

ALIYAH STATION INFORMATION

LEFT SIDE OF TORAH TABLE: When you are called for your *aliyah*, come up to the left of the Torah table as you approach it—which will place you on the right-hand side of the Torah as you face the congregation.

NOTING THE FIRST WORD TO BE READ: The Torah reader will use the *yad* (pointer) to show you the first word of the section to be read. If one of you is wearing a *tallit*, you can touch the *tzitzit* (corner fringe) to the margin area that is closest to where the reading is to begin. (This indicates that the person doing the reading of that portion is reading it on your behalf.) Some people then kiss the *tzitzit* to indicate reverence for the Torah—but again, just do what feels comfortable. Ari will then roll the Torah closed and/or cover it while you recite the blessings to indicate that what you are reading (the blessing) is not the Torah reading itself.

HOLD POLES: Stand and hold the *etzay chayim* (the Torah poles on which the scrolls are rolled) to denote that you “own” this portion.

RECITE BLESSING BEFORE THE READING: Now you can recite the “Blessing before reading the Torah,” reading from the prayerbook or the sheet on the reading table. Remember to repeat the phrase “*Baruch Adonai haM'vorach l'olam va'ed*” after the congregation does it—people often omit that! Raise the poles at the concluding “*noteyn haTorah.*”

HOLD TORAH OPEN: After reciting the blessings, continue to stand to the right of the Torah while it is read. You can hold the *etz chayim* on your side (if the reader is not holding it!) to help keep the Torah open until the reader finishes that section.

RECITE BLESSING AFTER THE READING: When the reader is done, recite the “Blessing after reading the Torah.”

GO TO OTHER SIDE OF TORAH TABLE: Then, go to the left side of the Torah and stay there through the blessings and reading that follows. One of you can hold the left side of the scroll for the reader of the next section.

RETURN TO YOUR SEAT: When the *aliyah* after yours is completed, you can return to your seat in the congregation. If you borrowed a *tallit*, please leave it next to the Torah for another person to use.

YASHER KOACH: Often people will shake your hand after you have been honored with an *aliyah* and give you good wishes, saying “*Yasher Koach*” which is roughly the Hebrew equivalent of “well done.”