

# Creating Judaic Heirlooms

These heirlooms were created with love and thought and joy. Hopefully they will motivate you to create your own. Each artist/crafter may be contacted at their email address. Many thanks to them for sharing their stories and their heirlooms.

**Sharon Glass** ([sruthg@verizon.net](mailto:sruthg@verizon.net))

## Wimple 1

A wimple is a Torah Binder. A custom began in Germany, generations ago, for the mother of a baby boy, with perhaps his sisters, to make a Torah binder from the swaddling cloth used at the baby's brit milah. They would embroider it with various sayings, blessings, and Jewish symbols. I knew that should I ever be blessed with a son, I would do that for him. So for 13 years I collected the signed initials of all those relatives who were alive when he was born. I included his birthdate, his Torah portion, his name and several symbols that related to him. It was used at his Bar Mitzvah, before all who loved him, many who were no longer alive. We were all there that day to celebrate. God willing, it will be used again in a few months, at his aufruf before his wedding.



## Wimple 2

My oldest daughter liked the idea of the wimple she saw at her brother's bar mitzvah. When she gave birth to a boy, our only grandson, she too was determined to do something similar.

The back of the cloth is made of his much-loved blankie, from his infancy. My daughter began to work on it at his Upsherin (his 1st haircut) and I am finishing it. The front has his name, a well-known verse from his Torah portion (from Jacob's blessings to Ephraim and Menashe), dates and symbols. The letters are filled in with bits of clothing from family that hold meaning and memories to the family. It will be used, God willing, in a few months, at his bar-mitzvah, so I'd better hurry up and finish!



## Huppah

When my father died, I knew I wanted some of his ties. He loved his ties. He filed them according to width in case they came back into style. He loved sharing them with friends and relatives. He loved shopping for them and then seeing which ones we liked best. Everyone knew about his ties. I wanted to make something out of them, but I didn't know what.

At the same time, I was having trouble finding gifts for my daughter. She is selective and usually buys whatever she needs or wants herself. A mother's problem. My daughter loved her Grandpa. I put the 2 challenges together, read some books, and came up with making my daughter a chuppah from my father's ties. Although she wasn't seeing anyone at the time, that gave me the 2 years I needed to complete it! And I did just in time!



**Andrea Colby** wove two tallitot for her son's wedding that were used as the chuppah and then given to her son and her son-in-law to use as tallitot after the wedding. When the weaving was completed, they all tied the tzitzit together; thus, all contributing to the creation of the tallitot. For more information about weaving a Judaic heirloom or having one created for you, contact Cory Schneider, chair, Neve Shalom Sisterhood Loom Rom, Metuchen, NJ at [cschneider@wlcj.org](mailto:cschneider@wlcj.org), 717-574-1807.



**Chaykah Hoffman's story** ([mazeltopsmama@aol.com](mailto:mazeltopsmama@aol.com))

Chaykah also has her own business: Mazeltops Yarmulkes, [www.mazeltops.com](http://www.mazeltops.com)  
1-800-397-0703 with many keepsake, personalized items available.

**Personal goal:** create family heirlooms, that will be used for generations to come that won't end up in a Goodwill store one day, and provide them with a smile, when they think of the love I put into it just for them!

**Process:**

Asked daughters and daughter in laws for wish lists  
Chose were things our family would use in their lives  
Designs: existing or created by professional or myself  
Finishers and framers: done by different professionals  
Time frame: Made over past 2 years (pandemic limiting travel)

**Design:**

Input from parent, grandchild  
Color  
Choice of designs

**Projects for grandchildren**

Tefillin bags

Jewelry boxes for granddaughters: She also gifts piece of jewelry for special birthdays

Bat Mitzvah: a diamond heart

18: pearl necklace

16: pearl bracelet

21: diamond earrings

Siddur covers: It is so wonderful going to their houses and seeing them daven out of the siddur with the handmade cover from Bubbe on it.

