

# Agudas Achim Congregational Policy on Shabbat Observance

## Shabbat Observance

As a *kehilah kedoshah*, a sacred community, Agudas Achim Congregation creates many opportunities for our congregational family and our guests to step away from the mundane everyday world and celebrate moments that are sacred, blessed, and extra-ordinary. The policies below help create a space to experience these special moments of holiness- both as related to the spirituality of Shabbat and the celebration of a B'Mitzvah. In observing these policies, we all, regardless of our level of personal observance, make it possible for everyone to enjoy the special atmosphere of Shabbat and the joy of celebrating special moments together.

- Please respect and honor the spirit of Shabbat as we observe it at AAC and join in the celebration of the day and the B'Mitzvah.
- Please bring everything into the shul before 3pm on Friday and remove it after Shabbat ends. This includes food, flowers, programs, decorations, etc. Prior to 3pm on Friday, staff will be in the building to facilitate and guide all deliveries. Check Shabbat times with the Rabbi or the clergy assistant to avoid problems.
- We rely on you to uphold the traditions that embrace the sanctity of Shabbat. Photographs or video recordings may be made before or after Shabbat. During Shabbat, do not take pictures with a phone or camera, make audio recordings or video anyone anywhere in the building or on the grounds.
- 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. (See exceptions below).
- We encourage you to turn off your devices prior to entering the building.
  - Exceptions include people with disabilities who employ devices with specialized apps that enable their participation in the services;
  - First responders on call or an active duty.

- Emergency issues that require the use of a phone or other device should be handled outside the building, preferably off the grounds.
- Smoking is not permitted in the synagogue or its grounds on Shabbat.
- Flowers, gifts, leftover food and other items may be taken out of the building after Shabbat ends.
- Typically, the kitchen staff and volunteers will wrap your leftovers from the kiddish lunch and have them ready for you to pick up. Please make arrangements with the office in advance to pick up your food after Shabbat ends either on Saturday night or on Sunday.