

Agudas Achim Congregational Policy on Kashrut

Kashrut

The rules articulated below are designed to enhance community members' sense of belonging and their ability to enjoy communal meals. Although our community is comprised of some who keep kosher and others who do not, as a *kehilah kedoshah*, a sacred community, Agudas Achim Congregation (AAC) wants everyone to feel comfortable eating in our building.

AAC trusts that all of our members will observe these policies, no matter what their personal level of observance may be, so that any member of the community can feel comfortable participating in all our meals and events.

- Food for all b'mitzvah meals and for the kiddish lunch should be organized thru the Agudas Achim kitchen or a certified kosher caterer. (See <https://www.vaadgw.org/caterers.html> for a list of kosher caterers in the DMV.)
- Please coordinate with the head of catering when working with an outside, kosher caterer. When the outside caterer is working the synagogue, a staff member must be present to supervise the use of the kitchen.
- Everything served by the Agudas Achim kitchen is prepared under the supervision of one of our certified *Mashgichim* (kashrut supervisors).
- Because processed foods must both contain kosher ingredients and be prepared in a kosher way, all prepared or packaged food (including canned, frozen, baked, or foods otherwise changed from their natural state), as well as dairy products (cheeses, yogurts, etc.), must bear kashrut certification from a recognized authority. (See <https://www.kashrut.com/agencies/> for a list of many of the kashrut symbols).
- Only wines and grape juices with a kashrut certification may be used at AAC.
- Should you have any questions, please check with the Rabbi who is the Halakhic authority (*mara d'atra*) of AAC on issues of kashrut for our facility.
- We encourage you to make sure all food prepared outside AAC is accompanied by a list of common allergens clearly displayed adjacent to the served item. This is to accommodate those with food allergies or sensitivities, as recommended by the AAC Inclusion Committee.

Agudas Achim Congregation ensures that finances are not a barrier for your celebrating a milestone or lifecycle event within the AAC community. Please contact our executive director, if the cost of kiddish presents a financial hardship.