

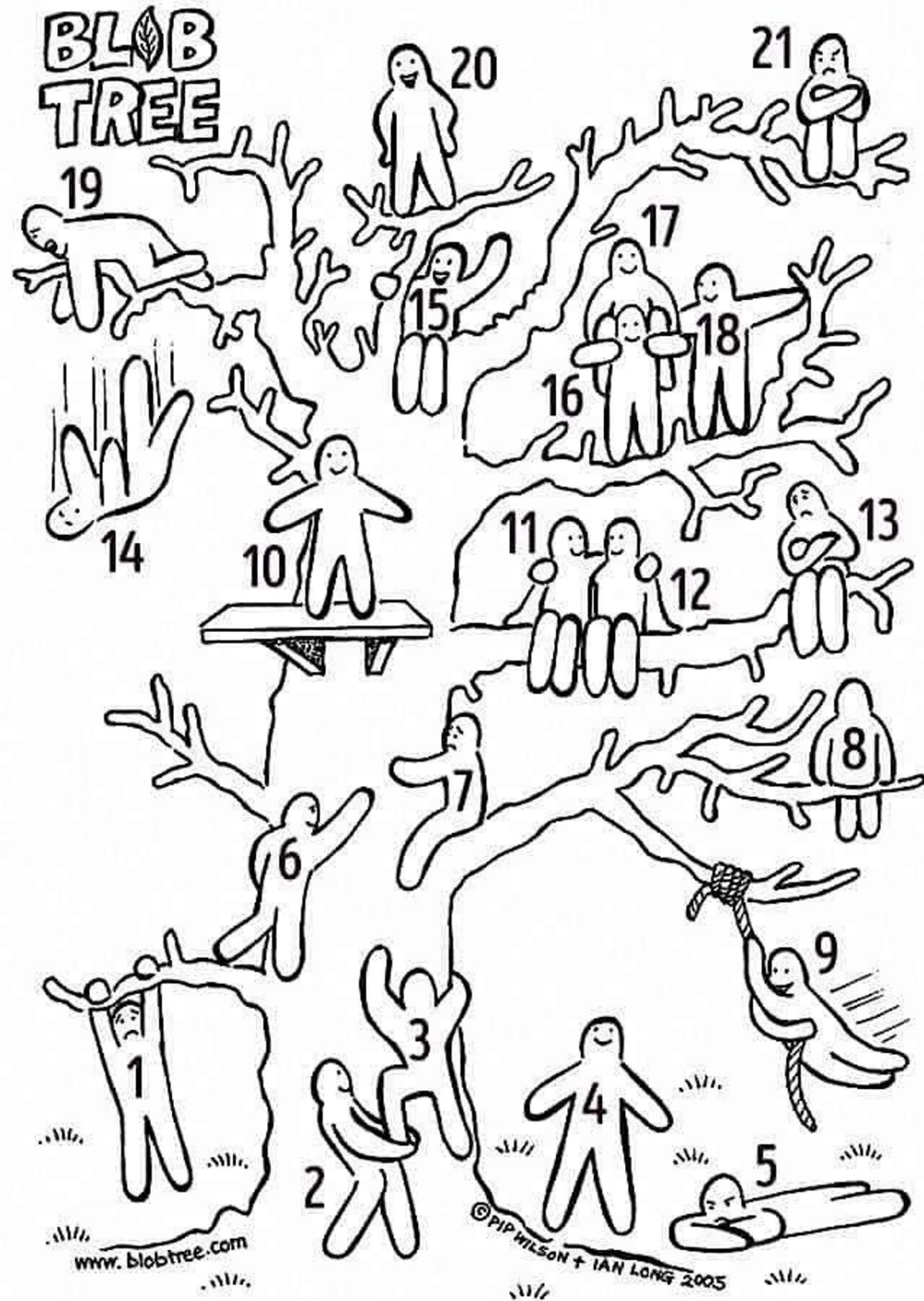
CARING FOR JUDAICA



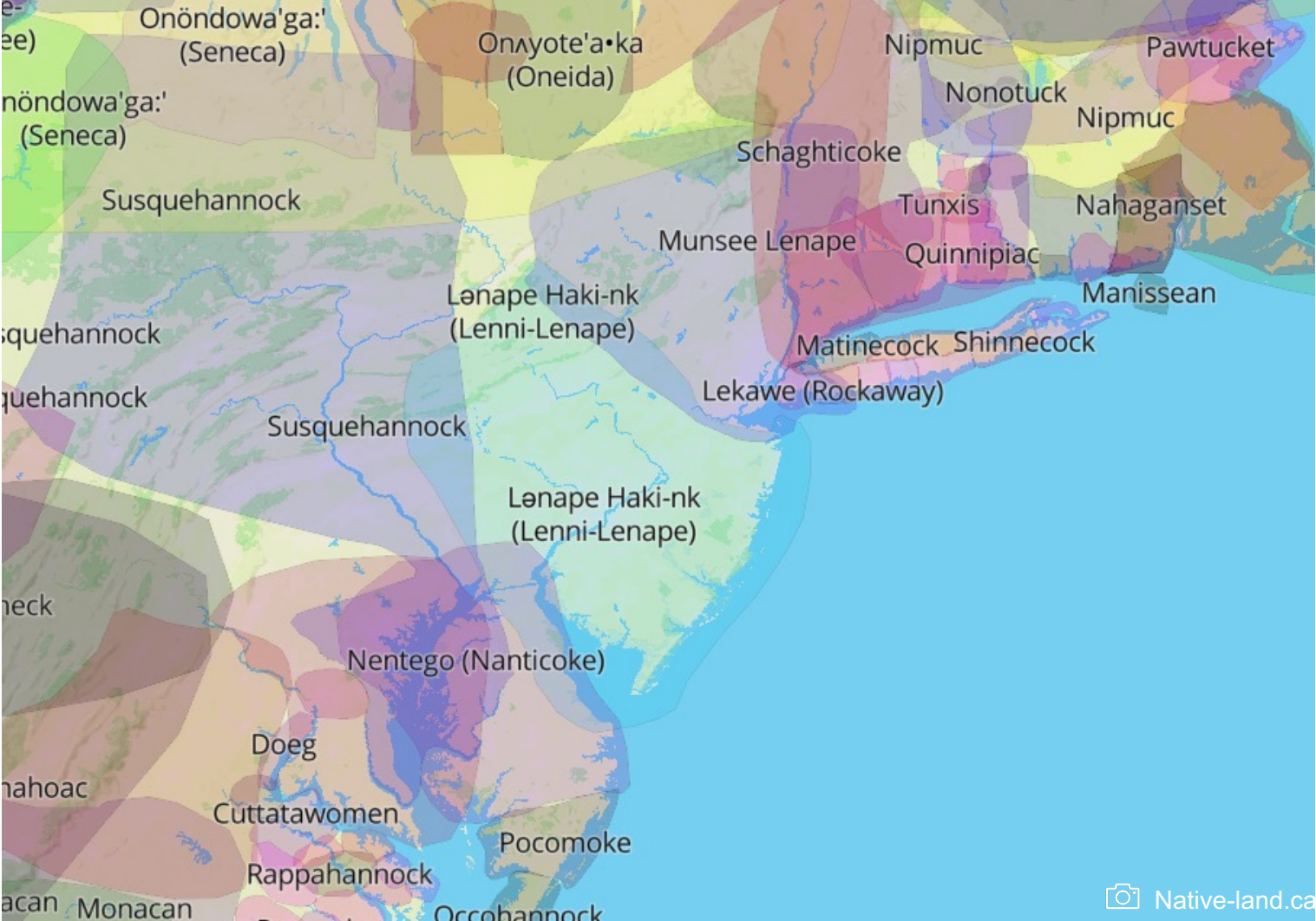
Margalit Schindler (*they/them*)
Principal Conservator
Pearl Preservation, LLC.
pearlpreservation22@gmail.com
www.pearlpreservation.com

Check - In

Which BLOB do you relate to today?



Land Acknowledgement



Map showing traditional indigenous territories on what is now called Delaware.



Ruth and David Levine, September, 1958

Caring for Judacia

Overview

Jewish People and Material Culture

What is Judaica?

