

# **Temple Beth Sholom Adult Torah Trope Class**

#### Introduction

Welcome to the Temple Beth Sholom Adult Torah Trope Class! I hope it is both fun and interesting for you, and continues a lifelong journey with Torah.

This class is the first step in the preparation for chanting the Torah and haftarah for your bar or bat mitzvah. There will be homework assignments and quizzes. You will be assigned a tutor once you have successfully completed this course. You wi

Neither the quality of your voice nor your ability to sing are important. You do not have to read music. However, the only way to read the Torah and haftarah publicly is to chant.

#### NOTE THE WEBSITE FOR THIS CLASS: HTTP://WWW.HAZZANMENES.COM/

#### **Classes and Requirements**

Outline for Trope Study:

- 1. Basic definitions of symbols and terms for reading Torah and haftarah; recognition of symbols
- 2. Hebrew pronunciation
- 3. Trope combinations for Torah; the melodies; the blessings before and after reading
- 4. More advanced combinations; method for learning; pronunciation
- 5. Linking groups of taamim
- 6. Practice; where to find more info

#### Bring to class:

This packet
A pencil and paper
A chumash
Your questions

If you have questions about the work you can email me at:

hazzanrobmenes@gmail.com or check the website: http://www.hazzanmenes.com/.

Hazzan Rob Menes 702-804-1333

### I. Basic Concepts

We begin with the blessing for study:

(What is the meaning of this blessing? If you don't know, where would you find out?)

#### Chanting, or Cantillation:

- 1. The most important aspect of chanting Torah or haftarah is the proper pronunciation of the text.
- 2. The trope symbols (also called ta'amim or ta'amei hamikra) are used for 3 things:
- punctuation
- accent
- expression (including the musical tone)

The musical tone is the least important of the three.

In the Torah, it is not possible to correctly identify the ends of sentences or to correctly pronounce the words without trope.

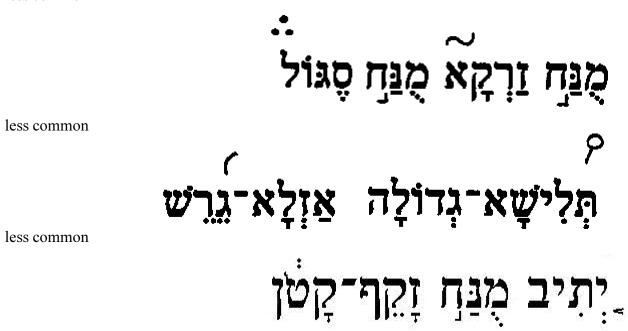
- 3. The same trope symbols used for the haftarah are used for the Torah and for the megillot, but they have different melodies!
- 4. You can start chanting on any tone that is comfortable for your voice.
- 5. In any particular word, the same tone may be repeated on many syllables.
- 6. Tropes are used in common groups and combinations that are repeated many times.
- 7. Generally, but not always, you accent the syllable which has the trope symbol.
- 8. Some of the symbols are above the letters, some are below.
- 9. Some symbols, such as the munach, can have a different melody depending upon what symbol comes next. Therefore, it is important to always look ahead of the word you're chanting.

# **Trop Symbols and Their Names in Combinations**

(on Internet with sound files at http://www.bethshalomkc.info/hazzan/tropereference.htm )

	DS		<b>Y</b>		
VERY COMMON	זָבֵוף־בָּוֹטֹן	אַ מְבַּרְת	ַבַּשְׁטָא <u>ַ</u>	בַּרָ (	מַהָ
VERY COMMON	אָתְנַחִּתְּא	מָנַת	זִפְּחָא	ָאָ כּ	מֵרְנִ
VERY COMMON		ָבִיעִי בִיעִי	אַנַּרָת וְ		טֿפֿוֿ
COMMON	תָבֶיֶר	מֵרְכָא	נִבְיֶר	ָּאָ רְ	דַּרָג
COMMON			) אזליג	יא – רי	ר קדמ
Note: with munac	ch	ַלְמַבָּה ק	אַזְלָא יישָא־		מַנַּתְ אַנּיִתְ
usually with munusually with mun			5	ו: זְבְדּוֹ	זָקף
•			בְּוֵוֹ	ַשַיִּם	גּרְל

less common



Other symbols not listed here are the shalshelet, yerach ben yomo, karne farah, and mercha-ch'fula. Each of these symbols occur fewer than 10 times in the Torah.

