

מאתה היתה זאת היא נפלאה בעינינו
She is a gift from God and a wonder in our eyes

Naming of
Laurel Ana Patricia
Dafna Chana
8 November 1997
8 Heshvan 5758

Congregation:

ברוכה הבאה בשם יי.

B'ruchah ha-ba-ah b'sheim Adonai

May she who enters be blessed in the name of the Lord.

Blessed are all who come here on this happy occasion, this simcha.

Barbara: These words welcome Laurel into the holy covenant, the brit, made between God and Israel at Mount Sinai. They are the same words which have been spoken to untold generations of Jews throughout history. Our sources emphasize that the entire Jewish people, women and men, children and infants, born and unborn, were included in the revelation of the law and in its affirmation. To understand this covenant and to live meaningfully by it has always been the sacred endeavor of each Jew in every generation. As we give this child her Hebrew name, we link her with every other Jewish child who was born and who will be born. We give thanks for the opportunity to bring Laurel into this everlasting covenant.

Rebecca : I did not plant you, true,
But when the season is done,
When the alternate prayers
For sun and for rain are counted,
When the pain of weeding
And the pride of watching are through,
I will hold you high.
A shining sheaf
Above the thousand seeds grown wild.
Not by my planting,
But by heaven,
My harvest.
My own child.
(Anonymous)

KIDDUSH

Rebecca: On this Shabbat of joy, we share this cup of wine in thankfulness for the fullness of life's blessings.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם.
בורא פרי הגפן.

*Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai, E-lo-heinu me-lech
ha-o-lam, bo-rei p'ree ha-ga-fen.*

Barbara: The Eternal is your Guardian, your shade upon your right hand. May he grant you length of days, years full of life and peace. May he guard you from every evil and protect your soul. Amen.

house of Israel as Dafna Chanah bat Rivkah Leah. May this be a name which brings honor to her people, joy to her family, and fulfillment to herself. May she live and grow in health and happiness. As her mother brought her into the covenant, may she, with wisdom and patience, lead her to the study of Torah and to a life of good deeds, worthy of God's blessing. And let us all say, Amen.

Rebecca :

דפנה חנה
DAFNA CHANA

an acrostic poem compiled from Song of Songs

My beloved is mine, and I am his;
He feeds his flock among the lilies.

(2:16)

I opened to my beloved;
But my beloved had turned away,
had gone; my soul failed when he spoke.
I sought him, but I could not find him;
I called him, but he did not answer me.

(5:6)

Your lips, my bride, drip honey;
honey and milk are under your tongue;
the fragrance of your garments is like
the fragrance of Lebanon.

(4:11)

The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of song has come;
and the call of the turtle dove is heard
in our land.

(2:12)

His mouth is most sweet, and he is
altogether lovely. Such is my beloved,
and such is my lover, O maidens
of Jerusalem.

(5:16)

Beautiful are your cheeks with circlets,
your neck with strings of beads!

(1:10)

The fig tree is ripening its early figs,
and the vines in blossom give forth their
fragrance. Rise, my love, my beauty,
come away.

(2:13)

דודי לי, ואני לו, הרעה בשושנים.

פתחתי אני לדודי, ודודי חמק

עבר; נפש יצאה בדברו; בקשתיהו

ולא מצאתיהו, קראתיו ולא עני.

נפת המטפה שפתותיה, בלה; רבש ותלב תחת לשונך, וריח

שלמתוך בריח לבנון.

הנצנים נראו בארץ.

עת הזמיר תגיע; וקול התור נשמע בארצנו.

חבו ממתקים, וכלו מתמדים; זה

דודי זה רעי, בעות ירושלים.

נאו לחיך בתורים, צנאךך בתרוים.

התאנה הנטה פניה, והנצנים סגדר נהגו ריח;

קומי לה, רעייה, יפתי, ולכי לה.

