**GENERAL JEWISH LIFE VOCABULARY LIST**

*Most lists are in alphabetical order, by the column with transliteration.*

*Items in “quotations” are literal translations.*

*\* Terms with an asterisk are part of the Hebrew Through Movement vocabulary lists*

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| **Greetings and Exclamations** | | |
| **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| בְּהַצְלָחָה | *b’hatzlahah* | Good luck |
| בְּסֵדֶר | *b’seder* | Okay;  “in order” |
| בְּתֵאָבוֹן | *b’tey-avon* | Bon appetite; enjoy your meal |
| בְּבַקָּשָׁה | *b’vakashah* | Please; you are welcome |
| הַשֵּׁם בָּרוּךְ | *barukh hashem* | Thank God |
| הַכֹּל בְּסֵדֶר | *hakol b’seder* | Everything is okay;  “Everything is in order” |
| כֹּל הַכָּבוֹד | *kol hakavod* | Good job;  “All the respect to you” |
| לְחַיִּים | *l’hayim* | Cheers;  “to life” |
| לְהִתְרָאוֹת | *l’hitra-ot* | Bye; see you later |
| לַבְּרִיאוּת | *lab’ri-ut* | Bless you;  after a sneeze: “to health” |
| מַזָּל טוֹב | *mazal tov* | Congratulations; “good fortune” |
| נְסִיעָה טוֹבָה | *n’siyah tovah* | “Have a good trip” |
| רְפוּאָה שְׁלֵימָה | *r’fu-ah sh’leimah* | Feel better;  “a full recovery” |
| סְלִיחָה | *s’lihah* | Excuse me |
| שָׁלוֹם | *shalom* | Hello; farewell;  “peace” |
| תּוֹדָה | *todah* | Thank you |
| טוֹב | *tov\** | Good |
| יִישַׁר כֹּחֶךְ | *yishar kohekh*  colloquially pronounced:  *yasher ko-hekh* | Statement made to a female in response to something done well, especially after a Torah reading or *d’var Torah*;  “May your strength be made straight” |
| יִישַׁר כֹּחֲךָ | *yishar ko-h’kha*  colloquially pronounced:  *yasher ko-ah* | Statement made to a male in response to something done well, especially after a Torah reading or *d’var Torah*;  “May your strength be made straight” |
| יוֹפִי | *yofi\** | Beautiful; nice |
| **יוֹם הוּלֶדֶת שָׂמֵחַ** | *yom huledet*  *same-ah* | Happy birthday |

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| **Value Words** | | | |
| Conceptual | **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| עַל רֶגֶל אַחַת | *al regel ahat* | “On one foot”;  Meaning: without/little forethought. |
| בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים | *B’tzelem Elohim* | In the image of God |
| בְּרִית | *b’rit* | Covenant; contract |
| דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ | *derekh eretz* | “Way of the land”;  Meaning: the common way that people act |
| אֵלוּ וְאֵלוּ | *eilu v’eilu* | Both this and that |
| חַי | *hai* | Life; alive; living |
| חֶסֶד | *hesed* | Kindness |
| חֻצְפָּה | *hutzpah* | Nerve; guts; the quality of  over-stepping boundaries with no shame |
| קָדוֹשׁ | *kadosh* | Holy |
| מֶענְטְשׁ | *mensch* | (Yiddish) A good person |
| מִדוֹת | *middot* | Values; virtues |
| מִצְוָה | *mitzvah* | Commandment |
| תַּכְלִית | *takhles*  (note the pronunciation difference from the Hebrew) | (Yiddish)  Details; essence; bottom line |
| תְּשׁוּבָה | *t’shuvah* | Repentance |
| צֶדֶק | *tzedek* | Justice |

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| **Value Words** | | | |
| Relational | **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| בִּקּוּר חוֹלִים | *bikkur holim* | Visiting the sick |
| חַבְרוּתָא | *havrutah* | (Aramaic)  friendship, study partner, traditional rabbinic style of Talmud study in pairs |
| גְּמִילוּת חֲסָדִים | *g’milut hasadim* | Acts of loving kindness |
| הַכְנָסַת אוֹרְחִים | *hakhnasat orhim* | Welcoming guests |
| לָשׁוֹן הָרַע | *lashon hara* | Gossip;  “evil tongue” |
| שְׁלוֹם בַּיִת | *sh'lom bayit* | Peace of the home |
| תִּיקוּן עוֹלָם | *tikkun olam* | Repairing the world |

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| **Bible/Torah** | | |
| **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| בְּרֵאשִׁית | *B’reishit* | Genesis;  “in the beginning” |
| שְׁמוֹת | *Sh’mot* | Exodus;  “names” |
| וַיִּקְרָא | *Vayikra* | Leviticus;  “and he called” |
| בְּמִדְבָּר | *B’midbar* | Numbers;  “in the desert” |
| דְּבָרִים | *D’varim* | Deuteronomy;  “words” |

