

## ***Food-related rituals and policies***

### ***Kashrut***

*Reconstructionist Practice:* The Reconstructionist approach toward *kashrut*, as with most Jewish ritual, is to affirm and promote it as fully as possible to the extent that it adds to a richer, more meaningful Jewish identity. While individuals will decide for themselves to what extent and how they will go about observing *kashrut*, collectively we need to set certain guidelines for communal observance.

Reconstructionist Jews maintain that all communal Jewish functions should be in keeping with the traditional dietary laws in order to be as inclusive as possible of *Klal Yisrael*, the Community of Israel.

*JCA Kashrut policy:* The rabbi, in consultation with the Ritual Life Committee, will make all final decisions regarding *kashrut*.

The JCA kitchen is a dairy/*pareve* facility. All dairy/*pareve* foods may be prepared off-site, including in private homes, and consumed at the JCA. When bringing packaged foods to the JCA, please *either* check labels for a *heksher* (a mark indicating that the product is kosher) or read the ingredients to ensure that the product contains nothing that is non-kosher (lard, gelatin, meat based soups, non-vegetable shortening, etc.).

For purposes of *kashrut*, the kitchen includes the area from the hand-washing sink and coffee unit to the doorway to the bathroom hall, as well as the main part of the kitchen and kitchen storage room. The large closet used to store chairs and tables, and the small hall leading to the side door are not considered part of the kitchen for purposes of *kashrut*.

#### *Prohibited foods:*

No meat of any kind, or seafood that is prohibited according to Jewish dietary laws (for example: shellfish), can be prepared, stored, or consumed at the JCA. For further information about permitted fish, please consult the rabbi.

#### *Kashrut during Passover:*

The JCA kitchen is specifically made kosher for Passover. Therefore, only packaged foods that are labeled kosher for Passover may be brought, served, and consumed anywhere in the JCA building during this holiday.

#### *Financial responsibility:*

Should a situation arise causing the kitchen to become unkosher as a result of an event at the JCA, the event's sponsor is financially responsible for the cost of re-kashering the kitchen.