

# Shabbat Service Roles

## **Torah Assistant**

Please assist Rabbi on the bima by carrying the Torah after it is handed to you. Ascend the Bima and approach the Ark with Rabbi or leader, shortly after beginning of the Torah Service. You will join the Hakafah (march around the room) carrying the Torah, strolling slowly so members can touch with their prayer books or tallit ends (tsitsit) and end up back on the bima where the Torah Scroll is unwrapped and laid on the reading table. Wearing of a head covering and tallit are usually considered appropriate, if you are comfortable with these rituals.

## **English Reader**

Please assist Rabbi or leader in reading of selected English passages.

Check with Rabbi or leader prior to the service beginning to receive instructions.

Approach the lectern when the service reaches your reading. Rabbi or leader may nod or gesture to you so know your page number and location of reading.

## **Candle Blessings**

Please lead the congregation in lighting and blessing of the candles. Check in with Rabbi or leader immediately to receive instructions. Ascend the Bima when candle-lighting is announced, very early in the service. Take care to hold BOTH candlestick and candle, when moving the shamus candle. Congregation usually chants blessing with Cantor, AFTER you have said the blessing.

## **Hagbah**

Please lift the Torah and hold up high spread open so the community can see the reading (Generally, face the Ark) Your role arrives late in the Torah Service. Rabbi or leader will call you from the congregation, unless otherwise instructed. Often the call is "Ya-mod Hag-bah, Ga'lila" Those who will lift and dress the Torah scroll. Take care to grasp both Torah handles firmly and use the table for leverage. Raise the Torah then turn your back to the congregation. Raise and hold the Torah as high as you can. Some people slightly unroll it. Hold only for about 10 seconds, then lower and sit or pass Torah to sitter on Bima.

## **Aliya**

You have been selected for the honor of reading or chanting the blessings before and after reading of a Torah portion. Please join in the Torah procession around the room and ascend the Bima. Wearing of a head covering and tallit are usually considered appropriate, if you are comfortable with these rituals. Stand by the Torah to the reader's right (facing the congregation). Traditionally the Aliya touches the Torah with the tallit fringes at the spot of the reading, then kisses the fringes, prior to reciting the blessing. A large print copy of the blessings, in Hebrew and in transliteration, will be on the Torah table for your use. Please assist the Torah Reader by holding one handle of the scroll during the reading.

When the next Aliya is called, you move to the other side (left) of the Torah and hold the other handle during the reading. If there is yet another Aliya called, or after the next reading and blessing are complete, you return to your seat in the congregation. Rabbi or leader will call you by your Hebrew name.

## **Haftarah Reader** (only during Minyan Services)

Please assist Rabbi or leader in reading of selected English passages, unless otherwise arranged. Check with Rabbi or leader immediately to receive instructions. Please join in the Torah procession and thus ascend the Bima. Approach the lectern or reading table up on the bima when the service reaches your reading. Rabbi or leader may nod or gesture to you. Please announce reading and page number, if Rabbi or leader has not already done so.