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Strongly Traditional Judaism: A Selective Guide to World Wide Web Resources in English*

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Abstract: Annotated list of about forty selected World Wide Web sites in English that are relevant to understanding the more traditionally religious Jewish community. The sites include resource indexes and information about kosher food, Jewish calendars, music, communities, and Torah learning. The sites are classified into 13 categories. The article concludes with a glossary, references, and an index. Updated mid-January 1998.

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to assist librarians and other users in sampling the attitudes and interests of the strongly traditional Jewish community, or in answering questions about Jewish practice. Included are web indexes to resources and information on communities, calendars, kosher food resources, and centers for Torah learning. A brief glossary of Internet terms has been added to help inexperienced users. The article concludes with an index of titles and subjects.

A number of these sites assume a relatively high level of Jewish knowledge, although some are aimed at beginners; most originate in North America (ascertained by checking contact addresses). There is sparse content for children. The scope of this guide barely overlaps that of Romm and Steinberger's article (1995), which focused primarily on librarians' tools.

All pages cited are in English. Some transcribed Hebrew words may be encountered, but these can usually be understood in context. (Some may be explained by the glossaries at UC Davis [see entry no. 33 below] and at Kallah Guide [see no. 42].)

*Revision of a term project submitted for a course in *Advanced Reference in the Humanities at Queens College (New York) Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, May 1997.*

The Web pages listed here were chosen from more than a hundred sampled. While some items were discovered using the Web guides of Romm (1997), Green (1997), and Levin (1996), the bulk of the research was original. [Of these three guides, Romm cites the most pages, but Green has the best balance between comprehensiveness of coverage and quality of annotations, in my opinion.]

There are some important limitations to this guide. No gopher (see Glossary) sites are listed, as all relevant ones have apparently been discontinued; neither were any newsgroups encountered that deal specifically with this topic. The indexes by Tannenbaum and Ruttenberg [entries 1, 2] are indispensable and have been included. Mailing lists of Torah thoughts are so numerous that no one list has been singled out for description. A small number of them are detailed fully by Adlerstein (1997). No sites dealing specifically with the traditional Jewish community's history or sociology were discovered. The standard Internet guide services consulted—Yahoo, Magellan, Webcrawler Select, Excite—searched under Life or Lifestyle—Religion, only provide links to resources of general Jewish interest. America Online: Communities' J. Comm (available only to AOL members) is also aimed at the general Jewish audience and was similarly excluded. A section covering news from Israel's "settlement" areas was added in consideration of the high proportion of religious residents with roots in North America.

Each major source is listed by page title, often of a homepage; rarely, a file name is added. The arrangement is topical, but wherever possible, instead of breaking up sites and categorizing their webpages, whole sites or selected parts of sites are summarized, with cross-references between entries where needed; this should prove a more natural arrangement to surfers. A subject/title index is also included for locating specific items. Within the text, the titles of Web pages are in bold

face. An entry in the format **mutt>jeff** signifies the steps through a path where clicking "mutt" leads to a page where one should then click "jeff". URLs (see Glossary) have been provided for most listings, because sometimes those "addresses" are more durable than the links created to get at them (or those links' names). URLs sometimes become detached from homepages altogether (examples are *Jewish Music Network*, *Kashrus Magazine*, and the newspaper *Yated Neeman*. On the other hand, a few webmasters have been kind enough to retain their old homepages alongside new ones [Orthodox Union, Jewishnet]). The sequence (introduction, outline of contents, guide itself, index) follows that of *The Internet Compendium: Subject Guides to Social Sciences, Business, and Law Resources* (Rosenfeld et al., 1995).

From an examination of the Web itself, it may be difficult to build up a true proportional representation of the traditional Jewish community. Many institutions that might have websites, including communal organizations such as Agudath Israel, large yeshivot, day schools and hasidic groups, are not represented. One can speculate that they will not put up sites in the near term.

Quality is always a concern with the Internet. Each person recommending Web sites is a selector. No two individuals will agree on the best ones. In many Web sites, there are good parts and bad ones, as well as undeveloped parts. It would be impossible to describe and evaluate every page of every site. As for authoritativeness, many pages offer ostensibly rabbinical feedback—"Ask the Rabbi"—but the authority's name is not provided.

There has been spirited *practical* debate about whether exposure to even the beneficial side of the Internet is acceptable, for fear of the seamy side. (See, for example, Herman [1995] and Levine [1997].) The shortage of material suitable for traditional

Jewish children is acute, as they could exhaust the available resources in a few hours.

Staying up to date

Besides quality, currency is a major concern when consulting guides to Internet resources. The printed guides are months behind as soon as they are published, and even online indexes to the Web are often stale; sometimes they are updated and/or weeded. Both of these are time-consuming activities; Web teams, rather than individuals, can make the necessary repairs. Web pages represent more than a conversation but less than quality-controlled publishing. Bear in mind that as the Web ages, more sites will turn out to be even two or three years old.

