

## High Holiday Cards

**Ari Moffic**

### SESSION SUMMARY

Ari Moffic presented a hands-on session outlining a parent education workshop to acquaint or re-acquaint adults who will be attending High Holiday services with the major Hebrew vocabulary that will add meaning and depth to their worship experience.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ari Poster Moffic was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2007. A graduate of Indiana University, she received Master's Degrees in Jewish Education and Jewish Studies from Baltimore Hebrew College. She is currently the Director of InterfaithFamily/Chicago. [arim@interfaithfamily.com](mailto:arim@interfaithfamily.com)

## GUIDE FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS FOR HIGH HOLIDAY CARDS

Since every child at home and in school has a different level of working knowledge of terms and phrases used on *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*, we have provided a number of ways to use the cards. Some children will see an activity as review, while others may be hearing words and ideas for the first time. Since there is always a full year between one set of High Holidays and the next, even children who are familiar with words, definitions, and concepts one year may feel completely unfamiliar the next, thinking that this is the first time he/she has heard a word or phrase. The key is to make every child comfortable enough at home and in school to ask questions and to explore ideas, whether it is new, review, or a combination of both.

### 1) Teaching Tool

- a. Show the Hebrew word on one side while covering up the transliteration and ask if anyone can read the Hebrew, then ask the child to tell you something about the word/phrase he/she just read. If there are children who do not read Hebrew, read the word to him/her for correct pronunciation, and then ask the child to tell you something about the word/phrase that was just read. Often children think that when they give an answer they are "done," so it is a good technique to ask a follow up question such as "what else can you tell me."
- b. If children are not yet familiar with the terms, read the word and then read the back of the card. Then ask a child to tell you in his/her own words what the word/phrase means.
- c. Have children make two piles of the cards – words they know and words they don't. Use the two piles for teaching, review and/or games.

### 2) Making a Connection

When children are already familiar with the words, give each a deck of cards. Ask them to pull out two or three that help connect them to:

- a. Becoming a better, kinder person.
- b. New beginnings.
- c. Feeling closer to their family.
- d. Feeling closer to God.
- e. Feeling closer to the community.

After each one, ask for children to share which cards they picked and give reasons why they picked them.

### 3) Emotions

Have children make an emotions chart using 10 words either you pick out or that they pick out. Ask them to come up with words/phrases from the deck that make them happy, sad, worried or hopeful. Then they can draw faces or emojis that show the emotion and write the word/phrase under each one that corresponds to how they feel about the word/phrase. Have children share what they wrote and why they wrote what they did.

You can also pick certain words/phrases out and ask questions such as:

- When have you hear this word/phrase?
- What emotion(s) do you feel when you hear the word/phrase?
- What do you think about when you hear the word/phrase?

### 4) Sorting

Sort cards by categories such as:

- *Rosh Hashanah* or *Yom Kippur*
- Holiday symbols, greetings, prayer words, other

### 5) Games

Use the cards to play:

- Go Fish – have children cover up one side of the cards and ask for the word or the definition.
- Memory – cover one side with plain paper and have children look for matches.
- Matching – use two decks of cards with one deck having the word side up and the other having the definition side up. Have children match the word to the definition.
- Jewpardy – sort the cards into categories of your choosing and use them to play a Jeopardy (Jewpardy) game
- Tic-tac-toe – make a tic-tac-toe board. Give the children a word and have them tell what it means/what it is. If they are correct, they get an “x” or an “o”

**HIGH HOLIDAY CARD WORKSHEET**

Look through the cards. Put in one pile all of the words you already know and put in another pile all the words you are not sure what they mean. Take the pile of words you are not sure about and read the backs. Did you remember some of them once you read the back of the card?

Write one word that you just learned \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is this word important to the High Holidays? \_\_\_\_\_

Which words on the cards make you feel hopeful for a good new year? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which words make you feel like working at being a better person in the coming year?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

One of the major prayers on the High Holidays is called *Avinu Malkaynu*, our Father our King.

