

FAQs: High Holiday Honors, 2009

Q: What honors are available?

A: There are many honors, all of which involve coming up to the bimah. Some honors don't require preparation, like opening and closing the ark; some require experience, such as lifting and wrapping the torah; some require the reading of English passages and some require knowledge of Hebrew. Honors such as reading from the Torah, acting as Gabbai, and chanting the Haftarah will be distributed to people who have previously performed these honors.

Q: Do I need to wear special clothing?

A: All those receiving honors are asked to dress in appropriate holiday attire. All honorees are required to wear a head covering. Men are required to wear a tallit, women are encouraged to wear a tallit.

Q: Do I need to let you know if I am a Cohen or a Levi?

A: Yes, but only if you'd like to be considered for an aliyah.

Q: Can you describe the aliyah procedure for High Holiday services?

A: The aliyot for the High Holidays use the very same brachot (blessings) as always—the text is the same for any Sabbath, weekday, Festival. You can read them/chant them in Hebrew, or in English transliteration.

Note: There is a specific nussach (tune) used for them on the High Holidays. It is not at all necessary that you learn or use this special nussach. However, if you wish to, that's great. Our Musical Enrichment Director, Joey Weisenberg, will go over the High Holiday nussach during his pre-High Holiday workshop. You can also listen to it online at <http://www.virtualcantor.com/rhLaining.htm>

Q: Will there be honors distributed at both the Kane Street and Bergen Street services?

A: Yes, there will be honors available at both services, but to avoid scheduling problems, we are requesting that you let us know which service you plan on attending, or for those who will be purchasing tickets at both, at which service you plan on spending most of your time.

Q: How will I be notified if I've been given an honor?

A: All honorees will be notified by mail and by e-mail by the beginning of September. We will tell you which honor you have received and at approximately what time you will be expected to be present. **It is very important that you let us know of any changes.**