



SIMCHAT BAT

for

Natalie Heather K

נחמה חיה

Nechama Chaya

Daughter of Arin and Ryan K

September 30, 2007
18 Tishrei 5768

Every person has three names:
The one given by one's mother and father;
The one that others call her; and
The one she acquires for herself.

(Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:1:3)



[As the ceremony is about to begin, Barbara, Emily, Judy, Laura, Marcia, Mikey, Molly, Nan, Samantha, Susan, Syp (and Jessica in absentia) gather on two sides at the foot of the stairs.]

Grandfather Jeff begins the ceremony:

We would like to welcome everyone here to participate in celebrating this *simchat bat*, a celebration of the birth of a daughter, and to help us welcome this new life into the Covenant of Israel by giving her the Hebrew name by which she will be known amongst the Jewish people. *Simcha* means Joy and *bat* means Daughter. We are glad today to have the opportunity to celebrate our newest addition and are glad you are here to participate in our *simchat bat* with us.

Great Grandmother Rose:

It is a *mitzvah* (commandment or law) to give a child a Hebrew name. Throughout Jewish history, special emphasis has been placed on Hebrew names. The naming of living beings is seen in Genesis as a role that is uniquely human. After God finished creating all life forms, Adam was given his first task as a human being--to name every other living creature. We are here to name our daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter—our Precious Gift, our *zeved tov*.

Grandmother Bonnie:

Before there was a Jewish people, there was a man named Avram and his wife, Sarai. Avram was an idol-worshipper who re-examined himself, changed who he was and, by entering into a covenant with God, became the leader of a new people dedicated to the service of the One God. Upon entering into this covenant, he became known as Abraham and Sarai became Sarah. So arose the tradition of giving each new child a covenant-name. Today, you have been invited to be with us as we enter Arin and Ryan's daughter into this covenant.

Arin:

Traditionally, a *minyan*, or ten people, is the minimum number who must be present for Jewish communal prayers to be offered. It is also said that "Where ten people come together to praise God, the *Shechinah* abides." The *schechinah* is the nurturing feminine face of God and it is She who seeks to bring redemption and peace to the world. As Natalie enters the room, she will pass through a *minyan* of women who represent qualities that we, her parents, hope she will acquire as she grows: wisdom, generosity, strength, physical grace, confidence, a sense of humor, creativity, love of family, passion, love of her Jewish heritage, a desire to make a difference in the world and a reverence for all living things. Please, bring Natalie forward.

NATALIE ENTERS AND IS GREETED

Natalie is escorted into the room by her grandmothers, Pat C and Libby K. She is wrapped in her savta (grandmother) Pat's tallit (prayer shawl) that represents the four Matriarchs of the Jewish people: Sarah, Rebecca, Leah, and Rachel.

As she enters, everyone says together:

בְּרוּכָה הַבָּאָה בְּשֵׁם ה'

(Transliteration):

B'rucha haba'a b'shem hashem.

Blessed is she who enters in the name of the Divine Spirit!

[Natalie is handed to her parents, Arin and Ryan]

Savta Pat:

בְּרוּכָה הַבְּאֵה בְּשֵׁם ה' בְּרוּכָה אֶת בְּעִיר וּבְרוּכָה אֶת בְּשֵׁדָה בְּרוּכָה אֶת בְּבוֹאֶךָ וּבְרוּכָה אֶת בְּצֵאתֶךָ

B'rucha haba'a b'shem Adonai
 B'rucha at ba'ir, uvrucha at basadeh
 B'rucha at b'voaych, uv'rucha at b'tzaytaych.

Grandparents Libby and Cliff:

Welcome, Little One!

Blessed may you be all your days, all your life.

Blessed may you be wherever you are,

In all of your comings and in all of your goings.

All the Assembled Guests:

And God blessed them and said: "You shall be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with life and you shall be a friend to all living things on this earth."
 (Genesis 1:26-27)

NAMING

Rabbi G:

Behold, Arin and Ryan are here today with their child in order that she be named in the presence of her family and friends. They have come to hear words of blessing, words of love and words of Torah. They have come in order that their child may, through her name, take her place in the people of Israel.

[Light candle]

There is a new light in your hearts and in your home. This candle celebrates the birth of your child. This candle celebrates her emergence into light. Fortunate the woman who knows the pangs of birth, for she has held a star. Fortunate the man who fathers a child, for he has held eternity in his arms. This candle celebrates the fire of love out of which this child was created.

[Pour the wine]

This cup is the vessel of your hope. It is filled with the new wine of a life just begun. The sweetness of its taste is the joy this child has brought. May this child, Natalie Heather, whose name in Israel shall be *Nechama Chaya*, partake of this sweetness. May she grow to be a shining star in her family and her people. *Nechama Chaya* is named for her grandfather, Norman L, and her great grandmother, Hazel C, of blessed memory. May she carry their memories with pride, love, and joy and may her life be an honor to their names.