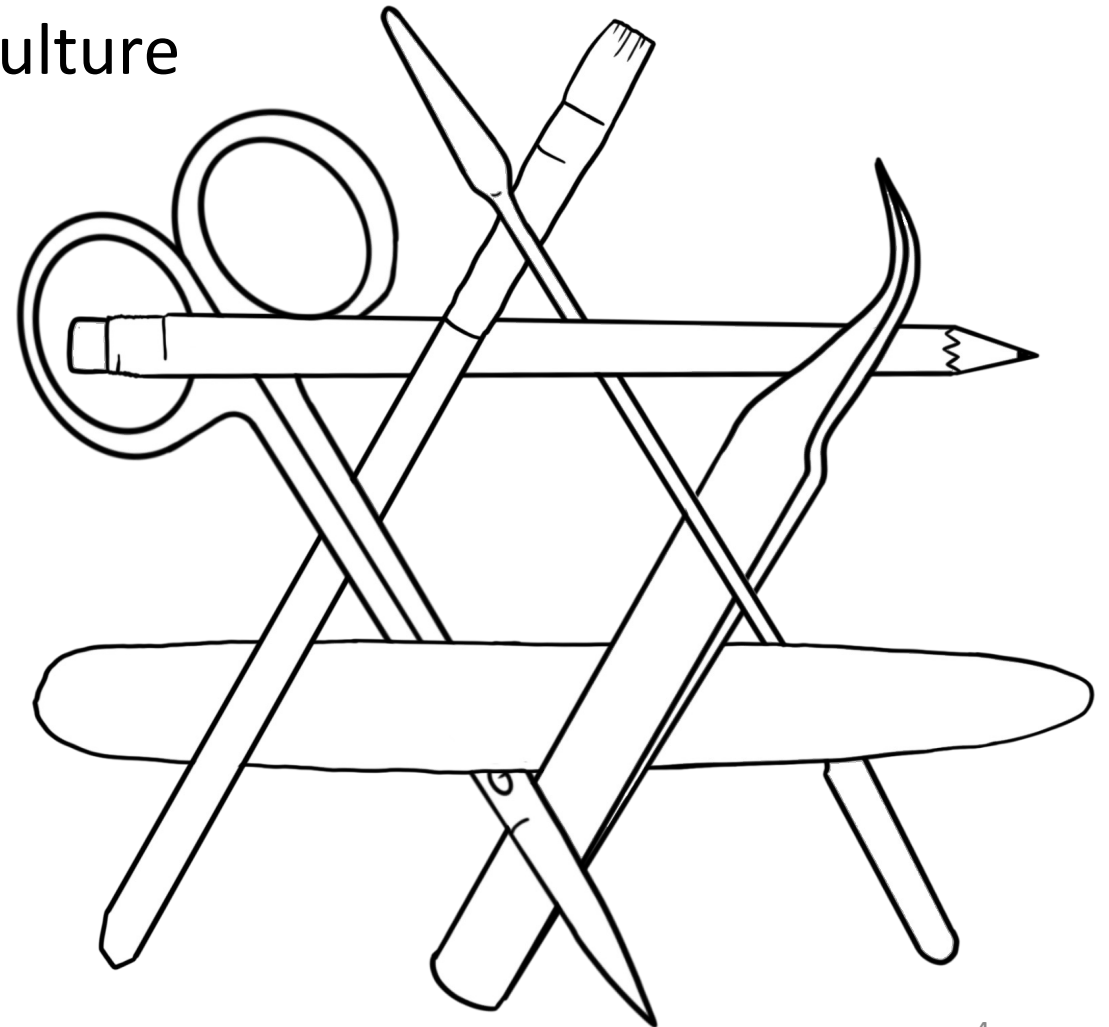
Material Considerations

Sacred Considerations

Creative Thinking

Intention

Practical Steps



Pew Study

Ownership of Jewish items

Eight-in-ten U.S. Jews say they own a menorah, a candelabra used to mark the eight days of Hanukkah. Nearly two-thirds own a mezuzah, which is a parchment containing scripture passages typically affixed to the doorposts in Jewish homes. Six-in-ten U.S. Jews say they own a Hebrew-language siddur (Jewish prayer book), and 56% say they have a Seder plate designed to hold the six symbolic foods associated with the Passover meal.

Most Jews say they own a menorah, mezuzah

% of U.S. Jews who say they own a ...

	Menorah %	Mezuzah %	Hebrew- language siddur %	Seder plate %
NET Jewish	81	64	59	56
Jews by religion	90	78	72	68
Jews of no religion	57	28	24	23
Orthodox	95	96	96	81
Conservative	93	82	77	79
Reform	88	73	65	63
No particular branch	62	35	33	28
Men	79	62	57	52
Women	83	67	61	60
Ages 18-29	74	57	54	42
30-49	80	58	56	54
50-64	85	73	63	62
65+	84	70	63	64
Married	87	71	66	63
Spouse Jewish	96	90	80	80
Spouse not Jewish	74	46	45	40
Not married	73	54	50	46
High school or less	81	64	63	64
Some college	78	61	57	53
College graduate	79	61	54	51
Postgraduate degree	85	70	63	59
Household income <\$50K	69	51	49	40
\$50K-\$99,999	84	67	62	57
\$100K-\$199,999	84	69	61	59
\$200K or more	86	68	65	65

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 19, 2019-June 3, 2020, among U.S. adults. "Jewish Americans in 2020"

FOR RELEASE MAY 11, 2021

Jewish Americans in 2020

U.S. Jews are culturally engaged, increasingly diverse, politically polarized and worried about anti-Semitism



What is Judaica?

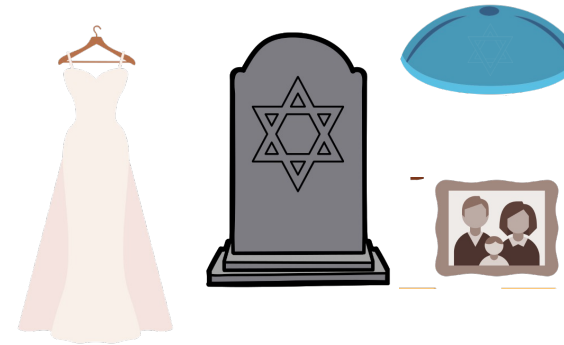
Ritual Objects



Sacred Objects



Lifecycle Events



Embody Jewish Values



Hebrew Letters



Jewish History/Person



Israel



Traditional Classifications

Ritual Objects

Sacred Objects

Traditional Classifications

English

Transliteration

Hebrew

Holy objects

(literally “vessels of holiness”)

Klei Kodesh

כלי קודש

Accoutrements of holy objects

(literally “holy utensil”)

Tashmishei Kedushah

תשמישיי קדושה

Ritual implements

(literally “commanded utensil”)

Tashmishei Mitzvah

תשמישיי מצווה

Optional ritual object

(has several definitions, but we’ll use “optional”)

Reshut

רשות

Traditional Classifications

Ritual Objects

Sacred Objects

Traditional Classifications

English

Transliteration

Hebrew

Holy objects
(literally “vessels of holiness”)



Objects that contain the written name of Gd

Klei Kodesh

כלי קודש

Accoutrements of holy objects
(literally “holy utensil”)



Objects that contact holy objects

Tashmishei Kedushah

תשמישיי קדושה

Ritual implements
(literally “commanded utensil”)



Tashmishei Mitzvah

תשמישיי מצווה

Optional ritual object
(has several definitions, but we’ll use “optional”)