The preliminary version of this guide was prepared in May 1997, but everything was rechecked thoroughly in September 1997 and in January 1998; the list is up-to-date as of January 16, 1998. Most research surfing was performed using a PowerMac 7200/90, a 14.4 kbps (kilobytes per second) modem, and AOL 3.0 and Netscape Navigator 2.01 browsers (see *World Wide Web* in Glossary). [Many of the URLs were rechecked by the journal's proofreader in 1999.—Ed.]

If you want more up-to-date information than that which is presented here, or wish to broaden your perspective, you can use the strategies which went into the making of this list. The easiest method is to consult the excellent index/launch sites described below; these lead you to even more web sites. A second strategy is to search the major search engines (AltaVista, Webcrawler, and Excite) for keywords such as Shadchan or Shidduch, Kashrut or Kosher, Torah, Chabad, Satmar, and Agunah. (Note that Hebrew-to-English transcription is inconsistent on the Internet.) If you search for a generic term, for example, "Orthodox," you may get too many hits and have to do an advanced search. Search a phrase in quotes ("Orthodox Jew" seems to yield more hits than "Orthodox Judaism"), or use NOT (or minus sign "-") "Eastern Orthodox" or "Greek Orthodox," to restrict your search to the concept you want.

Contents

The sites selected for inclusion in this guide are grouped in the following categories:

- A. Resource Indexes
- B. Community Overview
- C. Higher Education
- D. Kosher Food and Other Mitzvot
- E. Food Recipes

- F. Calendars
- G. Torah Study
- H. Texts
- I. Publishers
- J. Newspapers and Magazines
- K. Music
- L. News from Israel
- M. Towards a Wedding

A. Resource Indexes

These sites contain links to most of the other pages in this guide, and then some:

[1] *The Ultimate Jewish/Israel Link Launcher*
<<http://ucsu.colorado.edu/~jsu/launcher.html>

The largest American Jewish launch site contains over 4500 links regarding all aspects of Jewish life, grouped into 12 broad categories ranging from people to politics, and antisemitism to academia. Of special interest are the extensive listings in the category **History>Diaspora History**. Some of the links may be stale, as the last update was in June 1997. Webmaster: Steve Ruttenberg of the University of Colorado Jewish Students' Union.

[2] *Judaism and Jewish Resources (filename: Andrew Tannenbaum's Judaism and Jewish Resources)*
<<http://www.shamash.org/trb/judaism.html>

This excellent resource (listed in Webcrawler Select) is kept up to date and has over 500 links to Web guides, divided into about 30 broad topics; in turn, these lead to hundreds of more specific sites. Running to over 20 pages when printed out, this guide provides an instant overview of the Jewish sites on the Internet. Some topics related to strict Jewish practice include

- Jewish learning
- Jewish organizations
- Jewish communities
- Kashrut
- Sephardi links
- Singles (matchmaking).

Host: The Shamash project <<http://www.shamash.org>, a service of Hebrew College of Brookline, MA, with links to Jewish texts, learning and other pages of interest.

[3] *The Frum Side of the Web*
<<http://www.cs.brandeis.edu/~walrus/time.html>

This is an exclusively Orthodox collection. It contains links to traditional Hebrew texts, yeshivas, synagogues and communities, outreach organizations,

calendars, and other items. One visually attractive short page with audio is entitled **Sight and Sound Guide to Shabbos Koidesh**.

Host: Scott (Oizer) Alport, who learned at Yeshiva Ohr Somayach in Jerusalem and at Harvard.

[4] *Virtual Jerusalem*
<<http://www.virtual.co.il>

A major hub of the Internet in Israel, this jam-packed homepage leads to commercial Web pages, bulletin boards, tourism information, and chat rooms. There are buttons for ten news/media services, including *Jerusalem Report* magazine.

A visually appealing area is the **Tour of Jerusalem**. An archive of images taken by a camera mounted above the Kotel Hamma'aravi (Wailing Wall) is to be found at <www.kotelkam.com; live images can be seen too. **Send a Prayer**—arranging for prayers to be recited at holy sites—requires user registration (free). **Humor** is still under construction.

For many Torah mailing lists, select **Torah**. Archives of these are maintained as well.

