



Don't Burn the Toast!

A great toast requires creativity, patience, hard work and some ingenuity. While this may seem like a daunting task, it doesn't have to be a difficult process. It is simply a matter of illustrating your affection for the new couple, adding in some humor and personal stories and delivering the speech with confidence. Keep the toast simple and short.

- **Beginning:** First, introduce yourself as not everyone in the room will know who you are. Consider inserting a quote about marriage to really gather the room's attention. Some of my favorite marriage quotes include:
 - *"My most brilliant achievement was my ability to persuade my wife to marry me."* (Winston Churchill)
 - *"Love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction."* (Antoine de Saint Exupery) May you always look out with love at love.
 - *"Often the difference between a successful marriage and a mediocre one consists of leaving about three or four things a day unsaid."* (Harlan Miller)
- **Middle:** Tell a funny story about the bride and/or groom (not humiliating!), give your thoughts on love and marriage, tell the story of how they met, or talk about how you've seen them change through their relationship. While you may know the groom/bride better, try to make your toast balanced, speaking about each of them. Be sincere and speak from the heart.
- **Closing:** Be sure to thank the hosts of the wedding. End on a positive note with a wish or blessing for the bride and groom. Raise your glass with a resounding congratulations.
- **In Case of Emergency:** If you lose your notes, or just choke up there, there's nothing wrong with a simple "Congratulations, (bride's name and groom's name) I'm looking forward to the day when we're all together again celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary ... Cheers!"

Aisle Dish is written by Meredith Thomas, Stoneleigh's in-house Event Consultant. If you would like assistance planning your special day, Meredith offers a complimentary one-hour consultation to all brides hosting their wedding at the Club and is available for further planning services at an additional fee. Contact Meredith at mthomas@stoneleighgolf.com or 540.338.4653 ext. 303.