

Simhat Bat for Baby Girl Greene

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I. Introduction and Entrance

As the baby is brought in, the community sings:

בְּרוּכָה הַבָּאָה תַּחַת כַּנְפֵי הַשְּׁכִינָה:

Bruhah haba'ah tahat kanfey hashehinah } 2x

May you be blessed beneath the wings of *shehinah* }

Be blessed with love be blessed with peace } 2x

- Debbie Friedman

Three seats are prepared, one for the sandeket to hold the girl, one for Mom and one for Miriam in the middle. The baby is placed on Miriam's chair.

II. Devorah's Chair

Each male child is circumcised on the chair of Elijah the prophet, the *kise shel eliyahu*. The prophet, it is taught, comes to each *brit milah* to strengthen the resolve of parents to circumcise their sons, even at the most difficult of times.

Jewish women for generations have seen Devorah as the female prophetess who best represents the values of a new female soul. She was the Judge of Israel who held the community together during struggles, adjudicated the disputes of her community with fairness and justice, a leader of prayer and a vision-seeker who knew what was hidden to others. Because of this it is fitting that we choose to honor her at this special moment in the life of this new woman.

We cannot deny that the passing of Debbie Friedman influences this chair. Debbie, whose Hebrew name was Devorah, was a songstress, a colleague and a teacher of Rabbi James. She helped him discern his path to rabbinical school and a *shabbat* does not pass where her music does not grace our congregation. We hope that alongside Devorah the prophetess, Debbie is sitting with this new child to fill her soul with voice, spirit and joy.

This chair we now dub *kise shel devorah hanevi'ah*, the Chair of Devorah the Prophetess. We place our daughter in the arms of "*devorah hanevi'ah*." We ask that this little one be endowed with the gift of Devorah's prophetic vision. It is our hope that the prophetess will instruct her in the art of "singing and dancing before the Lord."

זֶה הַכִּסֵּא שֶׁל דְּבוּרָה הַנְּבִיאָה זְכוּרָה לְטוֹב: עוּרִי עוּרִי דְּבוּרָה עוּרִי דְּבָרֵי-שִׁיר:

Zeh hakise shel devorah hanevi'ah, zehurah latov. Uri uri devorah, uri uri dabri shir.

This is the chair of Devorah the prophetess, may she be remembered for good. Arise arise Devorah, arise arise to sing!

III. Blessing for The Big Sister

IV. Ritual of Covenant

Baby is given to the *sandeket* for the ritual of bringing the baby into the covenant. During this ritual, bracelets and anklets of *tzitzit* will be placed on the new baby as blessings are recited.

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו על הברית:

Baruh atah adonay eloheynu meleh ha'olam asher kideshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu al haberit.

Blessed are you, The Source of Covenants who has sanctified us with his commandments and commanded us regarding the covenant.

Mother places first bracelet, saying:

May you have vision like Devorah the prophet which transforms the world for better. May your insight and wisdom lead to acts of righteousness, justice and equality.

Father places second bracelet, saying:

May you use your hands for good deeds. May you grow to be a strong woman, one educated in torah, justice and loving kindness.

Mother places first anklet, saying:

May you be grounded in this world with your eyes lifted toward the heavens. May you always be sensitive to the needs of your family, friends and those around you.

Father places second anklet, saying:

May you always have a sense of home and knowing where you belong. May you be blessed with a passion for praying with your feet and serving those in need and those who are oppressed.

V. Blessing After Covenant Ritual

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להכניסה בבריתה של
אברהם אבינו ושרה אימנו:

*Baruh ata adonay eloheynu meleh ha'olam asher kidshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu lehahniso
bivrito shel avraham avinu vesarah imanu.*

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

Community responds:

אמן: שם שנכנסה לברית כן תקנס לתורה ולחפה ולמעשים טובים:

Amen. Shem shenihnesah laberit ken tikanas letorah ulehupah ulma'asim tovim.

Amen. Just as she is entered in to the covenant so may she enter in to the study of torah, in to the marriage canopy and in to acts of kindness.

VI. Naming Blessing

מי שברך: שרה רבקה רחל ולאה מרים ודבורה הנביאות ואביגיל, ואסתר המלכה בת אביחיל הוא יברך: את הילדה הנעימה הזאת ויקרא שמה _____ בת יוספה סוניה והרב יפת הכהן במזל טוב ובשעת ברכה: ויגדלה בבריאות שלום ומנוחה ויזכה את אביה ואת אמה לראות בשמחתה ובחפתה בבנים עשר וכבוד דשנים ורעננים ינובון בשיבה ונאמר: אמן

May the one who blessed our mothers, Sarah Rebecca Rachel and Leah, Miriam and Devorah the prophetesses, Avigail and Esther the queen, bless this lovely child and let her be known as _____ the daughter of Jen and James Greene in Mazal Tov and in a blessed hour. May she grow up in health and peace. May The Source of All Creation bless give to her parents the joy of seeing her happily partnered, the mother of children and full of honor and joy in her old age. And let us say: *Amen*.

VII. Explanation of the name

VIII. Sheheheyanu

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה:
Baruh atah adonay eloheynu meleh ha'olam sheheheyanu vekiyamanu vehigyanu lazman hazeh.

Blessed are You, Source of All Blessing, who brings us to life, sustains us and allows us to celebrate these wondrous occasions together.