

TABLE OF CONTENTS

KABBALAT SHABBAT EVENING/MA'ARIV

1. We Light the Shabbos Light
2. Moving into Shabbos Time
3. Yivarechecha: Priestly Blessing
4. Psalm 95 Rock to the Rock
5. Psalm 96. Shiru
6. Forests Rejoice! Psalm 96
7. Psalm 97 Sham-ah
8. Psalm 98 Yiram hayam
9. Psalm 98 - Mountains are Rejoicing
10. Psalm 92 Tzadik Katamar:
11. Psalm 92 for Shabbat: Shechinah Tzuri
12. Psalm 29 Kol Adonai
13. Whole World Filled with Her Glory/Barechu
14. Evenings: Ma'ariv Aravim
15. Circle of Love/Ahava Raba
16. Michamocho

17. Ufros Aleynu
18. Gonna Pray For It
19. Tahayr Libaynu
20. Healing Song: Ana Ayl Na
21. Kaddish
22. Aleynu - To Heal the World
23. Holy Mother - Shechinah Soul

SHABBAT MORNING SONGS

24. Elohai Nishama
25. Modah Ani
26. Nikavim (Asher Yaztar)
27. The Healer of the Broken Hearted
28. Sun, Moon and Stars/Psalm 148
29. Yotzer Or
30. A Chant to the One on High
31. Kadosh
32. V'Ahavta
33. Barechu

34. She is a Tree of Life

35. Ashrei

36. Nishmat Kol Chai

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

37. Miriam Took Her Timbral Out - By the Shores

38. Shifra and Puah

39. Bat Yiftal

40. Batya - Daughter of God

41. Ritzpah

42. Tamar

43. Rivka

44. Judith

45. She Said No

46. Tzlophanit and the Angel

47. Daughters Dancing

48. Tiftachi Rachmi

49. Devorah

50. Ruth

51. Who Were the Women?
52. Prophetess
53. Sophia's Song
54. Rachel
55. Dangerous Dames
56. Batsheva, the Babe
57. Wild Woman
58. The Red Tent
59. Woman of Valor
60. Bubba
61. Dona Gracia
62. Shechinah Oracle
63. Psalm 27: Shechinah My Light and My Salvation
64. Holy Shechinah
65. Shechinah Coming
66. Shechinah, My Sister in the Wind
67. Shechinah's Web
68. May Shechinah Shine Her Light
69. Enter Shechinah's Presence

HAVDALAH SONGS

- 70. Leaving Shabbos Blues
- 71. Kayn Ti'hi'yeh Lanu
- 72. Havdalah Live!

LIFE CYCLE SONGS

- 73. Bedeken Song
- 74. Simchat Hochmah
- 75. Conversion Song
- 76. Yovel (50th birthday)
- 77. Get Me a Get
- 78. Daughter of Mitzvah
- 79. On My Knees
- 80. Welcome to the World
- 81. Derech Nashim
- 82. Yivarechecha
- 83. Bar/Bat Mitzvah song

END OF LIFE SONGS

- 84. May the Angels Carry You 1

- 85. Baruch Dayan Emet
- 86. Hamakom Yinachem Etchem
- 87. De Neshumah Zul Hubin An Aliyah
- 88. I Find Refuge in Your Wings. 1
- 88. Kaddish

HOLIDAY SONGS

- 89. Four Worlds
- 90. Rosh Hashanah: Apples and Honey
- 91. Four Cups
- 92. Zot Kos Miriam
- 93. Rosh Hodesh Moon
- 94. Sukkot: Tivu Ushipzin

LITURGY

- 95. All I Can Feel is Love
- 96. Breathe in the Breath of Life
- 97. Raise Your hands/Al Nitilah Yadayim
- 98. You Are with Me Always
- 99. Serenity Prayer

100. When the Old Makes Way For the New: V'yashan Mipnay Hadash

101. HaMakom Shalom

102. Priestess Blessing

103. Ani l'dodi

104. Ana Ayl Na r'fanah La

105. Angels

106. Angels Walk With You

107. Nishamat Kol Chai/Marsh 1

KABBALAH: THE MUSICAL

108. Talking to G!D

109. Battle of the Bulge

110. Red Moon Magic

111. God Sees It is Good

112. Help Me Find My Way

113. My Legs are Praying

SHABBAT EVENING SONGS

1. WE LIGHT THE SHABBOS LIGHT

© March 2015 by Rabbi G. Rayzel & Simcha Raphael

For Anna Ott who took a risk on me

We light the shabbos light
To light the inner light
Awaken the delight of our soul.

L'hadlik ner shel Shabbat (2x)

Fan the flames- of desire
Fan the flames - of desire for holiness

Holy One

Shamor v'zachor

2. MOVING INTO SHABBOS TIME

© 1984 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

We're moving into Shabbos time (2x)

Let it go, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh (2x)

We're moving into Shabbos

We're taking it slow

We're moving into Shabbos

Let it go, oh, oh, oh

3. YIVARECHECHA: PRIESTLY BLESSING

© Nov. 25, 1990 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

**Yivarechecha (3x) Yivarechecha Adonai V'yishmar-echa
Ya-air Adonai panav el-echa v'chuneka; Yesa Adonai panav el-echa,
v'yasem l'cha Shalom**

Response:

Kayn y'he (3x) ratzon (repeat)

May God protect you every day, May God comfort you in every way
May God cause Her light to shine upon your soul
May God bless you with shalom

[Response]

4. **ROCK TO THE ROCK: PSALM 95**

© Jan 1995 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

L'chu Ni'raninah, We'll Rock to the Rock in joy
L'chu Ni'raninah Yah! We'll Rock to the Rock in joy

Chorus:
Enjoy (4x)
We'll rock to the Rock in joy.

Nah'ri'ah I'Tzur Yishaynu, Rock to the Rock in joy
Nah'ri'ah I'Tzur Yishaynu, Rock to the Rock in joy [Chorus]

Bridge:
Rock to the Rock to the Rock in joy (4x)

Hurry to sing those songs of thanks, Rock to the Rock in joy
Time to let the Spirit dance, Rock to the Rock in joy [Chorus]

Let's shout out our songs of praise, Rock to the Rock in joy
Harmony our voices raise, Rock to the Rock in joy

Final Chorus:
Enjoy (4x) We'll rock to the Rock in joy. Enjoy. (4x)
We'll rock (salvation!), rock (salvation!), rock to the Rock in joy! Salvation!

5. Psalm 96: SHIRU

© June 1996 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Chorus:

Shiru L'Yah, Shir Hadash, Shiru l'Shechinah Kol Ha'aretz (2x)

Hands are a'clappin' fingers snap snappin'
Toes a'tappin' to the fun
We'll sing a new song, Sing it loud and strong
Come on and sing along to the One!
na-na-na-na-na-na-na-na-na, **Shir Hadash (3x)**

We'll start the hummin', playin' 'n strum strummin'
Let's get to drummin' to the sound;
Tell the nations, make a proclamation,
we're talking salvation, let's get down.
na-na-na-na-na-na-na-na-na, **Shir Hadash (3x)**

The Earth be glad, heaven rejoicing,
The fields are joyful, oceans roar
Declare the beauty, praise the majesty
of the glory, Praise the Lord.
na-na-na-na-na-na-na-na-na, **Shir Hadash (3x)**

6. FORESTS REJOICE! PSALM 96

© Tu B'shvat, 1997 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Chorus:

Az Y'ranenu kol atzey ya'ar! (2x)

Birds are chirping through the day; Trees are swaying as if they pray
Chipmunk mutters an invocation; We'll join in this celebration! [Chorus]

Crickets chant in rhythmic sound; Leaves are rustling on the ground
Moss sits silent in meditation; All a part of Divine creation! [Chorus]

Butterfly flits in ecstasy; Squirrel and deer chime in harmony
Spider spins with deep devotion; Wolves howling in wild commotion. [Chorus]

Fireflies praise with flickering lights; Bear dances with delight
Insects buzzing as the percussion; the forest sings in exultation. [Chorus]

7. SHAM-AH: PSALM 97

© Nov 1991 by Jewish Federation Women's Division

Sham-ah va'tismach Tzion (3x)

And the women came rejoicing,

Rejoicing, rejoicing!

And the women came rejoicing,

Rejoicing, rejoicing!

Va'ta-gayle-na B'not Yehudah!

8. PSALM 98: YIRAM HAYAM

© 1994 by Geela Rayzel Raphael
Written in Ocean City, NJ

Listen to the waves as they rock 'n roll; gentle rhythm soothes our souls

Yiram ha-yam u-m'lo-oh

Shabbat rolls in along with the tide; our spirit soars along for the ride

Chorus:

Yiram ha-yam u-m'lo-oh, oh, oh oh,oh, oh, oh, oh, yiram...

Whale, shark, dolphin, fish that swim; sea creatures join our circle of friends

Yiram ha-yam u-m'lo-oh

Seagulls hover on wings and air; wind holds aloft our humble prayer

Yiram ha-yam u-m'lo-oh, oh, oh oh,oh, oh, oh, oh

Fog, rain, moonlight, sea and sun, all praise the Creative One

Yiram ha-yam u-m'lo-oh

As shells wash up upon the beach, Eternity within my reach

Yiram ha-yam u-m'lo-oh, oh, oh oh, oh, oh, oh, oh

Surf echoes with a deepening roar; our hearts find peace upon God's shore

Yiram ha-yam u-m'lo-oh

Through time and space Your glory shines, as life sifts through the sands of time

Yiram ha-yam u-m'lo-oh, oh, oh oh,oh, oh, oh, oh

9. PSALM 98: MOUNTAINS ARE REJOICING

© July 1995 by Geela Rayzel Raphael,
For Cindy and Jack for bringing us to the mountains

Chorus:

Yachad Harim y'ranaynu, Mountains are rejoicin'
Yachad Harim y'ranaynu, Mountains are rejoicin'
Yachad Harim y'ranaynu, Mountains are rejoicing, it's Shabbos

All week we carry a mountainous load
Huge overwhelming burdens to hold
Yachad Harim y'ranaynu.
Let's offer it up like smoke in the wind
Drop those troubles and let the joy in
Yachad Harim y'ranaynu, Mountains are rejoicin'
Yachad Harim y'ranaynu.

Be they steep heights or towering crests,
My range of emotions need some holy rest
Yachad Harim y'ranaynu.
Steady sturdy, mystical peak
Shabbat is the pinnacle of my week
Yachad Harim y'ranaynu, Mountains are rejoicin'
Yachad Harim y'ranaynu.

Bridge:

Tho' molten rocks erupt our core
Meltin' through our volcanic ore
Yachad Harim y'ranaynu.
New formations on a slippery slope
Rocky changes forge new growth
Yachad Harim y'ranaynu, Mountains are rejoicin'
Yachad Harim y'ranaynu.

Bridge 2:

Call my bluff, note my cliff
Time to catch Her (God's) continental drift. (2x)
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice! (2x)

So, when down in the valley moaning "why?"
Canyons of doubt and no will to try,
Yachad Harim y'ranaynu.
Reach for the crowns that kiss the sky
Snow capped zenith of El Shaddai
Yachad Harim y'ranaynu, Mountains are rejoicin'
Yachad Harim y'ranaynu.

10. PSALM 92: TZADIK KATAMAR

© 2005 by MIRAJ

Tzadik katamar yifrach

I am planted firm in righteousness
Grow and flourish in the house of God
D'sheyneem ve-ra'ananim yehiyu.
Tzuri! (My rock!)

11. PSALM FOR SHABBAT: SHECHINAH TZUN

© September 2013 by Geela Rayzel Raphael
Dedicated to Alaska

In the morning and the evening it is good to give thanks
to Your name, to Your truth -- Oh Most High
Moving me to sing for the joy of Your creation
Grateful that I'm alive.

Chorus:

L'hagid Ki yashar Shechinah Tzuri
V'lo avlata bo, bo, bo
L'hagid Ki yashar Shechinah Tzuri
V'lo, lo, lo, lo, lo
Lo avlata bo.

How great are Your deeds, and Your thoughts are very deep
I'm in awe of the works of Your hands;
Yet the fool will never know even if the wicked grow
The design of Your Earth is so grand.

The sun on the water, the whisper in the clouds
In the wings of a bird in flight
Mountains high and oceans deep -- a painted sunset
Your glory fills earth and sky.

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree
Growing mighty like cedars in Lebanon
Planted in the house of my God, oh my God
My Rock, in whom there is no wrong.

My Rock of Ages, my Rock of mountain
Boulder in my river bed
My Rock's a gemstone with the diamond's sparkle
On my Rock, I lay my head.

Chorus:

Ki yashar Shechinah Tzuri Tzuri

V'lo avlata bo

Ki yashar Shechinah Tzuri Tzuri

V'lo, lo, lo, lo, lo

Lo avlata bo

12. THE SPIRIT OF THE DESERT

© JAN 18, 2013 BY Rabbi Geela Rayzel

**Kol Adonai, Kol Adonai, Kol Adonai Yachil Midbar (2x)
Yachil Shechinah midbar Kadesh
Yachil Shechinah midbar Kadesh.**

The Voice of G!d, The Voice of G!d, The Voice of G!d
Shakes the desert (2x)
Tremble and shake, quiver and quake, jolt and vibrate the desert.

