



RITUAL #2

GRANDPARENT RITUALS

SUBMITTED BY HILLARY CHORNY AND EYTAN KENTER

NOTES FROM BRAINSTORMING

- Sandek at upsherin.
- first time grandparents hold their newborn grandchildren (Kavanah - ureeh banim lebanecha).
- Pastoral: Take a moment to pass the baby from person to person (if the baby is amenable to this). Have each person offer their own words of blessing to the child.
- To “redo” a naming, use the ritual of taking a walk. Take the baby out one door, and then come in the front door to all the friends and family gathered.
- וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶלנָא אִסְנָא מִצָּאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ וְלִקְחָתָּ מִנְּחֵתִי מִיָּדַי כִּי עֲלֹפֹן רָאִיתִי פְּנֵיךָ פְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים
But Jacob said, “No, I pray you; if you would do me this favour, accept from me this gift; for to see your face is like seeing the face of God, and you have received me favorably. (Gen 33:10)
- Creating Grandparent naming ceremonies.
- Compromised brit milah/naming/pidyon haben experiences.
- When Naomi holds Ruth’s child, no longer called Mara. Asking grandparents what they want to be called.
- Hiney anochi sholeiach lachem, et Eliyahu hanavi, lifne bo yom Adonai hagadol v’hanora. V’heshiv lev avot al banim, v’lev banim al avotam.
הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי שֹׁלַח לָכֶם, אֶת אֱלִיהוּ הַנְּבִיא-לְפָנַי, בּוֹא יוֹם יְהוָה, הַגְּדוֹל, וְהַנּוֹרָא וְהַשֵּׁיב לִב-אֲבוֹת עַל-בְּנֵינוּ.
- Kvaterin - Carrying the child in.
- Use Gen 48:10-16 (Thank you Sefaria) not in entirety & written in a gender-neutral/gender inclusive way
- Create an opportunity for fingerprints to be added as leaves to the tree with each subsequent visit

ON THE OCCASION OF MEETING A GRANDCHILD AFTER THE PANDEMIC (Either the first time or after COVID separation)

How can we create a ritual? This ritual can be grandparent (or other relative) to grandchild or vice versa.

- Kvaterin - Carrying the child in
- An art project - Create a certificate/downloadable template with a barren tree. Everytime a person meets the baby for the first time or visits the grandparent for the first time post-COVID, a fingerprint can be added with paint or a stamp pad to create a lovely keepsake for the child or for the grandparent. This can be added to over time, not just at the first event. (This can be adapted by anyone who is coming back together and wants to create this sort of keepsake to mark the moment.)
- Ritualize gift giving by the grandparents - with suggestions: tzedakah box, candlesticks, Kiddush cup
- Additional Possible Elements on the Sheet:
 - Space to journal
 - Song lyrics (Hamalakh, etc.)
 - Naming texts
 - Child - announcing the name
 - Grandparent naming ceremony
 - Use an adapted mi sheberakh for a grandchild (Lev Shalem 441), adding, “and they shall call you... sharing that this/these grandparents are in a line of grandparents who came before” then encourage family members to share what grandparenting means to them. [This can be used in the future post-COVID for namings]



PICTURES FROM HILLARY CHORN (Created for her child)



FIRST DRAFT FROM EYTAN

May the One who blessed my/our ancestors continue to bless my/our children and my/our children's children as we celebrate together on this special day, a day that redefines our role in their lives. And as we are privileged to share our grandchild's name, so too are we blessed to share the name by which our grandchild will call us. And so, someday soon, our beloved grandchild will call us _____. And as this child's _____, may we follow in the loving footsteps of all of the _____ that have come before us, serving as loving guides, inspiring this child with the blessings of Torah, Jewish study Huppah, sacred relationships, and Ma'asim Tovim, good deeds.