



Beth El Synagogue

Simchat Bat Ceremony

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Rabbi:

Welcome! The phrase *simchat 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 *simchat bat*- a ceremony in which we 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.

בְּרוּכָה הַבָּאָה תַּחַת כַּנְּפֵי הַשְּׁכִינָה

B’rukhah haba’ah tachat kanfei hashekhinah

May you be blessed beneath the wings of the Shekinah (God’s presence),
be blessed in love, be blessed in peace.

Mother's Prayer after Birth

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הַגּוֹמֵל לְחַיִּים טוֹבוֹת שְׂגַמְלָנִי כָּל-טוֹב.

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

Thank You, God for seeing me through this birth, for giving me this blessed child.

all present respond:

מִי שְׂגַמְלָךְ כָּל-טוֹב הוּא יְגַמְלָךְ כָּל-טוֹב סְלָה.

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

May God who has shown you kindness continue to bless you throughout the years.

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 *chanukiyot*, *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*, *chuppa* 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.

Naming and 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.

מִי שֶׁבֵּרַךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אַבְרָהָם, יִצְחָק, וְיַעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רִבְקָה, רָחֵל וְלֵאָה, הוּא יְבָרַךְ אֶת _____
בֶּן _____ וְאֶת הָאִשָּׁה הַיְלֵדָה בֵּת _____ וְאֶת הַיְלֵדָה הַנּוֹלָדָה
לָהֶם בְּמִזְל טוֹב. וְיִקְרָא שְׁמָהּ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל בֵּת _____ . יִזְקוּ הוֹרֵיהָ לְגִדְלָהּ
לְתוֹרָה וּלְחֻפָּה וּלְמַעֲשֵׂים 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 תִּכְנֶס לְתוֹרָה וּלְחֻפָּה וּלְמַעֲשֵׂים טוֹבִים.

K'shaym shenikh'n'sah labrit, kayn tikan'es 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)

Adonai our God, we thank You for the precious gift of new life. We have been privileged to participate with You in the marvel and beauty of creation. We have shared love and pain and joy in bringing our daughter into this world. We have prayed for this day and now it is here. How can we express our gratitude to You, God? You have sent us a perfect blessing. God, watch over _____. Bless her body with health and her soul with joy. And may all the gifts hidden inside her find their way into the world.

Grandparents' Prayer

Eloheinu v'lohei avoteinu, Our God and God of All Generations, we are grateful for the bond of new life that links one generation to another. Thankful for the blessings of family, we rejoice with our daughter and son in the birth of _____, our granddaughter. May they grow together 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 our granddaughter 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)

יְשִׁימֶךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּסָרָה, רִיבְקָה, רָחֵל וְלֵאָה.
Y'simeikh Elohim k'Sarah, Rivkah, Rachel v'Leah.
May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.

בְּרַכְךָ ה' וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ.
Y'varekh'kha Adonai v'yishm'rekha
Adonai, grant our daughter a life of security and trust.

יָאֵר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְדֶּךָ.
Ya'eir Adonai panav eilekha vichuneka.
May her life shine with dignity and freedom.

יִשָּׂא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.
Yisa Adonai panav eilekha v'yaseim l'kha shalom.
May our daughter know Your gift of harmony and peace.

Sheheheyanu

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, shehecheyanu,

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 וּמָזֶל טוֹב, מָזֶל 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

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

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, hamotzi lechem min ha'aretz.

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