



Brit Milah

Clifford Jacob

חיים יעקב

Chaim Yaacov

Son of Arin and Ryan

November 1, 2010

24 Cheshvan 5771

When Abram (Abraham) was 99 years old, God appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty....This is My covenant between Me, and between you and your offspring that you must keep: You must circumcise every male.... This shall be the mark of the covenant between Me and you. Throughout all generations, every male shall be circumcised when he is eight days old."

(Genesis 17)

Brit milah: Covenant of Circumcision

Parents: Arin & Ryan

Sisters: Gabrielle & Natalie

Grandparents: Libby & Clifford _____, Pat _____ & Jeff _____, Bonnie _____, Norman _____, of blessed memory

Great Grandparents: Rose _____, Bea _____, Susan _____, Mary _____

Great Grandparents of blessed memory: Gilbert _____, Hazel & John _____, Donald _____, Paul _____, Chuck _____

Officiant: Rabbi J _____

Mohel: Rabbi M _____



The Brit Milah is composed of three main parts:

1. Blessing and Circumcision
2. Kiddush & Naming
3. Seudat Mitzvah

Blessing and Circumcision: The ceremony begins when the mother hands the baby to the *kvatterin* (the godmother). The child is then brought into the room where the ceremony will take place. As the baby is brought into the room, it is customary for guests to greet him by saying "*Baruch HaBa*" which means "Blessed be he who comes" in Hebrew.

Next the baby is handed to the *sandek*, the person who holds the baby while the circumcision is performed. The *sandek* will sit in a special chair called the Chair of Elijah. The prophet Elijah is believed to be the child's guardian at the circumcision and, hence, there is a chair in his honor.

The *mohel* recites a blessing over the baby. The circumcision is then performed followed by a blessing thanking God for bringing the child into the covenant of Abraham: "Blessed are You, Adonai our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments and commanded us to enter him into the covenant of Abraham our father." Another traditional blessing follows: "As he has entered into the covenant, so may he be introduced to the study of Torah, to the wedding canopy, and to good deeds."

Kiddush and Naming: Next, the Kiddush (blessing over the wine) is said and a drop of wine is put into the baby's mouth. A prayer for his well-being is recited, followed by a longer prayer that gives him his Hebrew name--the name by which he will be called to the Torah when he is a man. His full Hebrew name is a combination of his own name, followed by the words "son of" and the names in Hebrew of his father and mother. In English, Clifford Jacob is named in honor of his paternal grandfather, Clifford _____, and in memory of his maternal great-grandfather, John _____

Seudat Mitzvah: Finally, there is the *seudat mitzvah*, the celebratory meal. This meal is required by Jewish law. In this way the joy of a new life in this world is connected with the joy of sharing food with family and friends.