

# Bris

There are two gifts  
we should give our children.  
One is roots and the other is wings.  
HODDING CARTER



We are delighted to be surrounded by family and friends as we welcome our son into this loving community. Circumcision, one of the oldest Jewish traditions, began with a promise between Abraham and God some 3,500 years ago. Since then, the Jewish people have taken seriously their promise to be a blessing to the world. Today our son joins generations of men who have already begun the work of making the world a better place. Frankly, we think he's off to a great start. 😊

**ALL:** Baruch Ha-Ba, blessed is the one who has arrived.

## WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

ROBERT THIELE, GEORGE DAVID WEISS (SING TOGETHER)

I see trees of green, red roses too  
I see them bloom, for me and you  
And I think to myself what a wonderful world  
I see skies of blue, and clouds of white  
The bright blessed day, dark sacred night  
And I think to myself what a wonderful world  
The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky  
Are also on the faces, of people going by  
I see friends shaking hands, sayin', "How do you do?"  
They're really sayin', "I love you."  
I hear babies cryin', I watch them grow  
They'll learn much more, than I'll ever know  
And I think to myself what a wonderful world  
Yes, I think to myself  
What a wonderful world

## WITH ALL MY HEART (BLESSING FROM THE PARENTS)

BY RABBI MAGGIE WENIG, ADAPTED FROM THE POEM BY RABBI JUDY SHANKS

With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my might.  
I am thankful for the gift of this wonderful child.  
I thank you for a healthy pregnancy, a safe delivery and speedy recovery.  
With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my might.  
I hope for the continued health of this child.  
I hope for him to be strong in mind and body,  
To grow steadily and sturdily in a home filled with joy.  
I hope for him to become a person who greets the world  
With passion, courage, humility, humor and patience.  
With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my might.

# AS THE MOHEL BEGINS:

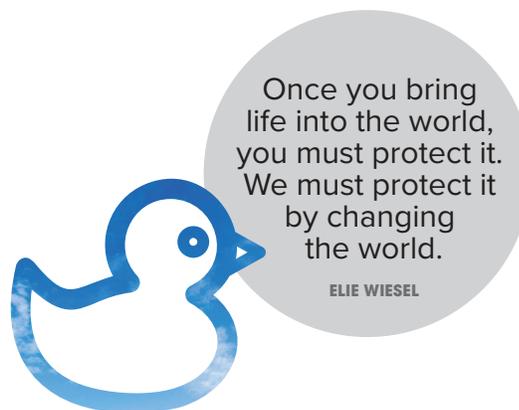
**PARENTS:** Blessed are You, God, Spirit of the Universe, who has sanctified us with Their commandments and commanded us to enter him into the covenant of Abraham, our father.

**GUESTS:** Just as he has entered into the covenant, so may he enter into Torah, into marriage, and into good deeds.

# KIDDUSH - BLESSING OVER THE WINE

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam,  
borei p'ree hagafen. Amen.

Blessed are You, God, Spirit of the Universe,  
who creates the fruit of the vine. Amen.



# OUR HOPES FOR YOU

SHELLEY NICELEY GROFF

As you travel along the path that will be your life, may you walk on firm ground, with the wind at your back and the sun shining gently on your face.

May your mind, body and hands be strong, and may their work be guided by both the wisdom of your soul and the compassion of your heart.

May you draw from the strength and wisdom of our tradition, and those who came before you, and make them your own.

May you have beautiful dreams which inspire you and may your pursuit of those dreams be fulfilling.

May your successes be many, and when you don't succeed, may you learn and grow from the experience, and go on.

May you always give yourself the gift of learning something new.

May you have the courage of conviction and patience to fight for what you know to be right.

May you laugh often.

May you always go to sleep at night with that feeling of satisfaction that comes from a day well lived.

(CONTINUED)

May you always have peace in your home and in your heart.

May you know unbridled joy, and may your sorrows be few and far between.

May you find true, enduring love, and may you be blessed with children as wonderful as you.

May you always have good friends.

May you always feel the love of family and friends as you take your place among the Jewish people of your generation.

May you live a long, healthy, happy, and peaceful life, and may you be the change you want to see in the world.

## **SHEHECHEYANU** GENERIC PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam,  
shehecheyanu v'key'manu v'higiyanu lazman hazeh.

