



CANTOR DAVID M LANDAU, MOHEL

Mazal Tov! I am looking forward to celebrating with you and your family.

The following page is information I need, and the next page is a listing of honors you can give out, the page after that is a list of things to get for the Bris. (If there are any you can't get, just let me know.) Then you will see the ceremony. Finally, there is a copy (front and back) of the handout that I give to those attending the Bris, and a page about blessing children.

I want this ceremony to be one that is meaningful to you, so please let me know your thoughts.

Please call me whenever I can help.

Be well.

David Landau

Baby's Name	As you want it to appear on certificate (English)
	As you want it said during ceremony (nick name)
	Hebrew Name

Mother's Name	As you want it to appear on certificate (English)
Phone Numbers & E-mail	As you want it said during ceremony (nick name)
	Hebrew Name (as given at your Naming including your parents' Hebrew names)

Father's Name	As you want it to appear on certificate (English)
Phone Numbers & E-mail	As you want it said during ceremony (nick name)
	Hebrew Name (as given at your Bris including your parents' Hebrew names)

Kohen
 Levi
 Yisrael

Address	

Date Baby was born	
Time Baby was born	

Date and time of Bris	
Location and	
Phone Number at Bris	

HONOR

NAMES OF PEOPLE HAVING HONORS

<p>To LIGHT CANDLES (not on Shabbat)</p> <p>(often given to women from the oldest generation to the youngest)</p>	
<p>KVATTERIN (typically a woman, to carry him to the doorway)</p>	
<p>KVATTER (typically a man, to carry him from the doorway to his Mom)</p>	
<p>PARENTS read</p>	
<p>GRANDPARENTS read</p>	
<p>OTHER READINGS (for example, an older child's reading)</p>	
<p>To carry him TO ELIJAH'S CHAIR</p>	
<p>To carry him FROM ELIJAH'S CHAIR</p>	
<p>SANDEK (a calm Jewish adult, usually a grandparent, to be with him and reassure him during the circumcision)</p>	
<p>To SAY KIDDUSH (a Jewish adult, usually a grandparent)</p>	
<p>BLESSINGS AFTER CIRCUMCISION (if other clergy are there, they will usually also say a blessing at this point)</p>	<p><i>David</i></p>
<p>DISCUSSION OF BOY'S NAME (positive characteristics of person/people he is named for and/or meaning of name and/or how name was selected)</p>	
<p>ADDITIONAL BLESSING</p>	<p><i>David</i></p>
<p>CLOSING PRAYERS including MOTZI over bread</p>	<p><i>Everyone</i></p>

ITEMS TO HAVE ON HAND AT THE BRIS

- KIPPAH (at least one full-sized kippah as a pillow for your son, and maybe a few extras for guests)
- KIDDUSH CUP
- TALLIS (at least one for Elijah's Chair and one for each additional person you want to wear a tallis)
- A NEW, UNOPENED BOTTLE OF SWEET GRAPE KOSHER WINE (not Blackberry)
- CHALLAH (or matza, if Pesach)
- CANDLE HOLDERS (One for each person on your "to light candles" list, plus, maybe, one more for your son — not if Shabbat), **CANDLES**, and **MATCHES OR A LIGHTER**
- (If the baby will be on a table during the circumcision) **THE BEST** large (minimum 48x48") rectangular **SURFACE IN THE HOUSE**. HE deserves that. The table must be one that will not move if someone bumps into it. (So, please try walking in to it, if it moves, let's not use it.)
In short, **NOT A CARD TABLE**. Note: This table will not be available for serving food for about an hour.
(*or, if the baby will be held in the Sandek's lap during the circumcision,*)
 A LARGE BED PILLOW and **A TOWEL** and **A TABLE** for my instruments)
- PLEASE BE SURE TO FINISH FEEDING YOUR SON ONE HOUR BEFORE BRIS**
(What this will do is let him have an hour to let the milk settle so he won't spit up while on his back. Also, it won't give him two hours without eating, so he shouldn't be upset with hunger)
- 50 INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED 4"X4" GAUZE SQUARES**
- 6 ONE OUNCE TUBES OF BACITRACIN** (also called **BACITRACIN ZINC**) (This helps heal quickly, helps prevent infection, and helps make sure that the healing skin does not stick to the gauze.)
 Please do not let anyone talk you out of getting and bringing six ounces to the Bris — you will use most of this during the first couple of days and less later, so please get all six ounces before the Bris.
- PLEASE DO NOT USE EMLA OR ANY OTHER CREAM**
(IT SWELLS THE SKIN DISPROPORTIONATELY, AND I HAVE NOT SEEN IT HELP A CHILD)
- 3 DISPOSABLE DIAPERS** (or equivalent)
- BABY WIPES** (or equivalent)
- A PACIFIER**
- Video camera without light and/or high speed film for all cameras (so there will be **NO FLASHES UNTIL AFTER THE CIRCUMCISION**. This way, neither your son nor I will have spots in our eyes.)
- Please have him dressed only in **A T-SHIRT** that stops at the waist, **A DIAPER**, and **A THIN, RECEIVING-TYPE BLANKET** (these will get stained with wine — any more clothes than this tends to make the boy uncomfortable as it is folded under his back)
- One additional **THIN RECEIVING BLANKET** (can also get stained with wine)
- Please call me right away if he is jaundiced (yellow) or ill in any way
- A check payable to Cantor David M Landau, Mohel (usually for \$500-but at your discretion) — Thank you
- Please call me if you are not able to get any of these items

