

## **SIGNING THE KETUBAH**

Now, Leah and Brian and I will sign the marriage Ketubah. For those of you who aren't familiar with it, let me explain that a Ketubah is a Jewish marriage contract which has quite an interesting history. It was conceived of about 2,000 years ago with the primary purpose of protecting the finances of a Jewish wife. In ancient times, if a couple was divorced or the husband died, the entire estate would be taken over by the husband's family – leaving the wife and children with nothing. The Ketubah stipulated that the wife be paid 200 Zuzim, which was considered the sum to support oneself financially for a year. At the time, it was a groundbreaking document. Nowadays, as we all know, 200 Zuzim doesn't go very far. In modern times the language in the Ketubah is similar in tone to the wedding vows. It was originally written in Aramaic. Today Ketubahs have the Aramaic text is on one side, the English on the other. Aramaic, incidentally, is the language that Jesus spoke. If you get a chance to look at this, either today or in Jennifer and Jason's home, you'll see that it is quite beautiful.