# TORAH SCROLL (SEFER TORAH)

### TORAH SCROLL: TOUCHING

#### **Torah Scroll: Touching**

Don't directly touch the parchment of a <u>Torah</u> scroll with your hand or other part of your body, unless there is no other way to handle the scroll.

### TORAH SCROLL: STANDING

#### **Torah Scroll: Standing**

Stand when a *Torah* is being moved.

NOTE When the ark is open, you do not need to stand if the <u>Torah</u> or <u>Torahs</u> are stationary, but the custom is to stand anyway.

### **TORAH SCROLL: LIFTING**

#### To Lift Up the Torah

To lift up the *Torah*:

- Grip the handles close to the plate at the top of the lower handles.
- Roll the *Torah* so that three columns are exposed and one of the seams is between the two rollers (this is a custom).
- Lever up the *Torah* (you may slide the *Torah* down the table toward yourself if that makes it easier).
- Show the *Torah* to people on your right and then on your left.

If you want to turn in a circle, turn to counter-clockwise as seen from above.

• At the end of rolling (*glila*) closed the *Torah*, there should be a seam between the two rods on which the *Torah* is rolled (such that if it were to tear, it would likely tear at the seam and no words of *Torah* would be torn).

## TORAH SCROLL (SEFER TORAH): WRITING

#### Torah Scroll (Sefer Torah): Priority for Writing

Writing a <u>Torah</u> scroll (<u>sefer Torah</u>) is a <u>mitzva</u> but is not a priority; there are other activities that have a higher priority for Jewish observance.

NOTE The commandment that each Jew write a <u>sefer Torah</u> is not fulfilled by paying someone else to write a few letters of the <u>sefer Torah</u> for you.

NOTE If you hire someone to write the entire *sefer Torah* for you, that fulfills your requirement.