

Proposal Summary:

One of the Hebrew vowel signs, HEBREW POINT SHEVA, has different pronunciations under certain phonological circumstances. A number of important publishers of religious books have been printing the sheva with a distinctive glyph in order to assist their readers in pronouncing pointed Hebrew text correctly. This innovation has produced a new character, identified with the new name, HEBREW POINT SHEVA NA', or 'mobile sheva'. Strictly speaking, sheva na' is a grammatical term referring to the pronunciation of sheva as /e/ for general use and /ə/ for more precise transcription, as opposed to a sheva nah, or 'resting sheva' which is represented as /Ø/, and not commonly used in transcription. Although these publishers seem to have been working independently, most of them agree on the representation of the sheva na'. It is usually presented as a thicker or larger sheva. In any case, the modified glyph is used consistently in these texts to represent what all agree is sheva na'. An SIL representative was contacted and gave their support to this proposal (email chain is appended below).

Character:

Codepoint: U+05C8

Name: HEBREW POINT SHEVA NA

Character Properties:

05C8;HEBREW POINT SHEVA NA;Mn;10;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;

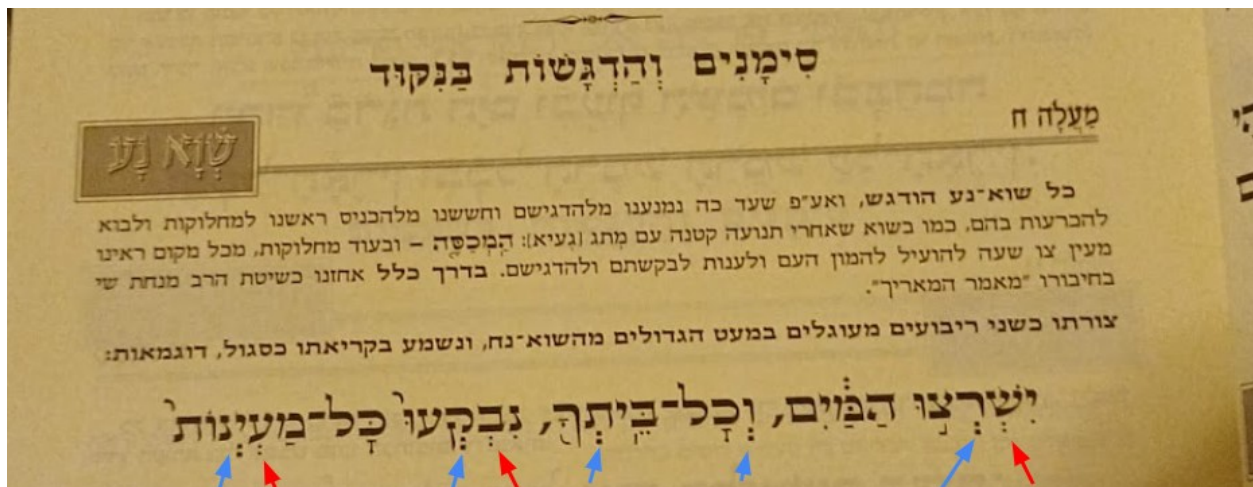
Figures: (blue indicates a sheva na', red indicates a sheva nah)

Figure 1: Guidance on reading and pronouncing a sheva na in Tikkun Korein Simanim

עולם הספר התורני, ירושלים, תשנ"ו

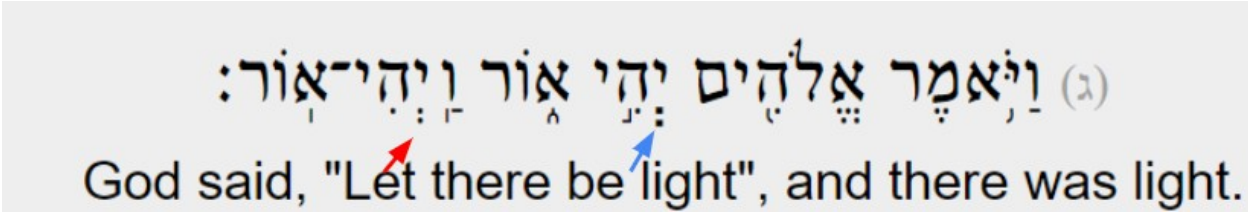


Figure 2: Alhatorah Tanakh, [Genesis 1:3](#), [מקרא על פי המסורה](#) נוסח המקרא מבוסס על מהדורת (CC BY-SA 3.0), המבוססת על כתר ארם צובה וכתבי יד נוספים, בתוספת הדגשת שוואים נעים ודגשים חזקים ע"י על-התורה

