

Congregation Ahavas Yisrael (AY) Simcha Policy

Congregation Ahavas Yisrael has instituted a “Simcha Policy” that will be effective as of the date listed at the bottom of this document. This policy is in effect until the Board of AY determines otherwise. The nature of this policy is to govern all events sponsored and arranged by our members, both full and associate, and includes, but is not limited to a:

- ❖ Bar Mitzvah
- ❖ Bat Mitzvah
- ❖ Bris
- ❖ Wedding
- ❖ Aufruf

The purpose of this policy is to make clear what AY and those sponsoring/arranging the event are responsible for, what is allowed and prohibited, and what will be provided by AY and/or the sponsor of the event.

Davening/Minyan

We encourage all members who are making a simcha to join the regular Shabbos minyanim; however, we understand if your expected crowd will be too large for the current AY building and seating configuration to accommodate. Therefore, we have instituted a “Parallel Minyan” for Shabbos morning only, under the following guidelines:

- The “Parallel Minyan” must be held at a location within .50 miles of the AY building at 1587 Route 27 in Edison. The location must provide basic necessities such as bathrooms, heat and air conditioning, and a playroom for children. The location should not be subject to excessive disruptions through normal/intended use of the facility.
- The minyan will only be held on Shabbos morning and must begin at the regular time of 8:30AM.
- If a “Parallel Minyan” occurs, an earlier minyan will take place at the AY building.
- AY will provide a Sefer Torah for the “Parallel Minyan.” The sefer will be the small AY Torah and in the case of a Bar Mitzvah, can be used for practice before the simcha in the AY building only and under the supervision of one of the AY Gabbaim (a list of the Gabbaim appears below).
- AY will not provide siddurim, chumashim, or chairs from the AY stock to be used for the “Parallel Minyan.” These items are the responsibility of the Ba’alei Simcha to obtain.
- AY will not provide a mechitzah (partition) for the “Parallel Minyan,” and this will be the responsibility of the Ba’alei Simcha. Rabbi Jaffe and/or the Gabbaim will be required to approve the mechitzah setup no later than six hours before Shabbos begins.
- If a “Parallel Minyan” occurs, Rabbi Jaffe will give his normal Shabbos morning drashah after the Torah is put away/before Mussaf, the President will make the normal announcements after Mussaf, and the Gabbaim will oversee the service as usual. The Ba’alei Simcha are encouraged to provide names for aliyot in advance and are free to designate honorees for all parts of the service.

Kiddush

AY observes strict Orthodox hashgacha practices, whether inside the building or in a different location. Therefore, if an event sponsor wishes to move the regular AY minyan to a different location and a Kiddush (any type) will follow, the following guidelines must be followed:

- Foods must have a visible hashgacha on the packaging. The packaging must be saved and provided as necessary if questions arise.
- Any caterer used must be under an acceptable hashgacha and cleared by Rabbi Jaffe before being hired by the Ba’alei Simcha.
- No food can be cooked in anyone’s home and then brought to the Kiddush.

- If a “Parallel Minyan” occurs, the Kiddush following is not separate and both events are considered linked, therefore the rules of Kiddush are governed by AY standards.
- The Ba’alei Simcha can choose to have a private “event” (i.e. Kiddush or luncheon) after the Kiddush following the “Parallel Minyan.” This event does not need to conform to AY standards and can be considered a separate event entirely, even if it is held at the same location. This event will not be advertised in the AY announcements of that week and it will be up to the Ba’alei Simcha to announce the separate event on their own.
- If there are any questions or concerns, Rabbi Jaffe must be contacted to assist. Please do not take action or make decisions without contacting the Rabbi first.

Other

- The weekly announcements will provide all details regarding a “Parallel Minyan” and Kiddush following and will represent your event as the regular AY Shabbos morning program.
- If you are making a simcha in a location that is beyond the .50 mile radius of the AY building, the regular 8:30AM Shabbos morning minyan will take place at AY.
- The AY Board reserves the right to modify or amend this policy as it sees fit. Any time the policy is modified or amended, a new effective date will be listed. Below is a list of the Gabbaim as of the effective date of this policy:
 - Avi Berger
 - Alec Cohen
 - R’ Dani Davis
 - Michael Zemble
- We understand that planning a simcha is complicated and hectic. However, certain deadlines must be met by the Ba’alei Simcha in order for AY to accommodate the simcha:
 - Notice of intention to have the simcha at the AY building or a location within the .50 mile radius must be provided no less than six weeks before the event.
 - Names of designated honorees for aliyot and davening must be provided to the AY Gabbaim no less than 24 hours before the event.
 - Name and contact information of the caterer must be provided to Rabbi Jaffe no less than four weeks before the event.

This policy is effective as of 1/15/2013