Practice Writing the Names of the Trop Symbols!

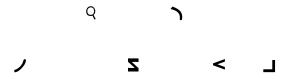
This is the blessing before reading the haftarah. Note the trop symbols (the blessing after reading the haftarah does not have any trop symbols).

- 1. Identify every trop symbol in this blessing by name.
- 2. Make sure you can read the Hebrew.
- 3. Can one word have more than one trop symbol?
- 4. Why are there two symbols that look the same on the fourth word?
- 5. Is there a symbol on the last word . ??!\!?
- 6. Are the comma and period trop symbols?
- 7. Find the page in the siddur of this blessing.
- 8. What is the key word in this blessing?
- 9. Write out the translation of the blessing.

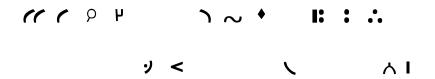
# **II. More Trope Concepts**

### 1. Conjunctives and Disjunctives

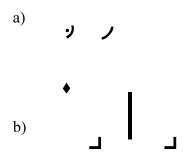
Some tropes are "helper" tropes (conjunctives) and must go with the trope that follows. These are:



All other tropes stand alone and must be separated from the following trope (some get a bigger separation than others). These are:



### 2. Special Combinations





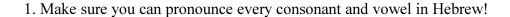
#### III. The Melodies for the Ta'amim

- 1. Each trope symbol has a melody associated with it. Sometimes this is only a single tone.
- 2. A trope symbol may have more than one melody associated with it, depending upon what follows.
- 3. Musical notation for the trope melodies can be found at the end of this booklet. However, usually one simply memorizes the melody that goes with each symbol. It is best to learn the melody for the tropes in combination, and practice variations on those combinations.
- 4. There are a number of sets of melodies for the tropes for reading the Torah. You cannot "mix and match" melodies they form a set. Not all sets of melodies are faithful implementations of the ta'amim as they were written by the Masoretes. The Sephardim and Ashkenazim use different melodies, and there are variations within the Sephardim and Ashkenazim based on geographic location.
- 5. The Torah must be chanted using the appropriate melody for the occasion. For example, the Torah cannot be chanted using the melody for haftarah and cannot be chanted using the High Holy Day melody on a non-High Holy Day Shabbat.
- 6. There are a number of places in the Torah where a special melody is used for a specific word or phrase. For example, the Song at the Sea (Ex. 15:1-21) intersperses a unique melody with the standard Torah trope.
- 7. The tropes do not change with speed. However, there are various alterations in the melodies which smooth out the tropes which are connected.
- 8. One is required to pause after an etnachta and sof pasuk.
- 9. When reading the Torah in public, mistakes in trope are not "correctable errors" with the exception of the etnachta and sof pasuk.

# **IV. Torah Concepts**

1. What is the chumash? What is the Torah? What is the Tanakh?
2. From what part of the Tanakh does the haftarah come?
3. What is a parasha?
4. What is this week's parasha?
6. Who wrote the Torah?
7. What is a k'riah?
8. What does it mean to say that we do a triennial reading of the Torah?
9. When do we read the Torah in public?
10. What is your Hebrew birth-date?
11. What is your Hebrew name?
12. What are your parents' Hebrew names?
13. What is an aliyah?
14. What is the maftir aliyah?
15. If there are no vowels, trop, or punctuation in the Torah, how can we chant it correctly?

# V. Hebrew Concepts



2. What are the names of the vowels?

No. The transfer of the William Transfer

3. How do you pronounce:



How do you pronounce at the beginning of a word? when it's followed by another?

- 4. How would you pronounce ?? ? What happens when this is followed by
- 5. What is a dagesh? How does it change pronunciation?
- 6. What is a kamatz katan? How do you pronounce it? How do you know when a kamatz is a kamatz katan?
- 7. How do you pronounce 2 at the end of a word?
- 8. How do you pronounce at the end of a word?

