

Congregation Beth Shalom Trope and Torah Class

Introduction

Welcome to the Beth Shalom Trope Class! I hope it is both fun and interesting for you, and begins a wonderful 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 will begin work on your parasha in this class and you will learn the basics of leading services.

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.BETHSHALOMKC.INFO/](http://www.bethshalomkc.info/)

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 haftarah; the melodies; the blessing before reading haftarah
4. More advanced combinations; method for learning; pronunciation
5. Linking groups of taamim
6. Practice; where to find more info

Bring to class (EVERY class):

This packet
A pencil and paper
A chumash and siddur
Your questions

You must be on time. I will always let you go on time.

If you are ill, or cannot attend a class for any reason, you must contact me. Call the synagogue. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING UP THE WORK AND GETTING THE NOTES FROM SOMEONE ELSE IN THE CLASS.**

If you have questions about the work, or bar/bat mitzvah in general, you can email me at: hazzanmenes@bethshalomkc.org or check the website: <http://www.bethshalomkc.info/>.

I. Basic Concepts

We begin with the blessing for study:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְעִסּוֹק
בְּדַבְרֵי תוֹרָה:

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

Chanting, or Cantillation:

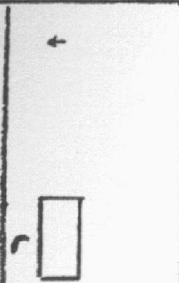
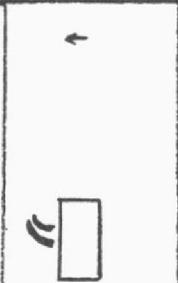
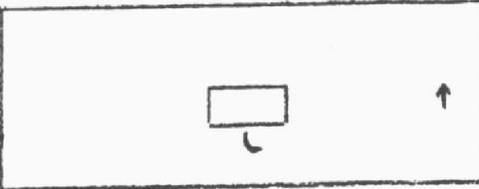
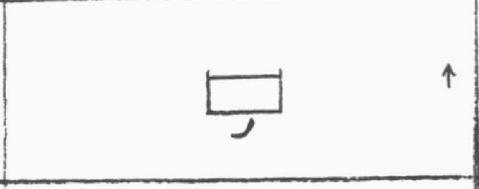
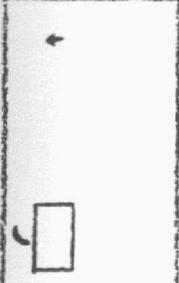
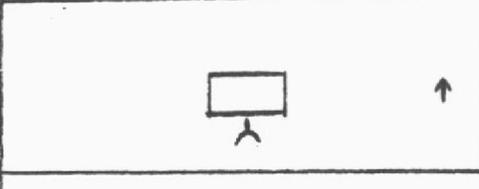
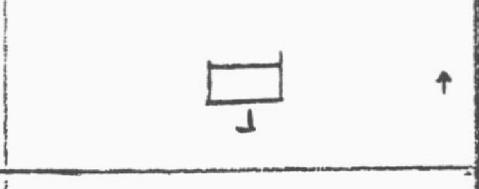
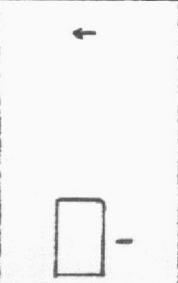
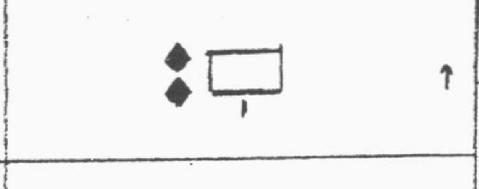
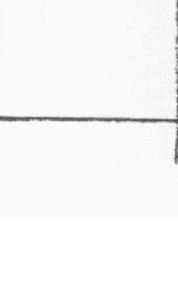
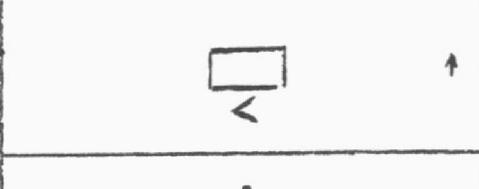
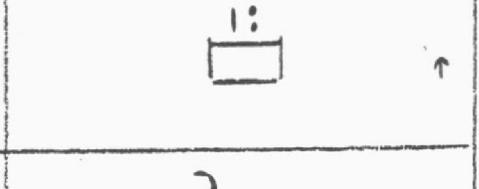
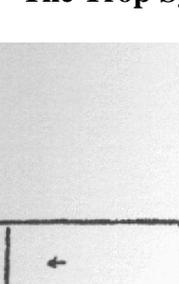
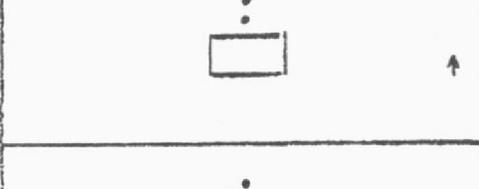
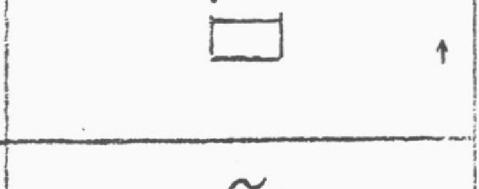
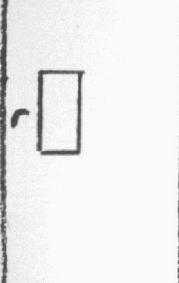
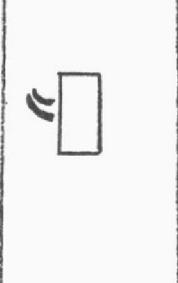
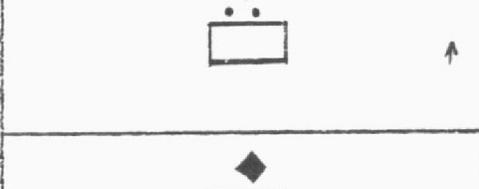
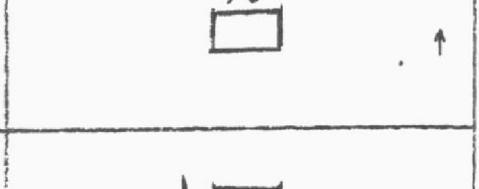
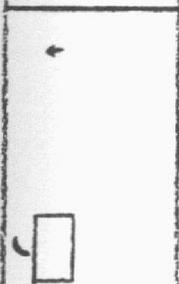
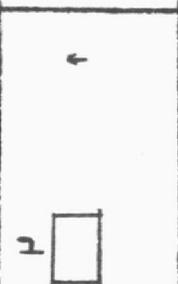
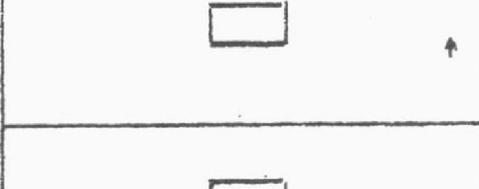
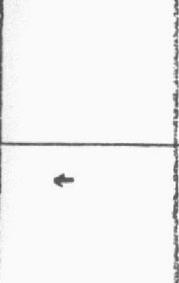
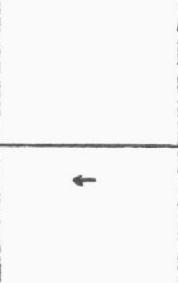
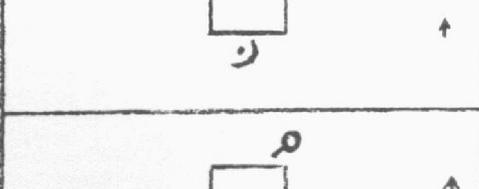
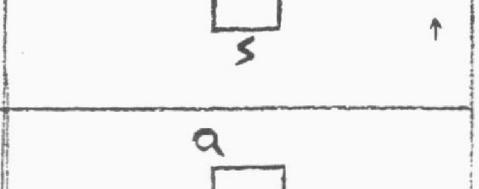
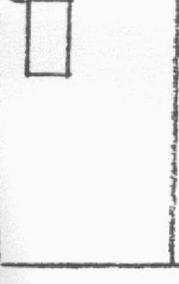
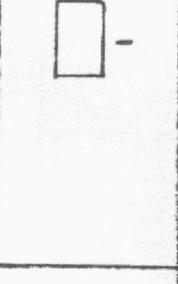
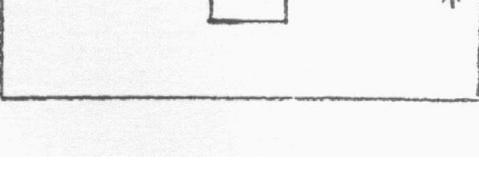
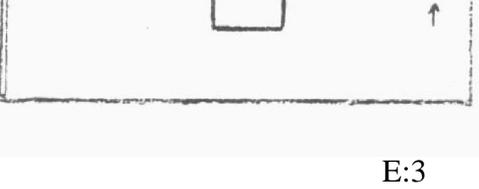
1. The most important aspect of chanting Torah or haftarah is the proper pronunciation of the text.
2. The trop symbols (also called ta'amim or ta'amei hamikra) are used for 3 things:
 - punctuation
 - accent
 - expression (including the musical tone)