Dreidels (grandchild put in stitches too, if able)

**Projects for children** (asked for their requests)

Challah covers

Shabbat prayer

Tenaim plate holder (used piece of wedding gown & kittel)

Brit pillow

**Embroidered inscription:** "different for each to help them feel our presence when being used"

**Vendors:**

**Sabbath prayer:** Agapi Frames (<https://www.agapiframes.com>)

**Siddur covers, tefillin bags:** Pillow Shop, Brooklyn, NY, (718) 336-2240

**Dreidels:** Rittenhouse Needlepoint (<https://myneedlepoint.com/>)

**Bris pillow:** Custom Needlecraft Finishing (<https://www.jbneedlepointfinisher.com/>) (541) 928-4115

**Siddur covers & putting some of the designs on canvas:** Pepita Needlepoint, [www.pepitaneedlepoint.com](http://www.pepitaneedlepoint.com), 718 395-7370 (Brooklyn, NY)

**Tenaim bag, challah covers, designs on canvas:** The Pillow Shop, 203 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY. Talk to Peter (718) 336-2240

**Jewelry boxes:** Sudberry House, <http://www.sudberry.com/>

**Loops.co.il** Custom designed or predesigned needlepoint canvases from Israel  
(Lisa@Loops.co.il)



Just as you have entered into  
the Covenant, so may you enter  
into Torah, into marriage and  
into good deeds. No matter  
where we are, we will always  
carry you close to our hearts.

With tremendous love,  
Zeide and Bubbe Hoffman  
2021

Challah cover:



*Creager Mishpacha,  
May you feel the love and joy of every Shabbos, that I put  
into every stitch!  
Stitched with Love by Bubbe  
Given with Love by Bubbe and Zeide Hoffman  
August 2020*

Tefillin bags:



Jewelry boxes:



Shabbat prayer:



Siddur covers:





Rivka,  
May Hashem answer  
all of your tefilos from your heart,  
L'tovah!  
Stitched with Love,  
Bubbe Hoffman  
2020

Tenaim bag: A bag with a compartment inside for the plate. insert the plate that was placed in a plastic bag and then put it inside the tanaim plate cover with a piece of foam on each side. The mothers of the bride and groom take a hammer and hit and break the plate. At that moment, the deal is sealed and the marriage cannot be broken.



No matter where we are...  
We will always love you  
and have you in our hearts ♡  
Created and stitched with Love,  
by Bubbe  
Given with Love,  
by Zeide and Bubbe Hoffman  
2021  
Now Lets get married!  
♡ ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡

Dreidels:



Cory Schneider ([cschneider@wlcj.org](mailto:cschneider@wlcj.org); 77-574-1807)



Knitted brit kippah  
with Hebrew name



Needlepoint Wimple  
Created for her son Steven and first used  
at his bar mitzvah. Contains logos of important  
places in his life. (Ramah, JCC, synagogue)

Esther Kauffman son's huppah ([k4kauf1@aol.com](mailto:k4kauf1@aol.com))

A custom chuppah canopy made from 13 of the bride and groom's sentimental family items, including 2 linen tablecloths, 2 pairs of plaid pants, 2 white satin yarmulkes, a gold bathrobe, a lace wedding dress, and an elephant-patterned terrycloth tallis bag, to mention a few. Created by Chuppah Studio ([www.chuppahstudio.com](http://www.chuppahstudio.com))

Esther's son: Craig Kaufman ([ckaufm03@gmail.com](mailto:ckaufm03@gmail.com))



Tami Arnowitz ([tlarnowitz@gmail.com](mailto:tlarnowitz@gmail.com))

### Who Says You Only Get to Wear Your Wedding Dress Once?!

I loved my wedding dress. It was everything I wanted it to be. It was beautiful, comfortable, and the wide skirt swung while I danced with my father and spun when I danced with my new husband. After our wedding I, like so many others, brought it to the dry cleaners to be “preserved.” What exactly it was being preserved for, I don’t know. I did not expect that my potential future daughter would one day wear my dress. Wouldn’t she want to choose her own, just as I did? (Little did I know I would only have sons so it was quite irrelevant.)