**Kol Adonai Yachil Midbar,
Yachil Shechinah Midbar Kadesh (2)**

The Spirit in the Wind (2x) of the desert is Holy
Ruach Hamidbar, Ruach Hamidbar, Ruach Hamidbar, Midbar Kadesh

Life in the desert is Holy
Even in the barren places
Stark and still yet teeming with life
Listen for the Voice of G!d

Kol Adonai, Kol Adonai, Kol Adonai Yachil Midbar

Dry and hot and dusty
Rock and sand and stone
It's the voice of G!d that shakes things up
We are not alone.

Kol Adonai, Kol Adonai, Kol Adonai Yachil Midbar

The soul is parched for love
To quench the unmet needs
The Spirit of the desert sings Her song
We plant new seeds.

Kol Adonai, Kol Adonai, Kol Adonai Yachil Midbar

Look for the water in the desert
It's a thirst we know so well
Seek sustenance for your soul
Find your Miriam's Well.

Kol Adonai, Kol Adonai, Kol Adonai Yachil Midbar

Push and shove, thump and bump, nudge and nudge, bash and bang, whack
and smack,
The voice of G!d is holy
batter and beat, clobber and cuff, bat and blow, pummel and pound,

The Voice of G!d is strong
tap and rap, strike and slam, hit and heave, wallop and whip
The Voice of G!d shocks and shift
Listen for Spirit's song.

thud
knock,
jostle , Joggle
and punch , drum and

13. THE WHOLE WORLD IS FILLED WITH HER GLORY

© Geela Rayzel Raphael

Chorus: The whole world is filled with Her Glory,

The whole wild world is filled with Her Glory,
Mah gadlu ma'asecha YAH- ah ah ah.....The whole wide world!

From the dandelion to the buttercup; Towering trees when we look up
The raven -she takes flight; It's freedom in sight.

Grasses and clover cover our path; Rain falls gently in a nourishing bath
An orchid grows among the stone; The earth's our home!

Her heart beats with rhythm strong, Woodpecker - pecks her song
Gnats and bugs a'buzzing all around; We're on holy ground!

Cactus stands proud and tall, coyote wilderness calls
Juniper, quail and cooper hawk, we rock, red rock.

Aloe and saguaro reach to pray; Bobcat prowls looking for prey
Sunset colors- luminescent day
We rise to pray

BRING THE BLESSING DOWN

Bring it down share it all around
Bring it down from heaven to ground it
Bring the blessing down

Baruchu et Adonai Ha- Mivorach

Baruch Adonai ha- mivorach l'olam va'ed (2x)

14. EVENINGS: MA'ARIV ARAVIM

© 1994 by Geela Rayzel Raphael
For Bobbi & Chaim

Sacred words even the evenings; Wisdom opens gates locked around our hearts
Asher bid-varo ma'ariv aravim; B'chochmah potay'ach sh'arim.

Chorus:

Evening, the evenings; evening the frayed edges of our lives
Ma'ariv aravim; amen (2x)

Understanding alters with the times; changing seasons, cycles divine
U-vitvunah m'shaneh e-tim; u-machlif et ha-z'manim [Chorus]

Paint diamonds on the canvas called sky; soothe our souls with a lilting lullaby
U-misader et ha-kochavim; B'mishm'rotayhem ba-rakiah kirtzono [Chorus]

Rolling, rolling, into the night; rolling, rolling away the light
Golayl or mip'nay choshech; golayl hoshech mipnay or [Chorus]

Spirit of the Night, we bless Your Name, Eternal Light, Eternal flame
Ayl chai v'kayam tamid yimloch ah-laynu; L'olam va-ed [Chorus]

15. CIRCLE OF LOVE

© Aug. 2001 by Geela Rayzel Raphael
For Batsheva's bedeken

We are a circle, circle, circle of love
Galgalay ahavah, galgalay ahava;
Ahava raba, ahavat olam

Through time and space, eternity, we are a circle of love.

16. MICHAMOCHA

© 2003 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Mi k'mocha ba-alim Adonai, Mi k'mocha nedar bakodesh
Norah t'hilla, norah t'hillah, oseh feleh, oseh feleh.

17. UFROS ALEYNU

© 2005 with Jefferson Martin

Ufros aleynu sukkat shalom (2x)

Spread over us, in our hearts and in our homes

Bless Israel, in this world make shalom

Ufros aleynu sukkat shalom

18. GONNA PRAY FOR IT

© October 2002 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

When my car has died, when my hairdo's fried
When the blues rule my day;
When life's demands are getting out of hand
There's only one thing I can say:

Chorus:

I'm gonna pray for it, I gotta pray through it
I'm gonna pray with all my heart;
And when the morning comes,
if I am still undone
I'm gonna pray with all my heart.

When I'm out of work, and if my heart is hurt
When the kids run my show;
If I hit the curve, losing my last nerve
There's only one thing I know: [Chorus]

When my back is bent and my mojo's spent
And the bills are piling high;
Lost that list again, abandoned by all friends
This is no time to ask "why?"

Chorus:

You better pray for it, Gotta pray through it.....

Now when the earth runs dry, we see polluted sky
And we hear the drums of war;
Our future's at stake -- better now than late,
Time to knock on heaven's door.

Chorus:

We better pray for it...

Shechinah s'fatai tift'chee u-fee yagid tehilatayich

Open up my lips, before I call it quits
I'm gonna pray with all my heart.

19. TAHAYR LIBAYNU

© Sept 2000 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Purify our open hearts with the fire of love, with the light of truth

Purify our open hearts that we may serve you.

Tahayr libaynu, l'avdecha, l'avdecha, Tahayr libaynu, l'avdecha b'emet.

20. HEALING SONG - ANA AYL NA

© 1992 by Geela Rayzel Raphael
For my father

As the wind whispers a mincha song
And the trees rustle blowing along
Let us sing, sing a healing song;
Let it be strong.

Ana Ayl Na R'fanah La
Ana Ayl Na r'fa'anah Lo

Let's send our love to those who need it so,
Kayn Y'hi ratzon.

As the rain falls to wash away our tears
So will the sun rise rolling back the years.
We listen to the voice that says so very clear,
"Don't give in to fear."

As the night falls so blue black, so deep
Angels call us as we drift to sleep.
Climb this mountain that seems so very steep;
Laugh and do not weep.

21. KADDISH

© May 2002 by Geela Rayzel Raphael
Written at B'not Aish for my father

Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'may raba (2x)

I integrate your legacy, treasure your memory
What I have learned from you, I'm left with your love.

[Chorus]: **yitgadal...**

I come to You in grief, walk in humility
Grateful you have been with me, I'm lifted by Your love.

[Chorus]: **yitgadal...**

We rise to praise Your name, all our waking days
Where you have guided me, I walk with your love.

[Chorus]: **yitgadal...**

Create a path for peace, to live in harmony
For us and all the world, Bless us with love.

[Chorus]: **yitgadal...**

22. ALEYNU – TO HEAL THE WORLD

© 1997 by Geela Rayzel Raphael
For RRC graduation

V'hayay olam nata b'tochaynu (2x)

L'takayn olam (3x)

b' malchut shadai

23. HOLY MOTHER - SHECHINAH SOUL

© 1988-89 by Geela Rayzel Raphael
Jerusalem, w/ Bakol at the Kotel

Holy Mother Shechinah Soul, **Rachamema**
Compassion fills Your Womb of Love, **T'halleluyah!**

Holy Mother Shechinah Soul, **Mikor Hayim**
Fountain of Life Flows from You, **Uv'shavten mayim**

Holy Mother Shechinah Soul, **Shechinat- El**
On wings of light we soar to You, **Natchil L'hitpalel**

Holy Mother Shechinah Soul, **Eheyeh Asher Eheyeh**
You were, You are, You'll always be, **Gam anachnu Nihiyeh**

Holy Mother Shechinah Soul, **Melechet Shamayim**
You rule skies and Earth with a gentle hand, **Borchi et Yerushalayim**

Holy Mother Shechinah Soul, **Rachmana Ya**
You heal the wounds of a heavy heart, **Ayl Na Raphana La**

Holy Mother Shechinah Soul, **Be'er L'chai Roi**
I drink deep of Your love, **Ki At Emadi**

SONGS FOR SHABBAT MORNING

24. ELOHAI NISHAMA

© Oct 2000 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Chorus:

Elohai nishama sh'natata be, tehora tehora hi!
Elohai nishama sh'netata be, tehora hi!

In the morning darkness before I open my eyes
Before I return from my nighttime rides,
Through the portal of dreams -- my initiation
Enlightening journeys of my own creation.
Soul's been dancing in the symbols of the mind
In the Akashic records containing all time,
Bringing teachings for me to decode
Savoring the moment before I hit the road... [Chorus]

Still a little sleepy, I snuggle down into the covers
Pausing where fantasy hovers
In the quiet moment before the dawn,
Lingering before moving on.
My spirit's been purified in dreams of desire
Angelic artwork of sacramental fire
Ancestral visits, romantic situations
Dancing ecstatic in ritual celebration. [Chorus]

Especially if it's rainy and dreary
And midnight adventures have left me weary,
I don't want to stir or move my head
For I've traveled lifetimes in this dream-soaked bed.
But when I capture the message the higher self transmits
The oracle living beyond the abyss,
I summon courage, wiggle my toes...
The breath of gratitude ruffles my repose. [Chorus]

My dreams are rainbow treasures of the soul
Taking me places where I dare to grow,
A healing pilgrimage in sacred time
Universal messages prophetic and sublime;
In the future, the present, the past
Luminous visions that I try to grasp,
Luscious warp between the worlds;
I feel God's presence before my life begins to swirl...

25. MODAH ANI

© Nov 1998 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

**Modah ani l'fanaiyich ruach chai v'kayam (2x)
she-hechezart bi nishmati b'chemla rabba emunataiyich.**

Wake me up in the morning with a smile upon my face
Wake me up in the morning ready to face this day;
Wake me up in the morning wrapped in Your embrace
Wake me up in the morning, guide me on my way.

26. NIKAVIM (ASHER YATZAR)

© 2001 by Geela Rayzel Raphael w/ MIRAJ
(From the Morning Blessings)

Chant:

Nikavim, nikavim, halulim, halulim
halulim, halulim, nikavim (open/closed vessels)

Praised be the One who flows through all life
Praised be the One keeping us alive

Let our open vessels open -- and our closed vessels close.
Let us stand before Your throne -- healed in flesh and bone

You fashioned us in wisdom, Healer of all flesh
Help restore our bodies so we feel our best

Heart beat...blood flows...miracle...open, close

27. THE HEALER OF THE BROKEN-HEARTED

© August 2000 by Geela Rayzel Raphael
Psalm 147

Ha-rofeh lishburay layv (2x)

U-michabaysh l'atzvotam (2x)

The healer of the broken hearted
the healer of the broken hearts
winds and binds and winds and binds -
my sorrows - and carries them away;
winds and binds and winds and binds -
my sorrows - and turns them to prayer.

28. SUN, MOON, AND STARS / PSALM 148

**Haleluhu Shemesh v'Yaray-ach,
Haleluhu kol kochvay or (2x)
Sing HaleluyYah, HaleluHah (2x)
HaleluYah halelu, halelu col kochvay or.**

The sun she dances up the morning
With a light that brightens up our day
Radiant, brilliant, holy shine
Inspiration that makes me want to pray.

Chorus:
**Sing HaleluYah, HaleluHah, (2x)
HaleluYah halelu, halelu col kochvay or.**

The moon she floats through the evening sky
With a glow that spins our spirits right
Luminescent, ghostly, gentle beams,
Peaceful rays to guide us through the night.

Chorus:
**Sing HaleluYah, HaleluHah, (2x)
HaleluYah halelu, halelu col kochvay or.**

The stars they twinkle in the twilight
Sparkle out from under the clouds
Sprinkling us with their friendly light;
We hear them singing loud.

29. YOTZER OR

© Geela Rayzel Raphael

Yotzer Or u'voray choshech, oseh shalom u'varay et ha-col (2x)

Forming light, creating darkness, making peace, creating all (2x)

Titbarach YAH elohaynu al shvach ma'aseh yadecha (2x)

You shall be praised, **Yah elohaynu**, by the works of Your hands (2x)

V'al m'oray or she-ahsitah y'fararucha selah (2x)

Shining lights illuminated, reflecting glory, **selah** (2x)

30. A CHANT TO THE ONE ON HIGH!

© Geela Rayzel Raphael

Life Force Healing, **Rachamema**

Nurturing Provider, Source of **K'dusha, El Shaddai**

Embracing, **Avinu Malkaynu, Tzur Yisroel, Echad Elohaynu**

Divine Inspiration, **Ruach Shechinah, Ain Sof**

Love, **Adon G'vurah**

Master of The Universe, **Rachem Ha-chayim**

Mysterious Nameless, **Avinu B'shamayim**

Source of Creativity, **Elohai N'shama**

Spirit of the Lord, **El Elyon Yah!**

Moon Goddess Lifting, **Ma'ayin Habrecha**

Source of All Blessing, **Halleluyah!**

31. KADOSH

2009. Words traditional, melody R. Rayzel & R. Margot Stein

Kadosh, kadosh (7x)

Yah tzvaot

M'lo kol ha-aretz k'vodo

The angels calling one to another

Baruch Shaym kavod malchuto l'olam va'ed

32. V'AHAVTA

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I've got a longing in my soul for You, I've got an ache that's growing wide
I got this feeling's that's burning through, will You join me for the ride?
I gotta know if You'll be there for me, I gotta know if You care
I gotta know if You'll love me too -- Please God, be there.