What is a father's job? \_\_\_\_\_

What is a king's job? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do we refer to God as both? \_\_\_\_\_



**ראש השנה**  
Rosh Hashanah



**שופר**  
Shofar



**שנה טובה ומתוקה**  
Shanah Tova U' mitukah



**שנה טובה**  
Shanah Tova



**לשנה טובה תקתבו**  
Shanah Tova Tikatayvu



**תפוחים ודבש**  
Tapuchim U'd'vash



**אֵלוּל**  
Elul



**אָבִינוּ מִלְכָנוּ**  
Avinu Malkaynu



**מְחֻזֵּר**  
Machzor



**תְּשַׁלַּח**  
Tashlich



**סליחות**  
S'lichot



**תשרי**  
Tishri



**תקיעה גדולה**  
Tekiah G'dolah



**תקיעה**  
Tekiah



**תרועה**  
Teruah



**שקרים**  
Shevarim



**קל נדרי**  
Kol Nidre



**על חטא**  
Al Chayt



**יזכור**  
Yizkor



**יום כפור**  
Yom Kippur



**יוֹנָה**

Yonah



**עֶקֶדָה**

Akedah



**תּוֹרָה**

Torah



**צְדָקָה**

Tzedakah



**וִדּוּי**

Vidui



**נְעִילָה**

N'eelah



**תְּפִילָּה**

Tefillah



**תְּשׁוּבָה**

Teshuvah



**הַפְּטָרָה**

Haftarah



**יָמִים נוֹרָאִים**

Yamim Nora-Im



**יום הדין**  
Yom Ha-din



**יום הזכרון**  
Yom Ha-zikaron



**שבת שובה**  
Shabbat Shuvah



**יום תרועה**  
Yom Teruah





This is a horn that is made from a ram's horn or kudu. It is sounded during the month of Elul, on Rosh Hashanah and at the end of Yom Kippur.



This means "Head of the Year" and is a Jewish New Year.



This means "a good year" and is a greeting said on Rosh Hashanah.



A Rosh Hashanah greeting that means "a good and sweet year."



Hebrew for apples and honey. Apples and honey are eaten on Rosh Hashanah to mark a sweet new year.



A Rosh Hashanah greeting that means "may you be inscribed for a good year."



This means "our father, our king." It is a prayer said on the High Holidays that shows God is like a loving father and also like a ruling King.



The Hebrew month that comes right before Rosh Hashanah that is spent preparing for the High Holidays.



A ceremony where mistakes that have been made are symbolically thrown away by tossing crumbs into running water.



The High Holiday prayer book.





The Hebrew month that Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur fall in.



The service that usually falls the Shabbat before Rosh Hashanah to usher in the High Holidays.



The final shofar blast that is made up of a long note and a short note.



A shofar blast that lasts a long time.



A shofar blast that is made up of 3 short sounds.



A shofar blast that is made up of 7 short sounds.



A High Holiday prayer that says sorry for all the mistakes that have been made as individuals and as a community.



The opening prayer on Erev Yom Kippur (the evening when Yom Kippur begins). The entire Erev Yom Kippur service is now named after this prayer.



This is the Day of Atonement. It comes 10 days after Rosh Hashanah.



The memorial service that comes on Yom Kippur afternoon as well as at the end of Sukkot, Passover and Shavuot.



The Torah story read Rosh Hashanah afternoon of Abraham being ready to follow whatever God asks, including if God asks him to sacrifice his son, Isaac.



The Hebrew name for Jonah. The story of Jonah is read Yom Kippur afternoon.



Coming from the word for "righteousness," this is money that is donated to charity.



The first part of the Hebrew Bible that is read each week from a scroll.



The name of the service that concludes Yom Kippur.



The name of the Hebrew confession prayer that is read on Yom Kippur.



This Hebrew word means "returning." It is used to ask God for forgiveness by returning to better behavior.



This is the Hebrew word for prayer.



This means "the days of awe" and refers to the 10 days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur.



A section of the part of the Hebrew Bible called Prophets that is read each week.



One of the names for Rosh Hashanah. It means "Day of Remembrance." God remembers each of us!



One of the names for Rosh Hashanah. It means "Day of Judgement." God judges us by our behavior.



One of the names for Rosh Hashanah. It means "Day of Sounding the Shofar."



This means the "Shabbat of returning." This is the Shabbat that comes between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