At some point I came up with an idea – I would eventually turn my wedding dress into a chuppah and my potential future children, regardless of gender, could be married under

it. Sounds lovely, right? Except I eventually realized that the chuppah used by my children and their spouses should be something they choose – not necessarily something of mine. No, if I wanted to repurpose or “upcycle” my wedding dress it should be something for me. And so was born the idea to create a tallit out of my wedding dress. In the first attempt I brought the whole dress to a fabric artist, Renee Savitz of Precious Heirlooms, who took the bodice off the skirt and used the skirt to make the tallit. I wanted a large tallit, one I could flip over my shoulders, but that wasn’t feasible with the layout of the skirt so I settled for a smaller size tallit. The lace that was at the bottom of the dress became the bottom of the tallit. We chose an atara in the same colors as my wedding colors (cornflower blue and eggplant) and each corner of the tallit was going to have a design representing one of my four sons. Conveniently, they were each born in a different season so the artist did a silk painting of a seasonally representative tree for each corner. The final product was beautiful and so personal...and so fragile. As it turns out, the material used for the skirt of my dress was not really made to withstand weekly wear and tear of tugging, folding and wrapping.

After about 2 years, I had to retire the tallit as tears formed along the creases. I decided to just use it for special occasions and after taking it out for my eldest son’s bar mitzvah in the fall of 2018 I decided I need to find another way to wear this special tallit. So, I found another fabric artist, Sarah Gratz of Mazel Tov Swag (Renee had since retired) and asked her if we could remove the lace from the original fabric and apply it to a new fabric. That is exactly what she did – she found a durable, soft, lovely fabric and reapplied the lace, beads and sequins to it. One bonus was that now I could have it the larger size I wanted. She took the original atara and corners and applied those too. Now each week I can wear a tallit that literally wraps me in reminders of my wedding to my husband and the family we created

## HEIRLOOMS: Post Session Ideas

### **Tallit made from a scarf:**

During the pandemic I made a tallit from a scarf that was my sister’s. I found fabric that coordinated for the corners and the Atarah. (Did you know you can order tsitstit on Amazon.com?).

My Sister passed away at the end of 2019 right before the pandemic. I feel her arms around me when I wear it.

Anita Schick (anitaschick5@gmail.com)



From Regina Newman ([reggie629@hotmail.com](mailto:reggie629@hotmail.com))

### **Pick It Gathering:**

Many of us are downsizing and don’t have room for everything. In my case my space was cut in about half. I gave each of my children (all married with children of their own), a notebook and pen and told them to go through the house with their families. I told them to open drawers and closets. Make a list of anything they might want, even what the

children wanted. I said I would keep what I wanted and put someone's name on the back of things if it was something someone chose. If more than one child wanted the same thing, I would determine who got it. This was a great solution to get many things distributed to those who truly wanted an item.

### **What to do with all those trophies?**

I grouped all the trophies, by child who earned them and took pictures. Then I took all the name plaques off the trophies and gave them, along with the pictures, to the appropriate child. The name tags were mounted in different ways, shadow boxes, picture frames, etc.

### **Candlesticks – No longer hidden**

Don't be offended by what you think you know. I inherited candlesticks from my great grandmother that she brought with her when she came to the United States from Russia. These candlesticks have a symbol on them that, as I remember, looks like a swastika and I never displayed them. I gave them to my son, as he was named for her. I have since learned that this symbol has different meanings depending on the way it faces and how it leans. Some of them actually mean joy and good luck. My son is now doing more research on them.

### **My Father's Stamp Collection**

My father was an avid stamp collector. Most of his stamps were neatly organized in albums. He had the best intentions to organize these stamps also. So it was my goal to make something useful, decorative, and practical out of them.

I was browsing Pinterest when I came upon this idea. First I submerged the stamps in water. They floated off the paper, I dried them out and one by one glued them to glass vases. After a couple of applications of Mod Podge, the stamps were secure. I have gifted them to the grandchildren as a memento of their grandfather.

From Barbara Weiss ([barbweiss48@gmail.com](mailto:barbweiss48@gmail.com))