The following pages are adapted from:

THE NEW JEWISH BABY BOOK
 BY ANITA DIAMANT © 1993 JEWISH LIGHTS PUBLISHING,
 P.O. BOX 237, SUNSET FARM OFFICES, WOODSTOCK, VT 05091
 If you don't own a copy yet, please buy one.

 -Hebrew- Hinei MaTov U'Manayim Shevet Achim Gam Yachad
 How good and pleasant it is for families to come together.

Mohel gives introduction. (During this time, the candles may be lit by the baby's mother and grandmothers.)

As the baby is brought into the room, everyone sings:

-Hebrew- Ba-ruch Ha-ba.

Blessed are you who bear the divine presence.

Holding the baby, the mother says:

My son, my child, you have been as dear to me as my own breath. May I hold you gently now with the love to keep you close and with the strength to let you grow.

The father takes the child and says:

My son, my child, a piece of my life is you. You have grown to life apart from me, but now I hold you close to my heart and cradle you in my arms with my love.

Together the parents say:

We have been blessed with the gift of new life. We have shared love and pain and joy in bringing our son into life.

By the way we live, we aspire to teach our son to become a caring and loving person. We hope that in seeking to fulfill himself, he will accept his responsibilities to others and to his heritage. We dedicate ourselves to the creation of a Jewish home and to a life of compassion for others, hoping he will learn from our example.

God of our grandfathers, God of our grandmothers, we pray for covenant love, for life, for good. Keep us strong together.

Grandparents:

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 brings meaning and happiness to our lives, we rejoice with our children at the birth of our grandchild.

Older brothers/sisters:
 Welcome to the world!
 You are so small and you cry so much.
 People make such a fuss.
 I don't know why.

I think I will take care of you
 And play with you sometimes,
 Because I am big.
 I hope you like me.
 I hope you learn to say my name.

Sometimes you will pull my hair
 But I will not mind,
 Unless you pull it very hard.
 Sometimes I will fight with you
 Because you want my toys.
 I hope you will not mind.

Sometimes I will be angry at Mom and Dad
 Because they spend too much time with you.
 I hope you will forgive me.

Thank you, God, for little fingers and tiny toes
 Just like mine.
 Thank you God, for arms that are large enough
 to hold one more.

Thank you, God, for a love that is big enough
 To include my brother and ME!

[Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (C) 1988]

Other readings may be inserted here.

Mohel:
 -Hebrew- Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai, m'kor ha-cha-yim m'sa-mei-ach ha-ho-rim im yal-dei-hem.
 Blessed is the holy source of life, who causes parents to rejoice with their children.

Mohel explains Elijah's chair and we sing Eliyahu HaNavi and Oseh Shalom

The baby is placed on Elijah's chair.

Parents:

We are ready to fulfill the mitzvah of circumcision, as it is written in the Torah, "Throughout your generations every male among you shall be circumcised when he is eight days old."

[But we all know that his health comes first. If there is a health issue, you are *required* to delay the circumcision.]

Circumcision is performed.

Parents, repeating after the mohel:

-Hebrew-

Ba-ruch A-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam, a-sher ki-d'sha-nu b'mitz-vo-tav, v'tzi-va-nu l'hach-ni-so biv-ri-to shel Av-ra-ham a-vi-nu.

Blessed by the Presence whose sanctity fills our lives, we bring our son into the covenant of Abraham our father.

Parents with mohel, rabbi, and/or guests:

-Hebrew- Zeh ha-ka-ton ga-dol yih-yeh. K'shem sheh-nich-nas la-brit, kein yi-ka-nes l'to-rah ul-chu-pah ul-ma-a-sim to-vim.