Chorus:

**V'ahavta et adonai elohecha b'col l'avvcha,
U'V'col naphshecha, u'v'col m'odecha**

I'm gonna love You with all my heart, love You with all of my might
I'll love You with all of my soul, 'cos this is what feels right.
When I wake up in the morning, I'm gonna call out Your name
Bless the day with Your love, as I walk in Your ways. [Chorus]

I'm gonna teach love to my children, gonna have it in my home
I'm gonna hold it in my open hands, then I'll never be alone;
I can't see You before my eyes, yet I know You are there
I sense Your beauty around me. God, You are everywhere. [Chorus]

33. BARECHU

2007

Barechu Calling You, **Brucha** He Calling me

Blessed be the One who brings us together.
Blessed be the One forever and ever

34. SHE IS A TREE OF LIFE

©2004 by MIRAJ
(Proverbs 3:18)

She is a Tree, is a Tree of Life, she is a Tree of Life

Eytz chayyim hee la-machazikim bah

(She is a tree of life, hold fast to her)

My roots go down, deep in the earth

Grasp my branches, shake my boughs

Cling fast to my teachings

Fill your life with love

All her paths lead to peace, all her paths are shalom

Milk and honey, water, wine, river flows from Paradise

35. ASHREI (PSALM 145)

© September 1993 by Geela Rayzel Robinson Raphael

**Ashrei yoshvei vay-te-ehcha, Ashrei yoshvei vay-teh-cha
Ashrei ha-am sh'ca-cha lo, Od ye- halelucha selah.**

Chorus:

Va'anach-nu nivarech Yah, may'ata v'ad olam.

Halelu-ya Ha-lei-lu ya, Hale-lu, halelu-Yah.

Happy are they
who take a moment each day
to dwell in your Temple;
A pause to attune
-- harmonize a tune --
certainly quite simple. [Chorus]

Three times a day
I'll bless Your Name
greatness beyond all knowing;
The glory of Your power
stays with me every hour
the light inside me growing. [Chorus]

Open up Your hand
that we may understand
spread Your mercy over all;
Reveal the secrets of the Scroll
as we dust off our souls
lift us when we fall. [Chorus]

We'll find a quiet place
create sacred space
where the air is sweet;
For in the hustle on the run
is the stillness of the One
where heaven and earth meet. [Chorus]

36. NISHMAT KOL CHAI

1/15/03

As the bird stands proud and free, drying feathers in the sun
duckling follows mother close behind;
The heron prances 'round
in a jig to have some fun
wind breezes through to clear my mind.

Chorus:

**Nishmat kol cha tivarech et shimcha halelu halelu halelu yah
Nishmat kol chai tivarech et Yah, Halelu, halelu halelu yah**

Turtles on a rock moving slow with wisdom deep
Hawk soars above and rides the sky;
Alligator struts along the bank and then she sleeps
My spirit sings a song to take me high. [Chorus]

In the bullrush of the marsh, life doesn't seem so harsh
We take a break to watch the seagull preen
With every squeak and quack, I resonate with that
I'm a creature of the One Who Can't Be Seen. [Chorus]

The colors of the wild are never, ever mild
Glistening with a rainbow of hues;
Anhinga make a splash, the egret seems to laugh
At my attempt to attune to my muse. [Chorus]

With pink legs and pink beak, the stork begins to streak
Across the grassy land on the knoll;
The snake and the frog, the lizard in the bog
Sing the bass line to shake me from my hole. [Chorus]

And the psalmists' voice I hear
rings out very clear
I'm a guest on the land where I stroll;
Sacred time, sacred space, the Earth's a sacred place
The stillness and the flutter fill my soul.

Biblical Women Songsheet

37. MIRIAM TOOK HER TIMBRAL OUT - BY THE SHORES

© 1984 Rabbi G. Rayzel Raphael,
Written in Toronto
Exodus 25:22

By the shores, by the shores, of the Red, Red Sea,
By the shores of the Red, Red Sea
The light of day lit up the night;
The children, they were free.

Chorus:

And Miriam took her timbrel out
and all the women danced. (2X)

**Va- te-kach Miriam ha-nivea et ha tof b'ya-da,
va'taytzeh-na col ha-nashim ah-cha- re-ha.**

They danced, they danced; oh, how they danced
They danced the night away;
Clapped their hands and stamped their feet,
With voices loud they praised.

They danced with joy, they danced with grace
They danced on nimble feet;
Kicked up their heels, threw back their heads,
Hypnotic with the beat. [Chorus]

They danced so hard, they danced so fast;
They danced with movement strong;
Laughed and cried, brought out alive;
They danced until the dawn.

Some carrying child, some baking bread,
Weeping as they prayed;
But when they heard the music start --
They put their pain away. [Chorus]

Enticed to sing, drawn to move,
Mesmerized by such emotion,
The men saw us reach out our hands,
Stretching across the ocean.

As they watched, and they clapped, they began to sway,
Drawn to ride the wave;
And all our brothers began to dance --

They dance with us today!

They danced, we dance, Shechinah dance

They danced the night away;

And all the people began to sing --

We're singing 'til this day!!

Final Chorus:

And Miriam took her timbrel out

and all the people danced. (2X)

Va- te-kach Miriam ha-nivea et ha tof b'ya-da,

va'taytzeh-na col ha-nashim ah-cha- re-ha.

38. SHIFRA AND PUAH*

1986, Lyrics by Rayzel Raphael, music by Gary Wise

Exodus 1:15ff

It started out in Egypt, such a long, long time ago
When women had the power to tell ole Pharaoh "NO!"
Was the power of the right to birth, our heroes had the art
Of saving the Hebrew children, defying Pharaoh's heart.

Chorus:

Shifra and Puah, sitting stride the birthing stool
Shifra and Puah, bravely flouting Pharaoh's rule
Singing and cooing the cause of disobedience
Guaranteeing civil independence!

Summoned once before the court, before the mighty king
Pharaoh said, "I want them dead, I had a frightening dream.
Kill all their male babies and bury fast their bones
For the Hebrews need a leader, to take them to their home." [Chorus]

The midwives returned to Pharaoh's court to say
"Pharaoh, we've tried, but these women have their ways
Of birthing their children fast and in the fields,
For with Shechinah's** helping hand, to you they'll never yield. [Chorus]

*One of the interpretations of these names is singing (Shifra) and cooing (Puah).

**The feminine Divine Presence

39. BAT YIFTACH*

January 1989

Judges 11:1 - 40

In the days of war when the judges judged
There was no king and every man did as he pleased.
A child was born, a harlot's son was he
Driven from his home, cast out from his family.
Yiftach, the Giladi, was a valiant warrior
Yiftach, the Giladi, was soon to be so sorry.

Chorus:

We weep our bitter tears for our sisters who have no names,
Restore their histories, or our fate will be the same.

He was begged to lead against the Ammonites
But instead of peace his armies began to fight.
Then he vowed his vow to his G-d on high,
"To sacrifice -- the first to leave my house will die."
The daughter of Yiftach was a graceful dancer.
Yiftach, the Giladi, will soon be called to answer. [Chorus]

She ran and greeted him with the sound of timbrels;
She was the only one, she hadn't any siblings.
He tore his clothes and wept, but blamed the innocent one
For the oath he swore that couldn't be undone.
Bat Yiftach replied, "Do what you must do!"
Then Yiftach replied, "If I only knew!" [Chorus]

"Grant me one request, let me be free
for two months to mourn my virginity."
She went away to weep with her women friends;
They were her comfort until the bitter end.
The daughter of Yiftach, she never knew a man,
Bat Yiftach, mourned throughout the land. [Chorus]

No, we'll never know if the fires did burn
Or did he lock her up? What lessons did we learn?
That the daughters of Israel
Leave home every year to mourn, lament and wail.
Bat Yiftach, loved to sing and dance.
Bat Yiftach, never had a chance! [Chorus]

*Bat Yiftach means: "the daughter of Yiftach"- she is unnamed in the Biblical text.

40. BATYA - DAUGHTER OF GOD

April 1996/Nisan 5756

Exodus 2:5ff

Long ago in Pharaoh's time a princess felt alone
Longing and praying for a child to call her own
One day by the riverside -- while washing her hair --
Looking down she saw...a basket floating there.

Chorus:

She drew him from the water, water, water

She drew him from the Nile

Today she sits in Paradise underneath God's smile

Mother and sister watched as the princess held him near
Breathing sighs of relief, fighting back their tears
Batya now knew her task, she must stand up to the hate
Confront her own father, and she must not hesitate. [Chorus]

As the princess looked across the banks at the women standing by
Knowing of their sacrifice, the child she held might die
Woman to woman they gazed, eyes locked in embrace
Not a word was spoken, yet a covenant was made.

The silent bond of sisterhood is stronger than the chains
For arms linked through the ages, soothe the knots of pain
To nurse each others children, and listen with a willing ear
Creates a legacy of love, defiant in the face of fear. [Chorus]

When it came her time to leave the Earth
Batya did not die
Because of her goodness, she entered Paradise alive
They say she teaches Torah to the women in the heavenly scene
And as a stranger is welcomed, she bestows the blessing. [Chorus]

41. RITZPAH*

Jerusalem 1989

Ritzpah was the concubine of old King Saul 2 Sam 3:7
The legend of her beauty, she stunned one and all;
They say that she was the power behind the throne
Yet many words are missing, her deeds won't be known.

Chorus:

She was on the ground, but she was not down
Her sons were bound, but she was not down
Such pain profound, but she was not down
Ritzpah! Eyes burning hot like coals.

After King Saul died, his son desired her 2 Sam 21:1
Yet she turned for comfort to General Abner;
Yes, many men they wanted to possess her soul
But Ritzpah was fiery, dangerous to hold. [Chorus]

Then came a famine in the reign of David
So he went before the Lord to inquire and to plead;
'Twas the sins of Saul on the Gibonites
So the sons of Ritzpah -- doomed to death on that night. [Chorus]

They were hung on the hill, before the harvest began 2 Sam 21:8
Left to rot and dangle in the wind;
Ritzpah spread her sackcloth upon the rock
Guarding those bodies, till the water dropped. [Chorus]

She shielded them from the buzzards that flew by day
Awake through the night to scare wild beasts away;
David heard of her kindness and gathered the bones
Claiming Ritzpah for concubine, her final home. [Chorus]

Ritzpah means "floor" in modern Hebrew -- hence the pun, "she was not down" --
and it also means "burning coals" in the Biblical text.

42. TAMAR*

Gen 38

She was the wife of Judah's first born, the second one as well
She was promised the third, but she never heard a word
That's why Tamar rebelled, yeah! That's why Tamar rebelled.

Chorus:

Tamar connived, Tamar survived, Tamar she did defy!
She took aim, felt no shame, at having Judah's child.

She stood by the road as Judah went by,
widow's clothes no more.
Covered by a veil, so he couldn't tell
Judah thought she was a whore, yeah! Judah thought she was a whore! [Chorus]

But she was a smart lass and she covered her (ass) takin' him to pledge
Then she disappeared and she had no fear
This woman had the edge, yeah! This woman had the edge.

Then, she had a baby kickin' inside her belly, a baby kickin' inside
She was almost burned, she almost died
They thought Tamar had lied, yeah! They thought Tamar had lied! [Chorus]

Then they dragged her out to stand for trial, accused of harlotry
But she had the last laugh, for his ring and staff
Were there for all to see, yeah! Were there for all to see! [Chorus]

*Tamar means "date tree."

43. RIVKA*

July 1993

Gen 24:27

Rivka -- bride-to-be of Yitzchak, watered a thousand camels at the well
When asked to leave she said, "I'm going."
Rivka, you leave us the mystery of the veil.

Chorus:

And Rivka said three times; "Listen to my voice, **Sh'ma b'Koli**
Listen, listen, listen, Listen to my voice, **Sh'ma b'Koli**"**

Rivka -- sought an oracle for bearing children
G-d answered with a sign of twins inside her Well.

Rivka -- mastermind of subversion, dressed the youngest as the oldest
So Yitzhak couldn't tell.

Rivka -- knew the legacy of her bloodline
She claimed her rights as a mother in Israel.
Rivka -- seized the power of the moment;
All she touches falls under her spell.

[Chorus]

*Rebecca **Listen to my voice

44. JUDITH

© 1994 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

It happened in the eighteenth year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar of Assyrians
He sent his general, Holofernes, to bring the Jews down to their knees.
Charging with their chariots from Nineveh, soldiers with their horses on the long
way
They raped, pillaged, destroyed the towns, riding to burn Jerusalem down.

Chorus:

Hey, ho, Where you going, Judith? Hey, ho where you going to?
You're dressed to kill to meet the enemy,
And he'll be dead if he's messing with you!

The Jews, they prayed and fasted through the night
With ashes on their heads and the enemy in sight;
Surrounded by army, the water jugs were dry
Crying to their G-d, "We're not prepared to die!" [Chorus]

A woman arose with a plan to save the day,
Beseeching her people, "Join me now and pray!"
"For tomorrow I go to turn the evil tide. We can not lose with our G-d on our side.!"
So she dressed with jewels and a turban on her hair,
Perfumed, anointed, she took her food for fare.
The gates were opened, she marched to set them free
This woman changed the course of our Jewish destiny. [Chorus]

She knelt before him, charmed him with her smile
Saying, "Listen to me, General, I'll make it worth your while.
I'll tell you when they're helpless, the Jews, your enemy."
He fell for her beauty and her subtle trickery.
Three days she prayed to the One up above,
Crying, "Heaven, help me! Guard me with your love."
When he tried to seduce her...she cut off his head.
A triumph for Israel, Holofernes was dead. [Chorus]

45. SHE SAID, "NO"

February 17, 1988

Margot Azen, Rayzel Raphael, Bayla Ruchama, Juliet Spitzer
Rosh Chodesh Adar

Without her gown, he summoned her down
Said it was his right, as a man with a crown
He was obsessed; she should be undressed.
Vashti refused to be a woman oppressed.

