

On Neal’s birthday, Jan. 8, 2020, he gave Sherry a beautiful diamond ring, but did not come with a proposal per se. It was a little confusing to Sherry at first. “We weren’t sure how to exactly define it with parents or kids or other people,” Sherry says. “We came to call it a ‘commitment ring.’”

The following year, in April, 2021, while on a business trip to Las Vegas, Neal and Sherry spent a day at a date farm in Death Valley, Calif., about 85 miles west of Las Vegas. Yes, they had a “date” on a date farm, which was full of date trees of all varieties — an oasis in the middle of the desert.

During a hike in 100-degree weather to a lookout point, Neal casually acted like he was fixing Sherry’s necklace. It turns out he wasn’t fixing that necklace; he was putting on a new one with a diamond to match the “commitment ring.”

This time, it came with a proposal.

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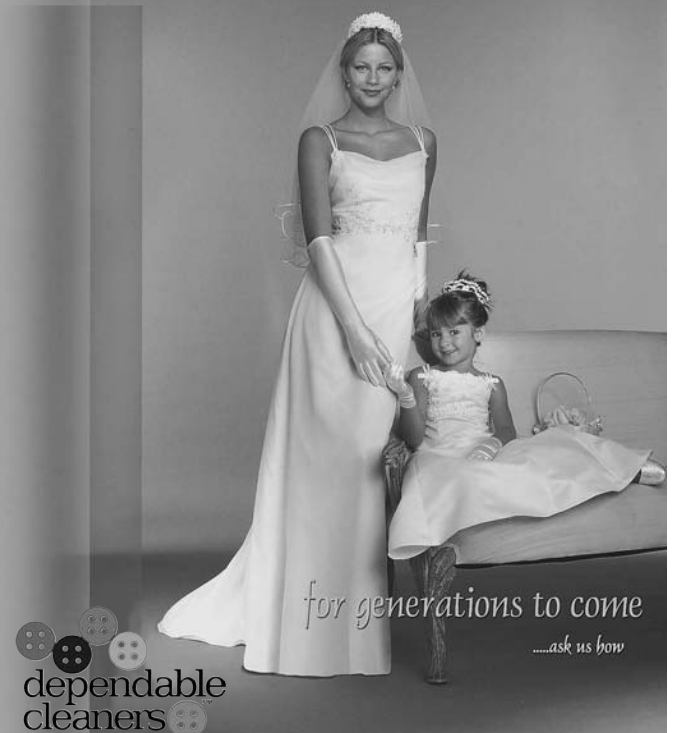
The ornate, elegant Temple Aaron sanctuary — from another era — was the setting for the wedding ceremony.

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## THE BRIDE



The bride Sherry Glickman

Sherry Glickman grew up in New Jersey, and first came to Boulder in the early 1990s. She moved away in 1997 and returned to Colorado, settling in the Denver area in 2007.

She is the daughter of James (Jim) and Nancy Glickman of New Jersey, who were able to attend the wedding.

Sherry has three daughters, Elijah Knecht, Akele Knecht Reed and Emmanuelle (Emmy) Knecht, who served as their mother's bridesmaids.

Sherry, a medical writer and editor by profession, is treasurer of Temple Aaron, and is active with communications, the website and event planning for the temple.

## THE GROOM

Neal Paul is a *sabra*, born in Israel in 1958 to Holocaust survivor parents.

Neal has lived in Denver since 1981. He served in the US Navy for four years on active duty. He stayed in the Navy Reserves for an additional 17 years, and retired with 21 years of service in 1998.

Neal is the father of Katie.

He is currently a commercial real estate broker, and he helps provide financing for property investors.

He is vice president of Temple Aaron and was instrumental in saving the temple from being sold in 2016.



The groom Neal Paul



The couple began planning what would be the second marriage for both Neal and Sherry. They chose to be married on Sept. 5, so that all their friends on the Temple Aaron board and the temple's rabbi could easily attend as they would be there for Rosh Hashanah the next day. Some of the resources were shared across both events, such as tents, flowers, hand sanitizer and masks.

Wedding planning hit several setbacks, including the passing of Neal's 93-year-old mother in New Jersey and both Neal and Sherry contracting the Delta variant. This left a small window of time for planning during the summer.

Sherry says, "It was quite challenging to shop for wedding dresses for the 'mature' bride during COVID when the stores stocked



Neal and Sherry with Rabbi Robert Lennick

next to nothing." However, Sherry had a lot of support — "Team Dress," as she calls it — friends, mother, sisters and daughter who, in the end, helped her find the perfect frock for her wedding.

When the big day arrived, and with all the obstacles in the rearview mirror, Sherry and Neal were able to revel in the glory of their nuptials.

Temple Aaron's Rabbi Robert  
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The bride's family, l-r, son-in-law and daughter Joshua and Akele Knecht Reed, Neal Paul, Sherry Glickman, parents Nancy and Jim Glickman, daughters Emmanuelle (Emmy) and Elijah Knecht.

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Lennick officiated at the ceremony which combined traditional and contemporary elements in the temple's grand sanctuary. The *chuppah* was made from Neal's late father's *tallit*, and was held by board members Randy and Ron Rubin and Kim Grant and David London.

Nancy Lloyd, a pianist-organist from LaVeta, Colo., played the temple's majestic pipe organ for the processional and recessional. "That is a pretty rare treat and the sound was incredibly beautiful," Sherry says.

Some of the organ's stops are out order. The organ is over 100 years old and it arrived in Trinidad via the old Union Pacific rail, then was delivered by horse and covered wagon to the temple for installation.

Lloyd came to the temple weeks ahead of the wedding to map out which keys were not working and she arranged each piece of music so that missing notes were never noticed.

Tents were set up outdoors for the reception, allowing space for social distancing for the 55 guests who enjoyed the live music and a meal. Neal and Sherry describe their wedding cake as "just gorgeous," adorned with edible gold and fresh flowers. They even had a gluten-free cake for guests who needed that option.

Looking back on their wedding day, five months later, Sherry says the most memorable aspect was "that a lot of people pulled together to do their absolute best to make this day awesome for us, and I am just thankful for each and every one of them."

Neal says, "Things seem like a blur, with life moving forward and fast. Stopping to reminisce on that special day and the months leading to it just makes us both smile.

"Neither one of us really thought or expected that we would find someone who could or would have filled us with the love and joy we feel today.

"Temple Aaron in Trinidad has been a unique con-



The happy couple, surrounded by their *chuppah* bearers, l-r: Kim Grant, Ron Rubin, Neal and Sherry, David London and Randy Rubin.





duit that has enriched our lives as well as the lives of so many others that we met and built friendships with. We have both been raised with Jewish roots, Hebrew school, Bar and Bat Mitzvah, High Holy Day services and the such, but nothing in our Jewish experiences had provided the unique significance that this old temple on the hill in an old western town has.”



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