As he has been brought into the covenant of our people, so may he attain the blessings of Torah, chupah, and a life of good deeds.

Raising the cup of wine, the mohel or rabbi or other honored person says:

-Hebrew-

Blessed is the presence whose sanctity fills our lives and ripens fruit on the vine.

Mohel says:

-Hebrew-

You have sanctified your beloved from the womb, establishing your holy covenant throughout the generations. May devotion to the covenant continue to sustain us as a people. Blessed by the presence whose sanctity fills our lives, we give thanks for the covenant.

May the father rejoice in his offspring and the mother be glad with her children. May you teach him through word and deed the meaning of the covenant forever, the word commanded to a thousand generations, the covenant made with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah, an eternal covenant for Israel. As it is said, "And Abraham circumcised his son when he was eight days old, as God commanded." Give thanks to God for what is good, for covenant love that endures forever.

May this little child, _____ son of _____ and _____, grow into manhood as a blessing to his family, his people, and humanity. As he has entered the covenant of our people, so may he grow into a life of Torah, chupah, and good deeds.

Parents drink the wine the baby has already tasted.
They (and/or others) explain the baby's name.

Mohel alone or with Rabbi:

-Hebrew- May God bless you and keep you.
My God be with you and be gracious to you.
May God show you kindness and give you peace.

Parents and guests:

-Hebrew- Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-o-lam,
sheh-heh-cheh-ya-nu, v'ki-y'ma-nu v'hi-gi-a-nu la-z'man ha-zeh.
Blessed by the Presence Whose sanctity fills our lives,
we give thanks for life, for health and for this sacred moment.

Aleynu.

Kaddish.

Family gathers for closing melody and motzi blessing over challah.

- This side second -

All say:

K'shem sheh-needh-nass lah-breeth, ken yee-kah-ness
leh-foe-rah oo-leh-choo-pah oo-leh-mah-ah-seem toe-veem.
*Just as he has entered into the covenant, so may he enter into the [study of] Torah,
Chupah [the marriage canopy], and [a life of] good deeds*

Siman Tov u-mazal tov, Mazal Tov v'siman tov,
Y'hey la-nu u'veh-chol yis-ra-el.
Good signs and good fortune — may these be unto you and to us all.

- Kiddush -

- Pre-naming blessing and naming -

Everyone blesses the child, saying:

May this little child, _____ son of _____,
become great. Just as he entered into the covenant,
so may he enter into Torah, chupah, and good deeds.

- Blessing -

*May God bless you and keep you.
My God be with you and be gracious to you.
May God show you kindness and give you peace.*

Bah-ruch Ah-tah Ah-doe-nye, Eh-low-hey-noo meh-lech
hah-owe-lahm, she-heh-cheh-ya-noo veh-kee-yeh-mah-noo
veh-hee-gee-ah-noo lah-zeh-mahn hah-zeh.
*Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of everything,
who kept us alive, and sustained us, and brought us to this time.*

Bah-ruch Ah-tah Ah-doe-nye, Eh-low-hey-noo Meh-lech
Hah-owe-lahm, Hah-Moe-tzee Leh-chem Meen Hah-Ah-rehltz.
*Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of All,
Who brings bread from the earth.*

- This side first -

We all sing:

Heen-neh mah toe-v oo-mah nah-eem,
sheh-veht ah-cheem gahm yah-chad.
How good and pleasant for brethren to sit together.

-Introduction -

We all sing:

Ba-ruch ha-bah.
Blessed is he who arrives.

- Readings -

- Elijah's Chair -

Eh-lee-yah-hoo hah-nah-vee, Eh-lee-yah-hoo ha-teesh-bee,
Eh-lee-yah-hoo, Eh-lee-yah-hoo, Eh-lee-yah-hoo hah-Geel-ah-dee.
Beem-heh-rah veh-yah-meh-noo yah-voe eh-ley-noo, Eem
mah-shee-ah-ch behn Da-veed, Eem mah-shee-ah-ch behn Da-veed
Elijah: come and bring the one who will bring the world to Peace.

Oh-seh shah-low-m beem-roe-mahv, Hoo yah-ah-seh sha-loe-m
Ah-ley-noo veh-ahl kole Yees-rah-eh1, veh-eem-roo, amen.
*May He who makes peace in the heavens
Grant peace to us all. And let us say, Amen.*

Nees-beh-ah beh-toov Bay-teh-cha, Keh-dosh Hay-chah-leh-cha.
May we be satisfied by the goodness of Your House — the holiest part of Your Sanctuary

- Parent's acknowledge readiness for the Mitzvah -

- We sing a niggun as the Sandek prepares the boy -

- Mohel and Parents say their blessings as circumcision is performed -

If you wish to keep this sheet or save it for someone who is expecting, please feel free to take it with you.