All: Kiddush: Blessing over wine

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.	<i>Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai, E-lo-heinu me-lech ha-o-lam, bo-rei p'ree ha-ga-fen.</i>
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Praised are you, Eternal One, Ruler of the world, who creates the fruit of the vine.

All: Shehecheyanu: Prayer of thanks for having reached this day

<p>בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהִתְקִינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִצִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.</p>	<p><i>Baruch atah adonai, Elohenu melech ha'olam shehecheyanu, v'ki'amanu, v'higi'anu lazman ha'zeh.</i></p>
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Praised are you, Eternal One, Ruler of the world, who has helped us live, sustained us and caused us to reach this happy day.

Rabbi G:

Arin would like to say a few words about her father and her grandmother, for whom Natalie is named.

Arin offers a remembrance of her father, **Norman L**, whose Hebrew name was *Nachman* (feminine version: *Nechama*), meaning *to comfort* and her grandmother, **Hazel C**, who did not have a Hebrew name but for whom the name *Chaya* or *Life* is a fitting remembrance.

Rabbi G:

K'shem she-nich-n'sa l'sh-ma v'ama, ken ti-ca-neis l'Torah, l'chu-pa ul-ma-aseem to-veem.

As Natalie Heather, *Nechama Chaya*, has entered into her name and people today, so may she attain the blessing of Torah, of marriage, and a life of good deeds.

Arin and Ryan:

Our God, we thank you for the precious gift of new life, for the blessing of parenthood that allows us to share in the *mitzvah* of creation. We have shared love and pain and joy in bringing our daughter into life, and have been privileged to participate in the marvel and beauty of creation.

We pray for the continued health of our child.

We pray for her to be strong in body and mind.

We pray for her to grow steadily and sturdily in a home filled with joy.

We pray for her to become a person who greets the world with passion, courage, humility, humor and patience.

May we both find understanding and love so that we may raise Natalie to an adulthood filled with wisdom, love and the performance of good deeds.

May we raise our child to a life of joy and wonder and may we someday be blessed to bring her to the wedding canopy. Amen.

READING, SIGNING AND WITNESSING OF NAMING CERTIFICATE

Aunt Laura: Natalie Heather, may the *Shechinah*, the Loving Presence of God, spread Her wings over you and protect you. May you know great joy and fulfillment in your life.

Uncle Brian: May you walk with our people, Israel, in pride, and may you understand that to be a Jew is a source of joy and meaning, and an important responsibility.

Uncle Josh: May your ears be filled with music of every imaginable kind and may the rhythm be of your own making. Allow yourself to march at your own pace and dance to your own beat.

Aunts Samantha, Molly & Emily: May you sing a new song to God, a song that is yours. May you sing your song with joy and faith. May you bring blessings to your parents, to your family, and to the world with your beautiful song.

Uncles Zac, Julio, Kyle, and Rick: May you live in a world blessed with peace and harmony and may your future be as bright and as hopeful as the world's first rainbow.

Great-grandparents Susan and Mary:

We are grateful that today we rejoice with our grandchildren at the birth of their daughter. With Natalie and Gabrielle, may they grow together as a family in health and in strength, in harmony, with wisdom and love.

Great-grandmothers Rose and Bea:

May their home be filled with Torah, with *ruach* or spirit, with values, and with *ma'asim tovim*—acts of loving-kindness. We pray that Natalie will appreciate the richness of her heritage, will be comfortable with her Judaism, and find meaning in its expression.

Rabbi G:

May Natalie's life be one of security and trust.

May her life shine with dignity and freedom.

May her life know the creative harmony of peace.

Arin and Ryan, may you together bring your child into the way of Torah, *chuppah*, *v'ma'asim tovim*—Into the way of the Spirit, the way of ongoing Life, and the way of Love.

All the Assembled:

And may it be God's will. Amen.

Thank you for sharing our joy with us!

[NOTE: We wish to acknowledge the love of Natalie's great-grandfather John C who is not able to be here with us today.]

Sources

Bernard M. Zlotowitz and David P. Kasakove, *Naming the Baby*. Reform Judaism, Spring 1995, p. 78.

From the Jewish Women's Center 's archives:

- *Simchat bat* by Sheyna Mueller
- *Naming of Laurel Ana Patricia Silberman* by Rebecca Silberman, of blessed memory.
- *Simchat bat ceremony for Esther Feige (Madison Faye Stamos)* by Wendy Rubenstein

From www.ritualwell.org:

- *Gift of a Daughter: Zeved Habat* by Carol and Rabbi Neal Rose
- *Simhat Bat* by Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin (Women's League of Conservative Judaism)
- *The Simchat Bat of Elana Shira*