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| **Jewish Texts** | | |
| **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| תּוֹרָה | *Torah\** | Law/teaching, Five Books of Moses |
| תנ"ך | ***T****a****n****a****kh*** | Hebrew Bible –  ***T****orah,* ***N****’vi’im,* ***K****’tuvim* |
| נְבִיאִים | *N’vi’im* | Prophets (section of the Bible) |
| כְּתוּבִים | *K’tuvim* | Writings (section of the Bible) |
| הֲלָכָה | *halakhah* | Jewish law;  “the way to go” |
| מִשְׁנָה | *Mishnah* | Rabbinic writings of Jewish Oral Law;  first part of *Talmud* |
| גְּמָרָא | *Gemara* | Rabbinic commentary on the *Mishnah;* second part of *Talmud* |
| תַּלְמוּד | *Talmud* | Rabbinic books of legal codes, stories, debates, made of *Mishnah* and *Gemara* |
| פִּרקֵי אָבוֹת | *Pirkei Avot* | Text about relationships and ethics; “Ethics of Our Sages” |

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| **Jewish Books** | | |
| **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| סִדּוּר | *siddur\** | Prayerbook |
| סִדּוּרִים | *siddurim\** | Prayerbooks |
| תּוֹרָה | *Torah\** | Law/teaching;  Five Books of Moses in scroll form |
| חוּמָשׁ | *humash\** | Five Books of Moses in book form |
| מַחְזוֹר | *mahzor\** | High Holiday prayerbook |
| הַגָּדָה | *haggadah\** | Book used at *Pesah* *seder;* “telling” |

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| **Ritual Objects** | | |
| **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| כִּפָּה | *kippah\** | (Yiddish: *Yarmulke*)  ritually-worn head covering |
| טַלִּית | *tallit\** | Prayer shawl |
| תְּפִלִּין | *t’fillin\** | Phylacteries; the small black boxes worn on a person’s head and arm during weekday morning services |
| צִיצִית | *tzitzit\** | Fringes with knots tied onto *tallit* |
| מְזוּזָה | *m’zuzzah* | Scroll placed on door frame with words from the Torah inside |
| יָד | *yad\** | Torah pointer;  “hand” |

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| **Prayer and Worship** | | |
| **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| תְּפִילָּה | *t’fillah* | Prayer; services; worship |
| קַבָּלַת שַׁבָּת | *Kabbalat Shabbat* | Friday night service;  “receiving *Shabbat*” |
| שַׁחֲרִית | *Shaharit* | Morning service |
| מוּסָף | *Mussaf* | Additional service on *Shabbat*, holidays, *Rosh Hodesh*  (the beginning of a Hebrew month) |
| מִנְחָה | *Minhah* | Afternoon service |
| מַעֲרִיב | *Ma’ariv* | Evening service |
| בָּרוּךְ | *barukh* | Blessed; praised |
| בְּרָכָה | *b’rakhah* | Blessing |
| שֶׁהֶחֱיָנוּ | *Sh’heheyanu* | Blessing of praise for first times and  joyous occasions |
| הַמּוֹצִיא | *Hamotzi* | Blessing over bread and food |
| בִּרְכַּת הַמָּזוֹן | *Birkat Hamazon* | Grace/blessing of thanksgiving after eating |
| הַבְדָּלָה | *Havdallah\** | Ceremony at the end of *Shabbat;* “separation” |
| מִי שֶׁבֵּרַךְ | *Mi sheberakh* | Blessing for those in need of healing;  “One who blesses” |
| קַדִּישׁ | *Kaddish* | Prayer said in remembrance of those who died; also used as a divider between sections of a service as words of praise |
| רֹאשׁ חֹדֶש | *Rosh Hodesh* | New Month, considered a minor holiday;  “head of the month” |
| סְלִיחוֹת | *S’lihot* | Service preceding Rosh Hashanah;  “forgiveness” |
| יִישַׁר כֹּחֲךָ | *yishar ko-h’kha*  colloquially pronounced:  *yasher ko-ah* | Statement made to a male in response to something done well, especially after a Torah reading or *d’var Torah*;  “May your strength be made straight” |
| יִישַׁר כֹּחֶךְ | *yishar kohekh*  colloquially pronounced:  *yasher ko-hekh* | Statement made to a female in response to something done well, especially after a Torah reading or *d’var Torah*;  “May your strength be made straight” |

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| **Lifecycle** | | | |
| **Event** | **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| Birth | בְּרִית מִילָה | *B’rit milah* | “Covenant of circumcision” |
| מוֹהֵל | *mohel* | One who performs ritual circumcision |
| שִׂמְחַת בַּת | *Simhat bat* | Girl’s naming ceremony;  “celebration of the daughter” |