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 trop.

3. The same trop 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 trop 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.

The Trop Symbols

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).

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בְּנְבִיאִים טוֹבִים,

וְרָצָה בְּדְבָרֵיהֶם הַנְּאֻמִּים בְּאֵמֶת, בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, הַבוֹחֵר בַּתּוֹרָה

וּבְמִשְׁחָ עֲבֹדוֹ, וּבִישְׂרָאֵל עַמּוֹ, וּבְנְבִיאֵי הָאֵמֶת וְצִדְקָה.

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 אֱלֹהֵינוּ ?
5. Is there a symbol on the last word וְצִדְקָה ?
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.

Trop Symbols and Their Names in Combinations

VERY COMMON : ך

מִהֶפֶךְ פִּשְׁטָא מִנְחָ זָקֶף-קֶטֶן

VERY COMMON

מִרְכָּא טַפְתָּא מִנְחָ אֲתַנְחָתָא

VERY COMMON

מִנְחָ | מִנְחָ רְבִיעִי

COMMON

דְּרָגָא תְּבִירָ, מִרְכָּא תְּבִיר

COMMON

()

קִדְמָא-וֹאֲזֵלָא

Note: with munach

מִנְחָ תְּלִישָׁא-קֶטֶנָּה

usually with munach

׃

זָקֶף-גְּדוּל

usually with munach

פִּזְר ׁ

גְּרִשִׁים

less common

מִנְחָה זֶרְקָא מִנְחָה סְגוּלָה

less common

תְּלִישָׁא-גְדוּלָה אֶזְלָא-גֵרֵשׁ

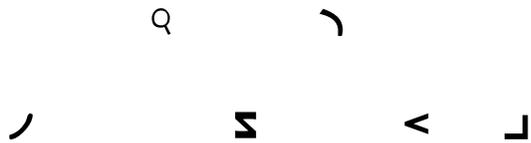
less common

יְתִיב מִנְחָה זְקָף-קִטְוִן

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

a)  

b)    

c)  

III. 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. You know the date of your bar/bat mitzvah. What is your Torah portion and haftarah? Where would you find out?
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?

IV. Siddur Concepts

Here are a number of exercises for using the siddur. Some are quite easy and can be done simply by looking in the Table of Contents while others require a bit more thinking. Some questions are ambiguous and you will have to decide on the meaning.

All references are to Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals. No Hebrew is required for this exercise.

