

**CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL**

***FACILITIES and KASHRUT***  
**POLICIES**

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## KASHRUT POLICIES GUIDE

We are pleased to provide you with Congregation B'nai Israel's policy on *kashrut*, the practice of keeping kosher. The following guide will help in the preparation and serving of meals at Congregation B'nai Israel events.

### KASHRUT (DIETARY LAWS)

The goal of *kashrut* is to make the act of eating as “holy” as it can be. Holiness means to be separate, distinct and elevated. Human beings are different from animals. Animals act whenever and wherever they want. To be a Jew means to take an essentially animalistic urge, such as eating, and elevate it to a level of sanctity- *kedusha*.

We elevate eating by emphasizing the value of life. Eating meat is a moral compromise. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were to eat only the vegetation of the garden. Noah received permission to kill and eat animals for food as a concession to human weakness (*Genesis 9:3*).

By limiting the kinds of animals we eat, the *kashrut* laws remind us that meat-eating is a moral compromise. Similarly, not mixing meat and dairy symbolically underscores the fact that life, which is reflected in the mother's milk, is not to be eaten with meat - the symbol of death. Finally, when an animal is slaughtered, it must be done in as painless a manner as possible.

Within the Conservative Movement, rulings on *kashrut* have continued to evolve. The policies of Congregation B'nai Israel are consistent with the rulings of the Movement and may be revised by the rabbi from time to time.

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF KASHRUT

*Kashrut* divides all foods into three categories; *milchig* (dairy), *fleischig* (meat), and *pareve* (neither dairy nor meat). Meat and dairy foods may not be cooked or eaten together. The separation of milk and meat is derived from the biblical command (Ex. 24;36) against cooking a lamb in its mother's milk. This commandment teaches us that Judaism requires a recognition and sensitivity that the animals we eat are living creatures, created by God. We show this sensitivity by refraining from eating any animals (land animals) with milk, the source of nourishment and life. *Pareve* foods such as fish, eggs, fruits, vegetables, and grains may be eaten with either meat or dairy. All **vegetables, fruits** and **unprocessed grains** are kosher and *pareve*. They do not need a *hechsher* (kosher certification).

Any prepared foods require a *hechsher* to insure that there are no ingredients that are not kosher. Some common *hechshers* are:



**\*Note: the letter “K” by itself is NOT an acceptable *hechsher*. A letter of the alphabet cannot be trademarked as it is not a proprietary “symbol.” A “K” on the package does not give assurances as to the kosher status of the product.**

**Meat:** Only certain species are permitted (cows, sheep, chicken) and others (pig, rabbits) are forbidden. The distinguishing signs of kosher meat are the cloven hoof and the fact that the animal chews its cud. Most fowl is kosher. Additionally, to be considered kosher, the animal must be slaughtered under specific, supervised conditions.

**Dairy:** The Conservative Movement has a number of rulings regarding the *kashrut* of cheeses. B'nai Israel follows the Klein teshuva and

allow cheeses that do not have kosher certification.

**Pareve:**

Fish: All fish which have scales and fins are kosher. Shellfish are excluded as a group, and are not kosher. Examples of fish which are not kosher include catfish and shark, neither of which has scales.

Eggs: Eggs from a kosher animal are kosher, unless a spot of blood is found in the egg.

**Wine:** We follow the Dorff teshuva which permits the use of wine without a *hechsher*. However, for symbolic reasons, wine used in fulfilling a mitzvah such as ceremonies of circumcision, wedding, kiddush, and havdalah **must** be certified kosher and “fruit of the vine” (made from grapes). Other wines may be served during meals.

The principle of separating meat and dairy applies to all utensils used in preparation and consumption of food. To simplify the separation of meat and dairy, we have completely separate kitchens that are used for meat meals and dairy meals. *Pareve* food may be prepared, cooked, or served with either meat or dairy utensils; however, *pareve* food prepared with meat utensils should not be served on dairy plates.

## **PREPARING FOOD FOR YOUR EVENT**

At Congregation B'nai Israel, you can use one of our approved caterers or you can prepare the food yourself. Both options require the supervision of an approved *mashgiach*, such as our kitchen manager. (A *Mashgiach* who is trained and certified by the Rabbi will check food that is brought in, ensure that proper utensils are used and supervise food preparation.)

## APPROVED CATERERS

Jeff Sherman  
Simply Delicious Catering  
6731 Shieldwood  
Toledo OH 43617  
(419) 841-4047

Mimi Markofsky  
Elite Kosher Catering  
6800 Drake Road  
West Bloomfield MI 48322  
(248) 592-0200

### **Gladieux Catering**

Judy Lodes  
928 Berdan Ave  
Toledo, OH 43612  
(419) 473-3003

### **Quality Kosher**

27375 Bell Road  
Southfield MI 48034  
(248) 352-7758  
fax: (248) 352-9118

## PREPARING FOOD YOURSELF

1. Reserve kitchen time with the Office Manager at least 30 days in advance.
2. Follow all *kashrut* rules in this booklet.
3. No cooking may take place on Shabbat. Heating of cooked foods prepared before Shabbat may take place on Shabbat.
4. You are responsible for the cost of the *mashgiach*.
5. When in doubt, ask the Rabbi.

