

Language usage and expressions among Amsterdam Portuguese Jews

See also [glossary of terms](#) and [interview](#) with [SRP](#)

Wishes and greetings

- Hebrew wishes
 - Wish before going to sleep בטוב תלין, answer ברחמים תקץ
 - Wish when sneezing חיים טבים, answer ברכה טבה (tabim and taba, Arameic)
 - Wish at Shabbat conclusion “שבוע טוב”, and answer “מזל טוב”.
 - Wish during Holidays: שנים רבות.
 - Greetings during Medianos לשמחה מועדים, answer חגים וזמנים לששון.
- Portuguese wishes
 - Incoming Saba wish: Boas Enrtade de Sabbat (Good Friday evening) or Bom Saba (Good Saba). Boas Enrtade is also used separately at the beginning of Saba or Holiday.
 - End of Saba- and Holiday: Boas Semana (good week).
 - Eve Holiday: Boas Festas (a good Holiday), answer Melhorados Festas (Best Holidays).
 - On 9 Ab evening: Morir Havemos (we are mortal).
- Dutch wishes
 - At the start of a Fast: “gezonde vasten” (healthy fasting).
 - At Yarzeit: “vele jaren” (many years). For Yarzeit we have no word, the Dutch “jaartijd” is used.
- Terms
 - We use the word “Shabbat” in Hebrew context, but “Saba” in Dutch (*see expressions below vs e.g. שבת חזון*)
 - We call the “Bircat hamazon” the “Bessam” or the “Benção”.
 - We call the “זכור” a “השכבה”, pronounced as “Ascaba” (the ה is silent).
 - We call Holiday midday’s “Medianos”, not “Chol hamoed”.
 - We call a fast “Jejum” (pronounced “Sheshum”), not “Ta’anit” or “Tsom”.
 - We call “Jom Kippur” just “Kippur”, without “Jom”.
 - We call a Sukkah an “Cabana”.
 - We call the night of Kippur “Kal Nidré”, not Kol Nidré. See [more on this](#).
 - We call the “Chanukia” a “Chanukilje”.
 - We call Passover “Paas”, not “Pesach”.
 - We call the three shabbatot between 17 Tamuz and 9 Ab respectively שבת דברי , שבת , שבת חזון and שמעו.
 - We call the month “Ab”, as of the 11th, “Menacheem”. See more on this [elsewhere](#).
 - We call announcements during the service “Pregãos”.
 - We call reading the Parassa (Tora) by the Chazzan “stampen” (possibly because he needs “inspampen”, which means work very hard to prepare).
 - We call the book at the Ouderkerk a/d Amstel cemetery where the burials are written down (name, date, row nr etc), the Careira (rows) book, see [LAV](#) page 1 & 5.
 - We say “זמירות”, not “פסוקי דזמרה”.
 - We say “תחינות”, not “תחנון”.
 - We say “שירים (לשבת)”, not “זמירות (לשבת)”.
 - We say “תענית בכורות”, not “תענית בכורים”. We say “ל"ג לעומר”, not “ל"ג בעומר”.
 - We say “שבת תשובה”, not “שבת שובה”.
 - We say “נגינות”, not “טעמי המקרא”.
 - We say “Nimendal” for van “Parve”, Dutch Ashkenazim call it “Minich”.

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Expressions

- Saba Bereshit, het regent dat het giet -
Saba Bereshit, it rains that it pours (first Saba after תפילת גשם).
- Saba Beshalach krijgen de bomen weer krach -
Saba Beshalach the trees get strong again (Saba na ט"ו בשבט).
- **Saba Nachanu, dan gaan de deuren toe** -
Saba Nachanu, then the doors close (unknown, perhaps because on this Saba in 1675 the old Snoge was closed and the new one was put into use).
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