

# High Holiday Torah Reading

*Traditionally, the public reading of the Torah has been a time not only for hearing and engaging with the words of our sacred text, but for communal recognition as well. Congregations will offer an “aliyah” (lit, “rising”)—the honor of blessing the Torah before and after the reading—to recognize members of the community.*

*With our new tradition for the Torah reading, we will attempt to recognize as much of our community as possible. Each of the aliyot will be designated by theme, and anyone who wishes to rise for that aliyah will be welcome to do so. We will seek to recognize both communal commitments and personal spiritual milestones.*

*Below find the themes for each aliyah, so you can think about them in advance. How you may interpret them is up to you, and you choose when you would like to rise for an aliyah. Your reasons for rising are your own, and you will not be asked to disclose your reasons, nor are you obligated to tell anyone if asked. You may rise for whichever aliyah you feel moved to participate in, and may choose more than one (or one on each holiday).*

*I do invite you to take advantage of this sacred opportunity, to be recognized and supported by your community, to draw close to Torah, to both give and receive blessings and to find expression for what matters in your life.*

*Rabbi Seth Goldstein*

## High Holiday Torah Aliyot Themes for 5779

*On Rosh Hashanah:*

**Aliyah 1:** For those who are marking a new beginning—e.g., a new job, a new hobby, travel to a new place, taking on a new commitment.

**Aliyah 2:** For those who have celebrated a *simcha* (celebratory event) in the past year.

**Aliyah 3:** For those who have made new or continuing efforts to protect our environment, or committed to new sustainable practices, or experienced a meaningful interaction with the natural world in the past year.

**Aliyah 4:** For those who are our teachers at TBH—the teachers and *madrichim* in the Beit Sefer, those who have led a study or discussion group, given a d’var Torah, led services, etc.

**Aliyah 5:** For those seeking the blessings of family, whether birth family or chosen family—either wanting to celebrate new relationship, or seek healing for old ones, who seek to renew a relationship with a parent or child or sibling, or offer gratitude for one.

**Haftarah Reading:** Those who have welcomed new life into their families.

*On Yom Kippur:*

**Aliyah 1:** For those who serve in leadership at TBH—members of the Board, committee chairs and committee members, volunteers, task force members, organizers, coordinators, etc.

**Aliyah 2:** For those who have made an important choice or decision in the past year, or are in the process of making an important choice or decision, and who are seeking support in their decision-making.

**Aliyah 3:** For those engaged in the work of social justice, either through TBH or not, or who made a new commitment to work for social justice in the past year, or who are making a new social justice commitment for the coming year.

**Aliyah 4:** For those who seek healing of body, mind or spirit for themselves or a loved one, those who have been caregivers, those who seek spiritual strength.

**Aliyah 5:** For those who are new to Olympia, new to TBH, have joined the TBH community in the past 5 years, or those visiting our community for the holiday.

**Aliyah 6:** For those who have been members of TBH for 25 years or more.