1. Find the start of the Friday night service. (page ?)
2. Find the place where the cantor begins chanting on Shabbat morning. (page ?)
3. Find the beginning of the Shabbat Mincha service. (page ?)
4. When do we recite Hallel? (i.e. where would you find out?)
5. How many times do we say the Kaddish on Friday night?
6. Find 2 places in the siddur where we have the Torah service. (page ?)
7. Find 2 places in the siddur where we have the Kiddush for Shabbat. (page ?)
8. Find the words to Hatikvah. (page ?)
9. We read the Torah every day on Chanukah. From what book of the Torah do we read?
10. In what service do we announce the new month?

The next questions require looking at the text of a few prayers - in English (or Hebrew).

1. There are 2 blessings before the Sh'ma on Shabbat morning, and 1 blessing after. In English, each blessing ends with the statement, "Praised are You Adonai, ..." Find the blessings.
2. Of the 3 blessings, which blessing represents Redemption? Creation? Revelation?
3. The blessings after the reading of the haftarah (which, eventually, you will all chant) are on page 147. There are four of them. What four things are we blessing?

Hebrew Letter Charts

NAME	BO- OK	CUR- SIVE	BO LD	RA SHI	HA ND	NUM BER	Sound	Literal Meaning	Symbolic Meaning
Aleph	א	א	א	א	א	1	a	ox, bull	strength, leader, first
Bet /Vet	ב	ב	ב	ב	ב	2	b/v	tent, house	household in, into
Gimel	ג	ג	ג	ג	ג	3	g	camel	pride, to lift up
Dalet	ד	ד	ד	ד	ד	4	d	door	pathway, to enter
He	ה	ה	ה	ה	ה	5	h	window, fence	"the", to reveal
Vav	ו	ו	ו	ו	ו	6	u	nail	"and", add, secure, hook
Zayin	ז	ז	ז	ז	ז	7	z	weapon	cut, to cut off
CHet	ח	ח	ח	ח	ח	8	CH	fence, hedge, chamber	private, to separate
Tet	ט	ט	ט	ט	ט	9	t	to twist, a snake	to surround
Yud	י	י	י	י	י	10	i	closed hand	deed, work, to make
Kaf/ Chaf	כ	כ	כ	כ	כ	20	j	arm, wing' open hand	to cover, allow, strength
Lamed	ל	ל	ל	ל	ל	30	l	cattle goad, staff	prod, go toward, tongue
Mem	מ	מ	מ	מ	מ	40	m	water	massive, overpower chaos
Nun	נ	נ	נ	נ	נ	50	n	fish (moving)	activity, life
Samech	ס	ס	ס	ס	ס	60	x	a prop	support, turn
Ayin	ע	ע	ע	ע	ע	70	o	eye	see, know, experience
Pe/Fe	פ	פ	פ	פ	פ	80	p/f	mouth	speak, open, word
Tzadi	צ	צ	צ	צ	צ	90	c	fish-hook	harvest, desire
Kof	ק	ק	ק	ק	ק	100	q	back of the head	behind, the last, least
Resh	ר	ר	ר	ר	ר	200	r	head	person, head highest
Sin/ Shin	ש	ש	ש	ש	ש	300	s/sh	teeth	consume, destroy
Tau	ת	ת	ת	ת	ת	400	t	sign, cross	covenant, to seal

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

NAME	BO- OK	CUR- SIVE	BO LD	RA SHI	HA ND	NUM BER	Sound
Kof Sofit	ך	ך	ך	ך	ך	500	ch
Mem Sofit	ם	ם	ם	ם	ם	600	m
Nun Sofit	ן	ן	ן	ן	ן	700	n
Fe Sofit	ף	ף	ף	ף	ף	800	f
Tzadi Sofit	ז	ז	ז	ז	ז	900	ts