B. Community Overview

[5] *OU Online—The Cyber Home of Torah*
<<http://www.ou.org>
or, perhaps better
<<http://www.ou.org/siteindex.htm>

This is the website of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (UOJCA), a mainstream organization representing the largest number of congregations in America (about 3000) and the largest kosher certification agency. Among the valuable features of the site are: a) **Parsha Pages and Torah Pages**, featuring lessons by participating rabbis from all over North America; b) **Kosher Alerts**, <[...org/kosher/alerts](http://www.ou.org/kosher/alerts); see below [Kosher Food, section D]; c) **Orthodox Synagogue Network**, with links to connected synagogues worldwide. There are also some video files on this site. Questions on Jewish law (**Ask the OU Vebbe Rebbe**) are answered by organization experts or by authorities in Israel.

There is also information about the National Council of Synagogue Youth (NCSY). One of the programs is aimed specifically at the deaf <[...ou.org/ncsy/ourway/](http://www.ou.org/ncsy/ourway/).

Also of national prominence is the **National Council of Young Israel** <<http://www.youngisrael.org>.

[6] **CJSO's Tour of the Internet**
<<http://www.utexas.edu/students/cjso/>>

The Chabad Jewish Student Organization at the University of Texas at Austin provides the most comprehensive website of the Chabad Chassidim, known also as Lubavitch. For beginners, there are brief guides to the Sabbath (**Shabbat**) and the rudiments of Kashrut (**Kosher Pamphlet**) <[...students/cjso/kosher/kpamphlet.html](http://www.utexas.edu/students/cjso/kosher/kpamphlet.html)>. **Rebbe's Niggunim** contains audio recordings of the late Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, as well as singing at Chasidic gatherings (au format). Another page has videos and portraits of the Rebbe, as well as links to Moshiach sites (for those interested in the imminent coming of the Messiah, from a Lubavitch perspective).

[7] **Chabad-Lubavitch in Cyberspace**
<<http://www.chabad.org>>

This is the main site of the movement based in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, with links to all Lubavitch websites worldwide. Among the other departments are **Hebrew Alphabet** <[...chabad.org/general/alefbeis](http://www.chabad.org/general/alefbeis)>, and **Holiday guides**. The section **Chasidim** <[...chabad.org/chasidism.html](http://www.chabad.org/chasidism.html)> includes a pictorial history of the movements' leaders. Older materials are archived in a gopher. A text-only version is available for users with older browsers.

[8] **Welcome to Satmar**
<<http://www.satmar.com>>

Not officially sanctioned by the movement, this commercially sponsored website aims to reflect the perspective of an estimated 200,000 Satmar followers worldwide (most of the press releases deal with Israel). There is some local **News** <[...com/news/](http://www.satmar.com/news/)> (an old news item dealt with the construction of the world's largest synagogue, capacity 8000). A photo **Gallery** <[...satmar.com/pictures/](http://www.satmar.com/pictures/)> of the previous and current Rebbe (Rabbi Moshe Teitelbaum) and sons is planned (previous versions did have pictures). **Forum** <[.../mail/](http://www.satmar.com/mail/)> leads to a display of questions and comments to the webmaster, Rabbi Daniel Rubin, but none of his replies are shown. Updated approximately weekly.

As we go to press, this website has been declared "forbidden" to ordinary servers (AOL, Yeshiva University).

[9] **BSZ Net: Gateway to Sephardic Resources**
<<http://www.bsz.org>>

This large and well-crafted site is under the name of B'nei Shaare Zion, the largest Syr-

ian-Jewish congregation in New York. Most of the buttons (hyperlinks) lead to sites maintained by other Sephardic synagogues, research centers, museums, etc. **Definition** provides a definition of the term Sephardic; **Origins** has a brief history of Sephardic communities in the Balkans, Iraq, and elsewhere. Some self-supplied content is at **Music**, where one can also hear recordings of pizmonim (liturgical songs) in Syrian style (**Music** > **Pizmonim**) <<http://www.613.org/music/pizmon/piz.html>> as well as selihot and holiday songs in Moroccan and Syrian style <<http://www.spacelab.net/~david/music.htm>>.

[10] **Breslov—Judaism with Heart**
<<http://www.breslov.org>>

Here is a recently redesigned central directory for Web pages that promote the teachings of the rebbe of Breslov, Reb Nachman (d. 1810). Also good for children are selected **Stories** <[...breslov.org/stories.html](http://www.breslov.org/stories.html)>. These pages contain three stories and seven parables translated by the late educator Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan.

[11] **Varieties of Orthodoxy**
<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/363/Transp/08_Orthodoxy.html>

This series of pages briefly describes various streams in the Orthodox community and their relationship to the State of Israel. An interesting screen is **A Page of Talmud**, described below (entry no. 34).

Host: Eliezer Segal, a Conservative rabbi and former Hebrew University professor, created this visually appealing website <<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/>> (mentioned in the *L.A. Times* and *NetGuide*).

The **Jewish Defense League** <<http://www.jdl.org>> and the Kahane webpage <<http://www.kahane.org>> promote the views of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane.

