



## Newsletter

Issue no. 25, Adar 5769 - March 2009

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### Dear Friends,

The ITIM staff continues to provide daily support for hundreds of individuals who are experiencing the Jewish lifecycle. ITIM is preparing for the Jewish Innovators Forum at the Jewish Funders Network Conference in Tampa on March 22, and we look forward to seeing you there.



Even in these difficult times, ITIM continues to count on your support. Please consider helping ITIM transform the Jewish experience in Israel.

Sincerely,  
Rabbi Seth Farber, Ph.d, Director  
Rivi Bin Noon, COO

### Simchat Bat Ceremonies: A New Trend

More and more people are beginning to celebrate the birth of a daughter with a traditional ceremony, according to the latest issue of Parent and Child Magazine. The current issue of the magazine, Israel's most popular, ran a feature on ITIM's new build your own ceremony Simchat Bat website, which was built with a grant from the Targum Shlishi Foundation. The new site, which has been uploaded in English and Hebrew, allows families to explore Jewish traditions related to the birth of a daughter, and create their own traditional ceremony.



For a link to the ITIM Simchat Bat site, [click here](#).  
For a link to the article in Parent and Child Magazine, [click here](#).

### Who is a Jew?

In February, ITIM was invited to make a presentation at the Ministry of Justice regarding new criteria related to the question of who is a Jew. Clause 4b of the Law of Return allows Jews from around the world and converts to immigrate to Israel. However, the definition of this clause is the subject of serious debate. ITIM is presently involved in a Supreme Court case related to this topic, and participated in evaluating the proposed new rules that will govern this issue in the coming years.



To read more about ITIM's involvement in the new proposals from the Jewish Week, [click here](#).

### Economic Downturn affects the Jewish lifecycle

The economic crisis has not only affected donations to ITIM, but also ITIM's content management. Did you realize that with the silver spot price increasing, the amount of money spent on pidyon haben has gone up almost 20%? Rabbinical court prices have been increased, and local chevra kadishas are reporting a decrease in income from sales of plots. ITIM's staff updates the ITIM website twice weekly, in order to provide the most comprehensive and updated information system related to the Jewish lifecycle on the web.



To read about the changes in pidyon haben prices, based on the rise in silver prices, [click here](#).

### Comments... Questions...

For more information and general inquiries, you can reach us by:

E-mail at: [itim@itim.org.il](mailto:itim@itim.org.il)

Phone: 1-700-500-507

Outside of Israel dial: 972-2-648-2205

#### To make a donation:

In Israel, donations may be sent to ITIM, POB 4724, Jerusalem, Israel. In the United States, tax deductible donations can be given through:

PEF Israel Endowments  
317 Madison Avenue  
Suite 607  
New York, NY 10017

To see the new prices of files at the rabbinical courts, [click here](#).

In the memo, one should include the statement "for project ITIM"

**Do you know anyone who can benefit from our services? Please forward this newsletter to them and let them know that we can help!**

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