

Simhat Bat Ceremony

Rabbi:

Welcome! The phrase *simhat bat* translates as the “celebration of a daughter.” Through this ceremony, we welcome a baby girl into the covenant with God and bring her into the Community of Israel. As friends and family we gather to celebrate the arrival of this new member of humanity, to share in the joy of loving parents and to participate with them as they prepare to bring their new daughter into the covenant of our people.

Parents:

We want to welcome all of you, our family and friends, to this *simhat bat*- a ceremony at which we will bring our daughter into the Jewish community. Our tradition teaches that all members of all generations entered into a unique relationship with God at *Sinai*. This relationship, known as the *brit* or the Covenant, joins God and the Jewish people in the task of perfecting the world. Today, our daughter becomes a partner in that Covenant. She passes over a threshold and we mark her passage from her mother’s womb into her father’s waiting hands and into the welcoming arms of the community of Israel, *K’lal Yisrael*.

We believe that the miracle of her birth is of great importance to our Jewish community, for Judaism’s future rests on the firm foundation of its young men and women. In naming her today, she receives her membership into the Covenant linking her to Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel and Leah.

Welcoming the Baby (all present)

בְּרוּכָה הַבָּאָה.

B’rukhah haba’ah

May she who comes be blessed.

Prayers of Thanksgiving (mother)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הַגּוֹמֵל לְחַיִּיבִים טוֹבוֹת שְׂגֻמָּלֵי כָּל-טוֹב.

*Barukh ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha'olam,
hagomel l'ha'yavim tovot sheg'malani kol tov.*

Praised are You, *Adonai* our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who in bestowing goodness upon humanity has dealt graciously with me.

all present respond:

מִי שֶׁגָּמַלְךָ כָּל-טוֹב הוּא יִגְמַלְךָ כָּל-טוֹב סְלָה.

Mi sheg'malaykh kol tov, Hu yig'm'laykh kol tov selah.

May God Who has shown you kindness be good to you forever.

Living Judaism (responsively)

Judaism begins at home. It begins in homes where Judaism lives in the atmosphere and is integrated into the normal pattern of daily life.

It begins in homes where words of the Jewish tradition are part of the everyday vocabulary, where Jewish books are displayed and read, where Jewish songs are enjoyed.

It begins in homes where the children see and participate in symbols and rituals that link them to a people with a colorful and rich culture.

It begins in homes where Jewish ritual objects are visible: Shabbat candlesticks, and *Hanukiyot menorot*, *mezuzot* and *havdallah* sets.

It begins in homes where into the deepest layers of a child's developing personality are woven strands of love for the Jewish tradition and devotion to the Jewish people.

Judaism begins in the home. A truly Jewish home therefore, is not only a place where Jews live, but a place where Judaism is lived.

The founders of our people wisely assigned to parents the task of transmitting the ideals of *Torah*, *huppa* and *ma'asim tovim*- study, family and the performance of good deeds- for it is in the home that the foundations of the future are set.

Children are not only *banim*, the “children” of the past; they are also *bonim*, the “builders” of tomorrow.

Bringing the Baby into the Covenant (rabbi)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

Barukh ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha'olam, boray p'ri hagafen.

Praised are You, *Adonai* our God, Ruler of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Naming the Baby

מי שִׁבְרָךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אַבְרָהָם, יִצְחָק, וְיַעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רִבְקָה, רָחֵל וְלֵאָה, הוּא יְבָרֵךְ אֶת _____
בֶּן _____ וְאֶת הָאִשָּׁה הַיְלֵדָת _____ בֵּת _____ וְאֶת הַיְלֵדָה הַנוֹלָדָה
לָהֶם בְּמִזְל טוֹב. וְיִקְרָא שְׁמָהּ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל _____ בֵּת _____ . יִזְקוּ הַוּרְיָה לְגִדּוּלָהּ
לְתוֹרָה וּלְחַפָּה וּלְמַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים וְנֹאמֵר, אָמֵן.

May God Who blessed our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, bless this sweet child with good fortune and timely blessings. And may her name be called among the daughters of Israel _____ daughter of _____ and _____. May she be raised in good health, peace and tranquility. And let us say, *Amen*.

all present respond:

כְּשֵׁם שֶׁנִּכְנְסָה לְבְרִית בֶּן תִּכְנֵס לְתוֹרָה וּלְחַפָּה וּלְמַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים.

K'shaym shenikhn'sah labrit, kayn tikanen l'Torah, ul'huppah ul'ma'asim tovim.

Just as she has entered the covenant, so may she enter the worlds of Torah, family and good deeds.

Parents: Explain origin of name

Prayer of Thanksgiving (parents)

Our God and God of our ancestors, we thank you for the precious gift of new life, and for the blessing of parenthood which allows us to share in the *mitzvah* of creation. We have shared love and pain and joy in bringing our daughter into life, and have been privileged to participate in the marvel and beauty of creation with You, God, the Partner in creation of every human being. *Amen*.

Grandparents' Prayer

Our God and God of All Generations, we are grateful for new beginnings, for the bond of new life that links one generation to another. Thankful for the blessings of family, for the love and care that bring meaning and happiness to our lives, we rejoice with our daughter and son in the birth of _____, our granddaughter. May they grow together as a family in health and in strength, in harmony, wisdom and love, their home filled with Torah and acts of kindness. And may we be able to share in the joy of seeing this child grow into adulthood. May she be a blessing to her family, her people and all humanity. *Amen*.

A Life of Blessing (responsively)

Every person born into this world represents something unique. It is the duty of every individual to know and consider his or her uniqueness in character and respect the individuality of all children.

As members of this community, bound to that covenant which this child now enters, we accept our responsibility to provide the sources of instruction and assistance to enable her, and all of our children, to grow in knowledge, sensitivity and justice.

Grant that this tender child grows into adulthood with the blessings of nobility, strength and gentleness. May she be faithful like Sarah, trusting like Rebecca, and strong like Rachel and Leah. Instill in her the joy of learning and teach her to have compassion for all life.

May this child be strong enough to know when she is weak, and brave enough to save herself when she is afraid. Send her not only in the path of ease and comfort, but also in the spur of difficulty and challenge.

Blessing the Child (parents/rabbi)

יְשִׁימֵךְ אֱלֹהִים כְּסָרָה, רִיבְקָה, רָחֵל וְלֵאָה.

Y'simeikh Elohim k'Sarah, Rivkah, Rachel v'Leah.

May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.

יְבָרְכֵךְ ה' וַיְשַׁמְרֵךְ.

Y'varekh'kha Adonai v'yishm'rekha

Adonai, grant our daughter a life of security and trust.

יָאֵר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְנֵךְ.

Ya'eir Adonai panav eilekha vihuneka.

May her life shine with dignity and freedom.

יְשֵׂא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּשֵּׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.

Yisa Adonai panav eilekha v'yaseim l'kha shalom.

May our daughter know Your gift of harmony and peace.

Shehehyanu

בְּרִיךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַיּוֹם הַזֶּה.

*Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, shehehyanu,
v'kiy'manu v'higi'anu laz'man hazeh.*

Praised are You, *Adonai* our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who has sustained us and enabled us to reach this day.

Mazel Tov!

סִימָן טוֹב וּמַזַּל טוֹב, מַזַּל טוֹב סִימָן טוֹב, יְהִי לָנוּ וּלְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל

Siman tov u'mazel tov, mazel tov v'siman tov, yehei lanu ul'khol Yisrael.
Congratulations to you, us, and all Israel!

Hamotzi

בְּרִיךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, hamotzi lehem min ha'arets.

Praised are You, *Adonai* our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who brings forth bread from the earth.