



Beth El Synagogue Bar/Bat Mitzvah Catering & Facilities Information

2019-2020/5780

Simchah Reservation Form	2
Shabbat Morning Kiddush Information	3
Kashrut & Catering Guidelines	5
Catering Options	7
Kosher Symbols	8
Shabbat Observance	9
Facilities Information	10
Simchah Planning (schedule & contact list)	11

***Please review all of the attached carefully and fill out/return the
Simchah Reservation Form as soon as possible***



Beth El Synagogue Shabbat Morning Kiddush Information

Beth El Synagogue observes each simchah as a community and encourages families to sponsor the Kiddush as part of their life cycle celebration (see below for specific information).

Many families also choose to sponsor a Congregational Shabbat Lunch. Please contact Spirit of Asia to explore the many, creative menu options available.

Spirit of Asia Catering provides the Kiddush for a fee of \$590:

- Staff - up to three kitchen/catering staff
- Draped food and beverage tables
- Five round tables with ten chairs each & linens
- Herring with toothpicks
- Challah pieces
- Lemonade and ice water
- Brewed coffee (regular and decaffeinated) and hot tea
- Tea and coffee condiments
- Kosher wine and grape juice
- Whiskey
- Paper beverage napkins

To complete your simchah, we ask the sponsoring family to provide:

- 70 dozen assorted sweets and baked goods
- Three additional pieces per person based on your invited guest list

Important Tax Benefit Information

If your family chooses to sponsor a Kiddush and/or Shabbat congregational Lunch - and you choose Beth El's catering partner, Spirit of Asia -- **a portion of your catering charges can be treated as a tax-deductible donation** to Beth El. To elect this option you must adhere to the following process:

- Beth El members must be current in all of their financial obligations to Beth El Synagogue at least 60 days prior to the event. To make arrangements or to discuss further, please contact our Finance Department at Beth El at 952-873-7304 or finance@bethelsynagogue.org
- Make final payment of the catering charges for event immediately upon receipt of the catering invoice.



Important Tax Benefit Information: (continued)

- The tax-deductible portion for sponsoring a Congregational Shabbat Lunch and Kiddush is:
 - **The entire cost of the Kiddush, and,**
 - **The cost of 200 congregational guests for the luncheon during the school year and 150 congregational guests during the summer.**
 - **Please note all catering charges are subject to Minnesota sales tax and the taxes will be included in your billing total.**

Baked goods and assorted sweets must be from approved kosher bakeries and/or from private homes in accordance with the Beth El home baking guidelines (see pages 5 - 6) and appropriate for dairy meals ONLY. All deliveries must be made by 3:00 PM on Friday and/or on the day preceding Jewish or legal holidays.



Beth El Synagogue Kashrut & Catering Guidelines

Beth El views kashrut as a central Jewish mitzvah (commandment), expressing our commitment to Jewish values. As such, we observe the laws of kashrut and all who use the synagogue kitchen are expected to be respectful of the below guidelines.

Kashrut Standards & Supervision

- All foods served in the synagogue must be kosher.
- Kashrut standards are maintained under the supervision of the rabbis (or their designated representatives) and use of the synagogue kitchen is granted contingent upon adherence to these standards.
- Beth El's Kitchen supervisor or a mashgiach (kashrut supervisor) certified by the rabbi must be present whenever baking, cooking, serving, or cleaning occurs in the main Beth El kitchen. The mashgiach will ensure that utensils, ingredients and preparation follow Beth El's kashrut standards; that safety standards are adhered to; and that equipment is used properly.
- **When an outside caterer is present, a fee will be charged for supervision and dishwashing. To make arrangements please call Spirit of Asia Catering. The caterer must be approved by the rabbis. Please contact Rabbi Olitzky at aolitzky@bethelsynagogue.org or 952.873.7313.**