Chorus:

She said "no" to the king, she said "no" to the king,
She said "no-no-no-no-no-no-no," she said "no" to the king!

The king then cried, "Find me a bride
She must be beautiful, and have no pride."
When Esther came he said, "You I will tame
And if you don't like it, well, Vashti's to blame!"

Esther took heart; it was her time to start,
Thinking of others and doing her part
She was to find how to get out of the bind:
She needed her body and also her mind. [Chorus]

So Esther behaved, but the court was depraved
And Haman the Evil One ranted and raved;
She took a stand, yes, she made a demand,
That the Jews should be saved
Throughout the land. [Chorus]

46. TZLOPHANIT* AND THE ANGEL

Judges 13

Chorus:

I said, "The wife of Manoah heard an angel!"

I said, "Tzlophanit harkened to the call."

She was walking in the field, minding her own business

When an angel did appear, calling her to witness

Saying to her in a voice loud and clear,

"A son will be born this year."

[Chorus]

She ran into the house, looking for Manoah

He said, "What's this all about?" She said; "I've got something to show ya."

He said, "I don't believe what I hear; there is no angel, dear.

"Yes, oh, yes, there is, for this is what he told me:"

"Don't drink any wine, or eat foods unclean

Don't put a razor to his head, it'll bring about his death."

[Chorus]

They ran back to the field, Manoah oh, so shocked

For sitting there quite calmly, an angel on a rock.

Manoah said, "My, oh, my, I think we're gonna die."

[Chorus]

They asked the angel's name, with an offering to eat

But he rose into the flames, ascending through the heat;

Manoah was quite alarmed, Tzlophanit knew he wouldn't harm.

She was strong and brave, not at all afraid

She knew that they'd been blessed, by the heavenly guest.

While Manoah was a little dense, Tzlophanit had common sense. [Chorus]

*Tzlophanit means "in the shadows." It is not found in the Biblical text, only the Rabbinic legends.

47. DAUGHTERS DANCING

1993

For Tikveh Fremer Kensky z"l

Summoned from the hillsides, answering the shofar's blare
Calling, calling, calling; It was the time to be there.
Carrying belongings, gathering their fare, Kinorot commenced a'lilting,
Strains of music in the air.

Chorus:

Gi-li Bat Tzion, Ha'ri-i Bat Yerushalayim* Zech 9:9

The daughters came dancing to the Holy City.

Grasping their bundles, piled upon their heads
Along the paths they wandered, sunset gold and red
Wildflowers waving, stepping stone over stone
Arms linked to one another, Her Spirit called them home. [Chorus]

Baskets for the harvests, grapes upon the vine
Rings and earrings jingled, garlands intertwined;
Women set for dancing, flowing with the wine
Stamping out a rhythm, keeping sacred time. [Chorus]

A cloud lit up the daytime -- pillar of fire by night
Guiding the dancing maidens, streaming towards the light
Moon began a'singing, beaming as the sun
Proclaim the first reign of the Daughter! Her festival had begun! [Chorus]

Drawing water from the wells of wisdom running deep
Scaling Har Bat Tzion, no more time to weep
For the Temple is paved with love with the daughters' radiance
The time of joy is upon us, time for us to dance. [Chorus]

*Rejoice, daughters of Zion and be glad, Daughters of Jerusalem

48. TIFTACHI RACHMI

1989

Ps 118

When we were young we were often told, having children was the goal
"Find yourself a man and a family will be planned,"
Fantasies that won't release their hold.
Be we married or divorced -- single, widowed, gay, of course --
Longings that ache the soul.

Chorus:

Oh, Holy One Above! Fill my womb with Your love,
Complete my dreams of laughing children

**Tiftachi Rachmi!, Moshivi Akeret, Habayit, Em Habanim S'maycha,
Halleluya !***

Sarah waited for her children ninety years [Gen 17:18]
Stoically choking back her tears.
Or did she choose to lead? Hoping every month to bleed,
The light within her tent glowing strong.
Each cycle that we wait we wrestle with our fate,
Wondering if something's going wrong. [Chorus]

Mother Rachel cried her painful words, Yaakov's heart was disturbed.
"Oh, give me a child or I will surely die -- I need to see my flesh and bones!"
"Am I in G-d's place? It's your anger you must face!"
Trust your destiny and you'll not be alone. [Chorus]

Hannah, the wife of Elkana, was taunted by her rival, P'nina.
Yet with prayer she was soothed, silently she moved
To fill a void so deep and wide;
For our own tribulation may yet be jubilation,
Finding courage, hope, and faith way down inside. [Chorus]

We ask these questions of ourselves, seeking answers that may help
For we don't always understand why things don't work as planned.
Like others, we must search for stronger roles:
More than mother, more than wife, putting richness in our life
Laughing, loving, helping others be our goals. [Chorus]

*Return the childless one home, a happy mother of children.

49. DEVORAH

June 1988

Dwelling underneath the palm, Devorah sat so wise and calm
Judging the children of Israel.
They came from far and wide to sit by her side
On the road from Ramah to Bethel.

Chorus:

Where she said, "I am the mother of Israel,
Hear Ye Children of Israel, Awake! Awake! Awake!"

Ruled by Yavin, a mighty and sinister king,
For the Jews did evil in the land;
They prayed to Ba'alim, it angered Elohim,
Until Devorah issued her command. [Chorus]

The captain of the guard oppressed the Jews so hard
They cried out for their salvation.
Devorah called Barak, said, "We must attack --
See, I've had a revelation.
For today I prophecy Sisera must die,
By the hands of the woman, Yael.
She'll feed him milk to eat, he'll fall into a sleep;
His plans for domination will fail." [Chorus]

So today we praise, the glory of G-d be raised,
We dance and sing to the One
Who guides us with Her might, who brings us to the light,
Strong and bright like the sun. [Chorus]

*Devorah = Deborah, which means "bee." She is also called the women of flames.

50. RUTH

©1996 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Sit right down to hear the sounds of the story of Ruth:
Woman of faith – no way to be safe, when searching for the truth.
Sons and husbands were dead, pain in their stead, Naomi was leading the way.
From Moab they fled -- there were mouths to be fed, and Ruth began to pray:

Chorus:

Where you'll go...I will go, where you'll be...I will be
Your people are my people, and I will never leave, I'll never leave!

Home they returned, a hunger burned; Ruth went to glean the grain.
She worked hard in the field, G-d was her shield; she never revealed her name.
Naomi was pleased, the moment seized, furthering the game;
For Boaz the man never knew the plan; he was a wealthy cousin of fame. [Chorus]

Ruth lay in the wheat, uncovered his feet; the good woman knew her task.
Do what you can to please the man -- is it too much to ask?
But as the sun did rise, there was love in his eyes; with her his fate was cast.
Raise the name of the dead; they were soon wed. From her we trace our past.
[Chorus]

51. WHO WERE THE WOMEN?*

1993

Who were the women and where were their voices?
What were they doing and what were their choices?
Who were the women and what were they saying?
When were they singing and why are we praying?

Dina! Dina! Dina went out to the land, to the land, Gen 34:1
Dina! Dina! She went out to meet the women of the land, of the land.
She was raped by the hand of Shechem, Shechem
She was never heard from again, again. She was never heard from again.

Hulda! Hulda! A prophetess of Josiah, Hulda! Hulda! Proclaimed the law for Judah.
To her we owe Deuteronomy; the story of our people, our history
She was never heard from again, again. Not a word from her again.

Rahav! Rahav! A harlot of old Jericho, Rahav! Rahav!
Hid Joshua's spies so the king wouldn't know.
She gave them room and she gave them board, binding the sign of a scarlet cord
She was never heard from again, again. Not a word from her again.

Daughters! Daughters! Daughters of Tzelophehad,
Daughters! Daughters! Wanted the land for their own blood
Married among the tribal brothers, women of inheritance unlike the others
They were never heard from again, again. Not a word from them again.

Yael! Yael! Put her hand to the tent spike, Yael! Yael!
Struck Sisera with all her might.
She saved the Jews with bravery, sporting the head of the enemy.
She was never heard from again, again. Not a word from her again.

Women, women, we've found our voices -- let's join hands
Sisters, sisters, we know our choices -- let's take this stand.
Our Biblical mothers were strong and bold
Let's learn their stories, they must be told. They will be heard again.

52. PROPHETESS

© April 1995

Miriam, music she heard, packed those timbrels with 'nary a word
Rivka's veil flying in the wind, sought an oracle to learn about her twins
Sara saw in the desert at night -- wise woman, whose eyes had the Sight.

Chorus:

Oh, Voice of Prophecy! Speaking now through you and me
Call it intuition, call it sixth sense, The Holy Voice speaks in present tense.

Devorah, known across the land, knew the battle would be won by a woman's hand
Hulda, prophetess at the gate, sayin' "Here's the law; we shall not wait."
Hanna knew of the kingdom to come; she wrote a song to the Holy One. [Chorus]

Avigail stopped David -- right in his tracks, pleaded with him not to attack
Rachel, named so her family'd increase, knew her blessings wouldn't cease
Esther came before the mighty throne, knowing clearly she wasn't alone. [Chorus]

Women of the Bible, mother of the child, daughters of the earth, sisters running wild
Students in the dorm, wisdom of the sages, Bubbies in the kitchen
Voices through the ages, soothing in the night, defiant in the hour
Visions in dreams, harvesting power.

53. SOPHIA'S SONG

© July 1995

I will pour out my spirit to you, I will make known to you my word
Lend your ear to wisdom and your heart to understanding
Finding the knowledge of God.

Chorus:

**k'nay Hochmah, K'nay Binah, Rashit hochmah, k'nay hochmah
u'v'chol kinyancha k'nay vinah.**

Before the mountains were settled, before the hills and the fields
In the time of the heaven and the circle on the deep, I played at the side of the One.
[Chorus]

The beginning of wisdom is this: "Get wisdom!" Find your way to understanding
For the commandment is a lamp and the Torah is a light, the light and the life of your
mother
Keep my commandments and live -- my Torah as the apple of your eye
Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call "Understanding" kinswoman.
[Chorus]

54. RACHEL

© Dec 1998 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Chorus:

She taught in the ways of women, her visions heaven sent
The wisdom of our ancestors as she taught in the red, red tent.

When she was young she used to gather with the women at the well
To talk and laugh and share such secrets as women often tell.
She sauntered with her sister as they laughed along the way
Until a man rode between them, kissing her one day. [Chorus]

Now Rachel was a beauty, eyes of liquid fire
So Jacob agreed to labor -- seven years for hire.
Yet on her wedding day, Leah took her place
For Rachel taught her the secret signs, so Leah could save face. [Chorus]

Rachel's heart grew a hole that love couldn't close
A longing for children only the barren knows.
So she bargained for the mandrakes -- a night of passion for a potion
Then Bilha, Zilpa, Leah's prayers moved heaven with their devotion.

Rachel, so wise and wily, knew the power of the teraphim
And sitting on them in her tent she said, "**Ani b'derech nashim.**"
Rachel still cries in Bethlehem for her children on the way
And we still wind the red thread round our hands and hearts as we pray. [Chorus]

55. DANGEROUS DAMES

@ Sept 1999 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Chorus:

Dangerous dames, deadly, deadly fame

Dangerous dames, dare not forget their names

Deliah, oh Deliah (Judges 16:4 -18)

Lured Sampson to her lair

In the dark of night she cut off his hair

Atalyah, Atalyah (2 Kings 11:1-20)

Killed her grandchildren to be the Queen

For six long years ruled Israel like a fiend

Bridge:

When you're hot, you're hot and when you're not, you're not

Only women who can't be tamed will drive you insane

Yael, Judith (Judges 4:17-5:24)

Sank that knife so deep (Book of Judith)

First feeding those generals then killing them in their sleep

Jezebel, Jezebel (1 Kings 16:-19, 21:5-25)

Wearing make up in her tower (2 Kings 9:7, 10, 22, 30,36,37)

Woman at the gates of hell worshiped lust and power

56. BATSHEVA, THE BABE

© Nov 1997 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

2 Samuel 11

Chorus:

Batsheva was a babe, if you know what I mean
Batsheva was a babe, a mother and a queen

One day she was bathing up on the roof
Her husband was away, she could really cut loose.
David took a look through his ole spyglass
Liked what he saw, a voluptuous lass. [Chorus]

He said to himself, "Who could she be?"
Then he told his messengers, "Bring her to me!"
When she got there she stared him right in the eye
Thought to herself, "This is my kind of guy." [Chorus]

With a toss of her head sent the messengers away
and said to the king. "I'm gonna have it my way."
She said, "If we do it, we do it right
I'll be your queen, you won't forget this night." [Chorus]

Now the story is told of the children she had
One who died too young, she was oh, so sad.
The other a king, of magic and mystery
Bathsheva, with your wisdom, you made history.

