

Instructions for an Aliyah

To assist the individuals you have chosen for this honor, please distribute these instructions to them. All participants are welcome to attend any of the child's weekly bimah sessions with the Cantor, or to contact the Cantor directly in order to receive some informal tutoring and practice time.

General Notes

- Please make sure that you spend the necessary time reviewing (and practicing if necessary) the Torah blessings in Hebrew as soon as you have been informed that you will be receiving the honor of an *aliyah*. All people who are being honored with the recitation of the *aliyah* blessing should be prepared to fluently chant (or if necessary, read) the blessings. According to Jewish tradition, the entire congregation must be able to hear the recitation of these blessings **clearly and correctly**.
- A copy of the *aliyah* blessings can be found in the **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Info** section of B'nai Aviv's website at <http://mitzvah.bnaiaviv.org>.
- In the same section of B'nai Aviv's web site, you will also find recordings of the Cantor chanting the *aliyah* blessings in **.mp3** format, which you may download and utilize for practice purposes.
- If you prefer, a CD of the Cantor chanting the *aliyah* blessings is also available from the synagogue office. Please call the office before stopping by, to ensure that a copy of the *aliyah* blessings CD will be available for you to pick up.
- At B'nai Aviv, all men are required to wear a *kippah* in the Sanctuary, and all Jewish men are required to wear a *tallit* as well. **As such, men receiving an *aliyah* will wear a *kippah* and *tallit* on the *bimah*. It is recommended but not required for women receiving an *aliyah* to wear a *tallit*.** *Kippot*, *tallitot* and head coverings are all available at the entrance door to the Sanctuary for your convenience.

Please see the reverse of this page for a detailed description of the procedure for an *aliyah*.

Procedure for an *Aliyah*

1. During the appropriate point in the Torah service, you will be called to the *bimah* for your *aliyah* by your English name. Please be aware which *aliyah* has been assigned to you and keep track of the number of *aliyot* during the service, so that you will be listening for your name at the appropriate time.
2. When your name is called, proceed up to the *bimah* directly to the center desk, to **the right-hand side of the reader**. Please do not stop to greet any of the participants sitting on the *bimah* at this time.
3. Proper form requires you to be called to the Torah by your Hebrew name. You should have provided your Hebrew name in advance to the family, and it should be called automatically at this time. However, in the event the synagogue was not provided with this information, please be prepared to provide your Hebrew name if requested, so that it can be properly called. Remember that your Hebrew name includes not only your given name but the names of your father and mother. The format would therefore be:
For men: *Ya'akov ben Avraham v'Sara*
For women: *Rivka bat Avraham v'Sara*
4. The Torah reader will point to the beginning of the Torah portion to be read. Take the corner of your *tallit* and touch the position in the Torah that the Torah reader indicates, then kiss your *tallit* corner. If you are a woman and are not wearing a *tallit*, then perform this same procedure instead with a corner of the cloth Torah binding which will be handed to you.
5. Chant the first *aliyah* blessing loudly and clearly. Remember to:
 - Pause for the congregation to respond to your first sentence
 - Repeat the congregation's response before continuing with the rest of the blessing
6. The Torah reading will now commence.
7. At the conclusion of the Torah reading, the reader will point to the end of the Torah portion just read. Repeat the procedure of touching the Torah with your *tallit* (or the cloth Torah binding) and kissing it, as described in number 4 above.
8. Chant the second *aliyah* blessing loudly and clearly.
9. When you have completed the second blessing, move to the other side of the Torah reader, and continue to observe at **the left-hand side of the reader** as the next *aliyah* and Torah reading is done.
10. When the concluding *aliyah* blessing for the next Torah reading is completed, you are now free to return to your seat in the congregation. At this point, you may also greet the participants sitting on the *bimah* before returning to your seat, if you choose to do so.