## BAKERIES THAT ARE APPROVED

**In Toledo:     Eston's**  
6600 W Sylvania  
Sylvania, OH 43560  
419-885-9442

**Strachn's**  
759 S. Holland/Sylvania  
Toledo, OH 43615  
419-867-8297

**Barry's Bagels** (Un sliced bagels only, and they are to be treated as dairy)

**In Detroit: Zemans New York Kosher Bakery**

25258 Greenfield Road  
Oak Park, MI 48237  
(248) 967-3905  
Fax: (248) 967-4103

Notes: Kosher baked goods for bar/bat mitzvah celebrations, weddings and special occasions. Breads, cookies, cakes for every day. Supervised by Council of Orthodox Rabbis.

Notes: Homemade bakery products, muffins, cookies, brownies, cupcakes for birthday parties, special orders. Certified kosher dairy. Supervised by Metropolitan Kashruth Council. Ten years serving the community.

**In Cleveland: Brooklyn Bagels**

903 South Taylor Road 44118  
(216) 321-0738  
Fax: (216) 321-2028

**Cookies by Design**

13945 Cedar Rd 44118  
(216) 932-1986

**Lax and Mandel**

2070 South Taylor Road 44118  
(216) 932-6445  
Fax: (216) 932-DELI (3354)

**Unger's Kosher  
Market, Inc.**

1831 South Taylor Rd 44118  
(216) 321-7176 or 321-7177  
fax: (216) 321-0777

## FACILITIES POLICIES GUIDE

### CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL KITCHEN AND SHABBAT RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. Food brought into the Congregation B'nai Israel kitchen will be checked by the Rabbi or a trained Mashgiach.
  - A. All prepared foods require a *hechsher*
  - B. Wine other than for ceremonial usage does NOT require a *hechsher*
  - C. Cheese does NOT require a *hechsher*
  - D. Baked goods must come from an approved bakery

### IT IS NOT PERMISSIBLE FOR FOOD TO BE BROUGHT FROM HOME!

2. No cooking may be done on Shabbat. If precooked food will need to be heated, the office must be notified at least 48 hours ahead of time so arrangements can be made to have the ovens turned on. The grill cannot be used on Shabbat and Holidays.
3. All food left in the kitchen after your event must be labeled with your name and removed no later than 4 PM on the second synagogue business day after your event. Any food remaining after that time will be disposed of.
4. No commercial deliveries are permitted on Shabbat and Holidays. This includes, but is not limited to balloons, flowers, and bagels/bakery products.
5. **No person is permitted to carry anything in or out of the building on Shabbat. This includes all hired help, staff, Jews and non-Jews.**
6. Bands and DJs must bring in and set up their equipment on Friday before Shabbat, or after the conclusion of Shabbat.
7. Nothing may be attached, taped, etc. to the walls.

## **OPENING THE WALL BETWEEN THE SANCTUARY AND SOCIAL HALL**

Walls between the Barry Social Hall and Katz Sanctuary may be opened during events being held in the Social Hall, with the following stipulations:

1. No one is permitted in the Katz Sanctuary, except during religious services. The lights can be dimmed.
2. The Katz Sanctuary entrance is blocked off.
3. Either unused chairs or tables are placed as a barrier between the Barry Social hall and Katz Sanctuary.
4. If food will be served on tables near the Katz Sanctuary, carpets or drop-cloths must be put down first. An additional charge will be made for any necessary repair or cleaning.
5. Wall must remain open or closed for duration of event (cannot be opened or closed during).

## **BAR/BAT MITZVAH AND AUFRUF CANDY**

If either a Bar or Bat Mitzvah or an engaged couple wishes to be showered with candy during services, please notify the Office Manager. B'nai Israel will provide all candy (free of charge).

## CBI Room Rental Contract

Please read and complete the following contract. It is your responsibility as the Lessee to understand all rental rules and guidelines outlined in this contract. If you have any questions about anything outlined in this contract, contact the office.

### LESSEE INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Member [ ]      Non-Member [ ]

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### RENTAL INFORMATION

Caterer \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Rental \_\_\_\_\_      Time of Rental \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. # in Party \_\_\_\_\_

### RESERVATION POLICY

Rental Space:    Social Hall \_\_\_\_\_      Lounge \_\_\_\_\_

Multi-purpose rooms \_\_\_\_\_      Dance Floor \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. For a event at B'nai Israel** a 50% deposit is due three weeks prior to the event, a 30% payment is due the Wednesday before the event and the remaining balance is due five business days after you receive your final bill.

If this policy imposes an undue financial hardship, We are happy to meet with you to design a mutually acceptable alternate payment arrangement on which you and B'nai Israel must agree.

**In order to help ensure the sanctity of the Sabbath Day:**

- Use of photographic or recording devices, use of the telephone (except in the case of a true emergency), writing, smoking and handling money are not permitted in the building or on its grounds during Shabbat
- Use of cellular phones is not permitted in the building or on its grounds during Shabbat
- All men are requested to wear head-coverings in the building
- All women are requested to wear head-coverings on the bima
- Please keep conversations to a minimum so as not to disturb other worshippers

*Revised October 2010*