57. WILD WOMAN

© November 2002 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Chorus:

I'm a wild woman, daughter of Lilith
I'm a wild woman, sister to the moon
I'm a wild woman; when Shechinah comes calling
I need to go running, I need to be free.

When I look in the mirror, I see only beauty
Eyes flashing passionate fire
My body's a sculpture of infinite wisdom
My visions are dreams of artistic desire. [Chorus]

I'm at home in the earth, talking to flowers
Mud slides on my face and my toes
In sync with the seasons, cycles of living
Death is my teacher, watching me grow.

Bridge:

Blood and mystery, naked in the wood
Chant in harmony, I feel good

I need to break rules, so don't stand in my way
My anger gives birth to justice denied
Talkin' back to the snakes who trap my sisters
My voice holds my power to sing and to cry. [Chorus]

Concert songs

58. THE RED TENT

© September 2007 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Chorus:

In the Red Tent (2x)

I'm sitting with my sisters in the Red Tent

It's the tent of compassion
Harmony and song,
Dancing and singing
We all get along.
It's the tent of schmoozing
Rhythm and rhyme,
Ancestor magic
Time out of time.

[Chorus]

It's the tent of connection
Mothers, daughters and friends
Holding up each other
With support and wisdom.
A shoulder to lean on
A hug when we cry,
Finding our light
In each other's eyes.

[Chorus]

It's the tent of desire
And our vision of love
Where pain is suspended
On the wings of a dove.
We fly with the music,
Set our souls free:
Sisters with the power
of what we can be.

[Chorus]

From the deepest night
to the dawn of the day,
Keepers of the flame
Circle to pray.
A carpet of longing
Hope in our lap,
Hearth of hospitality
We open the flaps.

59. WOMAN OF VALOR

Driving down the road, cell phone in her hand
After doing loads and loads of laundry
The kids to be fed, no time to make the bed
It's the working mom's perpetual quandary.
Polishing her nails on the console of the car
While feasting on dashboard dining
Booking that massage, running to relax
She's got a great sense of timing.

Chorus:

She is a woman, she is a woman of valor (2x)

Sitting at the screen, answering the mail
While the phone rings off the wall
No time for a bite, it's the middle of the night
Waiting for tech support to call.
From morning to night she opens her hands
Writing checks or wiping those tears
Her desk is a mess, she needs a good rest
She'll get it in a couple of years. [Chorus]

Bridge:

There's the doctor, the dentist, cooking and shopping,
carpool, homework and bills
The lunches the mail, PTO, chiro!
No time to mop up the spills.
The lessons, the calendar, garbage, recycle
Errands, the hamster and sitter
The furnace, the gardener, teethbrushing, and carwash
Eshet chayil, she is no quitter!

[SO dramatic] ...

Let's honor her -- for she's our sister, our mother, our daughter,
Our neighbor or even our friend;
She's us in the mirror, affirm her now! It's all worth it in the end. [Chorus]

60. BUBBA

© 1993 by Geela Rayzel Robinson

Leaving the old country
Stole away in the middle of the night
Escaped across the border
Nothing to feel but fright;
She left behind the pogroms
She left behind the pain
Saying goodbye to her family,
Never to see them alive again!
Never to see them alive again!

Chorus:
My grandmother, she's still dancing
My grandmother, she still sings
Bubba loves to laugh
She still has her dreams
She still has her dreams.

Riding to the New World
In the dark hull of a ship
Hearing the rats scratching
It was a smelly, nasty trip;
Landing on the shores
The streets were paved with gold,
But where was all the money
From the stories she was told?
From the stories she was told? [Chorus]

In three days she had a job
Sitting at that sewing machine,
Backbreaking tedious labor
Just to earn the green;
Fixed up with a learned man
He was a much older date,
She didn't have much choice
Was this to be her fate?
Was this to be her fate? [Chorus]

This man he was my Zedye, him I never knew
But from Bub I learned tradition, what it means to be a Jew;
Her life it wasn't easy
But her hopes they'll never end,
Like the course of Jewish history

Stories of our strong women
Stories of our strong women!

[Chorus]

61. DONA GRACIA

© November 1987 by Geela Rayzel Raphael
For Reb Leah

From Spain to Portugal, London to Venice
The Inquisition in all the Pope's land
Interrogation and torture of our people
Marrano became people to be damned.
To the house of Mendes born a woman
Hiding her faith from the fearful eyes of night
Zealously guarding traditions of her family
Risking her life for the Shabbos candlelight.

Chorus: Dona, Dona Gracia, Dona Gracia Nasi
Dona, Dona Gracia, written out of history.
Your story revealed to us in ways we can't explain
Your story inspires us
As we reclaim your name.

In the Dark Ages this woman shone brightly
Saving the Jews with her power and her wealth
Secretly moving from village to village
Marranos were smuggled quietly in stealth.
Her empire spread throughout Medieval Europe
With money lending and trading with the East
Professing publicly as a New Christian
She did not believe in it, in the least!

[Chorus]

During time in Antwerp her daughter was courted
By counts and nobles and princes of the day
But Marrano blood was thicker than the pressure
So they escaped to Venice by a secret way.
Denounced in Italy as a Judaizer
By her sister Reya, whose money she controlled
In jail she stayed with only rats for company
Finally freed for ten thousand ducats gold.

[Chorus]

With chariots and servants parading into Turkey
Dona Gracia finally arrived
Under protection of the sultan
Her house and family managed to survive.
Her courage, her vision, her selfless acts of kindness
Leave behind a legend we will emulate
Redemption of Jews from beneath oppression
Demanding all our freedom, choosing our own fate.

62. SHECHINAH ORACLE

© April 2010 by Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael

After a visit to Collumcille and the Goddess Conference & Shechinah Oracle

When opening up to the mystery
In the fog, the night and the rain
When the ancient stones are speaking
We find the path again.

When Shechinah is calling
To step out of your comfort zone
The way is revealed into the light
Leaping to the unknown.

Open the infinite gate
Of myth and mastery
Seeking a voyage of wisdom
Facing destiny.

In the vision of a fire that is burning
In the land and the forest and the tree
The oracle knows death and rebirth
Reminds us to be free.

In our holy bodies and Our Mother
In the water and on the land
From the depths of our souls comes a symbol:
Surrender to what you have planned.

We trust the power of the sacred signs
We learn lessons along the way
Finding the voices beyond the words;
Listen to what they say.

63. MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION

© August 2004 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Chorus :

Shechinah's my light and my salvation (2x)

Shechinah's my light and my salvation

Shechinah's my light

In the dark and in the doubt
When my courage runs out
That's when I need to get down and pray
I need that lamp to light my way.

When I'm alone and so afraid,
In a tight and narrow place
I'm on my path with its twists and turns
Oh, my goodness, so much to learn.

Shechinah she calls me to serve in joy
Pick up my spirits off the floor
With an open heart and compassionate mind
I open up to embrace the Divine.

With a song of the earth and art of my soul
Connecting to earth and feeling whole
I turn the corner, I'm on the mend
Like a dragonfly in the wind.

64. HOLY SHECHINAH

© 1989 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

For Women of the Wall, inspired by a dream of Sara Leah

With a little help from my friends Chaya Beckerman and Felicia Mednik

Voices of women rise through the mist
Cutting through clouds like a knife
Crying out "Freedom" and praying for peace
Breathing Your vision to life. [Chorus]

Chorus:
Holy, holy Shechinah
Many years you've been on the roam
Holy, holy Shechinah
Yerushalayim is calling you home.

The rape of Your women, Your children, the Earth
Must cease if we are to survive;
The sun may turn dark and the moon to blood
There'll be nary a soul left alive!
Yet we'll turn evil to good, and sadness to joy
We'll find light in the faces of our friends;
Not by sword, nor by might
But by spirit we'll make amends. (Chorus)

We'll stand at Your Kotel with strength in our eyes
Claiming the Wall as our space
Trusting Your wisdom to safeguard our souls
Turning our anger to grace. (Chorus)

Mystic sunset of pink, purple, blue
Hangs over her hills like a veil
Summoning dreams so, memory deep
Our lives blazing the trail. (Chorus)

Moon shadow circle suspended in air
Signals for our souls to sing;
The Daughters of Zion will dance in her streets
The bells of Mashiach will ring! (Chorus)

65. SHECHINAH COMING

© 1987 by Geela Rayzel Robinson
Inspired by Lynn Gottleib

Among the many nations, we are a people of peace
But as the ancient women, we have a longing for release
Unbinding chains of habit
Painting textured fabric
Brucha Yah Shechinah, Arrive!

Chanting sacred stories, her tapestries unfold,
Mysterious, majestic Shechinah our soul
Dwelling deep within us
Stirring myth within us
Praise be Her spirit, Arrive!

Chorus:
Ha-le-lu-ha! It's coming time, we've seen the signs
Coming times we've seen the signs,
Shechinah glory will surely shine!

Drawn home to mother, come the exiles dispersed
Reviving holy Hebrew means our culture's rebirth
Her cloud hovers above
Yerushalayim, Her love
Waiting for Her children's return.

Resting in the Temple, she finds a place to alight
Our eagle of protection, Her fire lights the night.
Underneath Her wings
Freilach voices sing
Yearning for Her Sukkat Shalom. [Chorus]

Raising up our power, the Female Divine
Clarifying vision, the world redefines.
The spark of Her spirit
Calls to those who hear it:
Blessed be Her ruach, Arrive!

Her presence in creation burns bright as the sun,
The moon is Her symbol, darkness undone.
Rosy rainbow flashes
She's rising from the ashes
Brucha Yah Shechinah, Arrive! [Chorus]

66. SHECHINAH, MY SISTER IN THE WIND

I feel supported by the universe
From the Source of where all life begins
Floating through time and space that blankets me,
Gently carried by the wind.

Shechinah! Heal my mind and body
Shechinah, I call to you my friend:
Use your powers of radiance
Help my hurting heart to mend.

Your presence in my life so subtle
Sometimes I forget to let you in..
The shelter of Your love protects me
Shechinah, my sister in the wind.

Shechinah, my sister in the wind
I trust Your love to make me whole.
Your Ruach rustles in the wind
Your wings cradling my soul.

Shechinah, my sister in the wind
Shechinah, You whisper in the wind
Shechinah, You spiral in the wind
Shechinah, my sister in the wind.

67. SHECHINAH'S WEB

© Geela Rayzel Robinson with the help of B'not Ha-Levana
Rosh Hodesh Sivan 5748/1988

Waiting for the light to come
And the clouds to shift
The heavens need to open
My spirit needs to lift.
Through times of hope and times of trial
Times of joy and times of change
I hear Shechinah calling me
She's calling out my name.

Chorus:
Singin' ah, ah, ah Shechinah (3x)

With all Her mystery, I can't begin to understand
But when I speak to Her
She's always close at hand.
When I search for You, Shechinah
I don't know where to start
But then to my surprise
I find You in my heart. (Chorus)

Gazing through the window of Eternity
Waiting for a sign to come,
It's time to turn the key.
Invisible blanket of Your warmth
Oh yes, you take me home;
My soul finds it comfort
I know I'm not alone. [Chorus]

Women weaving their web of love
Under Shechinah's moon
Candlelight and starry night
Is when I hear Your tune.
Though nothing's bright as Shechinah's song
When I hear Her voice
I open and ask to receive
And know I have a choice. [Chorus]

At times when I feel lonely
At times when I'm afraid
I find my place within the world
Remembering from whom I'm made.
Glimmer of light, spark of dew
Overcoming fear

I know that You are with me
I know that You are here.

[Chorus]

68. MAY SHECHINAH SHINE HER LIGHT

© May 2011 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Sheva Brachot for Nehama and Jacob

May Shechinah Shine her Light (3x)
Shine Her Light, Shine Her light on You

For all your generosity
Loving unconditionally
For acceptance and diversity
Shine Her light, shine Her light on you

As partners and friends
For love that does not end
For souls who lights are blending
Shine Her light, Shine Her light on you.

For gladness and rejoicing
Delight and harmony
For peace and happiness
May you now be blessed.

*Gilah rinah ditzah v'chedvah,
ahavah v'achavah v'shalom v'reut
kol sason v'kol simcha, kol chatan v'kol kalah*

69. ENTER SHECHINAH'S PRESENCE

Written with Simcha 1985

Enter Shechinah's Presence

I feel Shechinah's Love
We taste Shechinah's Essence
Merging with the One Above.

Chorus:

**L'shem Yichud Kudsha Brikh Hu
Yod-Hay-Vov-Hay, Yod-Hay-Vov-Hay**

Emah Shechinah, Lover
We welcome You this day
Rejoicing in Your Spirit
Inspire our hearts to Pray. [Chorus]

Beloved Shabbos Malka
Radiant Delight
Illuminate our Being
Guide Us with Your Light. [Chorus]

Holy Matronit Lilith
Dark Lady of the Moon
Create Mashiach's Vision,
A world of Peace soon. [Chorus]

HAVDALAH SONGS

70. LEAVING SHABBOS BLUES

The collective conscious 2004/ Shabbat Unplugged

Chorus:

Leaving, leaving, leaving,

We've got the leaving, leaving, leaving Shabbos blues (2x)

We're leaving a place where we've been restful
Going to the week which may be stressful;
For there was no e-mail, no fax, no telephone
We've been hangin' in the shabbos zone. [Chorus]

:

We welcomed our extra soul
Ate three square meals and G only knows...
Lit the candles, drank sacred wine
Ate the challah, had a helluva time. [Chorus]

All week we rush around, never stop,
driving ourselves by the external clock;
but when shabbos come we kick back:
lay it down, take a holy nap. [Chorus]

Shechinah was the bride, she came right to the door
Invited her in -- won't say no more....
All week long we're on the go
but on Shabbos time we do it nice and slow. [Chorus]

Shabbos is my baby, held her in my arms
She showed her wisdom, she turned on her charm;
Now she's gotta go, won't see her for a while
When Friday rolls around, she gonna make us smile.