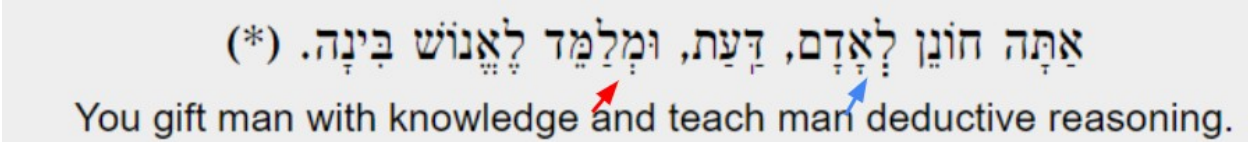


Figure 3: Alhatorah Siddur, [Knowledge Blessing](#)

The award-winning Koren Tanakh typeface, designed by Eliyahu Koren especially for the *Koren Tanakh*, instantly became a classic of Hebrew typography. Designed for crystal clarity and classical elegance, it draws on the balance and dignity of the Sephardic calligraphic tradition, and subtly and uncompromisingly accommodates the forms of all the Hebrew letters and vocalization and cantillation marks without crowding or confusion. For example, the marks distinguishing between the letters *shin* and *sin* are notoriously confused in other typefaces with the vocalization mark *holam* (before or after the letter, respectively), which makes an “o” sound; the Koren typeface clearly differentiates between the two. Furthermore, the proportions of the letterforms allow for a *lamed* that never needs to “bow” its head (or to be decapitated entirely), as was so often the case in older typefaces. In addition, the vowel mark for a *pataḥ genuva* (which is uncharacteristically pronounced *before* the consonant to which it is appended –

◀ always a



xix _____ ABOUT THIS EDITION

always a guttural letter at the end of a word, as in *siah* or *Yehoshua*) is positioned slightly to the right as a reminder of its correct pronunciation. Finally, subtle distinctions are made between distinct but orthographically similar cantillation marks such as *mahpakh* and *yetiv*, or *pashta* and *kadma*. The most recent editions of the Hebrew *Koren Tanakh* also include typographical distinctions between *sheva na* and *sheva nah*, and between *kamatz gadol* and *kamatz katan*, to further aid correct pronunciation.

Figure 4: Excerpt from the Koren Magerman Tanakh, ISBN 978-9657766460, articulating how the differentiated sheva na' is a point of pride as well as a desideratum

כֵּן: וְתוֹצֵא הָאָרֶץ דָּשָׂא עֵשָׂב מִזְרִיעַ זֶרַע לְמִינֵהוּ וְעֵץ עֹשֶׂה פְּרִי
 יג
 אֲשֶׁר זָרְעוּ-בוֹ לְמִינֵהוּ וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים כִּי-טוֹב: וַיְהִי-עֶרֶב וַיְהִי-בֹקֶר
 יום שְׁלִישִׁי:

Figure 5: Excerpt from the Koren Magerman Tanakh, ISBN 978-9657766460, showing differentiation of sheva na' from sheva nah

וְקִשְׂרֹתֶם לְאוֹת *עַל-יָדְךָ וְהָיוּ לְטַטְפֹּת *
 מְזֻזוֹת בֵּיתְךָ וּבִשְׁעוֹ
 וְהָיָה אִם-שָׁמַעַתְּ שָׁמְעוּ אֶל-מִצְוֹתַי אֲשֶׁר
 לְאַהֲבָה אֶת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם וּלְעַבְדּוֹ בְּ
 וְנָתַתִּי מִטַּר-אֲרָצְכֶם בְּעֵתוֹ יוֹרֵה וּמֶלֶק
 וַיֵּצֵא-רֹדֶף: וְנָתַתִּי עֵשָׂב בְּשֹׁדְךָ לְבַהֲמֹתֶיךָ

Figure 6: [Siddur Hiddur Tefillah](#), Shema, showing differentiation of sheva na' from sheva nah

Built for Hebrew from the Ground Up!

- Switch languages with a click
- On-screen Hebrew keyboard
- *Nikud* and *trop* align perfectly
- Hebrew-English spell checker and individual word translator
- Wide variety of Hebrew fonts, all with *nikud* and *trop*
- Support for *shva-na*, *kamatz katan*, and *chataf-kamatz*
- Search and replace for *nikud* and *trop*
- Individual coloring of *nikud* and *trop* characters
- Look up Tanach and Mishnah by book, chapter, and verse
- Hebrew/English footnote and page numbering
- Hebrew/English sorting
- Hebrew/English dates, using Jewish or secular calendar
- Built-in Text Library and clip art included!

Figure 7: [DavkaWriter](#), an old Hebrew word processor, that specifically advertizes support for sheva na'

**ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646^{TP1PT}**

Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from
[HTUhttp://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html](http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html) UTH for guidelines and details before
filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from
[HTUhttp://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html](http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html) UTH.

See also [HTUhttp://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html](http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html) UTH for latest Roadmaps.

