Preparing for Shiva – Check List

# Time and Place

Decide where, when, and what times you will sit shiva.

Note any special times that will be reserved for only close family, and those that will be open to all visitors.

Coordinate with Rabbi Eliana or Phil to have a time for a shiva minyan at the home.

# Assistance for the family (ask friends or relatives to help with these things)

Set up and prepare the shiva house.

Receive deliveries at the shiva house while the family is at the cemetery.

Coordinate meals for the family through shiva and the following weeks.

# Food and Meals

Food for the family and guests both during and after Shiva. Order from local providers or coordinate to have food cooked by friends.

Drinks, ice, and coffee during the shiva.

Serving items for the food, including: trays, chaffing dishes, plates, napkins, cups, silverware, etc.

Containers for leftover food.

Identify where to donate leftover food and who will take it there.

# The Shiva House

Set up tables and chairs, food and beverages.

Consider having a sign-in book and pens for guests (usually provided by the funeral home).

If necessary, put away any highly delicate or breakable items in the house.

The home should have ample supply of paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, and garbage bags.

Make parking arrangements for the guests.

# Religious Traditions

Light a yahrzeit candle upon return from the cemetery (usually provided by funeral home).

Cover Mirrors.

Have prayer books and kippot for minyan (Temple B’nai Brith will provide those).

Have a low chair, stool or wooden box for mourners to sit on.

Place a water pitcher, water collection bowl, and paper towels outside the front door for us upon return from the cemetery.

# Other Stuff