



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 and a list of things to get for the Brit Bat. Then you will see your page, the Grandparents page, the older siblings page, and then you will see the ceremony. Finally, there is a copy (front and back) of the handout that I give to those attending the Brit Bat.

I want this ceremony to be one that is meaningful to your family, so if there are changes that they want to make, please let me know.

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 Brit Bat	
Location and	
Phone Number at Brit Bat	

HONOR

NAMES OF PEOPLE HAVING HONORS

KVATTERIN (typically a woman, to carry her to the doorway)	
KVATTER (typically a man, to carry her from the doorway to her Mom)	
PARENTS read	
GRANDPARENTS read	
OTHER READINGS (for example, an older child's reading)	
To carry her TO ELIJAH'S CHAIR	
To carry her FROM ELIJAH'S CHAIR	
SANDEK (A Jewish adult, usually a grandparent, to be with her during the candle lighting)	
TO LIGHT CANDLES (often given to the baby's Great-Grandmothers, Grandmothers, and Mother.)	
To SAY KIDDUSH	
ANNOUNCING HER HEBREW NAME	<i>David</i>
DISCUSSION OF GIRL'S NAME (positive characteristics of person/people she is named for and/or meaning of name and/or how name was selected)	
ADDITIONAL BLESSING	<i>David</i>
CLOSING PRAYERS including MOTZI over bread	<i>Everyone</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> KIPPAH (one for each additional person you want to wear a kippah)	<input type="checkbox"/> TALLIS (at least one for Elijah's Chair and one for each additional person you want to wear a tallis)
<input type="checkbox"/> SWEET GRAPE KOSHER WINE (not Blackberry) , and <input type="checkbox"/> KIDDUSH CUP	<input type="checkbox"/> CHALLAH (or matza, if Pesach)
<input type="checkbox"/> A check for \$300 payable to Cantor David M Landau — Thank you	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDLE HOLDERS (One for each person on your "to light candles" list, plus, maybe, one more for your daughter), <input type="checkbox"/> CANDLES, and <input type="checkbox"/> MATCHES OR A LIGHTER

Brit Bat Ceremony

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

B'ruchah ha-ba-ah

Blessed are you (who bear the divine presence.)

Holding the baby girl, the mother says:

My daughter, 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 daughter, 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 daughter into life.

By the way we live, we aspire to teach our daughter to become a caring and loving person.

We hope that in seeking to fulfill herself, she will accept her responsibilities to others and to her heritage. We dedicate ourselves to the creation of a Jewish home and to a life of compassion for others, hoping she 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.

————— later in the ceremony —————

Parent's acknowledge readiness for the Mitzvah:

We are ready to enter our daughter into the covenant of
Abraham our Father and Sarah our Mother.

Grandparents read together:

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.

ON THE BIRTH OF A SISTER

From the Hiddur Mitzvah Section of
"The New Jewish Baby Book"
by Anita Diamant

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 sister and ME!

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.

Cantor gives introduction.

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

-Hebrew- B'rucha Ha-ba-ah.

Blessed are you who bear the divine presence.

Holding the baby, the mother says:

My daughter, 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 daughter, 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 daughter into life.

By the way we live, we aspire to teach our daughter to become a caring and loving person. We hope that in seeking to fulfill herself, she will accept her responsibilities to others and to her heritage. We dedicate ourselves to the creation of a Jewish home and to a life of compassion for others, hoping she 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.

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.

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 sister and ME!

[Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (C) 1988]

Other readings may be inserted here.

Mohel explains Elijah's chair and we sing Eliyahu HaNavi.

The baby is placed on Elijah's chair as we sing Oseh Shalom.

Parents:
We are ready to enter our daughter into the covenant of Abraham our Father and Sarah our Mother.

Baby is placed in the Sandek's lap.

Parents, repeating after the mohel:

-Hebrew-

Ba-ruch A-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam, Zocher ha-Brit.
Blessed are You, Lord our God, who is mindful of the covenant.

Candles are lit.

Cantor (and guests)

-Hebrew- K'shem sheh-nich-n'sa la-brit, kein ti-ka-nes l'to-rah ul-chu-pah ul-ma-a-sim to-
vim.

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

Raising the cup of wine, the person saying Kiddush says:

-Hebrew- Bar-uch A-tah Ah-do-nai, Eh-lo-hey-nu Meh-lech Ha-o-lahm, Bo-ray Peh-ree Ha-
Gah-fen.

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

Cantor announces her Hebrew name.

Parents drink the wine the baby has already tasted.

They (and/or others) explain the baby's name.

Everyone says: May this little child _____, daughter of _____ and
_____, grow into adulthood as a blessing to her family, the Jewish people, and
humanity. As she has entered the covenant of our people, so may she grow into a life of
Torah, chupah, and good deeds.

Cantor sings song that includes the following blessing:

-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.

Everyones:

-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.

Family gathers for closing melody and motzi blessing over challah.

We all sing Siman Tov u'Mazal Tov.

- 2 -

- Kiddush -

Bah-ruch Ah-tah A-do-nai, Eh-lo-hey-nu Meh-lech Ha-o-lam,
Bo-rey P'ree ha-Gafen.

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

- Naming and discussion of name -

Everyone says:

May this little child, _____ daughter of _____ and _____ grow into adulthood as a blessing to her family, the Jewish people and humanity. As she has entered the covenant of our people, so may she grow into a life of 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.

Everyone:

Ba-ruch A-tah Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu meh-lech ha-o-lam,
she-heh-cheh-ya-nu v'ki-y'ma-nu v'hi-gi-a-nu la-z'man ha-zeh.
Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of All, who grants us life, preserves us, and helps us reach this day.

All:

Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-nai, Eh-lo-hey-nu Meh-lech Ha-Olam,
Ha-Motzi Lechem Min Ha-Aretz.

*Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of All,
Who brings bread from the earth.*

All:

Siman Tov u-mazal tov, Mazal Tov v'siman tov,
Y'hey la-nu u'veh-chol yis-ra-el.

- 1 -

We all sing:

Hee-ney mah tov u-mah na-im, she-vet ah-chim gam yah-chad.
How good and pleasant for brethren to dwell in harmony!

- Introduction -

We all sing:

Ba-ruch ha-bah.

Blessed are you who bear the divine presence.

- Parents Talk -

- Elijah's Chair -

Eliyahu ha-navi, Eliyahu ha-tishbi,

Eliyahu, Eliyahu, Eliyahu ha-gil-adi.

Bi-m'heyra v'ya-meynu yavo ey-leynu

Im ma-shi-ach ben David, im ma-shi-ach ben David.

*May the prophet Elijah come soon and bring
the one who will bring Peace to the world.*

Oh-seh sha-lom bi-m'tromav, hu ya-aseh shalom

Ah-ley-nu v'al kol yis-ra-el, v'imru amen.

May He who makes peace in the heavens

Grant peace to us all. And let us say, Amen.

- Parent's acknowledge readiness for the Mitzvah -

- the Sandek holds the girl -

- Parents say their blessings -

All say:

K'shem sheh-nich-n'sa la-brit,

ken ti-ka-nes l'to-rah u-l'chu-pah u-l'ma-a-sim to-vim.

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

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