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# **Hebrew Letter Charts**

NAME	ВО- ОК	CUR- SIVE	BO LD	RA SHI	HA ND	NUM BER	Sound	Literal Meaning	Symbolic Meaning
Aleph	N	IC	R	б	х	1	а	ox, buil	strength, leader, first
Bet /Vet	٥	ລ	1	3	コ	2	b/v	tent,house	household in, into
Gimel	ړ	٤	j	a	λ	3	g	camel	pride, to lift up
Dalet	٦	3	T	7	T	4	d	door	pathway, to enter
He	П	ภ	П	ູລ	П	5	h	window, fence	"the", to reveal
Vav	1		1	1	1	6	U	nail	"and",add, secure, hook
Zayin	ን	3	1	f	ì	7	Z	weapon	cut, to cut off
CHet	П	n	П	ס	П	8	СН	fence, hedge, chamber	private,to separate
Tet	2	G	O	מ	u	9	t	to twist, a snake	to surround
Yud	9	7	1	9	1	10	i	closed hand	deed,work, to make
Kaf/ Chaf	۵	Э	J	٥	1	20	j	arm, wing open hand	to cover, allow, strength
Lamed	5	F	7	3	7	30	1	cattle goad, staff	prod, go toward, tongue
Mem	۵	N	ħ	ກ	Δ	40	m	water	massive, overpower chaos
Nun	1	J	1	,	J	50	n	fish (moving)	activity,life
Samech	ס	0	O	р	D	60	X	aprop	support,turn
Ayin	¥	8	ש	ט	И	70	0	eye	see, know, experience
Pe/Fe	Ð	Э	Ð	Đ	ם	80	p/f	mouth	speak, open,word
Tzadi	2	3	<u>y</u>	5	Z	90	С	fish-hook	harvest, desire
Kof	P	ק	P	P	P	100	q	back of the head	behind,the last,least
Resh		7	ד	ל	٦	200	r	head	person, head highest
Sin/ Shin	世	e	Ш	t	Ш	300	s/sh	teeth	consume, destroy
Tau	ת	ת	л	b	Л	400	t	sign, cross	covenant, to seal

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Five of the letters take on a an elongated appearance when they appear at the end (sof) of a word:

NAME	BO- OK	CUR- SIVE	B0 LD	RA SHI	HA ND	NUM BER	Sound
Kof Sofit	7	٦	7	٦	Т	500	ch
Mem Sofit	b	۵	П	р	D	600	m
Nun Sofit	3		1	1		700	n
Fe Sofit	F	É	7	ฤ	1	800	f
Tzadi Sofit	r	3	Į,	T	r	900	ts

#### Hebrew Vowel Points

SOUND	ENLGISH EXAMPLE	SYMBOL	HEBREW	VOWEL NAME
a	father		1	Patach
a	father		1	Kamatz
е	egg		3	Segol
е	egg	34	3	Tzareh
1	bit	•	<b>3</b>	Chereek
Q	boat		1	Cholam
11	boot		2	Koobootz
а	father		2	Chataf Patach
е	egg	Gradi 3° C	3	Chataf Segol
a	father	T		Chataf Kamatz
gutteral stop	pause or uh as in "ug"			Shva
0	boat		j	Cholam with VAV
u	boot		3	Shoorook with VAV
i	beet	,	7,3	
ai	bite	<b>b</b>	*3	
ae	bait	<b>b</b>	١	

http://www.congregation-emanu-el.com/groups/group00/datafiles/heblet2.gif

### VI. Blessings

#### Before reading the Torah:

העולה מברך: בַּרְכוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְבֹרָךְ. ועונין הקהל והעולה חוזר: בַּרוּךְ יִיַ הַמִבֹרָךְ לִעוֹלָם וַעֵּר.

בָּרוּך אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרַתוֹ. בָּרוּך אַתַּה יִיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

#### After reading the Torah:

# ואחר הקריאה יברך:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֶלהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת, וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נָטַע בִּתוֹכֵנוּ. בַּרוּךְ אַתַּה יִיַ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

#### Before reading the Haftarah:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּקְה יְיָּ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁרְ בָּחַר בִּנְבִיאֵים טוֹבִּים, וְרָצָּה בְּדְבְרִיהֶם הַנָּאֶמָרִים בֶּאֶמֶת, בָּרוּךְ אַתִּׁה יְיָ, הַבּוֹחֵרְ בַּתּוֹרָה וּבְמֹשֶׁה עַבְדּוֹ, וּבְיִשְׂרָאֵל עַמֹּוֹ, וּבִנִּבִיאֵי הָאֵמֵתְ וָצֵדֵק.