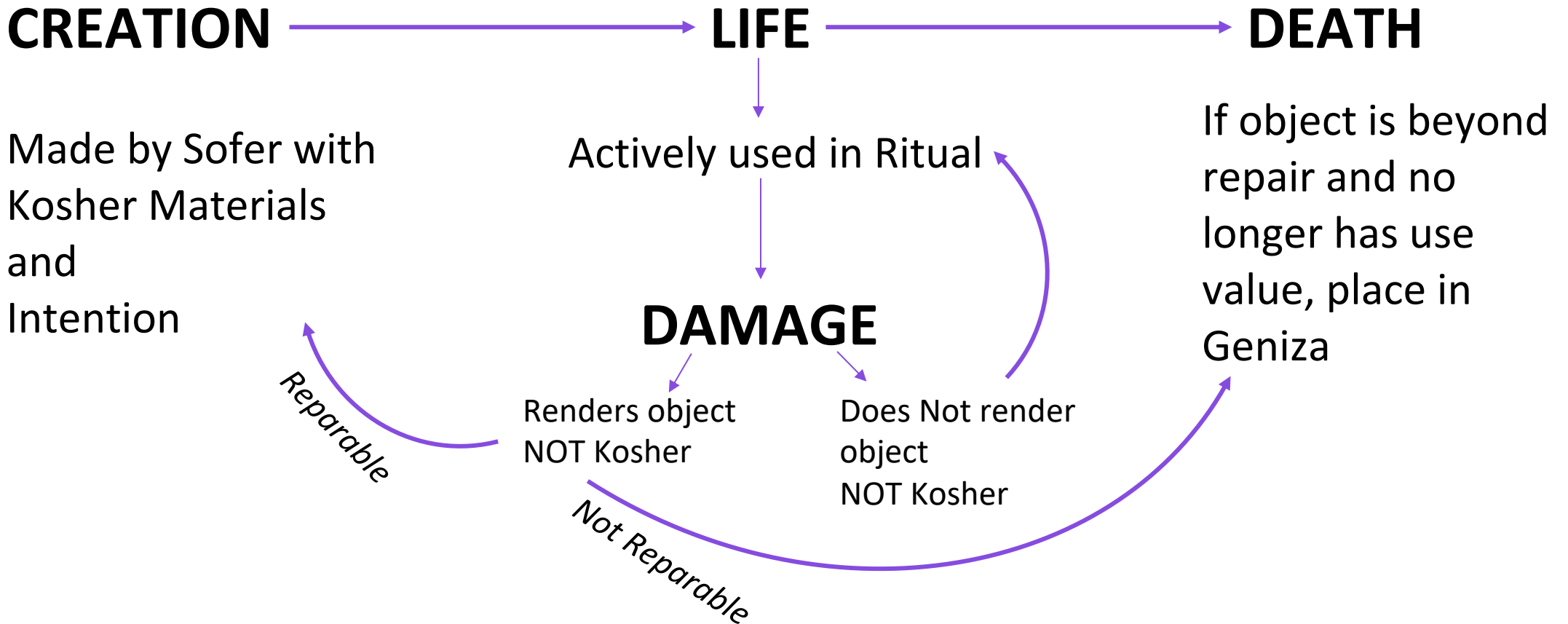


Reshut

רשות

Klei Kodesh Lifecycle

Sofer/et = Holy Scribe
Kosher = fit for ritual use
Geniza = ritual burial for sacred texts



What is Judaica?