Praised are you, God, Spirit of the Universe,  
who keeps us alive, sustains us, and brings us to this moment.



The hardest  
of all is learning to  
be a well of affection  
and not a fountain,  
to show children  
that we love them,  
not when we  
feel like it, but  
when they do.

NAN FAIRBROTHER

## **IF THERE'S FAMILY PRESENT WHO'S NOT JEWISH, YOU MIGHT WANT TO ADD THIS BLESSING: BLESSING FOR ANYONE WHO ISN'T JEWISH ('CAUSE WE KNOW THIS IS A LOT)**

INSPIRED BY RABBI JANET MARDER

May everyone who shares in a Jewish life feel welcome and integrated. We lovingly acknowledge the diversity of our community and are deeply grateful for the love and support you provide by opening your heart to Judaism, no matter how big or small a part it is in your day. Your presence at this Jewish experience is valued. It is not taken for granted because not everyone in this broken world will sit at a Shabbat dinner or attend a Passover Seder. We are a very small people and history has made us smaller. As we once again see a rise in hatred and hear fear in the voices of our community, we are grateful for your presence. We pray with all our hearts that all you give to the Jewish people will come back to you and fill your life with joy. Amen.

## **ADD WHEN READING TO A FAMILY RAISING KIDS:**

We offer special thanks to those who are raising their sons and daughters with Jewish identity. Our children mean hope, life and future. With all our hearts, we want to thank you for your love and willingness in giving the ultimate gift to the Jewish people. Amen.

# SHARING AND EXPLANATION OF THE BABY'S HEBREW NAME

## THE STORY OF THE GUARANTORS

When Israel stood to receive the Torah, God said to them: "I am giving you my Torah. Give to me good guarantors that will guard it, and I shall give it to you." They said: "Our ancestors are our guarantors." God said: "Your ancestors are not sufficient guarantors. Yet bring me good guarantors, and I shall give you the Torah." They said: "Ruler of the Universe, our prophets are our guarantors." God said, "The prophets are not sufficient guarantors. Yet bring me good guarantors, and I shall give you the Torah." They said: "Here, our children are our guarantors." God said: "They are certainly good guarantors. For the sake of your children, I give you the Torah."



It takes  
courage to  
grow up and  
become who  
you really are.

E.E. CUMMINGS

## PLANTING THE SEEDS OF ETERNITY

A TALMUD STORY

One day a sage was walking along a road, and he saw an old man planting a carob tree. The sage asked the man, "How long does it take for this tree to bear fruit?" The man replied, "Seventy years." The sage responded, "Are you certain that you will live another seventy years?" The man replied: "I found grown carob trees in the world; as my forefathers planted those for me, I too plant these for my children."

# MAY YOU ALWAYS FEEL LOVED

SANDRA STURTZ

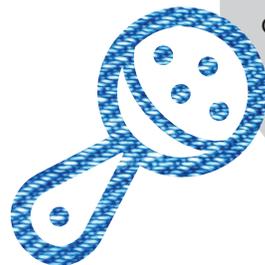
May a kind word, a reassuring touch, and a warm smile be yours every day of your life, and may you give these gifts as well as receive them. Remember the sunshine when the storm seems unending. Teach love to those who know hate, and let that love embrace you as you go into the world. May you not become too concerned with material matters, but instead place immeasurable value on the goodness in your heart. Find time in each day to see beauty and love in the world around you. Realize that each person has limitless abilities, but each of us is different in our own way. What you may feel you lack in one regard may be more than compensated for in another. What you feel you lack in the present may become one of your strengths in the future. May you see your future as one filled with promise and possibility. May you find enough inner strength to determine your own worth by yourself, and not be dependent on another's judgment of your accomplishments. May you always feel loved.

# HAMOTZI - BLESSING OVER THE BREAD

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam,  
hamotzi lechem min ha-aretz. Amen.

Blessed are you, God, Spirit of the Universe,  
Who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen.

# AMEN!



Trust yourself.  
Create the kind of  
self that you will be  
happy to live with all  
your life. Make the most  
of yourself by fanning the  
tiny, inner sparks of  
possibility into flames  
of achievement.

GOLDA MEIR