



## **Personal Bio: Jenn Gonsalves, Certified Life-Cycle Celebrant**



As a Celebrant, I'm passionate about helping my clients create the wedding of their dreams by creating a custom-crafted ceremony that is unique, personalized, and an authentic reflection of them as individuals and as a couple. This could mean a ceremony that's playful and fun, traditional and reverent, completely secular (non-religious), or infused with the couple's personal spirituality. In the case of inter-faith marriages, I delight in finding ways to honor and include both partners' beliefs in the ceremony, if that is the couple's desire.

### **Your Day, Your Way!**

Every couple is different, and every wedding should be, too! That's why I write everything from scratch, to ensure that each ceremony is 100% personalized. I love researching different ethnic, religious, and spiritual traditions, and finding unique ways to incorporate them into wedding ceremonies. My goal is for my clients' family and friends to walk out of their wedding with the feeling that the ceremony was just perfect for them, custom-made for who they are.

### **My Background**

I graduated magna cum laude in 1999 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, from a prestigious honors program focused on philosophy, theology, and communication. After college, I worked in professional theatre for six years before moving to the corporate sector, working for ten years on the internal events team of a multi-billion-dollar international corporation. I've also served as a church cantor and wedding and funeral singer for many years.

My diverse background showcases the many skills and talents that make me an outstanding Celebrant – creativity, writing, public speaking, working well with individuals from all walks of life, respect for others' views and beliefs, and thinking quickly on my feet. I'm also extremely detail-oriented, an excellent listener, and passionate about serving others to the best of my ability.

## **Spirituality**

As a Certified Life-Cycle Celebrant, I leave my own spiritual and religious beliefs “at the door” when I create your ceremony – remember, your wedding is all about YOU, not me! But if you’d like to learn more about me as a person, allow me to share a bit about my spirituality.

I view myself as walking a never-ending path of spiritual exploration and discovery. While I believe that every person is a spiritual being having a human experience, I respect all beliefs, whether they agree with mine or not, and honor everyone’s journey, no matter what it looks like. We each have our own path to walk, and I believe that we each have our own Truth. There is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to spirituality.

What I personally know in my heart and soul to be true is that each of us is a part of the Divine, and is therefore connected to the rest of humankind and creation. I believe the purpose of our lives is to fully express our authentic selves in the world, to demonstrate and celebrate who we are as individuals, and to tell our own stories, because each of us is a unique and necessary expression of the Divine.

## **Why Celebrancy?**

I chose to become a wedding officiant because I felt inexplicably drawn to performing weddings, but I didn’t want to simply get a quickie online “virtual ordination” and hang out my shingle. I wanted to serve people with excellence, and so I sought out the best training program I could find – the Celebrant Foundation and Institute provided that program.

CF&I Celebrants create one-of-a-kind, highly personalized ceremonies, using storytelling, songs, rituals, and more to celebrate and honor their participants in a meaningful and intimate way. They’re also known for their openness to and respect of all couples, no matter their religious/spiritual beliefs, sexual identity or orientation, or ethnic background.

Being a Certified Life-Cycle Celebrant allows me to live out my own beliefs about the nature of humankind and creation by honoring and celebrating individuals and couples for who they are.