

Please share the following information with your guests

BEFORE your child's b'mitzvah weekend

WELCOME

We are excited to welcome you to join in celebrating this exciting milestone at Agudas Achim Congregation.

MAINTAINING SANCTITY

We come together at Agudas Achim Congregation to celebrate a b'mitzvah: a special, sacred life cycle event. We trust that you will join us in creating and maintaining a space to experience this special moment of holiness- both as related to the spirituality of Shabbat, the sanctity of the prayer service and the celebration of a B'Mitzvah. In observing these practices, each of us makes it possible for everyone to enjoy the special atmosphere of Shabbat and the joy of celebrating special moments together.

- We ask that you to turn off all your devices prior to entering the building.
- Use of cell phone, smart watch, and/or other electronic devices is not permitted while in the synagogue on Shabbat. This includes not texting, reading emails, and all other uses of phones, smart watches, iPads, chrome books, laptops and other electronic devices.
 - Exceptions include:
 - People with disabilities who employ devices with specialized apps that enable their participation in the services;
 - First responders on call or on duty.
- Photographs or video recordings may be made before or after Shabbat.¹ Do not take pictures with a phone or camera. Do not record, or video anyone anywhere in the building or on the grounds during Shabbat. We rely on you to uphold these traditions that embrace the sanctity of Shabbat.
- Do not smoke.
- Do not write.
- To display appreciation, congregants and guests may use "jazz hands," otherwise known as "clapping" in American Sign Language. Please do not applaud. A b'mitzvah is different from a performance.

¹ Shabbat begin at sunset on Friday and ends after sunset on Saturday.

- Please remain in (or out of) the sanctuary when the ark is open or the congregation is standing. At all other times, people may quietly enter or leave to use the restroom, stretch their legs, etc.
- Please cover your head while in the sanctuary. In Jewish tradition, covering one's head is an act of respect to God and the sacredness of the worship experience. Head coverings, known as *kipot* in Hebrew or *yarmulkes* in Yiddish, are available for your use on a table before the entrance to the sanctuary.
- For those who wish, *tallit* (prayer shawl) can be found on the racks along the wall outside the sanctuary for your use while praying with us.

FOR GUESTS WITH HONORS

All adults who have an honor on the *bima* (the podium) must cover their heads. If Jewish, wear a *tallit* (prayer shawl) which can be found on the racks outside the sanctuary. Although Jewish men are required to wear *tallit*, all Jewish adults are encouraged to wear a *tallit*.

FOR TORAH READERS

Anyone reading from the *Torah* on Shabbat morning must wear a *tallit* and cover their head.

QUESTIONS?

Please reach out to Hazzan Dienstfrey at edienstfrey@agudasachim-va.org.

All of us at the Agudas Achim Congregational family look forward to welcoming you and sharing in this wonderful celebration with you.

Mazal tov!