

## How to Fulfill the Honors

When you enter the sanctuary, it is customary for men to wear a kippah (skullcap) and men and women to wear a tallit (prayer shawl). All **adults** who are invited up on the bimah must wear a tallit.

- **Presenting the Tallit:** Usually the parent(s), and sometimes a grandparent or other close adult, will present the bar/bat mitzvah with the tallit. While you may use a tallit from the temple collection, it is recommended that you use one that will belong especially to your son or daughter. You will be called to the bimah to present the tallit with your child.
- **Opening the Ark:** Come up to the bimah when the rabbi calls you and step up to the Ark with the Rabbis. Open the mesh curtain and stand by the Ark while the Cantor sings. You will remain standing by the Ark until the b'nei mitzvah have received the Torah scrolls in their arms. When they begin walking around the sanctuary, you may return to your seats.
- **Have an Aliyah (Torah blessing):** Approach the lectern and stand to the right of the bar/bat mitzvah. Take one of the tzitzit (fringes) from the tallit and touch it to the place in the Torah where the bar/bat mitzvah will be reading. Kiss the tzitzit, then recite the blessing in Hebrew or English (provided in this packet), then listen to the Torah chanting/reading. When the reading is finished, touch the tzitzit to the place where the reading ended, kiss the tzitzit again and recite the second blessing. Then, give a hug to the bar/bat mitzvah and move next to the Cantor so that you can serve as a witness for the next aliyah. **Note: people honored with an aliyah will be called to the Torah by their Jewish name if they are Jewish.**
- **Dressing the Torah:** Come up to the bimah when called by the Cantor. The scroll will be lifted in the air. When it is returned to the table, help wrap the belt around it. Then place the red mantle back on the scroll, followed by the breastplate, the yad (pointer) and crowns. All of these items will be handed to you by a member of the clergy.
- **Leading Kiddush and Motzi:** At the very end of the service the Rabbi will invite these individuals to come stand near the small table with the juice and challah and lead the blessings over each (**see sheet**).