

Diversity and Inclusion: Jewish Jargon

SHABBAT/FRIDAY NIGHT	The Jewish Sabbath, 7 th day of rest begins 1 hour before sunset on Friday evening and finishes 1 hour after sunset on Saturday evening.
REFORM	Reform Judaism sees itself as deeply rooted in tradition while believing in 'progressive revelation' the idea that we learn new ideas from the divine in every generation and therefore embraces change in Jewish practice and theology. Men and women are equal in ritual.
MASORTI	Masorti Judaism accepts the binding force of Jewish law, and understands that it has developed throughout history, and is open to re-interpretation. Some communities are fully egalitarian, some retain distinctions in the roles of men and women.
ORTHODOX	Orthodox Judaism emphasizes a traditional understanding of Jewish law and theology. Men and women have distinct roles in Jewish life, both of which are seen as important.
LIBERAL	Liberal Judaism emphasis the ethical and moral aspects of Judaism, seeing itself as the 'cutting-edge' of the Jewish world. Men and women are completely equal.
HAREDI	Ultra-orthodox Jews who believe that the only authentic way to safeguard Judaism is to change no part of its practice or theology. Men and women have distinct roles in Jewish life, both of which are seen as important.

CHASSIDIC	A particular ultra-orthodox group of Jews who take a more mystical approach and follow the teachings of their chosen Rabbi very closely.
TORAH	“The 5 books of Moses”, also called the Jewish bible or the old testament, also all Jewish rabbinical teachings
CHALAH	Plaited bread blessed and eaten on Shabbat.
TALMUD	The “oral law”, rabbinical discussions and rulings, legends and interpretations codified in the books of the Mishna in 220 CE, and enlarged in the Gemarah about 500 CE.
HIGH HOLIDAYS/FESTIVALS	Rosh Hashanah, and Yom Kippur
YOM KIPPUR	Most holy Jewish day of repentance, 25 hour fast, 10 days after Jewish new year.
ROSH HASHANAH	Jewish new year, in September.
SHAVUOT	Festival of weeks, fruits and the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.
BRIT MELA /BRIS	Circumcision of boy children at 8 days old.
KIPPAH	Skull cap worn by boys and men when praying.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH	At 13 years old for boys and at 12 years old for girls in orthodox and masorti Judaism, 13 in Reform and liberal. Ceremony in which young people take on the Jewish responsibilities and privileges of an adult. Usually celebrated in synagogue by participating in the service.
SHEITAL	Wig used to cover a married woman's hair
NIDA	The orthodox rules prohibiting sexual relations during menstruation and for 5 days thereafter every month
JGLG	Jewish Gay and Lesbian Group, started London 40 years ago
FAGGALAH	Yiddish derogatory term for an effeminate gay man
GJLG	Gay Jews in London, young group
BKY	Beit KLAL Yisrael, gay friendly congregation started in London



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