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| **Lifecycle** | | | |
| **Event** | **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| Bar/Bat Mitzvah | עֲלִיָּה לַתּוֹרָה | *aliyah la’torah* | Calling up to the *bimah*  to recite Torah blessings or  read from Torah |
| בָּר מִצְוָה | *Bar Mitzvah* | A boy’s coming of age according to Jewish tradition, often celebrated with ceremony;  “son of the commandment” |
| בַּת מִצְוָה | *Bat Mitzvah* | A girl’s coming of age according to Jewish tradition, often celebrated with ceremony;  “daughter of the commandment” |
| בְּנֵי מִצְוָה | *B’nai Mitzvah* | Plural of *Bar Mitzvah*;  “children of the commandment” |
| בְּנוֹת מִצְוָה | *B’not Mitzvah* | Plural of *Bat Mitzvah*; “daughters of the commandment” |

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| **Lifecycle** | | | |
| **Event** | **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| Wedding | אוּיפרוּף | *Aufruf*  colloquially pronounced:  *oof-roof* | (Yiddish: “calling up”)  Pre-wedding honor and blessing at services |
| חֻפָּה | *huppah* | Wedding canopy |
| כְּתוּבָּה | *k’tubah* | Marriage contract, agreement |

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| **Lifecycle** | | | |
| **Event** | **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| Illness | בִּיקוּר חוֹלִים | *bikkur holim* | Visiting the sick |
| מִי שֶׁבֵּרַךְ | *Mi Sheberakh* | Blessing for those in need of healing;  “one who blesses” |
| רְפוּאָה שְׁלֵימָה | *r’fu-ah sh’leimah* | Feel better; “a full recovery” |

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| **Lifecycle** | | | |
| **Event** | **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| Death | שִׁבְעָה | *shivah* | Week of mourning following a death |
| שְׁלוֹשִׁים | *sh’loshim* | Thirty days following a death |
| יאָרצײַט | *Yartzeit* | (Yiddish)  Year-anniversary of a death |
| זִכְרוֹנוֹ לִבְרָכָה | *zikhrono livrakhah* | “May his memory be a blessing” |
| זִכְרוֹנָה לִבְרָכָה | *zikhronah livrakhah* | “May her memory be a blessing” |
| קַדִּישׁ יָתוֹם | *Kaddish yatom* | Mourner’s Kaddish;  prayer said in remembrance of those who died |

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| **Lifecycle** | | | |
| Greetings | **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| מַזָּל טוֹב | *mazal tov* | Congratulations;  “good fortune” |
| יִישַׁר כֹּחֶךְ | *yashar kohekh*  colloquially pronounced:  *yasher ko-hekh* | Statement made to a female in response to something done well, especially after a Torah reading or *d’var Torah*;  “May your strength be made straight” |
| יִישַׁר כֹּחֲךָ | *yishar ko-h’kha*  colloquially pronounced:  *yasher ko-ah* | Statement made to a male in response to something done well, especially after a Torah reading or *d’var Torah*;  “May your strength be made straight” |
| **יוֹם הוּלֶדֶת שָׂמֵחַ** | *yom huledet same-ah* | Happy birthday |

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| **Synagogue/Community** | | | |
| People | **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| רַב | *Rav* | Rabbi |
| חַזָּן | *Hazzan* | Cantor |
| גַּבַּאי | *Gabbai* | One who helps with Torah service |
| שְׁלִיחַ צִבּוּר | *shali-ah tzibur* | Prayer leader (male) |
| שְׁלִיחַת צִבּוּר | *sh’lihat tzibur* | Prayer leader (female) |
| מִנְיָן | *minyan* | Prayer group of at least 10 people |
| קְהִלָּה | *k’hillah* | Community |
| מוֹרֶה | *moreh\** | Teacher (male) |
| מוֹרָה | *morah\** | Teacher (female) |
| מוֹרִים | *morim\** | Teachers  (male or mixed gender) |
| מוֹרוֹת | *morot\** | Teachers (female) |
| מַדְרִיךְ | *madrikh\** | Guide;  used as: teen assistant (male) |
| מַדְרִיכָה | *madrikhah\** | Guide;  used as: teen assistant (female) |
| מַדְרִיכִים | *madrikhim\** | Guides; used as:  teen assistants  (male or mixed gender) |
| מַדְרִיכוֹת | *madrikhot\** | Guides; used as:  teen assistants (female) |

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| **Synagogue/Community** | | | |
| Places | **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| כְּנֶסֶת בֵּית | *beit k’nesset* | “House of gathering”; synagogue |
| בֵּית מִדְרָשׁ | *beit midrash* | “House of study” |
| בֶּית תְּפִילָה | *beit t’fillah* | “House of prayer”; sanctuary |
| סִפְרִיָּה | *sifriyah* | Library |
| כִּתָּה | *kitah* | Classroom |