A. Administrative

1. Title:	<i>Proposal to add Hebrew Point Sheva Na' to UCS</i>		
2. Requester's name:	<i>Jonathan Mosesson</i>		
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution):	<i>Individual contribution</i>		
4. Submission date:	<i>12/05/24</i>		
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):			
6. Choose one of the following:			
This is a complete proposal:			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(or) More information will be provided later:			<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:			
a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):			
Proposed name of script:			
b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Name of the existing block:	<i>Hebrew</i>		
2. Number of characters in proposal:	<i>1</i>		
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):			
A- Contemporary	B.1-Specialized (small collection)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B.2-Specialized (large collection)
C-Major extinct	D-Attested extinct	<input type="checkbox"/>	E-Minor extinct
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic		<input type="checkbox"/>	G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?	<i>Yes</i>		
a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?	<i>Yes</i>		
b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?	<i>Yes</i>		
5. Fonts related:			
a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?	<i>Nathan Gross</i>		
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):	<i>Nathan Gross, nuttigross@gmail.com</i>		
6. References:			
a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?	<i>Yes</i>		
b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?	<i>Yes</i>		

^{1?} Form number: N4502-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11, 2011-03, 2012-01)

7. Special encoding issues:

Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?

No

8. Additional Information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database (<http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/>) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES explain	<i>Yes</i> <i>It was submitted by Eliezer May in 2016 (L2/16-086), but does not appear on the rejected proposal list or the proposed new characters list. I assume it was returned to Eliezer May to request more information (as the proposal seems incomplete) which he never gave.</i>	<i>Yes</i>
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? If YES, with whom? If YES, available relevant documents:	<i>SSI representative Gilad Almosnino</i> <i>Email chain is appended below</i>	<i>Yes</i>
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:	<i>All readers, creators, and publishers, of Hebrew liturgical and religious texts</i>	<i>Yes</i>
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:	<i>Common in liturgical typesetting</i>	
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? If YES, where? Reference:	<i>See examples below</i>	<i>Yes</i>
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? If YES, is a rationale provided? If YES, reference:	<i>All other Hebrew vowel points are in the BMP and there is a gap in the Hebrew block for it (05C8-05CF)</i>	<i>Yes</i> <i>Yes</i>
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?		<i>N/A</i>
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:		<i>No</i>
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:		<i>No</i>
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	<i>It is derived from HEBREW POINT SHEVA but it has a different function and shape</i>	<i>Yes</i> <i>Yes</i>
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? If YES, reference: Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? If YES, reference:		<i>No</i> <i>No</i>
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)		<i>No</i>
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified? If YES, reference:		<i>No</i>

Email chain with SSI representative Gilad Almosnino:

Nutti Gross <nuttigross@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 4, 11:27 AM (1 day ago)

to Gilad Almosnino, Jon Mosesson, dwanders@sonic.net

Mostly yes. But the way I thought of it was to mirror qamats by having U+05C0 remain just "Hebrew point sheva" and have U+05C8 "Hebrew point sheva na". Just like how U+05B8 is "Hebrew point qamats" but U+05C7 is "Hebrew point qamats qatan".

Nathan

On Wed, Dec 4, 2024 at 6:04 AM Gilad Almosnino <g.alm@outlook.com> wrote:

Sorry for the delay in response, the committee is in support of the proposal.

Just want to confirm, the implementation in Unicode will include separate code points for the following characters:

sheva na' - Codepoint: U+05C8

sheva nah - New codepoint.

Thanks,

Gilad

From: Jon Mosesson <jonmosesson@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 02:40

To: Gilad Almosnino <g.alm@outlook.com>

Cc: dwanders@sonic.net <dwanders@sonic.net>; nuttigross@gmail.com <nuttigross@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Introduction to rep of SII

Hi Gilad,

Nice to meet you.

Please find attached our unicode proposal for a sheva na'. Happy to discuss any feedback you may have.

Best,

Jon

On Sun, Sep 22, 2024 at 5:30 PM Gilad Almosnino <g.alm@outlook.com> wrote:

Hi,

Glad to chat please reach out...

Thanks!

Gilad

From: dwanders@sonic.net <dwanders@sonic.net>

Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2024 20:57

To: jonmosesson@gmail.com <jonmosesson@gmail.com>

Cc: nuttigross@gmail.com <nuttigross@gmail.com>; Gilad Almosnino <g.alm@outlook.com>

Subject: Introduction to rep of SII

Dear Jon and Nathan,

I am a member of the Unicode Script Encoding Working Group, and we discussed your proposal yesterday. (I know Ben Yang also wrote to you yesterday, suggesting you consider a name change for the character to "HEBREW POINT HEAVY SHEVA".)

I would like to hereby introduce you to Gilad Almosnino, who is the liaison between SIL and Unicode and a SIL representative. From Unicode's perspective, it is very important to get SIL's feedback on the proposal (and hopefully their support – or at least no objection from SIL).

With best wishes,

Debbie Anderson