C. Higher Education

[12] **Yeshiva University**
<<http://www.yu.edu>>

The homepage of the premier North American Jewish university contains information on its programs and academic requirements. (The newly computerized library catalog for three of the libraries, and the catalog of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, are available.)

[13] **Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center**

<<http://www.tourolaw.edu>>

Describes the programs and publications of this arm of Touro College. The main website of the college is <<http://www.touro.edu>>.

Check under **Publications** > **Jewish Law Report** > **April 1995**
<<http://www.tourolaw.edu/publications/Jewishlaw/apr95/index.html>>
for samples of authoritative, reasoned responsa and other articles on practical applications of Jewish law. The law school library catalog is accessible via telnet at library.touro.edu, available from website www.touro.edu.

D. Kosher Food and Other Mitzvot

Kosher consumers need up-to-date alerts from certification agencies about mislabeled products, unauthorized kosher labeling, new food technology issues (some consumers are quite knowledgeable about emulsifiers and clarifiers), and new available products. Manufacturers require directories of producers of basic components. This demand is met by magazines devoted at least partially to these tasks (some months behind), and a fax update service for subscribers and affiliated institutions. Novices need primers in keeping kosher. Now, some kashrut information is provided on the Web.

The premier kashruth agency, the "OU" (see entry no. 5) has updates at <<http://www.ou.org/kosher/updates/default.htm>>, as well as reprints of magazine articles (**Daf Hakashruth**) and the most comprehensive kosher primer. Shorter primers can be found at **National Jewish Outreach Program** (see entry no. 29, below), as well as the following:

[14] **Kashrut.Com—Kosher Food Information**
<<http://www.kashrut.com>>

This site has consumer alerts from major certification organizations, as well as sources of assistance for travelers. There is a useful calendar here: **Zemanim** (see below, entry no. 23).

[15] **Welcome to Empire Kosher**
<<http://www.empirekosher.com>>

What preparations are required to make a chicken kosher, and how are chickens raised for this purpose? The world's largest kosher poultry producer provides a detailed tour of its facility (**What Makes a Chicken Kosher**). There is also a list of distributors

by state (not up-to-date), as well as recipes (see below, entry no. 19).

[16] Query the Kosher Restaurant Database

<<http://www.shamash.org/kosher.htm>/
Restaurant Guide (at Mazornet)
<<http://www.mazornet.com/jewishcl/kosherfd.htm>

Each database compensates somewhat for the other's shortcomings. The former lists restaurants all across America, giving the address, telephone number, cuisine, price range, and certification of each. As to comprehensiveness, the site seems to have Boston and Manhattan well covered, but not the outer boroughs of New York. The screen-names of those who submit entries are provided; it is unclear whether the information is verified. The guide of Mazornet is current, divided by city and borough, but it contains only names and telephone numbers. The preferred alternative to both is the weekly printed *Jewish Press Dining Guide*, although the information is based on paid advertisements.

The watchdog *Kashrus Magazine* (a publication of Yeshiva Birkas Reuven of Brooklyn, NY) briefly attempted an online version <www.w2.com/kashrus.html. Some issues may be unearthed in searches of other sites.

Unfortunately, one of the best-crafted sites, **Kosherquest**, has disappeared. The database of all kosher certified products at **All-Kosher**

<www.kosher.co.il

is sketchy (and, incidentally, can be viewed in Netscape Navigator but not AOL 3.0).

Kof-K Kosher Supervision

<<http://www.kof-k.com>

provides kosher alerts and shopping tips. Host: Kashrut certification agency directed by Rabbi Zecharia (Harvey) Senter, chemist.

For an image reprint of an article from the November 15, 1996, issue of *The New York Times* about the size of the kosher food industry, check **KSA: Kosher Supervision of America** (local California supervisory service) ><http://www.primenet.com/%7Ekosher/whatis.htm>

and get the page entitled **What is Kosher**. It may take a minute to fill up the screen, given the large number of bits (134k).

[17] Judaism and Medicine on the Web

<<http://www.shamash.org/shuls/einstein/medlinks.html>

Directories of Jewish hospitals, drug and AIDS rehabilitation centers, and genetic disease interest groups, as well as discus-

sions of medical halacha and its relation to United States civil law, make this an important resource for all communities. Incidentally, the site links to the **Oath of Maimonides**

<<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/rambam-oath.html>

Host: Members of the local congregation of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University.

[18] International Jewish Burial Society

<<http://www.shemayisrael.co.il/burial/>

For information about the elements of a Jewish funeral, check **What is a Jewish Funeral?**

<...[burial/jewfuner.htm](http://www.burial/jewfuner.htm)

This can be supplemented with **Steven Weintraub's Taharot Procedure Description** (based on the description by Rabbi Elchanan Zohn of the Chevra Kadisha of Queens and Long Island at

<<http://pswtech.com/~stevenw/jewish/taharot.html>.