Traditional Classification

Sacred Hierarchy



Contemporary Classification

Explicitly Jewish



Implicitly Jewish



Aron Kodesh – Holy Ark



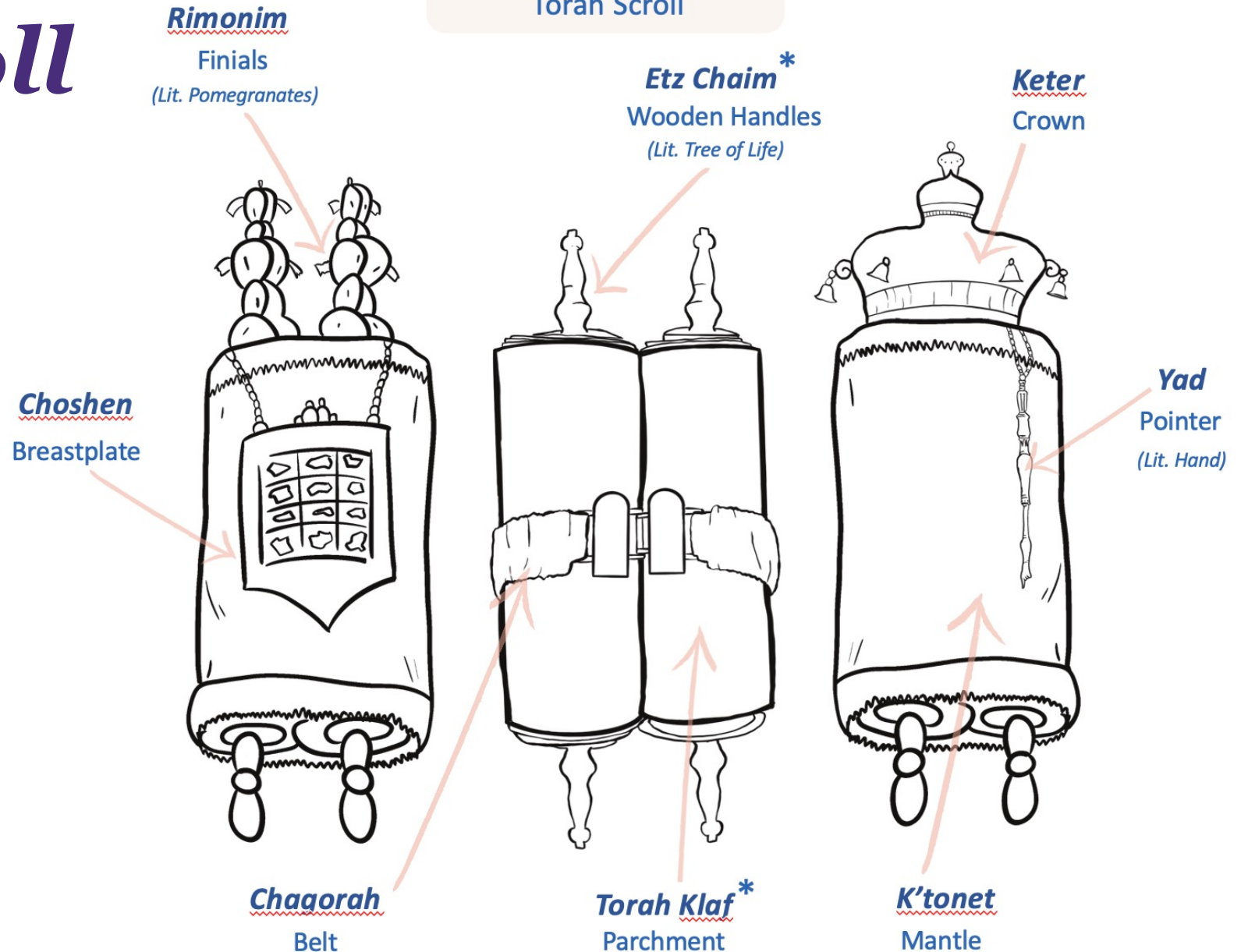
Torah Scroll

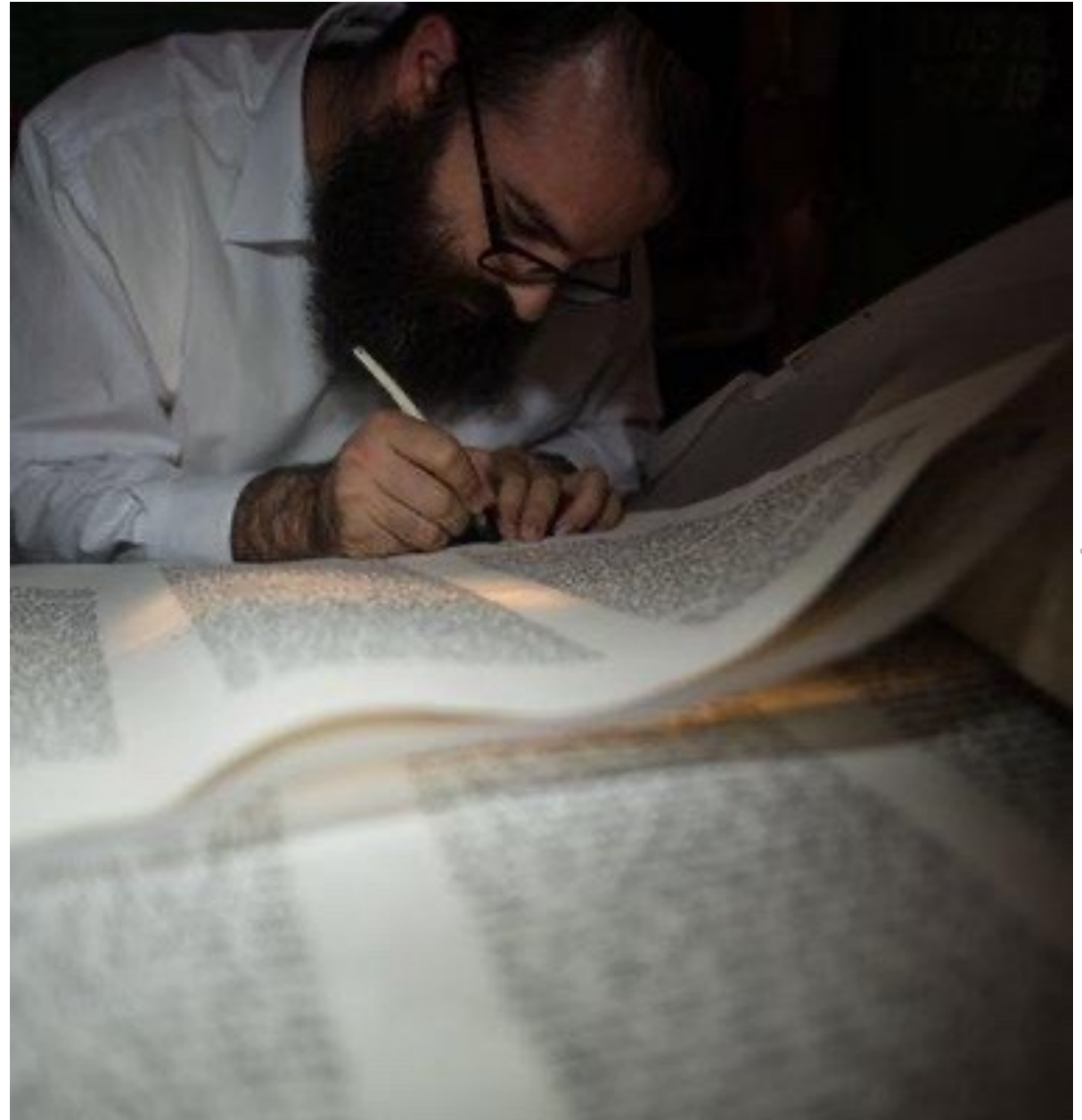
This diagram illustrates the components and accoutrements of a traditional Ashkenazi (Eastern European) *sefer Torah*.

The scroll itself is considered *klei kodesh*. All other objects are *Tashmishei Kedushah*, and are not, themselves, sacred. (The exception is an *etz chaim* that has already been attached to a *klaf* - it, too, requires *geniza*.)

