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

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