

The *Simchat Brit* of Mira Celeste Puius and Saul Liev Puius
November 28, 2010 / 21 Kislev 5771
Ceremony by Melissa Puius
Annotated Event Outline

This is an annotated version of the Event Outline from our leaders' binder. In addition to the outline, the binder contained the participant readings reprinted separately on their own pages. These were in large print, and in plastic sheet protectors.

Welcome – Yoram

Grand Entrance with Grandparents (*Heiveinu Shalom Aleichem*)
(Saul with Coca, Mira with Anita)

Grandparents' Reading, Talmud Berachot 17a – David and Coca

(David)

May you live to see your world fulfilled,
May your destiny be for worlds still to come,
And may you trust in generations past and yet to be.
May your heart be filled with intuition
and your words be filled with insight.
May songs of praise ever be upon your tongue
and your vision be on a straight path before you.

(Coca)

May your eyes shine with the light of holy words
and your face reflect the brightness of the heavens.
May your lips speak wisdom
and your fulfillment be in righteousness
even as you ever yearn to hear the words
of the Holy Ancient One of Old.

Talmud Berachot 17a; Lawrence Kushner, Translator
<http://www.ritualwell.org/lifecycles/babieschildren/babynamingsimchatbat/sitefolder.2005-06-07.5117027380/Berachot17a.xml>

Mira's Ritual

Miriam's Chair - Bex

This is *Kise shel Miriam Ha'neviah*, the Chair of Miriam the Prophet. We ask that Mira be endowed with the gift of Miriam's prophetic vision. Miriam realized that life always holds more possibilities and promises than the immediate moment might indicate, and that God is ever present and capable of great miracles. It is our hope that Miriam *Haneviah* will inspire Mira in the art of "singing and dancing before the Lord."

Inspired by the ceremony "Gift of a Daughter: Zevad HaBat" by Carol and Rabbi Neal Rose
<http://www.ritualwell.org/lifecycles/babieschildren/babynamingsimchatbat/sitefolder.2005-06-07.6945408008/GiftOfADaughter.xml>

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Foot Washing – Melissa with Anita and Bex

Melissa: “Most covenantal language is in the masculine Hebrew form. However, in this passage from Ezekiel (16:8-12), God describes his covenant with Jerusalem, speaking in the feminine form to her, as if the city were a young maiden. God seals the covenant by washing and anointing her, and adorning her with fine clothes and jewels:”

Text selection inspired by ceremony “The Brit of Ayelet Kalila Vivianne Cohler-Esses” by Larry and Dianne Cohler-Esses
<http://www.ritualwell.org/lifecycles/babieschildren/baynamingsimchatbat/sitefolder.2005-06-07.6945408008/primaryobject.2005-07-01.0442151678/view?searchterm=ezekiel>

... וְאָבּוֹא בְּכָרִית אֲתָךְ נְאֻם ה' ה' וְתִהְיֶי לִי: ⁸
 וְאַרְחֹצֶךָ בְּמַיִם וְאֲשַׁטֵּף דָּמֶיךָ מֵעַלְיָךְ וְאֶסְכֶּךָ בַּשָּׁמֶן: ⁹
 וְאֶלְבִּישְׁךָ רִקְמָה וְאֶנְעֹלְךָ תַּחֲשׁ וְאֶחְבֹּשְׁךָ בַּשֵּׁשׁ וְאֶכְסֶךָ מְשִׁי: ¹⁰
 וְאֶעֱבֹד עֲדֵי וְאֶתְנֶה צְמִידִים עַל-יְדֶיךָ וְרִבִּיד עַל-גְּרוֹנְךָ: ¹¹
 וְאֶתֵּן גְּזֵם עַל-אֶפֶסְךָ וְעִגְלִים עַל-אֲזְנוֹתֶיךָ וְעֵטֶרֶת תַּפְאֲרַת בְּרֹאשְׁךָ: ¹²

I came into a covenant with you, says Adonai our God, and you were mine.
 I washed you with water and rinsed off your blood, ^{from your body} and anointed you with oil.
 I dressed you in embroidery, and laced your leather sandals, and I clothed you in linen and covered you with silk.
 I adorned you with jewels, putting bracelets on your wrists and a necklace on your neck.
 I put a ring on your nose and earrings on your ears, and a crown of glory upon your head.

Hebrew text from DavkaWriter, edited for *sheimot*.
 Translation by Melissa, to maximize trop placement on English text.
 Note that the trop have been flipped to accommodate text direction (mirror images)

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“Today, we rinse Mira's feet in water to recall the covenant God made with the maiden Jerusalem. We are using water mixed from several sources – our own hometowns of Buffalo and Edgemont, New York, good old Providence tap water, and water from the Mira River in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.”