#### After reading the Haftarah:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, צוּר כָּל הָעוֹלָמִים, צַּדִּיק בְּכָל הַהּוֹרוֹת, הָאֵל הַנֶּאֶמָן הָאוֹמֵר וְעֹשֶׁה, הַמְּדַבֵּר וּמְקַיֵם, שֶׁכָּל דְּבָרָיו אֱמֶת וָצֶדֶק. נֶאֲמָן אַתָּה הוּא יִי הֻנְּאֶמָן הָאוֹמֵר וְעֹשֶׂה, הַמְּדַבֵּר וּמְקַיֵם, שֶׁכָּל דְּבָרִיו אֱמֶת וָצֶדֶק. נְאָמָן אַתָּה הוּא יִי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, וְנָאֱמָנִים דְּבָרֶיךְ, וְדָבָר אֶחָר מִדְּבָרֶיךְ אָחוֹר לֹא יָשׁוּב רֵיקִם, כִּי אֵל מֶלֶךְּ אֲמָן (וְרַחֲמָן) אָתָה. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, הָאֵל הַנָּאֱמָן בְּכָל דְּבָרִיוּ.

ַרַחֵם עַל צִיּוֹן כִּי הִיא בֵּית חַיֵּינוּ, וְלַעֲלְוּבַת נֶפֶשׁ תּוֹשֵׁיעַ בִּמְהַרָה בְיָמֵינוּ. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, מְשַׂמֵּחַ צִיּוֹן בְּבָנֶיהָ.

שַּׂמְחֵנּוּ, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, בְּאֵלִיֶּהוּ הַנָּבִיא עַבְהֶּךּ, וּבְמַלְכוּת בֵּית דָּוִד מְשִׁיחֶךּ, בּמְהַרָה יָבֹא וְיָגֵל לִבֵּנוּ, עַל כִּסְאוֹ לֹא וֵשֶׁב זָר, וְלֹא יִנְחֲלוּ עוֹד אֲחֵרִים אֶת כְּבוֹדוֹ, כִּי בְשֵׁם קַּדְשִׁךּ נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ לוֹ שֶׁלֹא יִכְבֶּה נֵרוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, מָגֵן דְּוִד.

עַל הַתּוֹרָה, וְעַל הָעֲבוֹדָה, וְעַל הַנְּבִיאִים, וְעַל יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת הַזֶּה, שֶׁנָּתַתְּ לְּנוּ, יְיָ שֶׁלֹהֵינוּ, לְכָבוֹד וּלְתִפְּאָרֶת. עַל הַכּל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, אֲנַחְנוּ מוֹדִים אֱלֹהֵינוּ, לְקְרָשָׁה וְלִמְנוּחָה, לְכָבוֹד וּלְתִפְּאָרֶת. עַל הַכּל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, אֲנַחְנוּ מוֹדִים לֶּרָ, וּמְבָרְרִים אוֹתָךְ, יִתְבָּרַךְ שִׁמְךְ בְּפִי כָּל חֵי תָּמִיד לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, מְלֵּרְכִים אוֹתָךְ, יִתְבָּרַךְ שִׁמְךְ בְּפִי כָּל חֵי תִּמִיד לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, מְלֵּרָשׁ הַשַּׁבָּת.

### VII. Torah Practice (Parashat Shelach - Bemidbar 15:37-41)

- speak the Hebrew, identify the trops, sing the trops, sing the Hebrew with the trop
- identify any unusual combinations or words

