

Welcoming Words

What did he say?

Commonly used terms around Temple Israel



Temple Israel
Sharon, Massachusetts

Introduction

Sometimes it's the little things: a word, a phrase carelessly tossed about, or an unfamiliar greeting, which can make us feel like we don't belong. You may have been a Jew all your life, a short while, maybe you aren't a Jew at all. Everyone should feel welcomed at Temple Israel. After a smile and words of greeting, our thoughtful use of language is our best tool in making Temple Israel the kind of place people want to be. Welcoming Words are, in general, words that we want all Temple Israel members to recognize. The flip side of having the Welcoming Words is that *all other Hebrew and Yiddish words should be translated*, either directly or contextually, in announcements, at meetings, and in learning contexts.

Please be forgiving if someone forgets to translate and don't feel shy about asking someone to rewind and repeat! Here is a starter list to increase your ease with the lingo. If you learn something new, try it out. It will give you *naches* (pride).

In addition to this print guide to the Welcoming Words, the TI Keruv committee has produced a Jewish literacy tool that provides a lot more information about these basic terms and over 300 additional terms. That web-page is available at

http://www.tisharon.org/welcome_words.htm

This web-page is searchable, sortable, and provides a ranking of more and less important (i.e. frequently used) terms. If you are producing a print document for Temple Israel, please use the "print format" option, and copy the text directly into your word processor. Every term has been provided in English, Hebrew (with vowels!) and transliteration. Please help us make Temple Israel both more accessible and more learned by supporting our use of basic Jewish vocabulary.

Welcoming Words

Life Cycle

Birth

Brit Milah בְּרִית מִלָּה circumcision

Brit בְּרִית covenant (Bris circumcision ceremony)

Mohel מוֹהֵל (moyel) a person who performs circumcisions

Coming of Age

Simchah שִׂמְחָה joy, a joyous occasion

Bar Mitzvah בָּר מִצְוָה Jewish celebration of a boy taking on adult responsibilities.

Bat Mitzvah בַּת מִצְוָה Jewish celebration of a girl taking on adult responsibilities.

Siman Tov u'Mazel Tov סִימָן טוֹב וּמַזַּל טוֹב congratulations (Lit. a good sign and good luck)

Shehecheyanu שְׁהַחֵינּוּ blessing recited with noteworthy events such as life cycle events and holidays

Marriage

Aufruf אוֹיִפְרוּפֵן celebrating an upcoming wedding with an aliyah to the Torah

Ketubah כְּתוּבָה a Jewish marriage contract

Mikvah מִקְוָה ritual bath

Get גֵּט Jewish divorce

Death

Shivah שִׁבְעָה the first seven days of mourning

Yahrzeit יָאָרְצֵיט Yiddish word for the anniversary of death when it is customary to recite mourner's kaddish

Yizkor יִזְכוֹר prayers of remembrance recited on festivals

Kaddish קַדִּישׁ Aramaic prayer used to divide up the service, also recited by mourners

Alav HaShalom אֵלָיו הַשְּׁלוֹם "peace be upon him", added after name similar to "late" before a name in English

Aleah HaShalom אֵלֶיהָ הַשְּׁלוֹם "peace be upon her", added after name similar to "late" before a name in English

z"l (pronounced zahl), ז"ל may her memory be a blessing, an abbreviation for Zikhronah liVrachah זִכְרוֹנָה לְבִרְכָה

z"l ז"ל may his memory be a blessing, זִכְרוֹנוֹ לְבִרְכָה Zikhrono liVrachah

Jewish Holidays

Chag חג Jewish holiday

Erev ערב the evening prior, "eve"

Rosh haShanah ראש השנה Jewish new year

L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu לְשָׁנָה טוֹבָה תִּכְתְּבוּ greeting for Rosh HaShanah, may you be inscribed for a good new year

Tashlikh תְּשַׁלֵּיךְ a Rosh HaShanah ritual where bread is thrown into a lake, symbolizing casting away sins

Yom Kippur יום כּפּוּר Day of Atonement

Teshuvah תְּשׁוּבָה repentance and also means "rabbinic legal decision"

G'mar Chatimah Tovah גְּמַר חֲתִימָה טוֹבָה greeting for Yom Kippur, [may your year be] sealed for good, also Gmar Tov

Kol Nidrei כּל נִדְרֵי the first prayer of Yom Kippur evening service, and that service in general

Neilah נְעִילָה concluding prayer service for Yom Kippur

Sukkot סֻכּוֹת fall harvest festival of dwelling in huts, a sukkah

Chol haMo'ed חוֹל הַמוֹעֵד intermediate weekdays of the holidays of Sukkot and Pesach