This site describes the proper procedures for Tahara, preparation of the dead for burial.

E. Food Recipes

Looking for recipes on the Web for Jewish foods ranging from *kishke* to *falafel*? Start with these sites:

[19] Royal Wine Corporation

<<http://www.royalwines.com>
or <http://www.kedemwines.com>

This company produces wines in New York, California, France, and Israel, under the brand names Kedem, Baron Herzog, and Gamla. **Kedem Kosher Kitchen** provides recipes involving wine, and there is a recipe of the week (not recently renewed). **Wine Talk** opines about wine-tasting.

Empire Kosher (see entry no. 15) has two pages of recipes (**Recipes**) and posted questions and replies (**In Auntie Rivka's Kitchen**).

Sephardic recipes can be located at **BSZ** (entry no. 9). Select **Food**.

F. Calendars

No single source resolves all queries regarding holiday dates or the time at which the Passover seder may begin, nor is there a utility to convert Hebrew dates to English. Each of the following sites does, however, supply a piece of the puzzle. This group supplements another listing at **Yahoo>Reference>Calendars>Hebrew** <www.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/

Religion/Faiths_and_Practices/Judaism/Resources/Calendars

An important caveat regarding these calendars: When converting older dates, there may be no compensation for the shift from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar (see Baker, 1991, pp. 244–245).

[20] PAO Calendar Conversion Utility

<<http://www.jewish.org/pao.calendar.convert.html>

When is my Hebrew birthday? Will *Pesah* coincide with my planned vacation? This program answers such questions, as it takes any secular date and returns the Hebrew date, weekly Torah portion, holiday (if any), and Omer count (for the months April–May). When you fill in the form, take care to type four digits for the year.

Host: PAO, which stands for Palo Alto Orthodox WWW group.

[21] Havienu L'Shalom Hebrew Calendar

<<http://www.havienu.org/resrcs/hebc.html>
<http://www.dubrow.addr.com/Havienu/html/ndx_vs.html
(see note below)

This program generates a Jewish calendar for any time range you choose. Columns include the times for candle-lighting and Havdalah, as well as the weekly parasha, and dates of special holidays. The site is detailed: when providing data you are asked to select, for example, how many minutes after candle-lighting to wait at the conclusion of Shabbat. In contrast to the trend towards Gregorian-to-Hebrew, here you can generate a secular calendar by inputting a Hebrew year (if you don't have *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, vol. 1 handy).

Note: The second URL above is the correct address but, inexplicably, I could only access this site indirectly through the first URL.

[22] [Today's] Hebrew Date

<http://www.doe.carleton.ca/doebin/dfs_dispatch?hebdate
(the question mark is not a typo).

Just by accessing this site, you are given today's Hebrew date and told whether it is a Jewish holiday. There is a built-in inaccuracy, however: the Hebrew date is based on the secular date; thus for a few hours at night, the Hebrew date is one day behind.

You can also download one month's calendar from this site (Postscript file, 35K).

[23] Zemanim

<<http://www.kashrut.com/zemanim>

A form for computing daily times of prayer for any date and any location. Submit the town name or its latitude and longitude; not all towns' locations are in the database. If you don't know your city's position, you can get it from the U.S. Census Bureau's file at <<ftp://ftp.census.gov/pub/tiger/points/geoex.exe> (849k).

For the year, use four digits.

A table of the holidays for the next seven years can be found at

<<http://www.bnaibrith.org/caln.html>.

G. Torah Study

[24] The Project Genesis Home Page

<<http://www.torah.org>

Project Genesis is a Torah-thought launch site maintained by graduates of the prestigious Ner Israel Rabbinical Seminary in Baltimore. There are pointers to many Torah lists. One link leads to the downloadable archives of the popular weekly lessons of Rabbi Yissocher Frand, a lecturer at Ner Israel. These lessons are easy to understand, and each comes with short biographical notes on the authors quoted. Unfortunately the pages are not classified by subject, only by Torah portion. **Ask the Rabbi** does not specify who supplies the answers to questions posed online.

Sephardim can access Torah sayings from the former Sephardic chief rabbi, Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu [sic], along with his portrait and brief biography, at **South Peninsula Hebrew Day School** (filename: Weekly PARASHA)

<<http://www.sphds.org/SPHDS/parasha.html>. (*Parasha* or *sedra* is the term for the weekly reading from the Pentateuch. The *parasha* read on a given week depends on the Jewish calendar. The cycle of readings is completed on Simhat Torah.)

