



## HIGH HOLIDAYS HONORS GUIDE

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Your honors card indicates the approximate time of your honor. Your card also indicates the page number on which your honor will occur, so that as the service progresses you can gauge how soon your name will be called. Ten minutes prior to your appointed time, please move to the front of the sanctuary to the Honors section at the front of the sanctuary, to the left of the *bimah*.

Please note that when going up onto the *bimah*, men are expected to wear *kipot* and women are expected to wear a head covering. Jewish men are also expected to wear a *tallit*.

### **ALIYAH (BLESSINGS FOR THE TORAH READING)**

Please review (and practice if necessary) the Torah blessings in Hebrew. There is a *special melody* that is traditionally used for the Torah blessings during the High Holidays, and you can find a recording of it at <http://highholidayhonors.bnaiaviv.org>. However, if you would feel uncomfortable and would prefer using the conventional melody, you may do so instead.

1. During the appropriate point in the Torah service, you will be called to the *bimah*. Please 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.
2. The *Gabbai* will have contacted you before the High Holidays to get your Hebrew names, and will formally call you to the Torah by your Hebrew names when you reach the desk.
3. 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*, perform this same procedure instead with a corner of the cloth Torah binding which will be handed to you.
4. 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
5. The Torah reading will now commence.
6. 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.
7. Chant the second *aliyah* blessing loudly and clearly.
8. When you are done, 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.
9. 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.