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| **Synagogue/Community** | | | |
| Things | **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| אֲרוֹן הַקֹּדֶשׁ | *aron hakodesh\** | Holy Ark |
| בִּימָה | *bimah\** | Stage; platform in synagogue |
| עֵרוּב | *eruv* | Public area designated as “private domain” by wire boundary that permits activities usually forbidden publically on Shabbat (i.e. carrying) |
| מְחִיצָה | *m’hitzah* | Partition; division for separation between  men and women,  usually during prayer |
| נֵר תָּמִיד | *ner tamid\** | Eternal light |
| סֵפֶר | *sefer\** | Book |
| סְפָרִים | *s’farim\** | Books |

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| **Synagogue/Community** | | | |
| Other | **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| הַמָקוֹם מִנְהַג | *minhag hamakom* | “Custom of the place” |
| שִׁעוּר | *shi-ur* | Lesson |
| צְדָקָה | *tz’dakah\** | Charitable giving |

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| **Kashrut** | | |
| **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| בְּשָׂרִי | *b’sari* | Meat |
| חֲלָבִי | *halavi* | Dairy |
| פַּרוֶוה | *parve* | (Yiddish)  Neutral; neither meat nor dairy |
| טְרֵײף | *treif* | (Yiddish)  Not kosher |
| הֶכְשֶׁר | *hekhsher* | Kosher certification approval |
| כָּשֵׁר | *kasher* | To make kosher; to make fit for use |
| כַּשְׁרוּת | *kashrut* | Laws concerning status of food for  eating and ritual; kosher |
| מַשְׁגִיחַ | *mashgi-ah* | One who oversees *kashrut* status of kitchen |
| הֲלָכָה | *halakhah* | Jewish law;  “the way to go” |

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| **Torah Service** | | |
| **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| עֲלִיָּה לַתּוֹרָה | *aliyah la’torah* | Calling up to the *bimah* to recite Torah blessings or read from Torah |
| בִּימָה | *bimah\** | Raised area in synagogue;  can also refer to the pulpit |
| דְּבָר תּוֹרָה | *d’var Torah* | Sermon; “words of Torah” |
| דְּרָשָׁה | *d’rashah* | Interpretation or explication of Torah |
| עֵץ חַיִּים | *etz hayim* | Wooden handles of Torah scroll;  “Tree of life” |
| גְּלִילָה | *g’lilah* | Dressing the Torah |
| גַּבַּאי | *gabbai* | One who helps with Torah service |
| הַפְטָרָה | *Haftarah* | Reading from books of *Nevi’im*/Prophets accompanying the Torah portion |
| הַגבָּהָה | *hagbahah*  colloquially pronounced: *hagbah* | Raising of the Torah scroll |
| הַקָּפָה | *hakafah* | Going around or circling with Torah scrolls; Torah procession |
| מַפְטִיר | *maftir* | Concluding section of Torah reading;  last Torah reader |
| פָּרָשָׁה | *parashah* | Portion of Torah |
| פָּרָשַׁת הַשָׁבוּעַ | *parashat*  *hashavu-a* | Torah portion of the week |

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| **God** | | |
| **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| יהוה | *Adonai* | God |
| אֱלֹהִים | *Elohim* | God |
| הַשֵּׁם | *Hashem* | God; “The Name” |

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| **Israel and World Jewry** | | | |
| Concepts | **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| עֲלִיָּה | *aliyah* | Ascend/go up; move to Israel |
| עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל | *am Yisra-el* | People of Israel |
| עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל חַי | *am Yisra-el hai* | “The people of Israel live” |
| אַשְׁכְּנַזִּי | *Ashkenazi* | From Eastern European  Jewish descent |
| מִזְרָחִי | *Mizrahi* | From Middle Eastern  Jewish descent |
| סְפָרַדִּי | *S’faradi* | From Spanish/North African Jewish descent |
| הַתִּקְוָה | *Hatikvah* | Israeli national anthem;  “The Hope” |

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| **Israel and World Jewry** | | | |
| Places | **Hebrew** | **Transliteration** | **Translation/Description** |
| אֶרֶץ | *eretz* | Land; country |
| אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל | *eretz Yisra-el* | Land of Israel |
| הַכֹּתֶל | *Ha-Kotel* | The Western Wall of  The Temple in Jerusalem |
| קִבּוּץ | *kibbutz* | Communal settlement  in Israel |
| יְרוּשָׁלַיִם | *Y’rushalayim* | Jerusalem |
| יִשְׂרָאֵל | *Yisra-el\** | Israel |