Wash the tootsies

The mixture of waters was inspired by a ceremony at a friend's Catholic wedding, which used a Native American Wedding Vase. Melissa had initially intended to include water from Jerusalem as well, but didn't sort out the logistics in time.

Yoram and Melissa recite:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתַיִךְ וְצִוֵּנוּ לְהִכְנִיסָהּ
בְּבְרִיתוֹ שֶׁל עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, whose *mitzvot* add holiness to our lives and who gave us the *mitzvah* to bring this child into the covenant of the People Israel.

<http://www.ritualwell.org/lifecycles/babieschildren/babynamingsimchatbat/sitefilder.2005-06-07.5805295980/tradbless.xml>

K'riyat Shem – Brian

אֱלֹקֵינוּ וְאֵלֵינוּ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, קִים אֶת־הַיְלָדָה הַזֹּאת
לְאִבְיָהּ וְלְאִמָּהּ, וְיִקְרָא שְׁמָהּ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל _____
בֵּת _____ . יִשְׂמַח הָאֵב (בְּגֵן עֵדֶן) בְּיוֹצֵא
חֲלָצִיו וְתִגַּל אִמָּהּ (בְּגֵן עֵדֶן) בְּפָרִי בִטְנָהּ,
כְּכָתוּב: אֵל הַנֶּעַר הַזֶּה הִתְפַּלְלָתִי וַיִּתֵּן ה'
לִי אֶת שְׁאֵלָתִי אֲשֶׁר שְׁאֵלָתִי מֵעַמּוֹ וְקִים־לָהּ,
ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֵה שְׁכָתוּב: פִּיהָ פִּתְחָהּ בְּחֻכְמָהּ
וְתוֹרַת חֻסֵּד עַל לְשׁוֹנָהּ.

[The rabbi asks those present to repeat
the following words:]

הוֹדוּ לָהּ כִּי־טוֹב, כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֻסְדוֹ.

זֹאת הַקְּטָנָה _____ גְּדוּלָה תִהְיֶה. יְהִי רָצוֹן
(שְׂיִזְכוּ הוֹרֵיהָ / שְׂתִזְכֶּה אִמָּהּ) לְגִדּוּלָה לְתוֹרָה
וְלְחֻפָּה וְלִמְעֻשִׁים טוֹבִים, אָמֵן.

Source: *Derekh HaShatz* (edited for *sheimot*)

Explanation of Mira's Name - Yoram

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Saul's Ritual

Elijah's Chair – Rabbi Franklin (Hebrew) and Ben (English)

This is the seat of *Eliyahu Hanavi*, Elijah the prophet, of blessed memory.

I wait for Your deliverance, Adonai. I hope for Your deliverance and I fulfill Your *mitzvot*. I hope for Your deliverance, Adonai. I rejoice over Your promise as one who finds great treasure. Great peace have they who love Your Torah; nothing makes them stumble. Happy is the one You choose to bring near, who will enjoy the goodness of Your house and the sanctity of Your temple. [Genesis 49:18; Psalm 119:116, 162, 165; Psalm 65:5a]

זֶה הַכֵּסֵא שֶׁל אֱלִיָּהוּ זְכוּר לְטוֹב. לִישׁוּעָתְךָ קִוִּיתִי
ה' שִׁבְרַתִּי לִישׁוּעָתְךָ ה' וּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ עָשִׂיתִי.
שִׁבְרַתִּי לִישׁוּעָתְךָ יְהוָה. שֶׁשׁ אָנֹכִי עַל אִמְרָתְךָ
כְּמוֹצֵא שֶׁלֵּל רֵב. שְׁלוֹם רֵב לְאַהֲבֵי תוֹרָתְךָ, וְאֵין
לְמוֹ מְכַשׁוּל. אֲשֶׁרִי תִבְחָר וּתִקָּרֵב יִשְׁכּוֹן חֲצֵרֶיךָ.

Source: *Derekh HaShatz* (edited for *sheimot*)

Yoram recites:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר
קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל הַמִּילָה.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, who rules the universe, whose *mitzvot* add holiness to our lives and who gave us the *mitzvah* of circumcision.

Source: *Derekh HaShatz* (edited for *sheimot*)

Hatafat Dam Brit Procedure – Yoram with Ben and Mirel

Yoram, a physician, decided to do the procedure himself. He followed the procedure instructions at <http://samkuninmd.com/docinfo/HatafatDamBrit.pdf>

Yoram and Melissa Recite:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר
קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַכְנִיסוֹ בְּבְרִיתוֹ שֶׁל
אַבְרָהָם אָבִינוּ.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, who rules the universe, whose *mitzvot* add holiness to our lives and who gave us the *mitzvah* to bring this child into the covenant of Abraham, our father.