[25] Jewishnet: Global Jewish Information Network

<<http://www.jewishnet.net>

A resource for over 20,000 mailing lists; this is the home of **Talmud Torah and Observance**

<<http://www.jewishnet.net/subjects/talmud.htm>

and **Talmud Torah, Halacha, Chassidut, and Observance**

<<http://mofetsrv.mofet.macam98.ac.il/~dovw/jw/jewish96.html>

nearly identical collections of mailing lists to quite a number of Torah-thought disseminators of all movements.

[26] Shema Yisrael Torah Network

<<http://www.shemayisrael.com>

This site attempts to knit an international Torah center for students and educators. The menu leads to yeshivot and other Torah organizations, including Pirchei Shoshanim (see entry no. 27) and Shidduchim (see no. 42). Also provided are links of interest to Jews from France and North Africa (**Frenchnet**), South Africa (including the *South African Jewish Times*), and Britain.

As the title of the site indicates, there are also buttons for Torah lessons: **The Chofetz Chaim** leads to short lessons in the work of that name regarding the laws of information provision, by the renowned Rabbi Yisrael Hachohen (1837–1933) (**The Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation**)

<<http://www.chofetzchaim.org>.

Dafyomi has audio lessons in its daily Talmud study (requiring Shockwave software), while also offering mailing lists for beginner and advanced students. **Hypermikdash**

<<http://www.shemayisrael.co.il/hmikdash> is an illustrated guide to the second Temple (note that some of the pictures contain Hebrew text where English would have been useful). **Shatnez Update**>**All About** has basic facts about the prohibition of wearing linen mixed with wool (the last update was in 1996).

Vaad Mishmereth Stam is a professional society for *soferim* (scribes). **You and Your Mezuzah**

<<http://www.shemayisrael.co.il/orgs/stam/u&mez.htm>

explains to consumers how to detect phony *mezuzot*, while the significance of the mitzvah is also covered. Other buttons are undeveloped.

A slowloading but useful item is **Music**

<<http://www.shemayisrael.co.il/music/index.htm>.

It features sound samples of thirty-five currently popular artists. The non-musical one is children's storyteller Rabbi Dovid Juravel (**Story Time with Rabbi Juravel**). Other stories are available by clicking **Nishmas Chayim**>**Stories**

<<http://www.nishmas.org.il/htmldocs/stories.html>.

[27] Pirchei Shoshanim

<<http://www.pirchei.co.il>

The purpose of this Lakewood, NJ-based index is to provide online Jewish educational resources. **Pictorial Series**

<<http://www.pirchei.co.il/pictorial>

has coloring book-style pages about Shabbat, Ethics of the Fathers (**Pirkei**

Avos), and more, running from 20 to 45 pages apiece. Some entire series are downloadable as zip files (see Glossary).

Tallis Ends is a comic book version of the discussion at the start of Talmud tractate Bava Metsi'a.

Special Education

<www.pirchei.co.il/spec_ed/index.htm

contains a directory of Jewish social agencies worldwide (**Resources**), as well as the **Down Syndrome Magazine**

<.../spec_ed/down/index.htm.

[28] Jewish Torah Audio Network

<<http://www.613.org>

Over 400 hours of downloadable files (RealAudio format) include talks by Rabbi Dr. Joseph Soloveitchik, late mentor of the community centered around Yeshiva University, history classes by Rabbi Berel Wein (formerly of Yeshiva Shaarei Torah, Monsey, NY) and samples of talks by other personalities in the Orthodox world. (For those with 56kbps [very fast] modems, there are also video clips.) There is also music on this site: <<http://www.613.org/music/>.

[29] National Jewish Outreach Program

<<http://www.njop.org>

How good is your knowledge of Jewish basics? Take **The Jewish IQ Test**: <...njop.org/choicetest.htm>. Novices can learn the structure of the Sabbath service in privacy without the embarrassment of sitting ignorantly in public (**Learn the Shabbat Service**). A traditional explanation as to why Jews should eat kosher, **A Case for Keeping Kosher**

<...njop.org/koshint>.

is here. E-mail questions are handled by director Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald. Other useful features of this easily navigated site are an image of the Hebrew letters and vowels with their names

<...njop.org/choicealeph>

(not yet interactive, may require Java software) and a calendar of holidays.

Host: NJOP (pronounced *EN-jop*), a leading organization attracting unaffiliated Jews to greater awareness of Judaism and observance.

[30] TorahTots

<<http://www.torahTots.com>

Children can find colorful parashah word puzzles on this site: **Parsha on Parade**>**Replace the Pickle; Word Find**

<<http://www.torahTots.com/parsha.htm>

(suitable for age 6–11) and pictures to print and color (for younger ages), plus some music. **Links** lead to sites "found to be

appropriate for 'Torah Tots.'" Downloading is a little slow.