Cantor David M Landau, Mohel

עלינו לשבח לאדון הכל. לתת גדלה ליוצר בראשית. שלא עשנו כגויי הארצות. ולא
 שמנו כמשפחות האדמה. שלא שם חלקנו בהם וגורלנו ככל המונם. שהם משפתחים להכל ולרק
 ומתפללים אל ל לא יושע: ואנחנו כורעים ומשתחוים ומודים לפני מלך מלכי המלכים הקדוש
 ברוך הוא. שהוא נוטה שמים ויוסד ארץ. ומושב יקרו בשמים ממעל. ושכינת עזו
 בגבהי מרומים. הוא אל ינו אין עוד. אמת מלפנו. אפס זולתו. כפתוב בתורתו.
 וידעת היום והשבת אל לבבך. כי י זה הוא האל ים בשמים ממעל ועל הארץ
 מתחת. אין עוד:

על פן נקוה לך י זה אל ינו לראות מהרה בתפארת עזך. להעביר גלולים מן הארץ.
 והאלילים פרות יפרתון. לתקן עולם במלכות ש י. וכל בני בשר יקראו בשמך
 להפנות אליך כל רשעי ארץ. יפירו וידעו כל יושבי תבל. כי לך תכרע כל ברך.
 תשבע כל לשון. לפניך י זה אל ינו יכרעו ויפלו. ולכבוד שמך יקר יתנו. ויקבלו
 כלם את על מלכותך. ותמלך עליהם מהרה לעולם ועד. כי המלכות שלך היא
 ולעולמי עד תמלך בכבוד. כפתוב בתורתך. י זה ימלך לעולם ועד: ונאמר. והיה
 י זה למלך על כל הארץ. ביום ההוא יהיה י זה אחד ושמו אחד:

יתגדל ויתקדש שמה רבא. אמן. בעלמא די ברא כרעותה וימליך מלכותה. בחייכון
 וביומיכון ובחיי דכל בית ישראל בעגלא ובזמן קריב, ואמרו אמן:
 קו"ח היא שמה רבא מברך לעלם ולעלמי עלמיא:

יתברך וישתבח ויתפאר ויתרומם ויתנשא ויתהדר ויתעלה ויתהלל שמה דקדשא.
 בריך הוא לעלא מן כל (בעשיית ולעלא מכל) ברכתא ושירתא תשבחתא ונחמתא
 דאמירן בעלמא. ואמרו אמן:

יהא שלמא רבא מן שמיא וחיים עלינו ועל כל ישראל. ואמרו אמן: עושה שלום
 במרומו הוא יעשה שלום עלינו ועל כל ישראל ואמרו אמן:

Mourner's Kaddish: Yit-ga-dal v'yit-ka-dash sh'mei ra-ba, (A-mein.) b'al-ma di-v'ra chi-ru-tei, v'yam-lich
 mal-chu-tei b'chai-yei-chon uv'yo-mei-chon uv'chai-yei d'chawl beit Yis-ra-eil, ba-a-ga-la u-viz-man ka-riv,
 v'im'ru: A-mein. (A-mein.)

Y'hei sh'mei ra-ba m'va-rach l'a-lam ul'al-mei al-ma-ya. [Yit-ba-rach]

Yit-ba-rach v'yish-ta-bach, v'yit-pa-ar v'yit-ro-mam v'yit-na-sei, v'yit-ha-dar v'yit-a-leh v'yit-ha-lal, sh'mei
 d'ku-d'sha, b'rich hu, (b'rich hu) l'ei-la min kawl bir-cha-ta v'shi-ra-ta, tush-b'cha-ta v'ne-che-ma-ta, da-a-
 mi-ran b'al-ma, v'im'ru: A-mein. (A-mein.)

Y'hei sh'la-ma ra-ba min sh'ma-ya, v'cha-yim a-lei-nu v'al kawl Yis-ra-eil, v'im'ru: A-mein. (A-mein.)

O-seh sha-lom bim-ro-mav, hu ya-a-seh sha-lom a-lei-nu v'al kawl Yis-ra-eil, v'im'ru: A-mein. (A-mein.)

