

## Welcoming Ceremony for Nathan Levenson

March 31, 2007

12 Nissan 5767 / *Shabbat Hagadol*

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Rabbi: OPENING NIGGUN

*Charlotte* brings baby Nathan into the circle while **Rabbi M** leads the *niggun*.

*Charlotte* hands Nathan to **Lisa**.

**Rabbi**: Eternal One and Creator of All, your children have gathered in your presence this Shabbat afternoon to offer blessings of welcome, health, strength and love from the Jewish tradition to little Nathan. Give his parents, Lisa and Brant, the wisdom to teach their son to be faithful to the best ideals that Judaism has to offer humanity, as they set out to honor the various traditions that Nathan has as his inheritance. May Nathan grow up knowing that You, the Source of All Life and Great Living Mystery of the Universe, are always with him, guiding and sustaining him. May he grow to know and love the goodness that is in humanity, and may he nourish the goodness that has been implanted within him. Though none can escape sorrow and pain, we humbly ask for him the courage to face life's adversities, the faith to transcend them, and the wisdom to grow from life's difficulties. Grant him health of mind and body, that he may enjoy fullness of years and live and be a source of love and healing in our beautiful and broken

world. Please join me in saying.... AMEN. Brant and Lisa, please repeat these words after me:

*Baruch atah Adonai elohey-nu melech ha-olam gomel chasadim tovim.*

We praise You, Eternal One, Sovereign of the universe. Your love and kindness extends to all the world.

And please repeat after me once again:

*Baruch atah Adonai elohey-nu melech ha-olam she-he-che-yanu v'kee-yi-ma-nu la-z'man ha-zeh.*

We praise You, Eternal One, Sovereign of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this moment.

**Charlotte:** May the One who blessed our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah; Isaac and Rebecca; and Jacob, Leah, and Rachel, bless this child with life and health.

**Arnold:** May he be a joy to his parents. May he bring honor to his family, blessing to humanity, and glory to the name of the Eternal One.

**Rabbi:** (chants *Mi Sheberach* in Hebrew)

**Lisa and Brant:** O God, for the gift of this child we give thanks, and pray that we may be worthy of the blessing and responsibility of parenthood. May we lead our son in the way of righteousness. Teach us to guide and instruct him, that he may grow up to be a loving, mindful, and caring person. May he know that the Jewish community's traditions and wisdom are open to him as part of his inheritance, and that should he seek to deepen his understanding of the Jewish path we will offer him the blessings and support of loving parents.

**Alex:** Lisa and Brant, may you dedicate yourselves to give your holiest gifts – love and respect – to this new person, whom you have brought forward today to receive blessings. May you ever give freely of yourselves to him, so that in time’s fullness your love will bestow upon this child the gift of freedom. May joy always accompany this giving and receiving.

*Lisa hands baby Nathan to **Brant**.*

**Rabbi:** Now, in the presence of loved ones, your parents offer to you the following Hebrew name as part of your inheritance: Natan ben Shlomo v’Lisa. In the fullness of time should you choose to affirm a Jewish path for yourself, this name is offered to you, with loving remembrance of your grandfather, Isadore. It is a part of your inheritance and a sign of welcoming to you and your family from the Jewish community.

**Reader 1:** May it be a name honored and respected for wisdom and good deeds.

**Reader 2:** May all who are witnesses today commit themselves to the successful unfolding of your potential and promise as a human being.

**Reader 3:** May you walk the path of goodness, beauty, and tCharlotte.

**Rabbi:** The Prophet Micah proclaimed, *ki im asot mishpat / v’ahavat chesed / v’hatz-nay-ah lechet im elohecha*. Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God. To say it another way, little Nathan, we hope today that you will grow to “Do justice, love mercy, and be humble before the Mystery of Life and the grandeur of the universe into which you have been born.” May God’s blessings rest on you now and always.

***Brant** hands baby Nathan to **Charlotte** and both parents place their hands on Nathan’s head.*

**Rabbi** chants the Priestly blessing.

**Rabbi** invites others to share blessings and good wishes for Nathan.

**Rabbi** makes blessing over wine.