

Daughters

Many liberal Jews do not announce the gender of their child, until the actual naming ceremony, lest people decide not to attend the naming ceremony of a baby girl, because it is not seen as important as a bris (the circumcision ceremony). If anything, I feel it's the bris should be done in private (if one chooses to do one at all), since no one should take pleasure in a baby's pain. To begin to rectify this deep imbalance between ceremonies, which exists even in liberal communities, I've begun to compose liturgy specifically celebrating the birth of girls. This Amihai-like poem questions why girls are never born and named in the Bible:

The Disappearance of Women

In the Torah, Men are born
Women, however, appear, like God
From Nowhere
Jacob had a daughter
But she disappeared silently
One day all women shall leave,
And then what will happen to the Torah?

נשים נעלמות

בתורה גברים נולדים
אך נשים צצות, כמו אלוהים
משום מקום
ליעקב נולדה בת
אבל היא נאקמה
יום אקוד הנשים תעזובנה
והתורה, מה תהא עליה?