Participant: O god, you have given Laurel, a being now dependent on others, a potential for greatness upon the earth. With your wisdom and kindness, may she learn to stand up in the storm and have compassion for those who falter. May she learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; reach into the future, yet never forget the past. Grant her insight to know herself and the wisdom to know you. May you bless all in this house with health, happiness and contentment. Amen.

Rebecca : בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ
לְהַכְנִיסָהּ בְּבְרִיתָם שֶׁל אַבְרָהָם וְשָׂרָה.

Barukh attah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam, asher kideshanu bemitzvotav v'tzivanu lehakhnisah bivritam shel avraham v'sarah.

Blessed are you God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with the commandments and commanded us to enter my daughter into the Covenant of Abraham and Sarah.

Participant: As this little child has touched the Torah, so may the Torah touch her life, filling her mind with wisdom, and her heart with understanding. May this mother who has brought her here today always strive to bring her close to the ways of God and of our people. May she teach Torah every day through her words and her deeds. May she raise her daughter to a joyful life of learning, and to deeds of loving kindness.

Participant: I will lift up my hands and reach out to your commandments which I love. Your laws will be on my lips. (Psalms 119:48)

Participant: How precious is Your constant love, O God; You shelter us under your wings. (Psalms 36:8)

Participant: Let all my being praise the Lord Who is clothed in splendor and majesty; wrapped in light like a garment, unfolding the heavens like a curtain. You send forth Your spirit and there is creation. You renew the face of the earth. (Psalms 104:1, 30)

Participant: May God give you of the dew of heaven and the fatness of the earth. (Genesis 27:28)

Participant: You have transformed my lament into dancing; You undid my sackcloth and girded me in joy (Psalms 30:12) Blessed are You, our God, Sovereign of the universe, who redeems us from anguish.

Congregation:

כָּשֶׁם שֶׁנִּכְנְסָה לְבְרִית. *K'shem she nich-n'sah la brit, kein ti'ka'nes*
כֵּן תִּכְנַס לְתוֹרָה וּלְחֻפָּה וּלְמַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים. *l'torah ul-chu-pah ul-ma-asim to-vim*

As she has entered the covenant, so may she enter a life devoted to Torah, chupah, and the accomplishments of good deeds.

Rebecca : I dedicate my child to *torah*—to a neverending fascination with study and learning. With a book, she will never be alone.

I dedicate my child to *chupah*—to neverending growth as a human being, capable of giving and receiving love. With loving family and friends, she will never be alone.

I dedicate my child to *ma-asim tovim*, to a neverending concern for family and community, justice and charity. While she cares for others, she will never be alone.

Barbara: In contemplating this child, we contemplate a miracle. She is a miracle of renewal, a new start, a new opportunity. The cycle of life continues. In the presence of this company and Adonai, our God and God of our mothers and fathers, we declare that from this eighth day of Heshvan, 5758, corresponding to the eighth day of November, 1997, this child shall be known in the

Participant: Your children are not your children.

They are the sons and daughters of life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you, and though they are with you, they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, even in your dreams.

Congregation:

בָּרַךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ,
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שְׁהַחַיְנוּ
וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהַגִּיעַנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch atah adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam
shehecheyanu, v'ki'amanu, v'higi'anu
lazman ha'zeh.*

We praise you Adonai our God, Holy one of blessing, who has given us life, blessed us with this new life, sustained us, and brought us to this joyous moment.

Barbara: May the One who blessed our mothers, Sarah, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel, bless this child and keep her from all harm. May her mother rear her to dedicate her life in faithfulness to God, her heart receptive always to Torah and mitzvot. Then shall she bring blessing to her family, her people, and all the world.

Congregation: May God bless you and keep you.

May your life be one of security and trust.

May God's face shine on you.

May your life shine with dignity and freedom.

May your life know the creative harmony of peace.

May God's presence shine upon you, and
through you, be a part of you.

And may you be blessed with a life of peace and
wholeness, in a world of peace.

יְבָרְכֶךָ יי וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ.
יְאָר יי פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְנֶךָ.
יִשָּׂא יי פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשָּׂם
לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.