

GLOSSARY

Ashkenazi – Ashkenazic Jews and their descendants are usually from France, Germany and Eastern Europe. The term is derived from the Hebrew word Ashkenaz which is used to refer to Germany.

Baal koreh - The individual who chants Torah from the scroll at a synagogue

Baal tefillah - The person who reads the liturgy during the worship service.

Baal tokeia – The person who blows the Shofar (horn).

Baruch Hashem – God Bless.

Chassidic or Hassidic – Jewish religious sects that closely follow their Rabbi and his customs. There are many different Chassidic sects such as Belz, Satmar, Bobov, Viznitz and Gur. They originate mostly from Poland and Russia. Rabbi Yisroel ben Eliezer born around 300 years ago and also known as Baal Shem Tov, is regarded as its founding father.

Chassunah – Jewish wedding.

Chaverim - Jewish volunteer organization which provides road assistance and other non-medical emergency help at home or on the road.

Chief Rabbi - The leading Rabbi of a national Jewish community.

Davenning – reciting Jewish prayers.

Gemachim - a Jewish free-loan fund.

Hatzola – a voluntary Emergency Medical Service organisation serving Jewish communities.

Hebrew – Historically regarded as the language of the Israelites and their ancestors. Language used in the Torah, Jewish religious scriptures. It was called Loshon Hakodesh at the time.

Kosher - foods that conform to Jewish dietary laws.

Litvish - Lithuanian Jews or Litvaks are descendants of Jewish people with roots in present-day Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Latvia and the north eastern Poland.

Mashgiach - a Jew who supervises the kashrut status of a kosher establishment.

Minyan - a quorum of ten men over the age of 13 required for traditional Jewish worship.

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Mizrahi - Term used in Israel to refer to Jews who trace their roots back to Muslim-majority countries.

Modeh ani - Jewish prayer that observant Jews recite daily upon waking.

Olav Hashalom – ‘Peace be upon him’, said of someone who is deceased.

Sem – short for Seminary, a college/ further education establishment for Jewish girls.

Sephardic – Sephardic Jews and their descendants are usually from Spain, Portugal, North Africa and the Middle East. The term is derived from the Hebrew word Sepharad which refers to Spain.

Shabbos or Shabbat - Jewish day of rest from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday.

Shtiebel - a place used for communal Jewish prayer. A Shtiebel is usually smaller than a Shul.

Shomrim - Jewish civilian volunteer patrols.

Shul – Synagogue where Jews gather to pray.

Yiddish - a language used by Jewish people in Central and Eastern Europe before the Holocaust. It is still widely used by Jews worldwide.

Yom Tov – Jewish holidays, also known as Jewish festivals, observed by Jews throughout the Hebrew calendar.