Source: *Derekh HaShatz* (edited for *sheimot*)

Kiddush and K'riyat Shem – Cantor Mayer

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדַּשׁ יָדַי מִבֶּטֶן, וְחָק בִּשְׂאֵרוֹ שָׁם וְצִאֲצָאֵיו חָתַם בְּאוֹת בְּרִית קִדְשׁ. עַל כֵּן בְּשִׂכְרֵךְ זֹאת, אֵל חַי חֲלַקְנוּ צוּרְנוּ, צוּה לְהַצִּיל יְדִידוֹת שְׂאֲרָנוּ מִשַּׁחַת, לְמַעַן בְּרִיתוֹ אֲשֶׁר שָׁם בְּבִשְׂרָנוּ. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', כּוֹרֵת הַבְּרִית.

אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֵלֵינוּ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, קִיַּם אֶת־הַיְלֵד הַזֶּה לְאֲבִיו וְלְאִמּוֹ, וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל _____ בֶּן _____ . יִשְׂמַח הָאָב (בְּגֵן עֵדֶן) בְּיוֹצֵא חֲלָצֵיו וְתִגַּל אִמּוֹ (בְּגֵן עֵדֶן) בְּפְרֵי בִטְנָהּ, כְּכַתוּב: יִשְׂמַח אָבִיךָ וְאִמְךָ וְתִגַּל יוֹלְדֹתֶיךָ. וְנֹאמַר: וְאֶעֱבֹר עֲלֶיךָ וְאֶרְאֶךָ מִתְבוֹסֶסֶת בְּדַמְיֶךָ, וְאֶמַּר לְךָ בְּדַמְיֶךָ חַיִּי, וְאֶמַּר לְךָ בְּדַמְיֶךָ חַיִּי. וְנֹאמַר: זָכַר לְעוֹלָם בְּרִיתוֹ, דְּבַר צוּה לְאֶלֶף דּוֹר. אֲשֶׁר כָּרַת אֶת־אֲבֹרָהֶם וְשִׁבּוּעָתוֹ לְיִשְׁחָק. וַיַּעֲמִידָהּ לְיַעֲקֹב לְחַק, לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּרִית עוֹלָם. וְנֹאמַר: וַיִּמַּל אֲבֹרָהֶם אֶת־יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ בֶּן־שְׁמוֹנֵת יָמִים כַּאֲשֶׁר צוּה אֶתּוֹ אֱלֹהִים.

[The rabbi asks those present to repeat the following words:]

הוֹדוּ לַה' כִּי־טוֹב, כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדּוֹ.

זֶה הַקָּטָן _____ גָּדוֹל יִהְיֶה. כִּשְׁם שְׁנַכְנַס לְבְרִית, בֶּן יִכְנַס לְתוֹרָה וְלַחֲפָה וְלִמְעֻשִׁים טוֹבִים, אָמֵן.

Source: *Derekh HaShatz* (edited for *sheimot*)

Explanation of Saul's Name - Melissa

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Birkat HaGomel - Melissa

היולדת: בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, הַגּוֹמֵל לְחַיִּיבִים טוֹבוֹת, שֶׁגָּמְלָנִי כָּל טוֹב.
הַקְהֵל: אָמֵן. מִי שֶׁגָּמְלָךְ טוֹב, הוּא יִגְמְלֶךָ כָּל טוֹב, סְלֵה.

Mother: Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe who bestows goodness upon those who are committed, who has granted every goodness upon me.

Congregation: Amen, He who has bestowed goodness upon you, may He bestow every goodness upon you forever.

Parents' Blessing

To Mira:

הִי אֲשֶׁר תְּהִי-- וְהִי בְּרוּכָה בְּאֲשֶׁר תְּהִי

Be who you are — and may you be blessed in all that you are.

To Saul:

הוּא אֲשֶׁר תְּהִי-- וְהוּא בְּרוּךְ בְּאֲשֶׁר תְּהִי

Be who you are — and may you be blessed in all that you are.

From *The Book of Blessings: New Jewish Prayers for Daily Life, the Sabbath, and the New Moon Festivals*, Harper 1996,
© 1996 Marcia Lee Falk.

Accessed at

<http://www.ritualwell.org/lifecycles/babieschildren/babynamingsimchatbat/sitefolder.2005-06-07.6600616137/TradParentalBlessing.xml>

To both Mira and Saul:

יְבָרְכֶךָ ה', וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ
יָאֵר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחֲנֹךְ
יִשָּׂא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיִּשֵׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

May Adonai bless you and guard you
May Adonai make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you
May Adonai lift up his face onto you and give you peace

♪ Siman Tov u'Mazel Tov ♪