

Rabbi Zamore's Message for October, 2014

New Kitchen: Clear Food Policy

On Friday, September 12, we celebrated and dedicated our new kitchen. It was a festive night starting with a joy filled Shabbat service and ending with a beautiful dedication ceremony and delicious oneg, sponsored by our [Sisterhood](#). While we publicly thanked and honored the hard-working committee, Jeff and Jeannie Berkowitz, Iris Hirsch, Bill Kowski, Judy May, and Bill Parson, who shepherded the entire renovation, we also acknowledged that this kitchen is not due to the efforts of any one person. Rather, like all things in our community, it has taken a village of donors, helpers, and cheerleaders.

As part of our dedication, we hung a beautiful mezuzah, purchased by our Sisterhood. Make sure to take a look at this mezuzah because its front is adorned with a stone from the time and area of the Temple in Jerusalem. Very special!

To prepare for our new kitchen, the Religious Practices (Ritual) Committee has written a Kashrut/Food Policy. Our work started a year ago by dedicating my [Adult Education](#) class to the topic of Food and Judaism. Our broad course culminated with studying the process of setting a communal food policy and examining various examples from other communities.

Then, a task force, Jeannie Berkowitz, Edythe Herson, Sharon Herson, Iris Hirsch, Helen Mattson, Risa Smith, was appointed by the Ritual Committee. Over several meetings, we articulated the values that are important to us as a community. Finally, we drafted the food policy, reviewing and editing several times. The final product was presented to our board and accepted by vote. The food policy is included in the [October Journal](#). It reflects both ethical and ritual values; it seeks to create Jewish community around food.

The new food policy does not differ greatly from our past practices. However, it strives to clarify our practices and make them accessible to all. Like any other ritual matter at the synagogue, we may need fine tuning and new answers as we live the policy. That is natural. We will address those questions as they arise. No one should have any concerns that the policy comes with its own “kosher police.” If mistakes are made, we will correct them together. We are community and we will support each other as we create delicious meals together.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Iris Hirsch, Ritual Committee Chair, if you have any questions about the food policy.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Mary L. Zamore

[Kashrut/Food Policy](#) (pdf, 36kb)