



Bet Aviv

The Meeting House
5885 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045

Food Service Policy

Whereas Bet Aviv is a Jewish Congregation welcoming Jews of all levels of observance, we must maintain a modicum of *kashrut*. Clearly, as Reform Jews, we are not required to follow Orthodox *halacha*. However, a level of observance known to some as “biblical *kosher*” is reasonable and will provide comfort to most, if not all, of those who attend services, dinners, meetings, and other functions. The basic food laws are contained in Leviticus 11:1-23, Exodus 23:19 and Deuteronomy 14:3-21, in which a list of acceptable and forbidden animal flesh is given as well as laws regarding mixing meat and milk. We must also ensure that we offer foods that are considered “healthy” and avoid those that lead toward planetary destruction or cause hardship to those who grow the foods.

1. The food offered at any Bet Aviv function shall not contain any of the Biblically forbidden foods, e.g., pork or shellfish.
2. In accordance with “biblical kosher” foods served at Bet Aviv that are mixture of dairy and meat together in one recipe, will be labeled as such.
3. *Potluck dish ingredients must be listed* regarding milk+meat, “mock” meats, vegetarian and potential allergic foods, such as gluten, nuts, etc.
4. At Onegs and similar functions where the food offering is traditionally dessert-like, some “healthy”, e.g., fresh fruit or vegetable platter, must be included. In addition, some desserts served must be completely sugar-free or gluten-free.
5. At luncheon or dinner functions, “healthy” alternatives must be included. These are salads without dressing, vegetarian entrees and the like.
6. Where there is coffee and/or tea served, decaffeinated coffee and tea must be provided. Caffeinated coffee and tea may be served, but not to the exclusion of the decaffeinated varieties.
7. When wine is served, there must be an alternative available such as apple or grape juice.
8. In accordance with the 2002 Resolution On Fair Trade Coffee of the Committee on Social Action of the URJ, all coffee served



(caffeinated or decaffeinated) shall be Fair Trade Certified. If possible, Equal Exchange coffee and tea (all of which are Fair Trade Certified) should be acquired.

9. To the maximum extent possible, dishes, cups, and flatware used at any Bet Aviv function shall be reusable rather than throwaway or even recyclable. Provisions for recycling food containers (soda cans, water bottles, etc.) shall be made at any event where these containers are used.

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