Angels sang their songs, the place was clean for a time
Sat around with friends, took time off from the climb;
Studied a little Torah, jammed some ancient tunes
Oh please, shabbos, won't ya come back soon.

71. KAYN TI'HI'YEH LANU: A HAVDALAH SONG

© G. Rayzel Raphael

**Hinay el yeshuati, evtach v'lo evhad, ki azi v'zimrat Yah va'yihi li shua
Uvshavtim mayim b'sasson, mi'ma'any hayeshua**

La Yah Hayishuah; Al amcha birchotecha, selah

G-d who is our salvation,
Pour Your blessing on this nation.

Chorus:

For the Jews had light and joy, gladness and honor
So may it be with us, **kayn tihyeh lanu.**

Adonai Tz'vaot eemanu; Misgav lanu

Captain of the Heavenly Hosts,
You're with us when we need You most. [Chorus]

Adonai Tz'vaot, Ashrei adam botayach bach

G-d the one who guards the truth
Praised be the one who trusts in You. [Chorus]

Hamelech ya'anaynu; B'yom Karaynu

The Holy One will answer all
On the day that we call. [Chorus]

Layihudim hayitah, Orah v'simcha, V'sasone vi'kar; Kayn tihyeh lanu.

72. HAVDALAH LIVE!

© 1995 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

It's Saturday night, Havdalah live!
Sat night, won't ya gimme five!
Saturday night -- this ain't no jive!
Saturday Night -- it's Havdalah Live!

Chorus:

Boogie woogie, woogie, woogie woogie wu --
Scoobi, doo-bie, doo-bie, doo-bie, scoobie-di-do (Repeat)

Hamavdil beyn kodesh l'chol;

Gonna sing a song to save your soul
Gonna have some rhythm -- gonna have some roll
Hamavdil beyn kodesh l'chol.

Saturday night -- say farewell to the Queen
Saturday night -- she leaves the scene
M'lava malka, you know what I mean
Saturday night, say farewell to the Queen.

Beyn or l'chosheck -- thats light and dark
See the candle -- feel the spark
Between the six days and **yom shivi'i**
With Havdalah Live, we start the week.

Sniff the spices, bless the wine
Welcome Elijah, that dude's fine
Had a good rest this Shabbos day
Saturday night -- now its time to play.

LIFE CYCLE SONGS

73. BEDEKEN SONG

© Dec 1997 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Based on Gen 24:60 & 22:18

For Talya/Shawn on the occasion of their wedding

**Achotaynu at
achotaynu at
Hi'yee lalphay r'vavah
Hi'yee lalphay r'vavah
v'yeerash zaraych et sha'ar sonav
v'yeerash zaraych et sha'ar sonav.**

**Achotaynu at
Ach atah
Hi'yee lalphay r'vavah
Heveh lalphay r'vavah
v'yeerash zaraych et sha'ar sonav
v'yeerash zaracha et sha'ar oyvav.**

You are our sister (2x)
Be blessed with fertility (2x)
Guarded from your enemies.

Achotaynu at
You are our sister
Hi'yee lalphay r'vavah
Be blessed with fertility
V'yeerash zaraych et sha'ar sonav
Protection from your enemy.

Achotaynu at, you are our sister
Ach atah, and our brother
Hi'yee lalphay r'vavah
Heveh lalphay r'vavah
Be Blessed with fertility and guarded from your enemies.

74. SIMCHAT HOCHMAH

© March 2002 by Geela Rayzel Raphael
For Pat Wische, Reb Leah Novick, Sandy Cohen,
On the occasions of their Simchat Hochmah

Simchat simchat hochmah
hochmat isha, hayom.
Simchat simchat hochmah
Praise the wisdom of the crone!

Selah! Celebrating,
celebrating our age
Mentor, Teacher, Beauty
Honor the power of the sage!

75. CONVERSION SONG

Written for Sara Ross's conversion, March 2008

Bruchah haba'ah nefesh chadasha
Bruchah haba'ah nefesh yehidah

Welcome to our people,
Welcome your new soul.
Welcome to the journey,
The journey makes you whole.

76. YOVEL

© March 2009 by Geela Rayzel Raphael
For Juliet Spitzer's 50th,

Yovel hi, shanat h'hamishim, shana tihiyeh lachen (2x)

Find freedom in your heart
Rest and incubate a new start.

Descend to the place of wisdom
Find the guidance that you need;
Let the silence inform your journey
Planting a new seed.

Proclaim liberty throughout the land
Proclaim liberty in your life.

77. GET ME A GET

© August 2009 by Geela Rayzel Raphael and Rose Zoltek

Get me a get I'm moving on
Get me get it's been too long
Get me a get I'm feeling strong
Get me a get -- it's freedom's song.

Let's mark the end of the life we led
Let's not look back but move ahead
Treasure our kids we brought into this world
Embrace the new as it unfurls.

It's time for closure on what we had,
Time to set aside feeling sad
Hold the good times, throw out the bad
Time to move from grief to glad.

Untangle our souls, untangle our lives
Move beyond bitterness and strife
One day I hope we can again be friends
But this chapter has come to an end.

What's past is past, what's done is done
We shared a life when we were young
Our paths merged to create family
We're left with many good memories.

We need to bury many dreams
Find a new journey to fit our needs
Go for the light and time will mend.
Out of the ashes, we'll be born again

Last chorus:
Get us a get we're moving on
Get us a get, life is long
Get us a get we're gonna be strong
Get us a get-- it's freedom's song.

78. DAUGHTER OF MITZVAH

Simcha & Geela Rayzel Raphael

November 1985 for Linda Bronfman's Bat Mitzvah

Women of vision and women of faith
Woman of knowledge and more
You're climbing the mountain of wisdom
You've accepted this chore.

Woman, woman mirrored soul in your eyes
Challenge, calm, through your strength we'll rise
You're a Shabbos candle burning
You channel the spark
Divine energy, flowing female
That wakes up the dark.

Chorus:

You're taking a step and you're taking a risk
Like your sisters before
You're a Daughter of Mitzvah
As you open this door.

Woman of action, woman of joy
Your voice sings out in song;
You're learning our language of ancient Hebrew
Our truth is strong.

Woman, woman, soul magic shines through you
Clearly, brightly today you renew.
You're taking a taste of the tree of knowing
Its Torah on fire
You're learning the secrets of scholars before you
New cycles inspire. [Chorus]

Woman of stature and woman of grace
For generations we've dreamed
To enter the Queendom of sacred teachings
Our birthright redeemed.

Woman, woman, a pioneer you'll be
Helping now rewrite herstory
Shechinah glory unfolding before us
As women now flower
You're affirming holy tradition
Reclaiming our power. [Chorus]

79. ON MY KNEES

© Dec 1998 by Geela Rayzel Raphael,
For Hallel Margolit Nesya Angel Robin Raphael on the occasion of her adoption

Through the tears and the longing
Through the grief and the pain
We have held our hearts open
Waiting for this day.
It was a miracle to find you
Like a puzzle's missing piece
Hope was our companion
Now our joy can be released.

Chorus:
On my knees I will hold you
On my knees I will care
On my knees I will love you
I'll always be right here.

As our Father Yaacov lay his hands upon their heads
Calling forth the blessing, this is what he said:
"Let God who has been my shepherd
all my many days
And the angel who redeemed me
bless you many ways." [Chorus]

Mother Michal was a beauty,
wore t'fillin every day
Yet her heart yearned for children
so deeply did she pray.
When her sister passed on over
leaving five little ones alone
Just as Michal took them in
we welcomed you home. [Chorus]

May you do good deeds among us, study Torah all the while
May we all live to know the moment when you walk down that aisle.
Be all that you can be -- your curiosity never cease
May you seek the cause of justice and work for the planet's peace. [Chorus]

As our mothers and fathers and all who have gathered here
Open their arms to embrace you and wipe away your tears
As we walk with you on your journey through life's twists and turns
May we be the kind of family where love is what you learn.

Final chorus:
In our arms we will hold you

In our hearts we will care
With our souls we will love you
We will always be right here.

80. WELCOME TO THE WORLD

© Geela Rayzel Raphael
For Eli Robinson's birth by Tanta Naif

We've been waiting these months for you; we're glad you're here
By the gift of your birthing, a miracle is clear.
You'll wind the road that lies before you with your ups and downs
Blazing trails of growth and learning, there's wisdom to be found.

Chorus:

Welcome to the world, little stranger
Welcome to the world
Waken to the life before you
Welcome to the whirl.

Your mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles, grandparents, cousins, too
Have all been waiting, anticipating, that first glimpse of you
On your shoulders rests a legacy, handed down through time
Welcome to our Jewish family, little spark of Divine. [Chorus]

Forge your way among our people, with the mantle of your name
Carving out your destiny, there's life out there to tame.
Wear the mark upon your body, carry it deep within your soul
Connecting you throughout our history, this sign makes you whole. [Chorus]

Be a blessing, be a mensch, be a feminist in your heart
Be a partner of social justice, always do your part.
Be a prophet, be a friend, be sweet and good and kind
Be blessed with health and laughter, knowing you are Divine. [Chorus]

81. DERECH NASHIM

© May 1989 by Geela Rayzel Raphael & Felicia Mednick,

Thank You G-d for sculpting this woman
Praise to You for making me bleed
Blessed be You for I'm in Your image --
Gracious G-d who fills all my needs.

Chorus:

Ani b'derech nashim
Ani b'derech hayim
Ani b'derech
Ani b'derech
Ani b'derech nashim.

Is my monthly friend the curse of my life
With aches and pains that swell with the years?
Or wondrous system that mirrors Divine:
From hidden death, new life appears. [Chorus]

Feelings inside me rage out of control
Sending me signs I don't always receive
Opening up to the depth of my power
Dreams of the psyche revealed to believe. [Chorus]

Time of my power that cycles each month
Blood of my womb will flow like the sea.
Fruit of my body signals creation --
Shechinah inside me, my spirit is free. [Chorus]

82. Y'VARECHECHA

© 1990 by Geela Rayzel Raphael
For Gabriel Spitzer-Wachs baby naming

**Y'varechecha, Y'varechecha, Y'varechecha,
Y'varechecha Adonai V'yishma-recha
Ya'air Adonai Panav Elecha, V'Chu-neka
Yesa Adonai Panav Elecha, V'Yasem L'cha Shalom.**

Chorus:

Kayn Y'he, Kayn Y'he, Kayn Y'he Ratzon (4x)

A little girl was born this month. May she be blessed
With love, joy and humor, and happiness
May G-d's brilliant light shine upon her face
And the many paths she walks, abound with grace. [Chorus]

As she wanders along her way
May her heart learn to sing, opening to pray
For as the wings of light wrap around her soul
May all her dreams and visions be kissed with gold. [Chorus]

Let this little spirit find her way of peace
And all the good things in her life increase
May the moon, sun and stars dancing in the heavenly sky
Be her guiding angels as she learns to fly. [Chorus]

83. PARENT'S BAT MITZVAH

© September 2002 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

As we walk on the journey called life
Never knowing what will be
We send out prayers to the universe
Asking for what we think we need.
And when children appear and join us on the way
G'd answers in ways we'll never know
Surrender we must and open eyes and heart
That's the way our spirit grows.

Baruch ata Yah sh'pitarani may onsho sh'la zeh;
Brucha at Yah, sh'pitarani may onsho sh'la zeh;
Nivarech et Yah, sh'pitarani may onsho sh'la zeh;
Blessed be the One, releasing me from this sweet liability.

Raising a child of the heart
Teaching what you think you know
You give and give with all you've got
It's the only way to go.
And you never know if returns are coming in
Sometimes all you can do is pray
That you give them what they need to make it through life
And stand before you on their Bat Mitzvah day.

Now stands before us a woman
Who was so small not that long ago
You brought forth lessons for us to learn
Places we needed to grow.
So we fed and we held, we kissed those wounded knees
Nourished a soul and a mind
On a day like to day when we see who you are
We know you're leaving that childhood behind.

Now go forth from today,
Standing up straight and tall
Ready to meet what life offers you
Help out and listen for your call.
Now don't forget to eat breakfast,
Brush your teeth and mind your manners too
As I send you off into the unknown
Know I really love you.

END OF LIFE SONGS

84. MAY THE ANGELS CARRY YOU

© Nov 2005, Geela Rayzel for Savina Teuval

At this time of transition, going to the Light
At this time of transition, going home is right
Let go of the struggle, let go of your fear
All will be forgiven, your slate to be cleared.