A humorous yet moralizing comic strip for young children is **Yossi & Co.** in the Ohr Somayach website at
<<http://www.ohr.org.il/yossi/>.

[31] Jewish Law: Examining Halacha, Jewish Issues and Secular Law
<<http://www.jlaw.com>

Many issues of U.S. law directly affect Jewish practice in the fields of health care, zoning, and discrimination. Contents of this site include texts of briefs and decisions of various court cases, law review articles, and some articles from the *Journal of Halacha and Contemporary Society* (Staten Island, NY: Rabbi Jacob Joseph School Press)
<.../about/jhcs.html.

This site is searchable, with a subject index at
<<http://jlaw.com/summary/>.

H. Texts

[32] Navigating the Bible
<<http://bible.ort.org>

Two major features make this a great site for the novice bar mitzvah student, as well as the scholar. **Torah Portions** teaches one to read the Torah in Hebrew and to recite it musically with the cantillation. Each of the fifty-four possible weekly and prophetic readings can be accessed and broken down further, even down to a single verse. Three versions of the text are displayed simultaneously: Hebrew with vowel points and musical markings, Hebrew without these markings, and transliteration into the Latin alphabet. A list of musical marks can also be brought up, as well as standard musical notes: there are sound transcriptions as well. For the scholar, the Bible is searchable both in transliterated Hebrew (clumsy) and English. The version used is the somewhat free translation *The Living Torah*, by Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan (New York: Maznaim). A CD-ROM version is available (for sale) from Davka Corporation
<<http://www.davka.com/navbible.html>.

[33] Jewish Studies Program of the University of California at Davis
<<http://philo.ucdavis.edu/~bruce/RST23/rst23homepage.html>
Maimonides' list of 613 mitzvot (commandments) and the text of his chapters on the fundamental beliefs of Judaism are available here. There is also a **Glossary** of Judaic Studies terms.

The **Time-line** only reaches 1991 and does not mention developments in the modern era that pertain to Orthodox Judaism.

[34] A Page of Talmud at Eliezer Segal's Home Page

<<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/TalmudPage.html>

This site has an image of a standard page of the Talmud, with the text in the center and the commentaries surrounding it. Clicking on any section of the page gives a brief biography of the author of the commentary; there are ordinary buttons for those without Java software. Some other important texts, such as the *Shulhan Arukh*, are also identified.

I. Publishers

[35] Welcome to Artscroll Online
<<http://www.artscroll.com>

In 21 years Artscroll Inc., also known as Mesorah Publications, has grown into a major English-language Jewish publisher. At its Web site you can sample chapters from the company's new releases (requires the Acrobat PDF reader) or hear a children's story (in RealAudio). Not yet implemented fully (there is no Chat as yet), this visually pleasing page holds promise for growth.

[36] Welcome to Jason Aronson Publishers
<<http://www.aronson.com/jhome.shtml>

Jason Aronson publishes Judaica books that appeal to a more liberal audience than that of its competitors Artscroll or Feldheim. A small number of the works are by non-traditional authors. (Jason Aronson is also a leading publisher of books on psychology.) For each book listed on the site, there is a synopsis and an interview with the author. For a good laugh, try **An Interview with Chaim Weiser**, author of *FrumSpeak*, a dictionary of the dialect of Jewish-English spoken among some of the more insular members of the *frum* community.

The website of **Targum Press**
<<http://www.targum.com>
includes authors' pages, and a preview of the publisher's quarterly print magazine, *Horizons*.

J. Newspapers and Magazines

Links (some of which need updating) to many Jewish news services can be found at **A. Engler Anderson's** page
<<http://www.libertynet.org/~anderson/newslist.html>,
but not most of the following:

[37] The Jewish Press
<<http://www.thejewishpress.com>

Selected articles from the weekly Jewish newspaper widely distributed in North Amer-

ica and Israel are found on this site. Notably absent are the social register and kosher restaurant listings. (Incidentally, the New York-based **Jewish Week** is now also online
<www.thejewishweek.com).

The following are posted erratically but allow a sampling of the content of the print editions: The paper editions of the newspaper *Yated Neeman* are produced in Israel and Monsey, NY, and cover the yeshiva world. Although the Web edition is defunct, various articles may pop up in searches (some were found in Infoseek). An e-mail edition is available
(mailto: ed.75702.1111@compuserve.com).

The Judean Voice
<<http://www.dorsai.org/~jsid/>
is the online edition of a magazine which promotes the views of settlers in the Judea-Samaria region of Israel. Issues are sporadic.

