

Birchot Havdalah
Modern Israeli / United States

I was introduced to this dance by Ken Charkow in Calgary, Alberta, in 2002, and later studied a short video clip (thanks to Les Posen, http://homepage.mac.com/israeli_folk_dances/) of Rafi Ziv demonstrating it. All notes, and therefore all errors and omissions, are mine.

--Cris Jones, Feb 2004

<u>Choreography:</u> Rafi Ziv <u>Music:</u> Debbie Friedman <i>The World of Your Dreams</i> , 2002 Sounds Write Productions, Inc. (ASCAP) Modified with permission by Phil Moss <u>Lyrics:</u> Havdalah Liturgy <u>Alternate Spelling:</u> Brachot Havdalah	<u>Time Signature:</u> 3/4. Steps have a waltz feel. <u>Intro:</u> 8 bar instrumental <u>Hold:</u> Begin holding hands in down (V) position; arm movements are easy and flowing. <u>Figure Sequence:</u> ABCABCA
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Figure A

Wrap and unwrap. Vocalist sings "ya la la la..."

Measure	Beat	Description
1		3 steps LOD, beginning R
	1	Step R, LOD, holding hands down (V).
	2	Step L, LOD
	3	Step R, LOD
2		3 steps, turn to face center
	1	L LOD
	2	R LOD while turning body to face center
	3	L back (out of center)
3		2 back, 1 forward make these steps small to avoid stretching arms too far
	1	R back (out of center)
	2	L back
	3	R forward (in to center)
4		3 steps into center this should bring you close to the people next to you, in preparation for the next measure
	1	L in
	2	R in
	3	L in
5		Wrap: turn 180° CW (over R shoulder) while still holding hands. This is much simpler in practice than in writing.
	1	Step on R foot in place, beginning to turn to right (clockwise, or over R shoulder). Raise both hands. Pull left hand over own head while the person to your right pulls your right hand over their head. Effectively, you are turning the person to your right while the person to your left turns you.
	2	Step L in place, continuing turn.
	3	Step R in place. Settle arms down into crossed position at shoulders, still holding the hands around you.
6		3 steps in place, while wrapped
	1	L in place
	2	R in place
	3	L in place
7		Unwrap: turn 180° CCW Reverse the action of measure 5.
	1	Step R in place, begin turn to the left (counterclockwise). Raise arms so you may unwrap them.
	2	Step L in place, continue turn.
	3	Step R in place. Lower arms to relaxed V position.

8		3 steps in place
	1	L in place
	2	R in place
	3	L in place

Repeat figure A.

Figure B

Cupae and pivots. Vocalist sings verse, first time through.

Measure	Beat	Description
1		Cupae L
	1	Step R foot across L, taking weight.
	2	Step back onto L foot in place.
	3	Step R foot sideways to R.
2		Raise R foot and cross in front
	1	Step L slightly into center
	2	Raise R leg straight out (keep knee straight) and swing it across the left leg
	3	Step R across L leg
3		2 steps out of circle, one in
	1	Step L back (out of circle)
	2	Step R back
	3	Step L forward (into circle)
4		2 count full turn CW The entire pivot is on the ball of the left foot, on count 2. Use count 1 to begin the turn and get momentum.
	1	Step R into circle and slightly to the right. Release hands.
	2	Step on L. Pivot all the way around CW (to the right) on ball of L foot, with R foot just above the ground, to face into the circle.
	3	Finish turn with weight still on L foot.
5		Cupae L
	1	Step R foot across L, taking weight. Cup R hand, palm up, at shoulder level to the left in front of body.
	2	Step back onto L foot in place.
	3	Step R foot sideways to R.
6		Cupae R (mirror image of measure 5)
	1	Step L foot across R, taking weight. Cup L hand, palm up, at shoulder level to the right in front of body.
	2	Step back onto R foot in place.
	3	Step L foot sideways to L.
7		3 count half turn CW to end facing out of circle.
	1	Step R into circle, beginning to turn CW (to right).
	2	Step L, continuing turn.
	3	Step R, completing turn. You are now facing the opposite direction of where this figure started.
8		3 steps in place
	1	L in place.
	2	R in place.
	3	L in place. Take hands.

Repeat figure B, with the exact same footwork but this time facing the opposite direction (beginning facing out of center; slow turn in measure 7 brings you back around to face center).

Figure C

Grapevines and circles; two endings.

Vocalist sings verse, second time through.

Measure	Beat	Description
1		Grapevine R

	1	Step R sideways to R
	2	Cross L behind R
	3	Step R sideways to R
2		Raise R foot and cross in front (same as Figure B, measure 2)
	1	Step L slightly into center
	2	Raise R leg straight out (keep knee straight) and swing it across the left leg
	3	Step R across L leg
3		Grapevine L
	1	Step L sideways to L
	2	Cross R behind L
	3	Step L sideways to L
4		2 count raise hands
	1	Step R forward. Release hands.
	2	Step L forward. Raise both hands, palms up, to about head level with elbows at a loose 90° angle.
	3	Pause
5-6	1-6	6-count circle CW each dancer traces an individual circle to the right to come back to place. Begin with right foot.
FIRST ENDING (dance these two measures the first time through the verse)		
7		Waltz forward into circle
	1	Take hands. Step R into circle.
	2	Step L into circle.
	3	Step R beside L.
8		Waltz back out of circle
	1	Step L back out of circle.
	2	Step R back out of circle.
	3	Step L beside R.
SECOND ENDING (dance these two measures the second time through the verse)		
7		Cross legs and pivot CCW
	1	Step R across left, bending both knees slightly into light crouch position.
	2	Pause in crouch.
	3	Straighten knees to raise up. Pivot on the balls of both feet, leaving them both in place, to turn all the way around COUNTERCLOCKWISE (this is the only CCW turn in the dance).
8		Finish pivot
	1	Now facing out of circle, bend knees while turning slightly on both feet to face original LOD.
	2	Pause in crouch.
	3	Raise up to straight knees.

Dance figure C twice, taking the First ending the first time through, Second ending the second time through.

Lyrics

Hebrew	English Translation
Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam \ borei p'ri hagafen	Blessed are You, Lord God, Sovereign of the universe, \ Creator of the fruit of the vine.
Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam \ borei minei v'samim	Blessed are You, Lord God, Sovereign of the universe, \ Creator of all the spices.
Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam \ borei m'ore ha'eish	Blessed are You, Lord God, Sovereign of the universe, \ Creator of the light of fire.