

ADATH SHALOM POLICY ON KASHRUT

*Ritual Committee
February 2016*

Introductory Note: Adath Shalom implemented its first formal policy on Kashrut in 1996, following extensive consultation with members, community resources and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. The 2016 revision reflects three areas of concern:

- 1) the fact that some simchas are held at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC)
- 2) some congregants are opting for self-catered Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations, and
- 3) clarification is required on the acceptability of potluck meals.

1.0 PRINCIPLES

Inherent to Adath Shalom's Kashrut Policy is the clear understanding that Shabbat or YomTov services are not normally held in a private home; and Bar/Bat Mitzvah services must be held at either 31 Nadolny Sachs Private or the SJCC. At its sole discretion, the Board of Adath Shalom may permit variances in individual exceptional cases (e.g., for health or humanitarian reasons).

- 1.1 As a Conservative congregation and as a member of the USCJ, Adath Shalom accepts and promotes the Halachic requirements of Kashrut.
- 1.2 As a part of the Jewish community, Adath Shalom follows community standards, as established by the Ottawa Va'ad HaKashrut.

2.0 DEFINITIONS (for the purposes of this policy)

- 2.1 "**Kosher**" food is that which meets the requirements of the Ottawa Va'ad HaKashrut, as described in the information provided on their website at www.ovhkosher.ca. Fresh fruit and vegetables are inherently kosher, but may require special procedures for washing.
- 2.2 An "**event**" is any service or program conducted by Adath Shalom that is open to its members and to the public at large.
- 2.3 "**Usual**" food preparations comprise store-bought kosher food that requires no heating or other processing prior to serving, other than the opening of packages, cutting or washing in cold water. The Va'ad HaKashrut has agreed that these preparations do not normally require the presence of a mashgiach.
- 2.4 A "**meal**" requires preparation, processing or heating beyond cutting, washing or arranging on a plate, and includes washing the hands and saying Hamotzi over the bread. Accordingly, the "Birkat Hamazon" (Grace after Meals) must be chanted at the meal's conclusion.

3.0 BASIC RULES FOR SERVING FOOD FOR ADATH SHALOM

3.1 All food must be kosher and must arrive in the original, sealed (unopened) packaging, except for permitted fruit and vegetables intended to be served fresh. Juices, soft drinks, and wine must have a kosher symbol. The following website offers a list of kosher symbols: cor.ca/view/85/cor_kosher_symbol_card.html

3.2 At the discretion of the Kiddush Committee Chair or designate, members may purchase and transport food themselves. Under no circumstances should food be brought to 31 Nadolny Sachs Private or the SJCC on the Sabbath. Food prepared under supervision by an approved kosher caterer must be sealed with the caterer's own seal of kashrut. No food can be handled or prepared in a member's home. It is permissible to hire people to serve the food, but the Kiddush Committee Chair or designate must witness the breaking of the seals.

3.3 All non-disposable utensils used for preparing or serving food and non-food supplies (e.g. detergents) must be purchased new, and must be brought into the premises in the original, sealed packaging.

3.4 All food, utensils and supplies must be delivered to the location where it will be served/used prior to Shabbat/YomTov, and may be subject to inspection and approval by the Va'ad HaKashrut,

3.5 When a member wishes to have 'special' food at an Adath Shalom event that is open to the public (e.g. for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah) beyond the "usual" food preparations, a mashgiach may be required, at the member's expense. To ensure that the appropriate arrangements can be made in sufficient time, members must provide the following information to the Kiddush Committee Chair or designate, no later than three weeks prior to the event:

3.5.1 A detailed list of the proposed menu, including who will be preparing the items (e.g., professional caterers or the member);

3.5.2 The times when access will be required to the kitchen to prepare food prior to the event.

For self-catered Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations, members may bring in new, **never before** used utensils, trays, bowls, for food preparation and serving before the day when they will be used. This must also be discussed and approved well in advance by the Kiddush Committee Chair or designate.

3.6 If a meal is served with bread, provisions must be made to chant Birkat Hamazon (including provisions to wash one's hands prior to the meal).

3.7 The Va'ad HaKashrut — not Adath Shalom — is the sole determinant of whether or not a mashgiach is needed, and for what duration, as well as for any other requirements regarding the serving of food at congregational events. The Va'ad HaKashrut may update these requirements from time to time.

3.8 The Kiddush Committee Chair or designate will serve as Adath Shalom's sole point of communication with the Va'ad HaKashrut on the above matters, and should be referred to for all matters relating to food served. He/she has the discretion to halt the preparation and serving of food at an Adath Shalom event should these conditions not be met. Neither the Kiddush Committee Chair nor Adath Shalom Congregation will be held responsible for any resultant problems or costs resulting from lack of compliance.

3.9 "Potluck" meals are not acceptable at congregational events where the public is invited, regardless of the venue. "Potluck" meals (kosher and ovo-lacto vegetarian) are acceptable where the business of the congregation is being conducted and attendance is limited to invited Adath Shalom members, such as Board and/or committee meetings

4.0 SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS WHEN SERVING FOOD AT 31 NADOLNY-SACHS

4.1 A clean cover must be placed over any surface to be used in the preparation and dining areas. No contact may be made with the sides or the bottom of the sink while washing food or utensils, unless the sink has been koshered first in the presence of a mashgiach.

4.2 All approved utensils must remain on site in the locked kitchen.

4.3 Only dairy or pareve products may be used. Meat, meat derivatives or meat-like products are not acceptable.

4.4 Products must be nut-free.

5.0 SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS WHEN SERVING FOOD OTHER THAN AT 31 NADOLNY-SACHS

5.1 At Bar/Bat Mitzvah services held at the SJCC, as well as at any other off-site events connected with Shabbat or YomTov held in a public place, a mashgiach must be present regardless of whether a kosher caterer is used or members purchase, transport and serve food themselves.

5.2 When an event is catered and served by a kosher caterer, the caterer is responsible for following all regulations of the Ottawa Va'ad HaKashrut.

5.3 The transportation and serving of "usual" foods for events such as a Chanukah party, Havdalah or social program, in a public building or private home where only members are invited is permissible without a mashgiach present, at the discretion of the Kiddush Committee Chair or designate. At any such event, it is understood that food would be served only as a light refreshment and would not include any bread products. Any other interpretation violates this provision.

5.4 Food provided by the Congregation to a shiva house must be kosher, and any shiva meals sponsored by the Congregation must be prepared and sealed by a kosher caterer.

Note: If a member wishes to celebrate a simcha but feels unable to comply with the above rules, the event should be treated as a family function rather than as an Adath Shalom event. It cannot take place at 31 Nadolny-Sachs or the SJCC, and must not be linked to the Kiddush following any Adath Shalom service.