Home-baked and Store-bought Goods

Home-baked Goods, General Policy

- It is preferable to serve baked goods from an established kosher caterer/bakery or Spirit of Asia Catering. In addition, Beth El's Snyder Family (dairy) kitchen is available to be used by affiliates and congregants to prepare baked goods.
- It is permissible to serve home baked goods to celebrate or mark a family lifecycle event such as a baby naming, bar/bat mitzvah, wedding, etc. provided the below standards are upheld.
- Home baked goods may only be served with a dairy or pareve meal.
- Home baked goods may be brought into the social halls and plated in the bar area but not brought into the kitchens.
- It is understood that individuals, families and organizations sponsoring events and/or serving food at Beth El will respect policies and procedures and will communicate them to family and friends so that they can be respectful of this highly regarded tradition.
- **Desserts brought from an establishment without approval will not be served. Instead, they will be set aside for the family to pick up.**



Home Baking Guidelines

Beth El permits the bringing of dairy baked goods from homes for dairy meals only subject to the following requirements:

- All mixes and additives must have an approved *hekhsher* (kosher symbol.) If there is a question regarding the acceptance of a given symbol, please consult Rabbi Olitzky.
- Only vegetable shortening with an appropriate *hekhsher* may be used.
- Items baked at home must be baked in new, disposable baking pans.
- All mixing bowls and utensils used in preparation must be either new or used only for non-meat purposes. Mixing bowls or utensils used at any time in meat preparation may not be used for baked goods being brought into the synagogue.
- Baked goods may be brought to the synagogue only in previously unused, disposable containers.
- Suggested alternatives to home baked goods are scheduling a baking day in the synagogue's kitchen or purchasing baked goods from a certified kosher bakery.
- Baked goods from home may be served only on disposable dishes or trays or on doilies; they may not come into direct contact with Beth El dishes or utensils.
- Challah is allowed only from a certified bakery or baked in the Beth El Kitchen.

Food Service Policy

All items served at Beth El must be:

- Prepared in our kitchens under supervision
- Or be brought in from a kosher establishment (see the approved list of caterers and bakeries)
- Or be commercially prepared items that have an acceptable *hekhsher*
- Commercially baked items that some may consider "ingredient-kosher" (Bruegger's bagels, etc.) may not be brought into the kitchens or social halls or served at Beth El at all.

If you have any questions regarding our kashrut, please contact Rabbi Olitzky.



List of Approved Kosher Dessert Establishments

Basil Pizza

5101 Minnetonka Boulevard
St Louis Park, MN 55416

Bogarts Doughnut Co.

904 West 36th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408
(Pareve)

Breadsmith

3939 West 50th Street
Edina, MN 55424
(Pareve)

Breadsmith

1816 Plymouth Road
Minnetonka, MN 55305
(Pareve)

Breadsmith

1579 Grand Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105
(Pareve)

Byerly's Kosher Bakery

3777 Park Center Blvd
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(Request or purchase directly from kosher
counter. Pareve)

Dunkin' Donuts

7280 42nd Avenue North
New Hope, MN 55427

Edible Arrangements – Edina

5824 Lincoln Drive
Edina, MN 55436
(Dairy and Pareve)

The Kosher Spot

4217 Minnetonka Blvd
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
(Pareve and Dairy)

Nothing Bundt Cakes

8435 Joiner Way
Eden Prairie, MN 55439
(Dairy)

Nothing Bundt Cakes

8085 Wedgewood Lane N
Maple Grove, MN 55369
(Dairy)

Nothing Bundt Cakes

12987 Ridgedale Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55305
(Dairy)

Nothing Bundt Cakes

1580 Grand Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105
(Dairy)

Prime Deli & Restaurant

4224 Minnetonka Blvd
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(Pareve)

Sebastian Joe's Ice Cream Cafe

4321 Upton Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55410
(Most ice cream flavors are kosher dairy. Baked
goods are not)

Sebastian Joe's Ice Cream Café

1007 W Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55405
(Most ice cream flavors are kosher dairy. Baked
goods are not)

Vitali's Bistro

1300 Nicollet Mall #2270
Minneapolis, MN 55403

In addition, *hekhshered* desserts may be found in
St. Louis Park at Costco, 5801 W 16th St and
Cub Foods, 3620 Texas Ave S and at some
Target stores. Be sure to check for kosher
symbols

**Please note that only the specific locations listed above are approved Kosher. Check
mspkosher.org for local availability.**



Common Bakeries that are NOT Approved

Wuollet Bakery – all locations

The following is a list of common hekhsherim (kosher symbols) that you might find at local stores:



Please note that a simple “K” is not an acceptable hekhsher.