Sefer Torah

Torah Scroll





Parchment rolled to read the weekly portion.
Note pigmentation spots!

אֲבֹתָהוּ
זֹרְסֵי כָל
מִצְסֵפֵי צַ
קָרֵשׁ אֵתָ

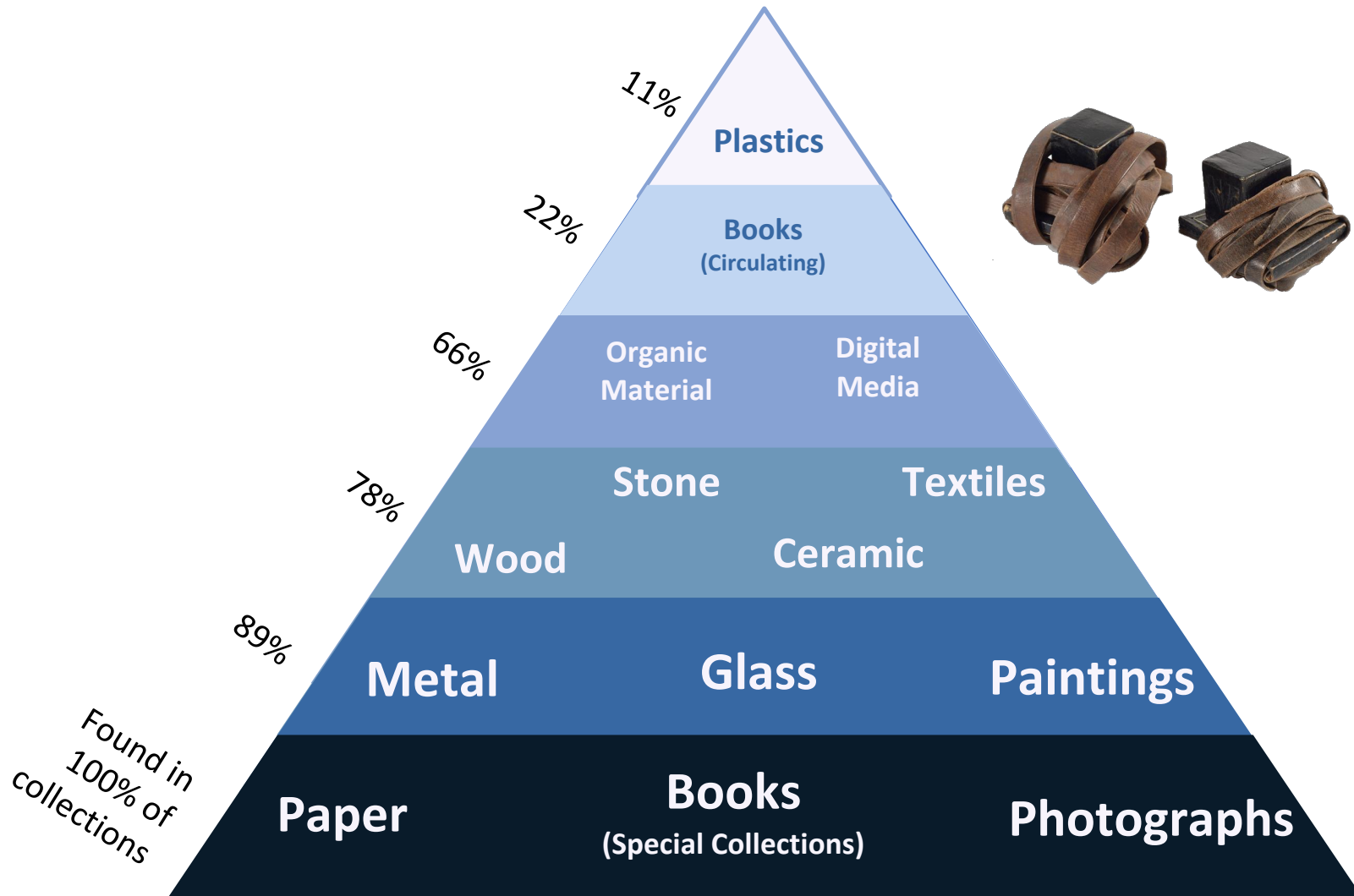
Text written in exact columns in special font.
All handwritten!

Wooden rollers

Using a yad to point without introducing oils to the text

Blessings Bel
Barchu El Adonai Ho
(Repeat abx congreg
Baruch Adonai Ho
הַעֲלִים
Baruch Atah Adonai El
ם וְנָתַן
Asher Bachar Banu Mi
תָּהָּ בִּוְתָן הַתּוֹרָה
Lanu Et Torato. Baruc
Blessi

What Types of Materials are Represented?



89%

of collections contain
Sifrei Torah
Tefillin
Mezuzot

Material Considerations for creation and repair

Hi Margalit,

Greetings from the conservation lab at [redacted] where I am currently a fellow in paper. I was hoping you you might have some insight into a ketubbah on parchment that I am about to treat.

The ink on the document is flaking and I would like to consolidate it before it leaves for exhibition at the end of next month. I am considering the different consolidants we have in the lab, but want to rule out anything that wouldn't be considered appropriate for use with a Hebrew document. My instinct is to avoid any animal-based adhesives, but is there anything else I should know for choosing the consolidant?

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on this if you have time to answer; your insight would be a tremendous help to me.

