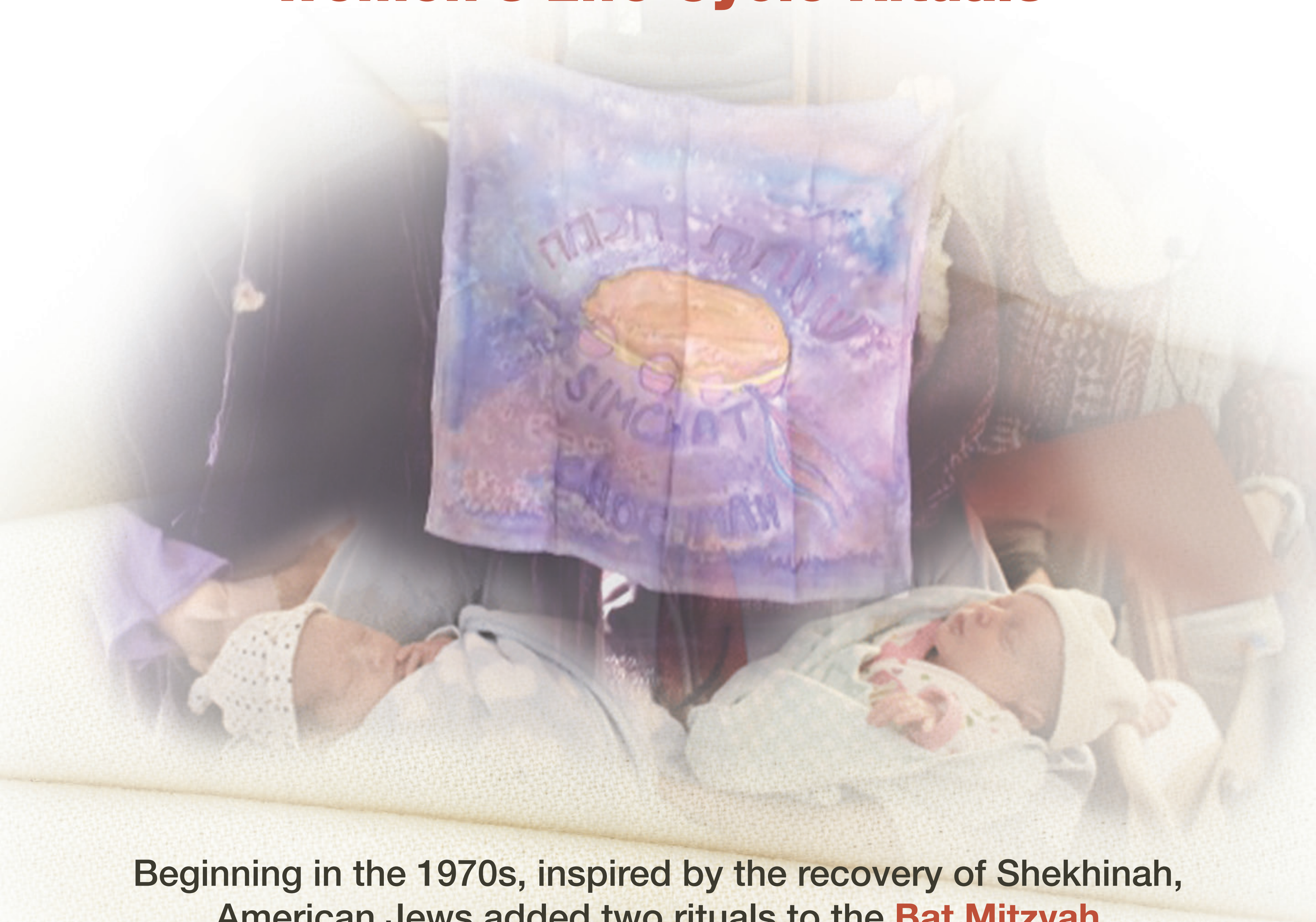


Women's Life Cycle Rituals



Beginning in the 1970s, inspired by the recovery of Shekhinah, American Jews added two rituals to the **Bat Mitzvah** (a coming of age ceremony established in the 1920s initiating women 13 years and older into the religious tradition).

The new rituals included **Simchat Bat** (a naming ceremony) welcoming baby girls, and **Simchat Chochmah** (a celebration of wisdom) welcoming women into their maturity. These rituals recognized girls and women at life stages parallel to those honoring boys and men.