Chorus:

May the angels carry you
May the angels carry you
Your work is done, it is time to rest
The fruit of your hands and your soul be blessed
Joining your ancestors, finding a new way
Crossing the threshold, wrapped in G-d's embrace.
May the angels carry you (2x)

Surrounded by love, angels take your hand
Guiding you on, it's part of the plan
Shechinah welcomes you opening her wings
Hearing the chorus. Join the angels singing.
Mi'yimini Micheala, Mi'smoli Gavriealla Mi'lifnai Uriella m'achorai
Raphaella

85. BARUCH DAYAN EMET

© GEELA RAYZEL RAPHAEL

March 2015 on Aryeh Stein Azen's Journey out of this world

Baruch dayan emet
Baruch dayan ha-emet. (2x)

Adonai natan, va'adonai lakach
Yehi shaym Adonai mivorach. (2x)

With compassion and justice,
A view of the past lifetimes
End the suffering - free the soul
With a holy sense of time.

Refrain:

Weighing many factors
On the earth and above
Considering all the pain and loss
Yet acting out of love.

Refrain:

Time to go or time to leave
This chapter is done
With a kiss of Shechinah's bliss
The soul travels on.....

Refrain:

86. HAMAKOM YINACHEM ETCHEM
© Jan 10, 2001 by G. Rayzel Raphael
Shloshim for my father

Chorus:

***HaMakom yinachem et chem
HaMakom yinachen et chen
HaMakom yinachem et chechem, b'toch sha'ar avlei tzion
v'yerushalayim.***

The times when we are troubled
By losses we must face;
As the soul leaves
And we grieve
Sorrow sets its own pace.

Chorus:

We'll miss smiles, their touch, and smell
The hands we once held;
The body's gone
And their love lives on
They are spirit behind a veil.

Chorus:

May you be comforted on your journey
May you feel what you need to feel
May seeds be planted of hope and consolation
May you find the time to heal.

Chorus:

87. B DE NESHUMAH ZUL HUBIN AN ALIYAH

© Dec 2013 by Geela Rayzel and Simcha Raphael
For Bubbie Rose z'l and Zelda on the occasion of their Yartzeit

Chorus:

De neshumah zul hubin an aliyah. (2x)

May your soul rise higher and higher
Through the stages of illumination;
May your soul rise to the highest rung
Ascending the realms of Gan Eiden. [Chorus]:

Your memory is a blessing
To all of us you left behind;
May you be wrapped in a garment of light
As your soul continues to climb. [Chorus]:

May your journey be gentle
Through the seven realms up above;
We'll do good deeds in your name
As we remember you with love.

With the golden crowns of Torah
Tz'ror Ha hayim
Praise with ministering angels
You are nourished by eternal springs. [Chorus]

88. KADDISH

© May 2002, written at B'not Aish for my father

Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'may raba (2x)

I integrate your legacy, treasure your memory
What I have learned from you, I'm left with your love.

[Chorus]: **yitgadal...**

I come to You in grief, walk in humility
Grateful you have been with me, I'm lifted by Your love.

[Chorus]: **yitgadal...**

We rise to praise Your name, all our waking days
Where you have guided me, I walk with your love.

[Chorus]: **yitgadal...**

Create a path for peace, to live in harmony
For us and all the world, Bless us with love.

[Chorus]: **yitgadal...**

HOLIDAY SONGS

89. FOUR WORLDS

© Nov 2009 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

On a dark and starry night
Moon she rises with delight
We're here to celebrate the Festival of Trees

Bless the fruit and nourish the seeds.

Earth she calls me bringing me forth
Ancestor wisdom, we honor the north
In the world of Assiyah we take our first bite
Honoring our bodies and our "doing" tonight.

Water calls me as I face west
Emotional freedom expressing my best
In the world of Yetzirah with help from above
My heart opens wide with love.

Air she calls me eastward –awake!
To ideas and enlightenment we dedicate
The world of Briyah where dreams take form
Dreams take flight, creativity is born.

Fire she calls me stirring my soul
Ignite the passion, light up the whole
In the south we desire transformation
The world of Atzilut beyond imagination.

Shechinah calls me to sing
With moon in the sky, I open my wings
Soaring through the worlds my soul is free
Respect the earth and treasure the tree!

Calling me to rise
Singing me her song
Sing me loud and sing me strong

My soul is soaring, soaring she goes
where she goes nobody knows
release my soul
Shechinah is calling me to be
All I can be all I need to be free

90. APPLES AND HONEY

© Sept 2015 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Carrots, beans and fennel - may our merits increase.
Eating leeks, dates and beets - may our opponents leave
As we eat the pomegranate - may our good deeds leave a trail
Then we eat a fish, so we're the head and not the tail.

Chorus: Apples and honey for a sweet new year!
Apples and honey, may our intentions be clear.

On Rosh Hashanah we pray for our life
Remove from us the struggles and of course, the strife
On Yom Hazikaron let us be written for good
Let us be our best selves like we know we should.

The Ten days of Repentance we turn our life around
We make amends to others, we heed the shofar sound
We ask to be forgiven and to clear our slate
Cast away our sins, it's never too late.

Bridge: Then on Yom Kippur its time to pray
No eating, no drinking, be careful what you say
Our lives are written, yet sealed that day
Become a holy vessel, get yourself out of the way.
But today is Rosh Hashanah, Yom Harat Olam
The earth was created for us to have some fun
Wake up to your path, at the turning of the wheel
Taste the sweetness of your life as we help the world to heal.

Yihi Ratzon milfanecha shtichadesh aleynu shana tova
Yihi Ratzon milfanecha shtichadesh aleynu shana tova umetucha!

91. FOUR CUPS

© 2004 BY G. RAYZEL RAPHAEL
Chorus: **L'chaim l'chaim** to life to life
To love and dreams and laughter
Our voices roar with the sounds of the sea
And we'll come dancing after. La, la

You open your arms, Batya, Batya
Surround us with love and affection

Draw out our pain, comfort our hearts
Deepen our sense of connection.

You birth us to life, Shifra, Puah
Midwives of transformation
From the depths of our core, to our crowning light
You lead through initiation.

We drink from your well Miriam, Miriam
From the cup of divination
The waters of life, the song of the soul
We toast in celebration.

Yocheved, Yocheved, courageous and brave
Mother of hope and of faith
Letting go into the unknown
Shield us and keep us safe.

92. ZOT KOS MIRIAM

By MIRAJ: Juliet I Spitzer, Rabbi Margot Stein, Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael

Chorus:

Zot Kos Miriam
Kos Mayim Chayim
Zot Kos Miriam
Kos Mayim Chayim
Zecher yetziyat Mitzrayim (2x)

This is the water of Miriam's well

That flows up from the earth
Waters of Life
Waters the soul
Water of our rebirth

93. ROSH HODESH MOON

© Geela Rayzel Raphael, Jerusalem 1988-89

It's a moon song, bubbling up and over me
Darkness sets my spirit free.
Rosh Hodesh, enchanted time to hallow the month:
Lunar spirals cycle 'round the Earth
Renew our souls, reopen up our hearts, re-light our internal sparks.
Mysterious by day, Your wisdom guides our way,
Flowing with the rhythm of the tides.
**Brucha Ya Rachamema, Mikor Or Hadash, Michadeshet et Ha-Hodashim,
Amen, Selah!**

It's a moon song, casting our shadows on the ground
We're humbled by Your ancient glow.
Rosh Hodesh, yearning for your radiant shine, we gather, honoring Divine.
Your moonbeams catch our eyes; releasing heartfelt sighs,
The clouds are blown across our minds.
I can read your face, in the depths of space;
Your presence reveals a sacred sign.
**Brucha Ya Rachamemah, Mikor Or Hadash, Michadeshet et Ha-z'manin,
AMEN! SELAH!**

It's a moon song, calling through the centuries
Holy tribute to the Queen. Rosh Hodesh, Mistress of reflected light;
Luminescence fills the night.
Awaken with desire, rekindle inner fire;
Laugh, as we shoot across the sky.
Circle with the Flame, Dance Your hidden Name,
Sing praises with our voices rising high.
**Brucha Ya Rachamema, Mikor Or Hadash, Michdeshet et Ha-Yerachim, Amen,
Selah!**

94. USHPIZIN/USHPIZOT

@ 1993 by Geela-Rayzel Raphael

Welcome to our sukkah, come and be our guest
Eat, drink, and study, sit - enjoy your rest.

Chorus: *Ti-vu Ti-vu Ushpizin ee-lah-eeen*
Ti-vu Ti-vu Ushpizin Ka-di-shin. (masc)

Ti-vu Ti-vu Ushpizot ee-lah-ot
Ti-vu Ti-vu Ushpizot Ka-di-shot. (feminine)

Welcome Father **Avraham**, G-d put you to the test
Bring your faith and **hesed**, join us as we bless.

Welcome, Mother **Sara**, Let your laughter ring
Bring your wisdom and your light, join us as we sing.

Welcome Father **Yitzhak**, in the afternoon you prayed
Bring a meditation, join us here today.

Welcome, Mother **Rivka**, we've heard your voice so clear
Come and bring your oracles, come and join our cheer.

Welcome, Father **Yaakov**, you wrestled through the night
Come and bring your vision, help us get this right.

Welcome Mother **Rachel**, you weep on our behalf
Come and bring us mandrakes, come and join our laugh.

Welcome Mother **Leah**, many children born to you,
Come and bring fertility, help us to renew

Welcome Brother, **Yosef**, a colored coat you wore
Come and bring us happy dreams, sit with us some more.

Welcome Sister **Tamar**, a widows clothes you wore
But come and bring your cleverness, we'll greet you at the door.

Welcome holy **Moses**, you met G-d face to face
Come and bring your leadership, we've saved you a place.

Welcome Sister **Miriam**, you danced across the sea
Bring your tof and timbrel, dance to set us free.

Welcome Brother **Aaron**, our glorious High Priest
Come and bring us holiness, come and join our feast.

Welcome brave **Devorah**, you battled brave and strong
Come and bring your torches, join us in our song.

Welcome **Queen Batsheva**, found your beloved true
Mother of King Shlomo, his wisdom came through you.

Welcome **Melech David**, you danced a mighty dance;
Its time for the *Mashiach*, its time we had the chance.

Welcome **Grandmother Ruth**, you chose to be a Jew,
Come and bring your loyalty, bring Naomi too.

Welcome **Melech David**, you wrote us many psalms
Come and bring your etrog, myrtle, willow and palms.

LITURGY

95. ALL WE CAN FEEL IS LOVE

© May 2019 by Geela Rayzel Raphael and Barbara Eve Breitman
For B'not Aish from the labyrinth at Mary and Joseph

I'm in the center of the Universe
And all I can feel is Love (2x)
All I can feel is love

We're in the center of the Universe
And all we can feel is Love (2x)
All we can feel is love

In the whisper of the wind
is the heart of the rose
And the heart of the rose is peace (2x)
And all we can feel is love

***C'Hashoshana ben hachokim,
Kayn rye-a-ti ben habanot.***

96. BREATHE IN THE BREATH OF LIFE

© January 2012 by Rabbi Rayzel Raphael

Dedicated to the stones of Sedona and Shechinah Sister Reb Sara Leah Ayla Grafstein

Breathe In the Breath of Life
Breathe in the Breath of Life

Nishmat Kol Chai Tivaraych, et Sh'maych Shechinah

97. RAISE YOUR HANDS/AL NITILAH YADAYIM

© 2015 Geela Rayzel Raphael

Oh, Raise your hands (Oh, Raise your hands)
Oh, Raise your hands, (Oh, Raise your hands)
Raise your hands in holiness;
Oh, Raise your hands (Oh, Raise your hands)
Oh, Raise your hands (Oh, Raise your hands)
Raise your hands and we'll be blessed.
Oh, Raise your hands (Oh, Raise your hands)
Raise your hand in holiness
Oh, Raise your hands (Oh, Raise your hands)
Al n'tilat yadayim
(Repeat verses)
Oh, We'll be blessed (Oh, We'll be blessed)
Oh, Raise your hands
Oh, Raise your hands and we'll be blessed
Oh, Raise your hands (Oh, Raise your hands)
Oh, Raise your hands (Oh, Raise your hands)

Al n'tilat yadayim.
Amen

98. YOU ARE WITH ME ALWAYS

© July 2020 by Rabbi G. Rayzel Raphael
For Mom, Natalie L. Robinson

You're engraved upon my hand (Isaiah 49:16) ¹
You reside within my heart
Memories are in my mind,
You're with me always.

Chorus: Comings and goings, living in the unknowing
Beginnings and endings, I'm glad we've had this time.

**I love you, Thank you,
Forgive you, Forgive me.
I'm grateful for what you've given me,
I'm with you always. ²**

Chorus

¹ **Isaiah 49:16** - suggested by Judith Goleman

² Rabbi Shoshana Mitrani Knapp suggested Dr. Boyck's words

I'm thankful for this time with you,
Grateful for what I know is true
The love between us will remain,
You are with me always.

Chorus

***Nivaraych et darkaynu, Shechinah tishmaraynu
Malachim goalim et chayanu.***

(Let us bless our way, Shechinah guard us, Angels guard our lives.)

***Shechinah tishmiraych m'col rah, [3](Genesis 48:16)
tishmor et naphshech***

Shechinah tishmor tzyatayzh uvo'ech may ata v'ad olam. [4](Psalm 121:8)

***Brucha at b'voech, u'vrucha at b'tztaych [5](Deuteronomy 28:6)
Ki malachav yitzveh lach, tishmorech b'col darkech. [6](Psalm 91)***

Traditional masc.