[38] Country Yossi Family Magazine
<<http://www.countryyossi.com/indexold.htm>

The Internet edition of a breezy but circumspect monthly aimed at adults and children in the Boro Park/Flatbush (Midwood) section of Brooklyn, it features articles (**Real Life and Torah**), letters, (**Let's Shmooze**), anonymous open letters (**Sound Off**), and surveys of the music and book scene. Reviews of music and books tend to be favorable. The latest issue appeared in May 1999.

K. Music

[39] Jewish Music Network
<<http://www.jewish-music.com>
(not to be confused with **Tara Publications: The World of Jewish Music**
<www.jewishmusic.com).

This site is currently under reconstruction; however many of the selections are available at **Jewish Torah Audio Network** (see entry no. 28)

<<http://www.613.org/niggun.html>

or

<http://www.jewish-music.com/>

An overview of the development of Jewish music (**Jewish Music: An Overview**) is at
<http://www2.portal.ca/~jsiegel/about_jm.html.

Information about the late influential composer and singer Shlomo Carlebach can be found at the **Shlomo Carlebach** homepage:

<<http://www.shamash.org/judaica/reb-shlomo/hotlink.html>.

L. News from Israel

[40] IINS News Service (formerly SNS News Service)

<<http://www.iinsnews.co.il>
or
<http://www.snsnews.co.il>

This provides nearly up-to-the-minute news updates from Israel, as an alternative to the standard papers. The site covers terrorist attacks in the areas under Palestinian autonomy or nearby that are unreported by Israeli government press releases and regular news sources. A Webcrawler Select site.

[This site recently ceased operations.]

A related site is **Arutz 7** (Channel 7), representing a hard-line radio station broadcasting from offshore into Israel since the 1980s. It is accessible through the Virtual Jerusalem (see entry no. 4) homepage or at <http://www.a7.org>. This service also summarizes the Arab media's writings about Israel.

M. Towards a Wedding

A long list of matchmakers and wedding guides of all sorts can be found at **Heshy Engelsberg's** page of Jewish interest <<http://idt.net/~heshye/jewish.htm>. Specific examples follow:

[41] Orthodox Connection
<<http://www.the-wire.com/shadchan>

Matchmaking service "for clients who are Shomer Shabbos and keep a kosher home." If you fill out the questionnaire, you will be contacted personally by the service for an interview. No pictures are shown online.

[42] Shidduchim
<<http://www.shidduchim.com>

The online database of those who have submitted personal information (**Who's available**) can only be accessed if you have also filed your name. The questionnaire attempts to categorize respondents by asking questions about attire and lifestyle (but not about assets or income) that would typically be posed by a modern very traditional *shadkhan*.

A less rigid matchmaking service is **Beshert of Southern California**
<<http://207.151.17.18>
or
...www.beshert.com.

A flavor of what goes into the planning of a traditional Jewish wedding, can be found at **The Kallah Guide**
<<http://www.kallah.com>.
For example, the items supplied by the groom—music, photographer—are listed <.../choisson/c_checklist,

as well as tips for the bride's make-up, reducing stress, etc. **Customs and Concerns**

<<http://www.kallah.com/customs/customs.htm>

is a page that quotes arguments against intermarriage and includes a description of an important Sephardic wedding (Syrian community). The site also features a glossary of traditional Yiddish and Hebrew terms at **Customs and Concerns > Bridal Dictionary**

<...[kallah.com/customs/bridal.htm](http://www.kallah.com/customs/bridal.htm).

Glossary of Internet Terms Used

browser: See *World Wide Web*.

frames: Scrolling boxes that appear on a screen simultaneously. Often, one is a menu that can be kept stationary while scrolling its neighbor, and vice versa.

gopher: A series of text menus that eventually lead to desired text information. Gophers are commonly used now as lists of archival files attached to websites.

mailing list: A list of users who will receive copies of selected mail messages. On the Internet, you can subscribe to receive mail on a topic that interests you (Que, 1995). These mailing lists are sometimes known as listservs from Listserv, the name of a mail manager program. Contrast with *newsgroups*.

newsgroups: A forum for discussion. Viewers can read other people's messages and can submit their own, whether questions, answers, or comments. If the discussion is "unmoderated" (unedited), then bizarre and annoying comments usually take the newsgroup downhill.

URL (uniform resource locator): The Internet address visible to the user.

World Wide Web: Screen displays featuring graphics, motion pictures, and especially *hypertext* (text or graphics that, when clicked with a pointer, send the user to a new location). The program that provides the text or visual display is called a *browser*. The most popular browsers are produced by Netscape and Microsoft. *Players* (e.g., RealAudio, RealVideo, and Shockwave) allow listening to sound and viewing videos. Files designed to be opened by the Acrobat reader (these have in their filenames the extension .pdf) appear as real printed pages, with the advantage that they can be searched and re-sized.

Zip file: A compressed information package, containing several files; after down-

loading these are extracted by an application, one of which is Pkzip.

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