Hebrew Vowel Points

SOUND	ENGLISH EXAMPLE	SYMBOL	HEBREW	VOWEL NAME
a	father	-	א	Patach
a	father	ַ	א	Kamatz
e	egg	ֵ	א	Segol
e	egg	ֶ	א	Tzareh
i	bit	ִ	א	Chereek
o	boat	ֹ	א	Cholam
u	boot	ֻ	א	Koobootz
a	father	ֶ	א	Chataf Patach
e	egg	ֶ	א	Chataf Segol
a	father	ֶ	א	Chataf Kamatz
guttural stop	pause or uh as in "ug"	׀	א	Shva
o	boat	ֹ	א	Cholam with VAV
u	boot	ֻ	א	Shoorook with VAV
i	beet	ִ	א	
ai	bite	ִ	א	
ae	bait	ִ	א	

VI. Blessings

Before reading the Torah:

העולה מברך: בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבַרֵךְ.
ועונין הקהל והעולה חוזר: בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבַרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרָתוֹ. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

After reading the Torah:

ואחר הקריאה יברך:
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת, וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נָטַע בְּתוֹכֵנוּ. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

Before reading the Haftarah:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בְּנַבִּיאִים טוֹבִים, וְרָצָה בְּדַבְרֵיהֶם
הַנְּאֻמִּים בְּאֵמֶת, בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, הַבוֹחֵר בַּתּוֹרָה וּבְמִשְׁחָה עֲבָדָיו, וּבְיִשְׂרָאֵל עַמּוֹ,
וּבְנַבִּיאֵי הָאֱמֶת וְצַדִּיק.

After reading the Haftarah:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, צור כל העולמים, צדיק בכל הדורות, האל הנאמן האומר ועשה, המדבר ומקים, שכל דבריו אמת וצדק. נאמן אתה הוא יי אלהינו, ונאמנים דבריך, ודבר אחד מדבריך אחר לא ישוב ריקם, כי אל מלך נאמן (ורחמן) אתה. ברוך אתה יי, האל הנאמן בכל דבריו.

רחם על ציון כי היא בית חיינו, ולעלובת נפש תושיע במהרה בימינו. ברוך אתה יי, משמח ציון בבניה.

שמחנו, יי אלהינו, באליהו הנביא עבדך, ובמלכות בית דוד משיחך, במהרה יבא ויגל לבנו, על כסאו לא ישוב זר, ולא ינחלו עוד אחרים את כבודו, כי בשם קדשך נשבעת לו שלא יכבה נרו לעולם ועד. ברוך אתה יי, מגן דוד.

על התורה, ועל העבודה, ועל הנביאים, ועל יום השבת הנה, שנתת לנו, יי אלהינו, לקדשה ולמנוחה, לכבוד ולתפארת. על הכל, יי אלהינו, אנחנו מודים לך, ומברכים אותך, יתברך שמך בפני כל חי תמיד לעולם ועד. ברוך אתה יי, מקדש השבת.

קידוש בבית הכנסת

Kiddush erev Shabbat in the Synagogue

סְבָרֵי מָרְנָן וְרַבָּנָן וְרַבּוֹתֵי.
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְרָצָה בָּנוּ, וְשִׁבֵּת
קִדְּשׁוּ בְּאַהֲבָה וּבְרַצוֹן הַנְּחִילָנוּ וּזְכוֹן לְמַעֲשֵׂה בְּרֵאשִׁית, כִּי הוּא יוֹם תְּחִלָּה
לְמִקְרָאֵי קִדְּשׁ, וְזָכַר לִיציאת מצרים, כִּי בָנוּ בְּחִרְתָּ וְאוֹתָנוּ קִדְּשָׁתָּ מִכָּל
הָעַמִּים, וְשִׁבֵּת קִדְּשָׁךְ בְּאַהֲבָה וּבְרַצוֹן הַנְּחִילָתָנוּ. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, מִקְדִּישׁ
הַשַּׁבָּת.

