

Shaare Torah
Policy on Serving Wine and Other Alcohol
March 2007 – Revised February 2011

1. Introduction

Wine and other alcohol have a long history as part of both sacrament and celebration in the Jewish community. Our goals in developing this policy are to:

- Ensure that alcohol, when available and appropriate, is used safely and responsibly;
- Allow for appropriate use of alcohol at private functions;
- Ensure that alternative beverages are always available for those who do not wish to participate in the consumption of alcohol;
- Prohibit access to alcohol by individuals under 21 years of age.

2. Kiddush

- Only grape juice will be served at the public Kiddush that immediately follows a Shabbat or holiday service.
- If Kiddush is being recited as part of a catered meal, wine may be served. Grape juice must also be available. The caterer is responsible for the safe storage, serving and disposal of the wine.

3. Meals and Programs Sponsored by or Open to the Congregation

Wine and other forms of alcohol may be served at these events, subject to other limitations set by this and other policies (e.g. kashrut, those under 21), and to applicable laws or liability concerns. Attendees may not bring their own alcohol to Shaare Torah events.

4. Private Events

Those who have rented our facilities may serve alcohol at events, subject to applicable laws and to liability policies developed by the congregation.

5. Minors

Consumption of alcohol by individuals under 21 is prohibited. Parents are expected to supervise their children with regard to alcohol consumption.

6. Kashrut

All alcohol served at Shaare Torah must comply with the *Policy on Food and Kashrut for Synagogue Activities*.

7. Storage

When wine and other alcohol is served, it must be safely stored in a designated locked area prior to the event, and any leftover alcohol must be removed from the premises at the conclusion of the event.

8. Exceptions

The Ritual and Facilities Committees will decide upon requests for exceptions to the *Policy on Serving Wine and Alcohol* on a case by case basis.