

הקשר היהודי שלך

Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee – Written By Linda S Trapasso

For Our Protection

Do you know what a *mezuzah* is? What it truly is?

It is not the outer case that holds the parchment scroll. This is a container with three functions: *halachic* (protects the scroll), practical (protection and method of posting the scroll), and esthetic (looks beautiful).

It is the parchment scroll inside the case.

It is a symbol of God's care over us and the home where the *mezuzah* is mounted on the doorpost. The placing of a *mezuzah* on the doors of a home symbolizes the dedication of the home to Torah and mitzvot.

Check out these sites for general information on *mezuzot* and be sure to explore additional *mezuzot* links on those pages:

Aish.com – [Mezuzah: The Inside Story](#)

Chabad.org – [Mezuzah Guide](#); check out the videos (on the left)

Being Jewish – [Mezuzah: The Jewish Lightning Rod](#)

Jewish Virtual Library – [Mezuzah](#)

My Jewish Learning – [Mezuzah](#)



Do you remember what your *mezuzah* scroll, also called the *mezuzah klaf*, looks like?

The *mezuzah klaf* contains two passages from the Torah: Devarim (Deuteronomy) 6:4-9 and Devarim (Deuteronomy) 11:13-21. The scroll contains the first two paragraphs of the *shema* prayer, declaring the oneness of the Lord, and commanding us “to write [these words] on the doorpost of your house and on your gates”. The second passage teaches that Jewish destiny, both individually and nationally, depends upon fulfilling the Lord's will.



On the reverse side of the *mezuzah* scroll is one Hebrew name of God, *Shaddai*. This name is sometimes understood as an acronym for *Guardian of the Doors of Israel*. Additionally, there are often three words at the bottom of the backside of the scroll. These mysterious words, transliterated as *Kozo bemuskaz Kozo*, are an altered form of the phrase *HaShem Elokeynu HaShem*, which means “G-d, our Lord, G-d”. (See [this site for more details](#).)

The other thing about the scroll is how it is written. There are different types of Hebrew lettering or calligraphy. When the letters in the *mezuzah* are written properly, some of them have *tagin*, special crowns. The more beautiful the calligraphy of the text of a *mezuzah*, the more expensive it most probably will be (and the stronger its protective qualities). (See Chabad.org for [The Laws and Customs](#). Also see [this information on mezuzah scrolls](#) and [details about scroll creation and more](#).)

What can we learn from a *mezuzah*? Considering that when we knock on someone's door, we usually are met with the question, “Who is there?”, Rabbi Kula said the *mezuzah* reminds us to ask ourselves that same question as we enter our own homes. In other words, it prompts one to ask the question, “Who am I?” (See [Meaning Behind Your Mezuzah](#) from the Atlanta Jewish Times.)

Doors are also symbols of danger and safety. Throughout history, doors were locked or unlocked to Jews, rendering them defenseless or protected. (See [Mezuzot remind us that doors hold a symbolic meaning](#) from jweekly.com.)

The best place to obtain a *mezuzah* (case and scroll) is right here in our own TBA Sisterhood Gift Shop. There is surely a style that suits you and your home. Plus you will be able to look over the scroll and check that it fits the case. I'm very happy with the ones I got here.



The *mezuzah* is one of the few *mitzvot* for which the Torah states its reward. In this case, the reward is long life for oneself and one's children. May we all share in this reward!