Lulav לוּלָב palm branch waved on Sukkot

Etrog אֶתְרוּג a citron, a fruit used for rituals on Sukkot

Shemini Atzeret שְׁמִינִי עֶצְרֵת holiday at the end of Sukkot

Simchat Torah שִׂמְחַת תּוֹרָה celebration of beginning the annual Torah reading cycle at the end of Sukkot

Chanukkah חֲנוּכָּה eight day holiday of religious freedom and dedication

Tu b'Shevat ט"ו בְּשֶׁבֶט Jewish arbor day

Purim פּוּרִים minor holiday celebrating the saving of the Jews of Persia

Grogger גּוֹרָגֵר noise-maker for Purim

Mishloach Manot מִשְׁלּוּחַ מָנוֹת gifts of food on Purim

Pesach פֶּסַח Passover, the festival of freedom

Chametz חָמֵץ any bread or grain product forbidden to eat on Pesach other than matzah.

Seder סֵדֵר the Passover meal where the story of the Exodus is retold

Haggadah הַגָּדָה the text of the telling of the Exodus, used at the Seder

Sefirat ha'Omer סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר 49 day count from Pesach to Shavuot,
commonly, "Counting the Omer"

Lag B'Omer לַ"ג בְּעֹמֶר the 33rd day of the omer, which interrupts its
seriousness, some celebrate with picnics and bonfires

Yom haShoah יוֹם הַשׁוֹאָה Holocaust Memorial day

Yom ha'Atzma'ut יוֹם הָעֲצֵמָאוֹת Israel Independence Day

Shavuot שְׁבוּעוֹת feast of Weeks, the festival of the giving of the Torah

Tikkun Leil Shavuot תִּקּוּן לַיַּל שְׁבוּעוֹת all-night study during Shavuot

Tisha b'Av תְּשַׁעָּה בְּאָב a fast day for the destruction of Temple

Shabbat

Shabbat שַׁבָּת day of rest from Friday evening until Saturday night, (plural
Shabbatot שַׁבְּתוֹת)

Kabbalat Shabbat קַבְּלַת שַׁבָּת the welcoming service of Friday night

Oneg Shabbat עֲנֵג שַׁבָּת delight in the Sabbath, an informal gathering with
food after the Friday night service

Kiddush קִידוּשׁ prayer over wine sanctifying shabbat or festivals; a reception
with refreshments after a morning service

Challah חָלָה special braided bread, eaten on Shabbat and Holidays

HaMotzi הַמוֹצֵיא blessing over bread

Birkat haMazon בִּרְכַת הַמָּזוֹן blessing after food

Zemirot זְמִירוֹת songs for Shabbat

Havdalah הַבְּדֵלָה service for concluding Shabbat

Shavua Tov שְׁבוּעַ טוֹב a good week--greeting at the end of Shabbat

Greetings

Boker Tov בֹּקֶר טוֹב good morning

Gut Yontif גוֹט יוֹם טוֹב holiday greeting

Chag Sameach חַג שְׂמֵחַ holiday greeting

Shabbat Shalom שַׁבָּת שְׁלוֹם Shabbat greeting

Yishar Ko'ach יִישַׁר כֹּחַ congratulations offered to a participant in the service,
"may your strength be established"

Baruch Tih'yeh בָּרוּךְ תִּהְיֶה (for a male) /B'ruchah Tihyi בְּרוּכָה תִּהְיִי (for a
female) the response to Yishar Ko'ach, "may you be [similarly] blessed"

Refuah Sheleimah רְפוּאָה שְׁלֵמָה "a full healing", wished to those who are ill

Todah Rabbah תוֹדָה רַבָּה Thank you

Synagogue

Shul שול synagogue; temple

Bima בימה a raised platform from which prayers and the Torah are read

Aron haKodesh ארון הקדש ark where Torah scrolls are kept

Ner Tamid נר תמיד the eternal light--a light in synagogues over the Aron haKodesh

Siddur סידור prayer book

Prayer

Tefillah תפילה prayer

Tefillin תפלין leather boxes worn on arm and head during weekday prayer

Tallit טלית four-cornered prayer shawl with fringes (tzitzit ציציית)

Daven דאון Yiddish word for pray

Kippah כפה head covering, traditionally worn during prayer and study

Yarmulke יארמלקע Yiddish for head covering, traditionally worn during prayer and study

