

## Volunteer Ceremonies Coordinator Plays Important Role at First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn

The grooms were driving up in their limo. The flower girl and ring bearer were in place. The musicians were warming up. The mothers, fathers and sisters of the grooms had arrived in their finest. The florist, however, had not shown up. I hovered in the vestibule, wondering how to tell this happy couple about their lack of flower arrangements.

How did that difficult job come to me? I volunteered for it! After my own happy wedding day last February I signed up to be my congregation's Wedding Coordinator. That role soon grew to Ceremonies Coordinator. Every week I hold "office hours". I meet with prospective couples, give tours, answer questions, log in deposits and payments, reply to emails and phone messages, and work on advertising weddings and ceremonies for our beautiful, historic ceremony spaces. I meet regularly with our ministerial staff, and communicate set up instructions to our Sexton.

Being the ceremonies coordinator is a natural extension of my membership with our congregation. I love showing my beloved sanctuary to visitors. Each one helps me to see our church with new eyes. Every time I witness a couple's marriage I relive my own wedding.

On the day of the ceremony I try to arrive before the attendants, the decorators and the florists. I make sure that the altar, music stands, bottles of water, baskets of programs and fans, and anything else our couples choose to have is all in the correct place. I work closely with our Chaplain or Senior Minister to ensure that every couple has a perfect wedding day.

And perfect they always are, even if the flowers never arrive. On Matt and Jeff's wedding day, I scooted up to them as they emerged from their limo, and quietly gave them their options: no flowers, or recycled flowers from the previous ceremony? They smiled blissfully and replied that recycled flowers would be just fine. A half an hour later, the now married couple marched back down the aisle arm in arm, and everyone followed, smiling with happy tears in their eyes. No one even noticed the flowers. Another perfect wedding day.

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