*In loving memory of my brother, Steven Jay Landau ב"ה ימיו יקרים ל' 12/13/32 ל' 1/21/19
 who loved to make it possible for people to do what they were sent here to do,
 and who helped make it possible for me to perform this mitzvah today.*

This is a copy of a newsletter. The Brit Ceremony is on the other side. If you would like to keep this to bless your children on Friday night, to give to a friend, or as a souvenir, please feel free to. Also, please call or write me if you would like more information about home ceremonies (lighting candles, saying kiddush, putting up a mezuzah, Havdalah, etc.) — I would be happy to help. David



Jewish Home News



Volume 1 Issue 1

Tevet 5757

A Blessing On Your (Child's) Head

There are few things I look forward to as much as I do blessing my children on Friday Night. It is only a few seconds with them, but a week wouldn't be complete without it. In this week's Torah portion (Vayechi — Lived), we read where this tradition comes from as Ya'akov (Jacob/Israel) blesses Ephraim and Menashe.

He places his hands on their heads, blesses them, and then tells them (and us) "Through you shall [the people of] Israel give blessings saying: 'May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe.'"

B'reshit (Genesis) 48:20

As Jacob predicted, we still follow this custom today — thousands of years later.

On Friday night, we place our hands on each son's head, and say: "May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe."

For our daughters, we place our hands on their head and say: "May God make you like Sarah, Rivkah, Rachel, and Leah."

Then for each we say: "The Lord bless you, and keep you; The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing of the daughters is obvious. But for the sons?



Your blessing to your child is very powerful free gift you can give them each week. I'll show you how in this letter.

David

Why do we bless them that they should be like Ephraim and Menashe? Why not that they should be like Moshe Rabbenu or Avraham, Yitzchak, and Ya'akov? One possible answer is their upbringing. Their Mother was Egyptian and the daughter of a different religion's priest.¹ Their father (Joseph) worked for the Egyptian government², spoke Egyptian³, and dressed like an Egyptian⁴. They had no contact with Joseph's family from the time of their birth for some time later⁵. Yet despite all this, they remained part of our people.

So we bless our sons that even though they will have many influences outside of our people and faith, they remember that we love and need them.

Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach 93: in the name of the great Kabbalists (mystics) taught that we should use this time to remind our children of our and their Hebrew names. For example, "Chanah bat David Halevi v'Sheyndl, I David ben Bitzalel Halevi v'Chaya Tzivya bless you." Why?

Because when Yitzchak blessed his son, he didn't know which son he was blessing.⁶

We want our children to know that we know exactly who they are, and it is *they* we intend to

The Blessings in Hebrew

For Boys:

Y'simcha Elohim k'Ephraim v'chiMenashe.

For Girls:

Y'simech Elohim k'Sarah, Rivka, Rachel, v'Leah.

For both:

Y'varech'cha Adonai v'yishm'recha. Yaer Adonai panav elecha vichuneka. Yisa Adonai panav elecha v'yasem l'cha shalom.

"Through you shall [the people of] Israel give blessings saying: 'May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe.'" Israel (Ya'akov/Jacob) speaking in B'reshit (Genesis) 48:20

Cantor David M Landau, Mohel

Blessing the Children

Blessing for the Boys:

יְשִׁימָךְ אֱלֹהִים פְּאֶרְיִם וּמְנַשֶּׁה;

Yeh-seem-chah Eh-low-heem keh-ehf-rah-yeem veh-chee-meh-nah-sheh.
May God bless you as God blessed Efrayim and Menashe.

Blessing for the Girls:

יְשִׁימָךְ אֱלֹהִים כְּשָׂרָה רִבְקָה רָחֵל וְלֵאָה;

Yeh-seem-ech Eh-low-heem keh-Sah-rah, Reev-kah, Rah-chehl, veh-leh-ah.
May God bless you as God blessed Sarah, Rivka, Rachel, and Leah.

Blessing for all children:

יְבָרַכְךָ יי וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ;

Yeh-vah-cheh-chah Ah-doe-naye veh-yeesh-meh-reh-chah;
May the Lord bless you and keep you.

יְאֵר יי | פְּנֵי אֱלֹהֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶנְךָ;

Yah-ehr Ah-doe-naye | pah-nahv Eh-leh-chah vee-choon-neh-kah;
May the Lord turn his face to you and be gracious to you.

יְשֵׁן יי | פְּנֵי אֱלֹהֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׁם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם;

Yee-sah Ah-doe-naye | pah-nahv Eh-leh-chah
veh-yeh-sehm leh-chah shah-low-m;

May the Lord turn his face to you and bring you peace.