Berachot ברכות blessings

Minyan מנין a quorum of 10 adults required for certain prayers

Chazan חזן leader of prayers, cantor

Shaliach Tzibur שליח צבור leader of prayers

Shacharit שחרית morning prayer service

D'var Torah (s.) דבר תורה sermon

Divrei Torah (pl.) דברי תורה sermons

Gabbai גבאי person who checks Torah readings for accuracy

Aliyah עליה going up to the Torah or immigrating to Israel

Mi sheBeirach מי שברך blessing for individuals recited at the Torah, for sickness or for blessing

Hagbah הגבה person raising the Torah after it is read

Gelilah גלילה person rolling and dressing the Torah

Haftarah הפטרה reading from the prophets, read after the Torah on Shabbat and holidays

Musaf מוסף additional prayer service after the Torah reading

Minchah מנחה afternoon prayer service

Ma'ariv מעריב evening service

Jewish Literature

- TaNaKh תנ"ך acronym for Hebrew Bible, including Torah (5 books of Moses), Nevi'im (prophets), and Ketuvim (other writings)
- Torah תורה first section of the Bible, the Five Books of Moses, written on a parchment scroll or printed in a chumash
- Chumash חומש the (large red) book of the Torah, from the word chamesh meaning five referring to these five books
- Bereisheet בְּרֵאשִׁית the book of Genesis, beginning the world and the Jewish people
- Sh'mot שְׁמוֹת the book of Exodus, the departure from Egypt
- Vayikra וַיִּקְרָא the book of Leviticus dealing with priestly rites
- Bemidbar בְּמִדְבָּר the book of Numbers, Israel's experiences in the wilderness (midbar)
- Devarim דְּבָרִים the book of Deuteronomy, Moses' retelling of Israel's history and laws
- Sefer Torah סֵפֶר תּוֹרָה scroll of the Torah
- Midrash מִדְרָשׁ interpretation of the Bible expanding its narrative and law
- Mishnah מִשְׁנָה the first major book of Jewish oral law
- Gemara גְּמָרָא the Talmudic commentary on the Mishnah
- Talmud תַּלְמוּד the Mishnah with the Gemara

Jewish Life

- Mezuzah מְזוּזָה a box containing specific biblical texts, placed on doorposts
- Kashrut כְּשָׁרוּת Jewish dietary rules, including which animals, how they are slaughtered, and the prohibition of eating meat with dairy
- Kosher כָּשֵׁר foods allowed to be eaten under Jewish law
- Milchik מִלְכִּיק Yiddish word for dairy
- Fleishik פֿליישיק Yiddish for "made with meat", unkosher to eat with dairy
- Pareve פֿאַרעוו neither milk nor meat
- Magen David מַגֵּן דָּוִד six-cornered Jewish star; Star of David
- Chai חַי life
- L'Chayim לְחַיִּים "to life", a wish or toast like "cheers"
- Bubbe בּוּבֵעַ grandmother in Yiddish
- Zayde זַיִדעַ grandfather in Yiddish
- Mishpachah מִשְׁפָּחָה family

Jewish Values and Concepts

- Mitzvah מצוה commandment (plural Mitzvot)
- Halakhah הלכה Jewish law/behavior
- Minhag מנהג Jewish custom
- Tzedakah צדקה charity, righteousness
- Tikkun Olam תיקון עולם fixing the world or fixing the legal system
- Hessed חסד caring; providing comfort
- Gemilut Chasadim גמילות חסדים acts of loving kindness
- Bikkur Cholim ביקור חולים visiting the sick

Israel

- Eretz Yisrael ארץ ישראל the Jewish homeland, the national land of the people of Israel
- Aliyah עליה immigrating to Israel or going up to the Torah
- Medinat Yisrael מדינת ישראל State of Israel
- K'lal Yisrael כלל ישראל the totality of Israel, the Jewish people
- HaTikvah התקווה the Israeli National Anthem
- Kotel כותל the Western Wall
- Zionism ציונות the belief in a Jewish homeland in Israel
- Yerushalayim ירושלים the capital city of Israel

Temple Israel

- Luach לוח Temple Israel's bi-monthly newsletter
- Hazak חזק a TI organization dedicated to serving the social, religious and educational needs of the 55 and over crowd
- Hessed Committee חסד TI committee that creates a caring community by providing comfort in times of need, illness, bereavement and other life cycle events
- Keiruv קרוב TI committee which works on ways to make our community more open and welcoming
- Mishpacha Minyan משפחה מנין TI Friday night service with lots of singing
- Mah Gadlu מה גדלו a spirited Kabbalat Shabbat service led by the cantor
- Boker Tov בקר טוב service: a special Shabbat service for very young children