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

- speak the Hebrew, identify the trop, sing the trop, sing the Hebrew with the trop

- identify any unusual combinations or words

[מפטיר] לו וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: לַח דְּבַר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם וַעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם צִיצִית עַל־בְּנֹפֵי בְּגָדֵיהֶם לְדֹרֹתָם וְנִתְּנוּ
עַל־צִיצִית הַכֶּנֶף שְׂתִיל תְּכֵלֶת: לֹט וְהָיָה לָכֶם לְצִיצִית וּרְאִיתֶם אֹתוֹ
וּזְכַרְתֶּם אֶת־כָּל־מִצְוֹת יְהוָה וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אֹתָם וְלֹא תִתּוּרוּ אַחֲרַי
לְבַבְכֶם וְאַחֲרַי עֵינֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר־אֹתָם זָנִים אַחֲרֵיהֶם: מ לְמַעַן תִּזְכְּרוּ
וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אֶת־כָּל־מִצְוֹתַי וְהֵייתֶם קְדוֹשִׁים לֵאלֹהֵיכֶם: מֵא אֲנִי יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִי אֶתְכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לְהִיזֹת לָכֶם לֵאלֹהִים
אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם: פ פ פ

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

- speak the Hebrew, identify the trop, sing the trop, sing the Hebrew with the trop

- identify any unusual combinations or words

ו הַלֹּוא כְּבָנִי כְשֵׁיִם אַתֶּם לִי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל נְאֻם־יְהוָה הַלֹּוא
אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל הַעֲלִיתִי מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וּפְלִשְׁתִּיִּים מִכַּפְתּוֹר וְאֶרֶם מִקּוֹר:
ח הֲנֵה עֵינַי | אֲדַנֶּי יְהוָה בַּמַּמְלָכָה הַחַטָּאָה וְהַשְׁמֵדְתִּי אֹתָהּ מֵעַל פְּנֵי
הָאֲדָמָה אָפֶס כִּי לֹא הַשְׁמִיד אֲשַׁמִּיד אֶת־בַּיִת יַעֲקֹב נְאֻם־יְהוָה:
ט כִּי־הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי מְצִיָּה וְהִנְעוֹתִי בְּכָל־הַגּוֹיִם אֶת־בַּיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל כַּאֲשֶׁר
יִנּוּעַ בַּכְּבֹּדָה וְלֹא־יִפּוֹל צְרוּר אֶרֶץ: י בַּחֶרֶב יָמוּתוּ כָּל חַטָּאֵי עַמִּי
הָאֹמְרִים לֹא־תִגִּישׁ וְתִקְוֶים בְּעַדֵּינוּ הֲרַעָה: יא בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא אֲקִים
אֶת־סֶבֶת דָּוִד הַנִּפְלֵת וְגִדְדֵתִי אֶת־פְּרִצֵיהֶן וְהִרְסֵתִיו אֲקִים וּבְנֵיתִיהָ
כִּימֵי עוֹלָם: יב לְמַעַן יִירָשׁוּ אֶת־שְׂאֵרֵיט אֲדוּם וְכָל־הַגּוֹיִם
אֲשֶׁר־נִקְרָא שְׁמִי עֲלֵיהֶם נְאֻם־יְהוָה עֲשֵׂה זֹאת: יג הֲנֵה יָמִים
בָּאִים נְאֻם־יְהוָה וְנִגַּשׁ חוֹרֵשׁ בַּקֶּצֶר וְדֶרֶךְ עֲנָבִים בְּמִשְׁךְ הַזֶּרַע
וְהַפִּיפוּ הַהָרִים עֲסִים וְכָל־הַגְּבָעוֹת תִּתְמוּנְגָנָה: יד וְשָׁבְתִי אֶת־שָׁבוֹת
עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבָנוּ עָרִים נְשֻׁמוֹת וַיִּשְׁבּוּ וַיִּטְעוּ כַרְמִים וְשָׁתוּ אֶת־יַיִנָם
וְעָשׂוּ גִזְוֹת וְאָכְלוּ אֶת־פְּרִיהֶם: טו וַיִּטְעוּתִים עַל־אֲדָמָתָם וְלֹא יִנְתָּשׁוּ
עוֹד מֵעַל אֲדָמָתָם אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לָהֶם אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ: