

Zoey Eliana Fifer

זואי אליענה בת יונה ויעל

May 18, 2024

10 Iyar 5784

Adas Israel Congregation
Washington, DC

We are thrilled that so many people who love Zoey are with us today, and so many more are here in spirit. The following family members will be participating in this afternoon's ceremony:

Yael Krigman

Roxanne Krigman

Rafi Krigman

Maya Krugman

Mark Krugman

Asher Krugman

Lillian Krugman

Ethan Krugman

Mother

Grandmother

Grandfather

Aunt

Uncle

Cousin

Cousin

Cousin

Craig Fifer

Hope Trachtenberg-Fifer

Gary Fifer

Jamie Trachtenberg

Abby Fifer Mandell

David Fifer

Rebecca Fifer

Jordan Fifer

Shai Mandell

Father

Grandmother

Grandfather

Great Aunt

Aunt

Uncle

Aunt

Uncle

Cousin

Thank you to our officiants for leading today's ceremonies, and for their friendship and guidance for so many years:

Rabbi Aaron Alexander

Rabbi Sarah Krinsky

Adas Israel Congregation

Rabbi Jack Moline

Agudas Achim Congregation (Emeritus)

Yael: We have come together today to welcome our daughter into the Jewish people. Over 3,000 years ago, our ancestors stood at Mount Sinai and entered into a covenant with G-d.

Craig: People young and old, officers, elders, hewers of wood and drawers of water all stood before the Lord and proclaimed:

כל הדברים אשר דבר ה' נעשה
na'aseh adonai diber asher had'varim kol
All the words the Lord has spoken, we will do.

Maya: In Jewish tradition, Elijah the Prophet represents the coming of Messianic time. Elijah is present at the covenant whose sign is circumcision, at the *Pesach* seder, at the weekly *havdalah* ceremony; and he is known as the guardian of young children.

Mark: The presence of Elijah at this covenant ceremony bids us look through the life of one child to the fulfillment of all life.

Rabbi: זה הכסא של אליהו הנביא זכור לטוב
This is the seat of Elijah the Prophet,
remembered for the good of all.

(**Lillian and Ethan** place a pillow on the chair.)

(The *sandeket*, **Hope**, takes her place.)

Rabbi: *Kvatterin!*

(The *kvatterin*, **Roxanne**, enters with the baby.)

ALL: ברוכה הבאה
ba-ba-ab b'ru-khab
(Welcome!)

Rabbi: אמר הקב"ה לאברהם אבינו התהלך לפני והיה תמים

Jordan: The Holy One of blessed Name said to our father Abraham, "Walk before me and be perfect."

Yael & Craig:
Behold, we stand ready to enter our daughter into the covenant of the people Israel.

Rabbi: שברתי לישועתך ה' ומצוותיך עשיתי
אליהו מלאך הברית הנה שלך לפניך
שברתי לישועתך ה'
שש אנכי על אמרתך כמוצא שלל רב
שלום רב לאוהבי תורתך ואין למו מכשול
אשרי תבחר ותקרב ישכון חצריך

Yael: I have hoped for your salvation, o G-d, and your commandments I have fulfilled. Elijah, angel of the covenant, behold, yours is before you. I have hoped for your salvation, o G-d. I rejoice at your word as if I found great treasure.

Craig: Great peace have those who love your law and there is no stumbling for them. Happy is she whom you choose and draw near that she may dwell in your courts.

ALL:
נשבעה בטוב ביתך קדש היכלך
hay-kha-le-kha k-dosh bay-te-kha b-toov nis-b-ah

Abby: G-d spoke to Avram further: As for me, this is my covenant with you – you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. And you shall no longer be called Avram, but your name shall be Abraham... As for your wife Sarai...her name shall be Sarah...she shall give rise to nations. (Genesis 17:3-6, 15-16)

Yael: When Israel stood to receive the Torah, the Holy One, blessed be the One, said to them: “I am giving you my Torah. Present to me good guarantors that you will guard it, and I shall give it to you.”

Craig: They said: “Our ancestors are our guarantors.” The Holy One, blessed be the One, said: “Your ancestors are not sufficient guarantors. Yet bring me good guarantors and I shall give you Torah.”

Yael: They said: “Master of the universe, our prophets are our guarantors.” The Holy One said to them: “The prophets are not sufficient guarantors. Yet bring me good guarantors and I shall give you Torah.”

Craig: They said: “Our children are our guarantors.” And the Holy One, Blessed be the One, said: “They certainly are good guarantors. For their sake, I give Torah to you.”

Yael: All the generations, even those unborn, were at Sinai and participated in the making of the covenant. Today, our daughter formally becomes a part of the Covenant of Israel.

Rabbi:
אלהינו ואלהי הורינו קים את הילדה הזאת לאביה ולאמה
ויקרא שמה בישראל **זואי אליענה בת יונה ויעל**
ישמח האב ביוצא חלציו ותגל האם בפרי בטנה
ככתוב ישמח אביך ואמך ותגל יולדתך

Asher: Sustain this child along with her mother and father.
Her name shall be *Zoey Eliana bat Yonah v'Yael*
Her name in English shall be **Zoey Eliana Fifer**.

Jamie:
The father of a righteous person will exult;
He who begets a wise child will exult in her.
Your father and mother will rejoice;
She who bore you will exult.
(Proverbs 23:24-25)

Yael & Craig:
ברוך אתה ה' משמח הורים עם הילדים
hay'ladim im horim m'sa'mei'ach adonai ata barukh

The power is yours, o G-d, to make parents rejoice in their children.

Rafi:
כשם שנכנסה לברית כן תכנס לתורה ולחפה ולמעשים טובים

Gary: Just as she has entered the covenant, so may she enter into the study of Torah, enjoy the fulfillment of loving relationships, and do good deeds. May her parents merit to see her happy, blessed with children, wealth and honor, peaceful and content in their old age. May she be raised in health, peace, and tranquility.

(Yael & Craig give remarks.)

Grandparents:

Our G-d and G-d of our ancestors, may the life of our granddaughter be one of happiness, of goodness and of wisdom. Help her parents to lead her in the footsteps of the great leaders of Israel, whose deeds shine across the ages and enlighten the lives of all people. We praise you, G-d, whose Torah links the generations one to the other.

David: זה היום עשה ה' נגילה ונשמחה בו

Rebecca: This is the day which G-d has made, let us rejoice and be happy on it. (Psalm 118:24)

Rabbi:
ברוך ה' אלהים אלהי ישראל עושה נפלאות גדולות לבדו
וברוך שם כבודו וימלא כבודו את כל הארץ
אמן ואמן

Shai: The power is Adonai's, G-d, the G-d of Israel, to alone do wonderful things. The power of G-d's glorious name will forever fill the world with G-d's glory. *AMEN* and *AMEN!!!*
(Psalm 72:18-19)

Rabbi: We recite the following seven blessings together in Hebrew and English:

ALL:

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם עושה מעשה בראשית
Praised are you, Adonai our G-d, Lord of the Cosmos,
Creator of the mystery of creation.

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם שהכל ברא לכבודו
Praised are you, Adonai our G-d, Lord of the Cosmos,
Creator of everything for Your glory.

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם יוצר האדם
Praised are you, Adonai our G-d, Lord of the Cosmos,
Creator of humanity.

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם אשר יצר את האדם
בצלמו בצלם דמות תבניתו והתקין לו ממנו בנין עדי עד
ברוך אתה ה' יוצר האדם
Praised are you, Adonai our G-d, Lord of the Cosmos, who
created human beings in Your image and Your likeness, and
out of their very selves You prepared for them a perpetual
spiritual being. Praised are You, Lord, Creator of humanity.

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם שככה לו בעולמו
Praised are you, Adonai our G-d, Lord of the Cosmos, who
has such as these Your creatures in Your world.

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם זוכר הברית
ונאמן בבריתו וקים במאמרו

Praised are you, Adonai our G-d, Lord of the Cosmos,
rememberer of the covenant and steadfastly faithful in Your
covenant, keeping Your promise.

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם
שהחינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה

Praised are you, Adonai our G-d, Lord of the Cosmos, who
has sustained us in life and being and brought us to this very
moment.

Rabbi: **Hope and Gary**, please step forward and bless
this, your granddaughter.

(The *sandeket* gives the baby to her parents. The grandparents
place their hands on the baby's head.)

Gary:

יברכך ה' וישמרך
יאר ה' פניו אליך ויחנך
ישא ה' פניו אליך וישם לך שלום

Hope: May G-d make you as our mothers,
Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah.
May G-d bless you and keep you.
May G-d's face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
May G-d's face lift to you and grant you peace.

ALL: *AMEN!*

Rabbi: **Roxanne and Rafi**, please step forward and bless this, your granddaughter.

(The grandparents place their hands on the baby's head.)

Rafi:

יברכך ה' וישמרך
יאר ה' פניו אליך ויחנך
ישא ה' פניו אליך וישם לך שלם

Roxanne: May G-d make you as our mothers,
Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah.
May G-d bless you and keep you.
May G-d's face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
May G-d's face lift to you and grant you peace.

ALL: *AMEN!*

Rabbi: ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם בורא פרי הגפן
Praised are you, Adonai our G-d, who creates
the fruit of the vine.

ALL: זאת הקטנה גדולה תהיה
tee-h-yeh g-do-lah ha-k-ta-nah zoh't
This is the little one, she shall be great!

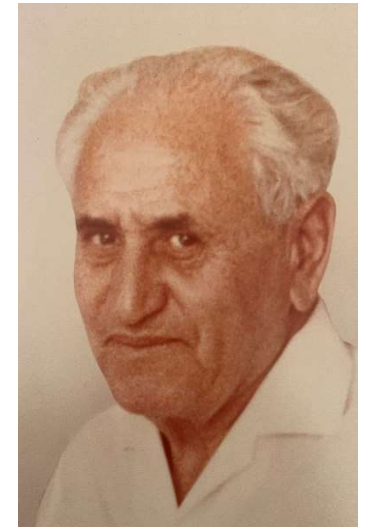
Siman tov u'mazal tov...y'hay lanu oo-l-khol Yisrael

Zoey Eliana Fifer
זואי אליענה בת יונה ויעל

The name “Zoey” means “life.”

Zoey’s first name in English honors her paternal great-grandmother, **Bernice Moran**, of blessed memory. Grandma Bernice was always full of life.

Zoey’s first name in Hebrew honors her maternal great-grandfather, **Chaim Krigman**, of blessed memory. In Hebrew, “chaim” also means “life.”



Zoey’s middle name, Eliana, is Hebrew for “my G-d has answered me,” and expresses our gratitude for the fulfillment of a lifelong dream.