[מפטיר] לז וַיָּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶה לֵּאמְר: לח דַּבֵּר אֶל־בְּגְי יִשְׂרָאלֹ יְאַכִּרהְ אֲלַהֶּם וְעָשׁוּ לָהֶם צִיצָת עַל־בִּגְבֵּי בִּגְרֵיהֶם לְדִרֹתְם וְנָתְנִי עַל־צִיצִת הַבְּנָף פְּתִיל הְבֵלֶת: למ וְהָיָה לָכֶם לְצִיצִת וּרְאִיתָם אֹתוֹ יְלָה תָתׁוּרוּ אֲחֲרִי יְתֹּה וַעֲשִׂיתֵם אֹתָם וְלֹא תָתׁוּרוּ אֲחֲרִי לַבְּבְּכֶם וְאַחֲרִי עֵינִיכֶּם אֲשֶׁר־אַתֶּם זֹנִים אֲחֲרִיהֶם: מֹ לְמַעֵן הִוְּבְּרֹוּ לְבַבְּכֶם וְאַחָּרִי עֵינִיכֶּם אֲשֶׁר־אַתֶּם זֹנִים אַחֲרִיהֶם: מֹ לְמַעֵן הִוְּבְּרוּ וְעִשִּׂיתִם קְדֹשִׁים לֵאלֹחֵיכֶם: מֹא אֲנִי יְהוָּה אֵלְהֵים אָשֶׁר הוּצֵאתי אָתְכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְלַיִים לְהְיִוֹת לָכֶם לֵאלֹהִים אֵנֵי יְהוֹיָה אֵלְהַיִם בּ פּ פּ

# VIII. Haftarah Practice (Haftarah Kedoshim - Amos 9:7-15)

- speak the Hebrew, identify the trops, sing the trops, sing the Hebrew with the trop
- identify any unusual combinations or words

ז הַלְוֹא כבְנֵי בִשִּים אַתֶּם לֵי בְּנֵי ישְׁרָאֵל נְאָם־יְהוָהְ הַלְּוֹא אָת־יִשְׂרָאֵל הֶאֶלֵיתִי מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְלַיִם וּפְלִשְׁתִּיֵם מִבַּפְּתִּוֹר וַאֲרָם מִקְיר: ח הנֵّה אֵינֵי | אֲדנָי יְהֶוֹה בַּמַּמְלָּכָה הַחַּפָּאָה וְהִשְּׁמַרְתִּי אֹּהָה מַאָל פְּנֵי הַאֲדָמָה אָפָּם בִּי לָא הַשְּׁמֵיד אַשְּׁמֶיד אֶת־בֵּית יַעַקֹב נְאָם־יְהֹוָה: ם בּי־הנָּה אָנבי מְצַנֶּה וַהַנְעָוֹתי בְבָל־הַנּוֹיָם אֶת־בֵּית ישְׂרָאֵל בַּאֲשֶׁר ינוֹצֵ בַבְּבָרָה וְלְא־יִפָּוֹל צְרוֹר אָרֶץ: י בַּחֶרֶב יָבֹוּתוּ כָּל חַפָּאֵי צַבְּי הָאִמְרִים לִא־תַנְּיִשׁ וְתַקְּדֵּים בַּעֲדֵינוּ הָרָצְה: יא בַּיִּוֹם הַהֹּוֹא אָקֵים אָת־סָבַּת דָּוַיד הַנַּפֶּלֶת וְגָדַרְתִּי אֶת־פּּרְצֵיהֶן וְהַרְסֹתִיוֹ אָלִים וּבְנִיתִיהָ בִּימֵי עוֹלָם: יב לְבַּעון יִיךְשׁוּ אֶת־שְאֵרֶית אֱדוֹם וְכָל־הַגּוֹיִם אָשֶׁר־נקְרָא שְׁמָי עֲלֵיהֶם נְאָם־יְהוָה עָשֶׂה וְאת: יג הגַּה יָמִים בָּאִים' נְאָם־יְהֹוָה וְנִגַּשׁ חוֹבשׁ בַּקֹצֵר וְדֹבֵךְ עֲנָבִים בְּמֹשֵׁךְ הַוֹּרֶע וְהִמָּיפוּ הֶהָרִים עָבִּים וְבָל־הַגְּבָעוֹת תִּתְמוֹגַגְנָה: יד וְשַׁבְתִּ אֶת־שְׁבְוּת עַמִּי ישְׂרָאֵל וּבָנוּ עָרִים נְשַׁמּוֹת וְיָשָׁבוּ וְנָמְעוּ כְרָמִים וְשָׁתִוּ אֶת־יֵינָם וְעָשִׂוּ גַנּוֹת וְאָבְלָוּ אֶת־פְּרִיהֶם: מו וּנְמַעְתִּים עַל־אַדְמָתָם וְלֹא ינָתְשׁוּ עוֹד מַעֻל אַרְמָתָם אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לָהֶׁם אָמַר יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהֶיךְ: