

The Puius family celebrates the *Simchat
Brit* of our twins



Saul
Liev

Mira
Celeste



21 Kislev 5771
November 28, 2010
Temple Emanu-El
Providence, RI

Simchat Brit Ceremony

Today's ceremony is being led by Melissa and Yoram Puius, with help from
Cantor Brian Mayer

Welcome

Grand Entrance

Grandparents' Reading – Melania Puius and David Schick

Mira's Ritual

assisted by Rebecca Blumenfeld and Anita Schick

- Miriam's Chair
- Reading of Prophetic text
- Foot Washing
- K'riyat Shem (First announcement of Hebrew name)
- Explanation of Name

Saul's Ritual

assisted by Benjamin Goody and Mirel Puius

- Elijah's Chair
- *Hatafat Dam Brit*
- Kiddush (Blessing over wine)
- K'riyat Shem (First announcement of Hebrew name)
- Explanation of Name

Parents' Blessing

Bruchim Haba'im – Welcome!

We are honored that you are sharing this day with us, as we welcome our children, Saul and Mira, into the covenant between God and the Jewish people. "*Simchat Brit*" means "Celebration of the Covenant," and today's ceremony will include rituals and blessings for both babies, as well as the sharing of their Hebrew names.

Saul and Mira were born on June 15, 2010, just before 4AM. They arrived eight weeks early, and weighed 3lb 7oz and 3lb 2oz, respectively. Mira was cared for in the NICU for one month, while Saul remained there for three months.

Because Saul was so small, we were not able to have him circumcised on his eighth day of life, at a traditional *brit milah* (*bris*). Instead, he received a medical circumcision under general anesthetic during an unrelated procedure. Thus today we will be performing a *hatafat dam brit*, a ritual drawing of blood at the circumcision site, as Saul's ritual.

There is no traditional ritual for girls equivalent to *brit milah*. However, in recent decades, parents and clergy have developed various ceremonies to fill this void. We have decided to perform a foot-washing ritual to welcome Mira into the covenant.

Elijah and Miriam's Chairs

Traditionally, the prophet Elijah is called upon during times of transition, when prophetic vision, the ability to see beyond what others can and will see, is most essential. His presence is invoked at the Passover Seder, at the end of Shabbat, and at *brit milah* ceremonies. Many contemporary Jews also call upon the prophet Miriam at these times, calling upon her unique ability to see the possibilities and promises ahead, even in difficult times. We welcome both prophets to our *simchat brit* today, setting chairs in their honor. We would also like to note that Melissa's Hebrew name is Miriam Batsheva, and Yoram's Hebrew name is Eliyahu Aharon.

Toys for Tots

Our table centerpieces today are made up of toys, all of which will be donated to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Please do not open any of the packages.

To Our Parents

Thank you for always supporting us throughout our lives and especially these last few months. Thank you for your patient guidance, your exquisite love, and your generosity.

To Our Family and Friends

It is our good fortune to have so many special people in our lives. Thank you to all who have travelled from both near and far to celebrate our beautiful children. We look forward to sharing many more happy occasions with you in the years to come!