

BRIT MILAH FOR

CALEB

MAYR

MERCER

MARCH 16, 2022 • 13 ADAR II 5782

WELCOME

Rabbi / Jeffrey:

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 son into the covenant of our people.

Our tradition teaches that all members of all generations entered into a unique relationship with God and one another at Sinai. This relationship, known as the brit or the Covenant, joins God and the Jewish people in the task of improving the world. Today, their son becomes a partner in that Covenant.

Caleb Mayr passes over a threshold and we mark his passage from his mother's womb into his father's waiting hands and into the welcoming arms of the community of Israel, K'lal Yisrael.

CRAFTING THE NAMES

Hana and Greg:

Caleb, your presence in our lives means so much to us. It feels only fitting that the names we give you be embedded with meaning as well.

CALEB

Your first name is derived from the Hebrew words, **kol**, meaning whole, and **lev**, for heart. We love the idea of welcoming a wholehearted child into our lives and watching you grow and explore the world around you.

To us, being wholehearted means embracing new experiences, living life thoughtfully, developing a strong sense of self, and showing compassion to all people, creatures, and the planet. We hope that your wholeheartedness also applies to the important relationships in your life: your extended family scattered across the country and the world (who are so excited to meet you); the friendships you make; the community you build.

Wherever your inspiration and curiosity take you, we hope that you follow them wholeheartedly, and know that we wholeheartedly support and love you every step of the way.

Caleb also has roots in the Hebrew word, **kelev**, meaning dog. In our experience, a dog also approaches life wholeheartedly. We hope that one day you know the love of a dog who teaches you the value of living in the moment, tuning into the rhythms of the natural world, a loving devotion to your pack, and that sometimes a little playfulness is exactly what you need.

Your great grandpa **Bob Mercer** was a veterinarian who cared for many dogs (and other animals) throughout his long career. He also worked very hard to provide for his family, bringing us opportunities that would enhance and enrich our lives. We hope that your first name also evokes a connection to Grandpa Bob and the gifts that he and Grandma Shirley gave us, which ultimately helped pave the way for you.

MAYR

We're happy to honor **Maxine Rothenberg**, your dad's Grandma Max. Family was always at the center of her life, and she and Grandpa AJ loved gathering everyone together. Laughter is some of the best medicine, and Grandma Max always made sure there was plenty of it around. She also loved the arts and even embraced the challenge of picking up oil painting later in life. (One of her paintings lovingly adorns your room.) It's our hope that Maxine's spirited love for life and family finds its way through our family and touches you.

In Hebrew, Mayr means "one who shines". This plays off your mom's last name, **Schein**. Though the spelling may be different, we hope that you always feel connected to the Schein/Bernstein side of your family. They're a spirited clan who've never been afraid to put their own spin on something.

Caleb Mayr, we cannot wait to see the light you shine upon the world.

SCHEIN FAMILY TRADITIONS

Deborah and Jeffrey:

When each of our children (Ben, Jonah and Hana) was born we selected a Hebrew song which matched the first letter of their names. Each child's song was sung at the Schein Shabbat dinner table as the child's birthday approached.

At Hana's naming, her song was created as a Hebrew acrostic that matched a biblical or liturgical verse with each letter of her Hebrew name. For Caleb, we are focusing on his middle name Mayr which symbolizes light. These songs were chosen to reflect the hopes and dreams we have for you.

Or Zarua:

אור זרע לצדיק, ולישרי לב שמחה

Or zaruah latzadik, u'li-yish-rei lev simcha.

Translation:

Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the sincere at heart.

Or Hadash (Shine a New Light):

אור חדש על ציון תאיר
ונזקה כלנו במהרה

Or hadash al tzyon ta-ir,
venizkeh khulanu meherah le-oro.

Translation:

Shine a new light upon Zion
May we all soon be privileged to enjoy and spread that light!

A PRAYER FROM AUNTS AND UNCLES

Jonah and Rachel:

You may not remember the details of this day, but we hope you always feel the love and support that is present for you right now.

Justin and Michelle:

We are blessed to have you join the extended Schein/Mercer mishpacha. (family)

Ben and Robyn:

In this spirit, we ask that as people leave this simha, they take a minute to leave their own special prayers and hopes for you in the chat box.

Jeff and Noelle:

We hope Caleb, that you and your parents will hold onto these prayers to reflect on as you grow older.

A GRANDPARENT'S PRAYER FOR CALEB MAYR

**Joanne and Elliott
Deborah and Jeffrey**

Our God and God of All Generations, we are grateful for the 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 Caleb Mayr, our grandson. 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 he be a blessing to his family, his people, and all humanity. Amen.

BRINGING THE BABY INTO THE COVENANT

In this prayer we give Caleb the full Hebrew name by which he will be called to the Torah in the future as he becomes Bar Mitzvah and otherwise celebrates Jewish life. The name is his own link to the Hebrew name of his parents.

Caleb Mayr כלב מאיר
Son of
Kasriel קסריאל & Hana חנה

Once he receives this identity of being known as Caleb Mayr, the son of Hana and Kasriel in the household of Israel we move on to the circumcision.

A BLESSING FOR CALEB MAYR

May you be like Ephraim and Menashe.
יְשִׁימְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכִמְנַשֶּׁה
Yesimcha Elohim k'Ephraim v'chi-Menashe.

May God bless you and protect you.
יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ
Yivarechecha Adonai v'yishmerecha

May God show you favor and be gracious to you.
יְאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיְחַנֶּנֶךָ
Ya'er Adonai panav eilecha vichuneka

May God show you kindness and grant you peace.

יְשָׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיְשִׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם

Yisa Adonai panav eilecha v'yasem lecha shalom