Material Considerations for creation and repair

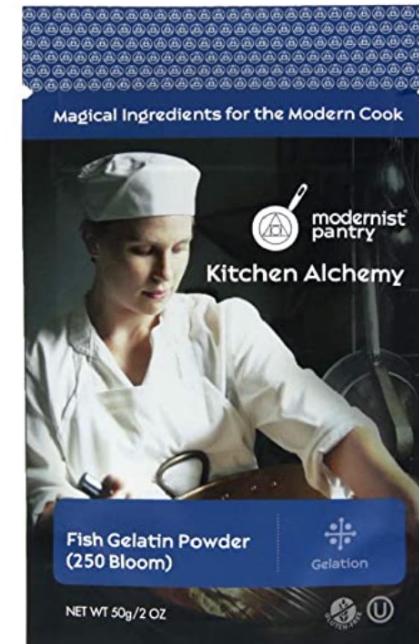
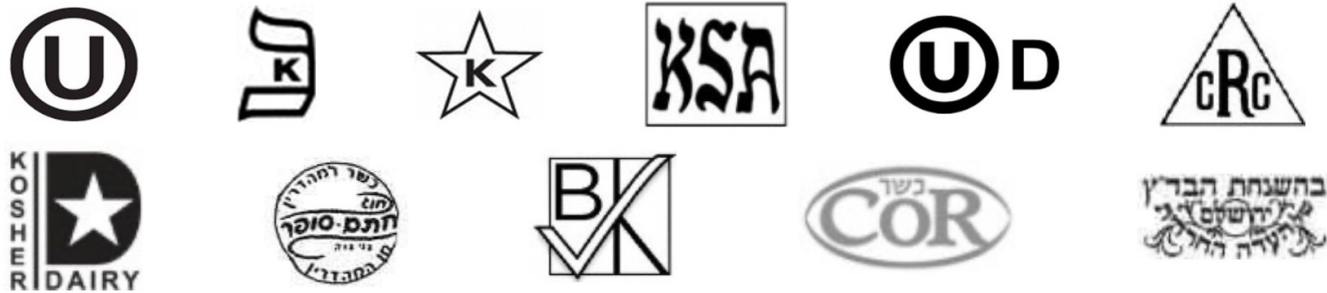
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Marriage contract

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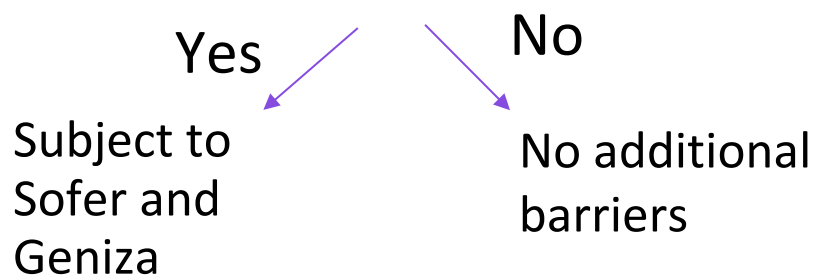
These are some common symbols; they usually appear on the front of a package. These are widely accepted by most rabbis.



Prepared by Gayle Levine Schindler | Foody Fun LLC
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Sacred Considerations

- What kind of object is it?
- Does it contain the written name of Gd?

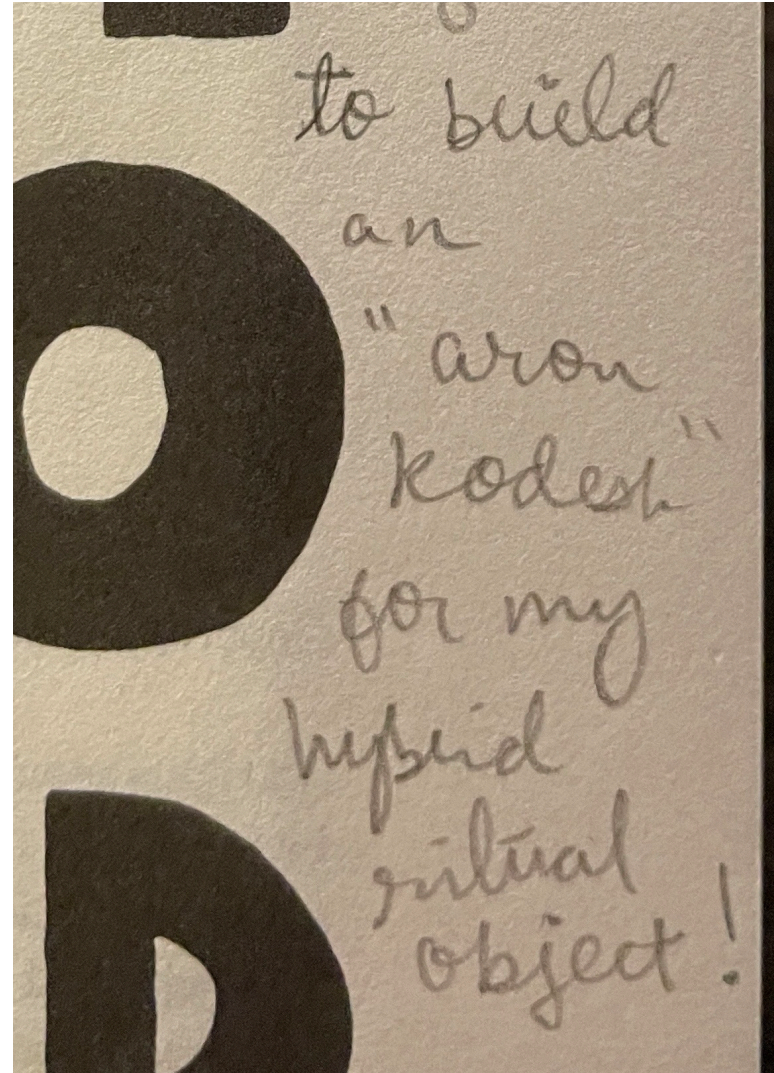


Traditional Classifications		
English	Transliteration	Hebrew
Holy objects (literally “vessels of holiness”)	<u>Klei Kodesh</u>	כלי קודש
Accoutrements of holy objects (literally “holy utensil”)	<u>Tashmishei Kedushah</u>	תשמישיי קדושה
Ritual implements (literally “commanded utensil”)	<u>Tashmishei Mitzvah</u>	תשמישיי מצווה
Optional ritual object (has several definitions, but we’ll use “optional”)	<u>Reshut</u>	רשות

