

THE MEAL OF CONSOLATION

According to Jewish tradition, the first meal eaten by the mourners when they return home from the funeral is called the *Seudat Havra-ah*, the meal of consolation, recovery, or condolence. It is a private meal for immediate family members and is not a public condolence event. At this meal the mourners are not allowed to eat from their own food; instead the meal is provided by relatives and friends, or the community. This custom allows the community to show concern for the welfare of the mourners and to extend a comforting hand in the time of greatest need.

OZS will, if requested, assist with this meal by helping to contact friends or volunteers. If requested by the family, this meal may be served at OZS, following OZS kitchen guidelines (see item 2, below), instead of in the home. While it is expected that the costs of this meal will be covered by the friends and volunteers, OZS may, upon request, provide financial assistance to avoid undue burden on a small number of volunteers.

Policies for Expanded Meals (beyond the immediate family)

Family and friends are, of course, welcome to provide additional food for friends of the mourners, but OZS does not have the financial resources to provide a meal beyond the immediate family for each funeral. If this expanded meal is done at OZS, or if the family requests a larger event at OZS, the following policies apply. (Note: If neither the deceased nor the family are OZS members, the request to hold the event at OZS must be approved by the President or other officer; if approved, it will be considered a personal event, and be billed as such.)

1. Costs

All costs for such an expanded event are the responsibility of the family, if they are the ones requesting the event, or others who are organizing the event. OZS is not able reimburse for these costs.

2. Utensils, etc. (see also general Kitchen Policies)

If food prepared outside OZS is brought in, then the kitchen must be closed, and no OZS dishes, flatware, glasses, utensils or equipment are to be used. Such outside food must be vegetarian or dairy. The wipeable tablecloths in the closet outside the kitchen are the only ones that may be used for such an occasion, and they should be wiped clean at the end of the event.

If food is prepared in the OZS kitchen (following OZS Kitchen Policies), the appropriate wipeable tablecloths must be used, and wiped clean at the end of the event. Cloth tablecloths may only be used on the condition that the organizers arrange for and pay for their cleaning (otherwise, they will be billed for the costs).

The organizers will be responsible for set-up and clean-up, except as in 3), below.

3) Custodian

If the family or others plan an elaborate event that requires the assistance of the custodian, either for set-up or clean-up, this shall be considered a personal event, and a fee of \$100 beyond costs referred to above shall be billed.

Approved by the Board ?/?/2012