

Kashrut and a Caring Community

Dear Friend,

Thank you so much for volunteering to be part of our Chesed Meals program. Shaare Tefilla is a caring synagogue community that is committed to inclusivity; at the same time, we are an Orthodox synagogue that is committed to Kashrut. Everyone can and should participate in the mitzvah of Gemilut Chasadim (acts of kindness), regardless of personal level of observance. However, in considering how you fulfill this mitzvah, we respectfully ask that you give serious consideration to the following three options:

- a) If you are confident that your home meets the shul's standards of kashrut (enumerated below), then please feel free to prepare food in your own kitchen.
- b) If you are not confident that your home meets the standards, please consider fulfilling your commitment by purchasing a similar item from one of our Vaad-supervised establishments www.dallaskosher.org.
- c) If you are not confident that your home meets the standards but would like to prepare something homemade, we will make every attempt to make the shul kitchen available for your use. Please contact the shul office to make the necessary arrangements for access and supervision.

Kashrut Standards

1. All packaged/prepared/processed foods (except the few that do not require supervision) that come into your home bear one of the kosher certifications accepted by our community (see Akiba handbook or Vaad card for a list of reliable certifications).
2. Prepared foods that come into your home come from either a Vaad-supervised establishment or from another home in which you are confident that kashrut meets our shul standards. Food cannot be **purchased** from private kitchens that are kosher but not under supervision.
3. Metal & glass utensils used for serving and eating have been taken to the mikvah.
4. Milk & Meat foods and utensils are properly separated.
5. Vegetables are properly washed & checked for insects, using one of a number of accepted methods for different types of vegetables (click the links for the [CRC](#) and [Star K](#) guidelines).
6. Proper protocol is followed regarding the limitations on what type of cooking may be done by a non-Jew (domestic help, etc.)

If you have any questions about the specifics involved, please talk to Rabbi Rackovsky who is eager to turn this into a learning opportunity. Thank you for participating in our Chesed Meals program and for your consideration of the various options available in light of our congregation's commitment to Kashrut.

Warmest Regards,
Grace Tannin Denemark
Chesed/Hospitality Committee Chair