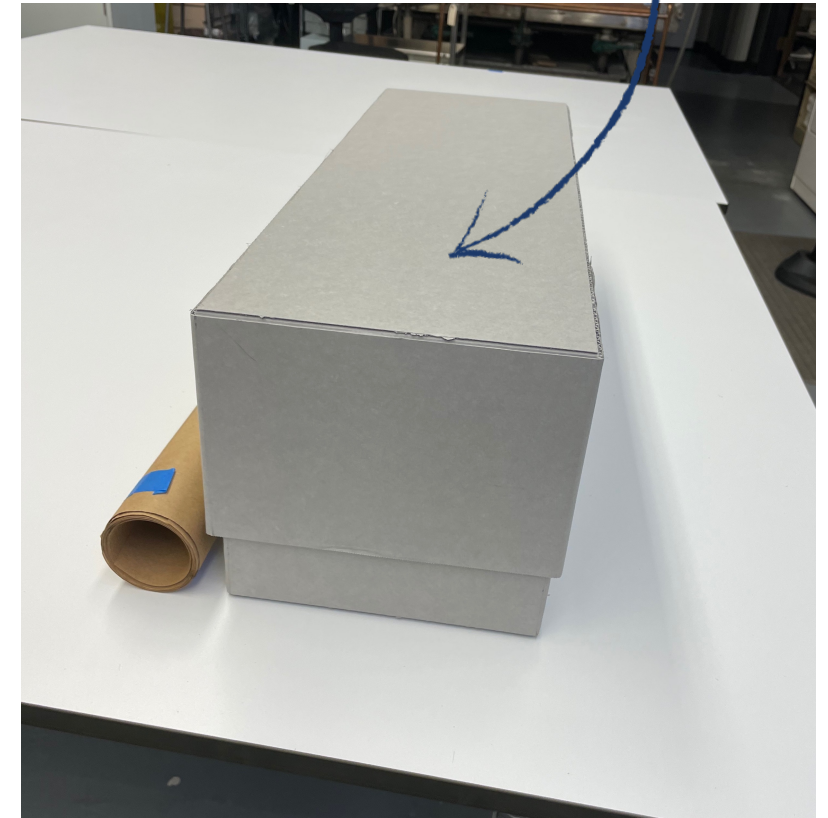


- Primary condition concern is legibility and perfection of the written letters
- Any imperfection in the text renders it not kosher, or fit for ritual use

Creative Thinking and Embracing Jewish Values



Aron Kodesh
Holy Ark



Working with The Jewish Museum of Maryland to build custom housing and transport for extra-long artwork by contemporary artist Arielle Tonkin, which was exhibited in *A Fence Around the Torah*


Kavanah – Intention



Kavanah requires both freedom from extraneous thoughts and distractions and the cognizance that a person is standing before a divine presence.

Five Essential Elements

For Proper Prayer *according to Maimonides* in Mishnah Torah



These are all good practices for collection care professionals regardless of collection or object!

Kavanah – Intention/Mindfulness
Clean hands
A covered body
A clean space
Removal of distractions

Practical Steps

- Determine the type of object you have and identify whether it has additional sacred considerations
- Basic Storage Enclosure is okay
 - Anything to buffer against fluctuations in RH, pests, dust, and light
- Respect - Do not store objects on the ground or in/near a restroom
- Do your best – protect objects using what is available
- Don't know? ASK
 - Reach out to local synagogues or Jewish communities or contact Pearl Preservation for recommendations



Kavanah –
Intention/Mindfulness
Clean hands
A covered body
A clean space
Removal of distractions

Upcoming Publication!

- Shares topics in this lecture in more detail
- Discusses the paradox of the Holocaust Torah

Chapter

10

RELIGIOUS VALUES AS CONSERVATION PRACTICE

Caring for Judaica

Margalit Schindler



**PRIORITIZING PEOPLE IN ETHICAL
DECISION-MAKING AND CARING
FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE
COLLECTIONS**

Resources

- MyJewishLearning.com <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-torah-service/>
- BimBam <https://www.bimbam.com/>
- WorldWideReb – Rabbi David Paskin <https://www.youtube.com/c/DavidPaskin>
- BreadandTorah <https://breadandtorah.org/>
- JudaismUnbound <https://www.judaismunbound.com/podcast/episode-270>
- Pearl Preservation LLC <https://www.pearlpreservation.com/>
- Jewish Value Considerations When Working with Judaica. AIC POSTER:
https://www.culturalheritage.org/docs/default-source/publications/annualmeeting/2022-posters/27-jewish-value-considerations-when-working-with-judaica---margalit-schindler.pdf?sfvrsn=84ef1720_7
- Annotated Bibliography: Judaica Preservation and Jewish Museums and Collections



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