All deliveries must be made by 3:00 pm on Friday and/or on the day preceding the legal or Jewish holiday.



Beth El Synagogue Shabbat Observance Guidelines

In order to preserve the spirit of Shabbat we ask you to adhere to the following policies:

- Deliveries are not permitted during Shabbat or on legal and Jewish holidays. All deliveries must be made by 3:00 PM on Friday and/or on the day preceding the legal or Jewish holiday.
- Foods leftover from an event must be picked up by noon Monday following the event except when the Monday is a legal or Jewish holiday. If that is the case, the food must be picked up by noon the first permissible day.
- Photography and videotaping are not permitted during Shabbat. To schedule a weekday or Sunday photography and/or video session, please contact Beth El's Facilities Department to schedule that time. However, live streaming is available, and an archive of the streaming is usually available after the service. Links can be sent to you the following week upon request.
- Writing is not permitted during *Shabbat*. Sign-in boards and guest books should not be displayed until Shabbat has ended.
- Gifts, gift-checks, and cards should not be brought to Beth El during Shabbat.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices may not be used anywhere in the building on Shabbat.

Please confirm Shabbat beginning and ending times with the Beth El office.



Beth El Synagogue Facilities Information

In order help ensure you and your guests have a successful and safe experience at Beth El during your simchah celebrations, please note the following:

- All room set-ups and equipment requests must be received at least two weeks prior to the event.
- Beth El Synagogue is not liable for any action resulting from drinking alcoholic beverages by your guests.
- Beth El Synagogue is a smoke-free building. In addition, no smoking is permitted on the grounds during Shabbat.
- Please notify Beth El's Facilities Department, if you will be using helium balloons.
- Beth El Synagogue is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Please protect your valuables at all times.
- Children must be supervised by an adult or responsible teenager at all times. Children are not permitted to loiter in the hallways or restrooms at any time.
- Beth El members must be current in all of their financial obligations to Beth El Synagogue at least 60 days prior to the event. To make arrangements or to discuss further, please contact Veronica Legan at Beth El.

Important note about deliveries:

Food, flowers, or other items need to be delivered by 3:00 pm on Friday or on the eve of yom tov, unless a specific exemption to this deadline has been granted by the Rabbi. Any baked goods brought/delivered after that time will not be served at your simchah.



Beth El Synagogue Facilities & Catering Simchah Planning

Space priority is given to bar/bat mitzvah families. Ideally, we would like to know your needs 12 months before your simchah. Additional celebrations and events may also take place on the Shabbat morning or Friday night of your child's bar/bat mitzvah. These additions enhance the service and the celebration. We will notify the family as soon as we schedule these additional programs.

Schedule

1 year to 6 months prior to your Simchah

- Fill out Simchah Reservation Form and e-mail, fax, mail, or deliver to Linda Goldberg.
- Review this Guide. Call us with questions.

6 months to 4 months prior to your Simchah

- Call Spirit of Asia to discuss catering options.
- Again, review this Guide. As your simchah nears, your questions will change.

4 months to 2 months prior to your Simchah

- Finalize menus with your caterer.
- Check with your caterer to determine the date your final guest count is due.
- Finalize room set up and all other facilities details, including AV needs (if applicable), with our Facilities Department at facilities@bethelsynagogue.org or 952.873.7308.

Important Beth El Contact Information

Facilities Department 952.873.7308
facilities@bethelsynagogue.org
Information/questions related to facilities set up including AV needs (if applicable)

Beth El Caterer (Spirit of Asia) David Hill 612.724.4056
spiritofasia@comcast.net
Information/questions/planning for all food needs/kashrut

**Director of Engagement & Programming Operations and Assistant to Rabbi Davis
 Liz Rappaport** 952.873.7314 lrappaport@bethelsynagogue.org
Information/questions regarding event planning and scheduling

Finance Department 952.873.7304
finance@bethelsynagogue.org
Financial questions

Assistant to Rabbi Olitzky Andrea Johnson 952.873.7313
ajohnson@bethelsynagogue.org
 Kashrut questions

Assistant to Cantor/Education Director Jill Blustin 952.873.7315
jblustin@bethelsynagogue.org
B'nai Mitzvah Program questions