***Adonai yishmor m'col rah, [3](Genesis 48:16)
yishmor et naphshecha***

Adonai yishmor tzyatayzh uvo'ech may ata v'ad olam. [4](Psalm 121:8)

***Baruch ata b'voraych, u'varuch ata b'tztaych [5](Deuteronomy 28:6)
Ki malachav yitzveh l'cha, lishmorcha b'col darchecha. [6](Psalm 91)***

³ **Genesis 48:16** suggested by Rabbi T'mimah Ickovits

God will guard you from all hurt; and will guard your soul.

⁴ **Psalm 121:8** -suggested by Sarah Myerson

God will guard your going and coming from now and to eternity

⁵ **Deuteronomy 28:6** suggested by Sarah Myerson

Be blessed on your coming and going

⁶ **Psalm 91** suggested by Rabbi Gail Diamond and Rabbi T'mimah Ickovits

For God's angels are directed to guard you on all your paths

99. SERENITY PRAYER

Adapted by Geela Rayzel Raphael and Shawn Zevit, December 2008

Oh God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change
Oh God, grant me the courage to change the things I can
And the wisdom to know the difference (3x)
And in our lives Peace.

**Eli, tayn bi et ha- shalva l'kabel
et asher aneyni yechola l'shanot
Eli, v'tayn bi et ha -ometz l'shanot ma ani oo-chal
v'et ha-chochma (2x)
v'et ha chochman l'havdil b'nayhem (2x)
b'hayaynu shalom.**

Whether I take twelve steps or two
I know I walk hand in hand with you;
In the midst of the chaos and the winds of change
In the eye of the storm, you keep me sane.
You are my journey and you are the destination
You are the source of my salvation.

You are the source of my salvation. Give me the courage.
Grant me the serenity and the wisdom (3x), for peace.

100. WHEN THE OLD MAKES WAY FOR THE NEW

@ May 1998 by B'not Aish

Geela Rayzel Raphael w/Shoshana Zonderman and Rose Pueregos

V'yashan mipnay hadash (2x)

totzi-oo

v'natati mishkani (3x)

b'tochaychen.

When the old makes way for the new (3x)

I will dwell among you.

101. HAMAKOM SHALOM

© 2004 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Nivarech et Ha-makom, HaMakom shalom

Hamakom shalom

Peace and quiet, calm and stillness, silent, soothing space.

Teach and learn and grow and tell and dwell in this place.

(Let us bless the One of the place, of peaceful space)*

102. PRIESTESS BLESSING

©Reb Geela Rayzel Raphael

Tivarechna b'ahava
Tivarechna b'shalom
Tivareychna maasaeh yadaiyich
Tivarchna m'hashamayim v'tahom
We honor the work of your hands
Bless you with love and with peace
Praise the vision you bring to your task
Blessings from the heavens and the deep.
Join with our voices and our hearts

103. ANI L'DODI

Aug 28, 2014

For Simcha on our 28 th anniversary ELUL

Ani L dodi v dodi Li (2x)

I am my beloved and my beloved is for me

Ani l dodi li

I am my beloved my beloved is mine

My beloved- is so fine

Friend and lover til the end of time

My beloved, my beloved is mine

The journey of love is not the easy path

Relationship is really a craft

Plenty of tears and some belly laughs

Ani L'dodi li

Listening skills and communication

Emotional validation

Lots of luck and intuition

Ani L'dodi li

He likes it cold she likes its hot

He likes it hard, she likes it not

They don't tell you when you tie the knot

Ani L'dodi li

Kids come along and raise the stakes

What you don't have left they are here to take

Leave plenty of room for many mistakes.

Ani L'dodi li

104. ANA AYL NA R'FANAH LA (HEALING SONG)

Feb 2014

Ana Ayl na r'fanah lah
Ana Ayl na r'fanah lo
Heal our bodies, Heal our souls
Ana Ayl Na r'fanah lah.
Send Your angels of healing
Sooth the pain that we are feeling
We open our hearts to our family and friends
Bless us with love that mends.

105. ANGELS

Nov 1994, Geela Rayzel Raphael

Some say they're born in the morning: Rising from a river of fire
Singing "Halelu" before the Throne, Strumming on lute and lyre.
An angel stands in Eden, blockin' the way to the gate
With a flaming sword turning 'round and 'round 'cos Adam and Eve tempted fate

Chorus:

Angels are guarding me, Angels are guiding me
Angels protectin' me, wherever I roam.

Hagar was lost in the desert when an angel cried, "What do you think?
You and Ishmael will not die; here's the water to drink."
Abraham had Isaac on the altar ready to take his life
An angel called out, "You passed that test -- come on, put down that
knife."

Sara heard three angels a 'comin' to the tent in the heat of the day
They spoke about the news of Isaac's birth; she had a good laugh that day.
Those angels went to Sodom and G'morrah to have a lengthy word with Lot:
"Get your family right out of here -- this place is gonna get mighty hot."

Now, Jacob had a vision of angels riding that ladder up and down
And on the banks of the Yabok River he wrestled an angel to the ground.
And ole Moses took a walk in the desert, heard an angel calling his name
A fire was burning in the midst of the bush and it wasn't consumed by
flame.

Angels visit our table as Shabbat rolls around each week,
Sittin' on our shoulders, both left and right -- watching us as we speak.
The wife of Manoah saw an angel, Balaam's donkey and Gideon too:
If we walk in the way of God -- there 'll be an angel guarding me and you
There'll be an angel guiding me and you.

Final English chorus:

Angels are guarding me, Angels are guiding you

Angels protectin' us, wherever we roam.

**Shalom alechem, malachay hasharet, mi melech malchay
ham'lachim hakadosh baruch hu, ha Shechinah brucha hi!**

Shalom alechem, Shalom alechem, shalom alechem
Wherever we roam, wherever, wherever, wherever we roam.

106. ANGELS WALK WITH YOU

© July 2008 Geela Rayzel Raphael and Naomi Hirsch

An angel walks before you,
Uriel who shines the light
Illuminating your darkest shadows,
Guarding you both day and night.

Chorus:

Angels are walking with you
Guide your footsteps everyday;
Keep you company on the journey
And protect you along the way.

An angel walks beside you,
Gavriel who lends you might
Picks you up when you have fallen
Gives you strength for the fight.

An angel walks beside you,
Michael holds your hand;
Shines a mirror of your goodness
Helps you trust G-d's holy plan.

An angel walks behind you
Raphael heals body and soul
Soothes the heart when it's hurting
Easing pain of your heavy load.

107. NISHAMAT KOL CHAI/MARSH

1/15/03

As the bird stands proud and free, drying feathers in the sun
duckling follows mother close behind;
The heron prances 'round
in a jig to have some fun
wind breezes through to clear my mind.

Chorus:

Nishmat kol cha tivarech et shimcha halelu halelu halelu yah
Nishmat kol chai tivarech et Yah, Halelu, halelu halelu yah

Turtles on a rock moving slow with wisdom deep
Hawk soars above and rides the sky;
Alligator struts along the bank and then she sleeps
My spirit sings a song to take me high. chorus:

In the bullrush of the marsh, life doesn't seem so harsh
We take a break to watch the seagull preen
with every squeak and quack, I resonate with that
I'm a creature of the One Who Can't Be Seen. chorus:

The colors of the wild are never, ever mild
glistening with a rainbow of hues;
Anhinga make a splash, the egret seems to laugh
at my attempt to attune to my muse. chorus:

With pink legs and pink beaks
the stork begins to streak
across the grassy land on the knoll;
The snake and the frog, the lizard in the bog
Sing the bass line to shake me from my hole. chorus:

And the psalmists voice I hear
rings out very clear
I'm a guest on the land where I stroll
Sacred time, sacred space, the earth's a sacred place
the stillness and the flutter fill my soul.

KABBALAH: THE MUSICAL

108. TALKING TO G!D

© February 2009 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

Chorus:

We gotta shut off the email, turn off the phone
Tune out the ole I-Pod
Take time out -- and talk to G!d

Did Adam need a fax in the Garden
To send message to Eve?
And did Eve check her "handheld"
Before she ate of the tree? [Chorus]

Did Moses twit his Twitter
'Bout his time with ole Pharoah?
Did Miriam sing for YouTube
To let my people go? [Chorus]

When Joshua rode to Jericho
The trumpets rang a clarion call;
He didn't update a Facebook page
'Cause nothing was left of the walls. [Chorus]

Tag MySpace and poke my Plaxo ... I am so LinkedIn
Yet if my soul needs tending
I gotta look within. [Chorus]

109. BATTLE OF THE BULGE

© 2002 by Geela Rayzel Raphael

On the occasion of my birthday, when everyone was on a diet

I've got matza ball breasts and a blintz behind
Latkes in my gatkes and madel brot mind
Wearing a bagel belly and lox on sox
When they carry me off -- it'll be a take-out box!

Chorus:

I'm a Jewish woman and I like to indulge
I'm waving my white flag at the Battle of the Bulge.

They says fat cells ease menopause.
Gonna do my part -- eat for the cause
Next time your friends say they want to be thin
Hand them chocolate saying,
"Take your estrogen!"

[Chorus]

It says in the Torah "**b Tzelem elohim,**"
We're in God's image -- so listen to me
When God looks in a mirror -- opens her eyes --
She fills creation, and that's a plus-size!

Bridge:

Did Devorah worry as she sang her battle cry?
Am I too heavy that my horse might die?
Did Miriam sing as she crossed the Red Sea?
My bathing suit's too tight, I'm not yet free!
Did Golda complain as she ruled among the men
I can't run this country; I'm not that thin!

No, no, no. No. no

We reject messages internalized
And see ourselves with the just the right thighs.
We won't starve ourselves to satisfy lies
So shake your beauty -- women, arise!

110. RED MOON MAGIC

© 2 Adar, 1992 by Geela Rayzel
For a flaming, zinging Jule

Chorus:

Shabiri, biri, irri ri

Shall we dance? Shall we dance? Shall we dance the night away?
A crescent smile hangs over our heads
Celebrating our monthly holy day, binding us by a red thread.

Once upon a time, a long, long time ago
We drew our power from the red, red moon
And in the darkness angels guided us
Guarding us from danger and doom
We called upon the Name, rearranged the letters,
Mystical enchantment of fertility
Womb power birthing- our stories emerging
Weaving a thread through our own tapestry. [Chorus]

Witch of Endor conjures up Samuel,
Stirring him from beyond the grave
Abaye's mother uses her formulas,
Incantations to protect and save
Winding, meandering, serpentine through centuries
From mother to daughter -- Keepers of the Flame
Banished, ignored, but never forgetting --
A cauldron of blessing for her Divine Name. [Chorus]

The element of air moving us easterly
Southern fire transforming our course
Western water shaping our destiny
Earth power healing -- arrives from the North.
Wound around the ark from synagogue to birthing stool
As the ribbons on braids in Eve's hair,
Red stone necklaces to ward off the evil eye
On the Baby's crib to know that She's there. [Chorus]

111. GOD SEES IT IS GOOD

© Oct. 2001 by GRR

For the birth of Raffi Klotz/Stein

It was evening, it was morning, the dawn of our creation
It was dark and later light, God hovered on the deep
In the rhythm of contraction. The labor of expansion
We walk the razor's edge and must not fall asleep.

We are called to be a witness at the times that are a'changing
We're inspired to be the healers with hands of tenderness
We will rise to be the tallest tree a'standing in the wood
Summoned to be new voice
And God sees it is good.

In the time of our rejoicing, in the cycle of the season
The middle of the ending, the promise of the year
There is new life among us, we are holding our arms open
For deep breath, beginnings, and strong hope to appear.

We are called to create families of new configuration
We need to help each other, like the seal on heaven's door
We are knocking down old paradigms that have forever stood
We're accepting one another and
God sees it is good.

In the time of our shaking and the story of our struggle
In a world that is no longer just like it was before;
The darkness holds our fears yet the night time shields our dreams
We light candles to our visions for we don't know what's in store.

We are called to be the singers at the time of this birthing
We're compelled do sing out boldly, to hear Shechinah's roars
We are drawn to wild dancing where before we simply stood
We hold defiant celebrations
And God sees it is good.

112. HELP ME FIND MY WAY

© Feb 2006 by GRR

Chorus: Help me find my way (3x) in the dark.

When I'm lost in the dark night of the soul
Seeking the shards to make me whole
Come on now, take me by the hand
Lead me to my own internal promised land. [Chorus]

When life rains down upon my messy desk
Already in need of a great deal of rest
So much before me, such a lot to do,
Help me find a way for my spirit to renew. [Chorus]

What to do with longing that sears my heart
What to do with pain like a piercing dart?
Help me turn it over and let it go
Offering it up so I can grow. [Chorus]

I feel a song a-coming upon my lips
Help me get it out now before I trip
Pick me up and stand me upon my feet
Help me find the joy that makes life so sweet. [Chorus]

113. MY LEGS ARE PRAYING

© MLK weekend Jan 2012 by Geela Rayzel Raphael,
Dedicated to Mordechai and Lynn, Arthur and Phyllis who walk the teachings of King
and Heshel

Chorus:
(I said) My legs are prayin' (3x)
When I walk toward the light.

Whatcha gonna do in the morning?
Whatcha gonna do in the night?
Gotta get busy to help the world
Doin' what is right. [Chorus]

Whatcha do with your time?
Whatcha do with your hands?
How are you gonna spread the love
All over this land? [Chorus]

Whatcha gonna do for the children?
Whatcha do for the Earth?
How to serve the greater good
To show what you're worth?

How do we remember Heshel
And how do we honor King?
By doing good deeds with all our heart
To let that freedom ring.