

CREATING COMMUNITY: INCLUSION IN YOUR SIMCHA

To help build a sense of community and teach the value of hachnassat orchim (hospitality) we encourage families to:

1. Remember that our worship service and luncheon following service is open to the entire Temple community, not exclusively to invited guests. Please feel free to attend any Shabbat morning service even if you and your child have not formally been invited.
2. We encourage everyone to serve a Kiddush lunch. We recommend choosing a modest menu and décor. You may consider choosing an inexpensive menu for the kids. Pasta, sandwiches, or pizza can be served up in large quantity at low prices.
3. Invite the entire B'nei Mitzvah class and 11th/12th Grade Mentors to the luncheon.
4. Luncheons *at the Temple* include those who regularly attend Shabbat morning services. They are the community which is welcoming your student as a Jewish "adult," and they enjoy celebrating with you. We recommend you add 20 to your total guest list. The Rabbi or Cantor will announce this open invitation at the Kiddush. If you are having arranged seating, you might consider writing "Mount Zion Congregant" or "Congregational Guest" on the place cards.
5. If you choose to have a family slide show, please consider showing it during an evening party. If during the luncheon, it will need to be without sound or dimmed lights as background.
6. The Temple can provide assistance if these recommendations cause financial hardship. You may speak confidentially to the Rabbi or Executive Director.
7. We can provide a contact information for your child's class, youth advisors, teachers/tutors, and clergy. All of your child's classmates and Gesher Mentors should be invited to the service and luncheon.
8. Invitations to the "celebration" or party: If your family chooses to have a party, we ask on behalf of the seventh grade community that you be mindful of who is invited. **If you are inviting a significant number of the class (more than 1/5th), please consider inviting the whole class, and it is helpful to be clear in your invitations whether the party is "kids only" or if the whole family is invited.** Please do not invite any guests to the party only.
9. Consider using Uniongrams or WRJ (Women of Reform Judaism) thank you cards to thank your friends and family for sharing your *simcha*. Each card represents a contribution to the Youth, Educational and Special Projects (YES) Fund of the WRJ, serving the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY), assisting Rabbinic students at the Hebrew Union College-Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), and supporting special innovative projects (such as funding an Israeli nursery school.) **Uniongrams and thank you cards are available in the Mount Zion Gift Shop.**