

## Setting up a House for Shiva

The Shiva Set-Up Committee helps temple members when they have suffered the loss of a close family member and will be sitting *shiva* in their homes. The committee offers teams of congregants who will pick up any items and/or set up for the *shiva* upon the return of the family from the gravesite.

### **Food and Beverages** (*Please advise the volunteers about any dietary and Kashruth requirements*):

- w Bagels, breads, rolls
- w Butter or margarine
- w Cream cheese
- w Cheese
- w Fruit
- w Cookies
- w Cake
- w Deli platter
- w Fish platter
- w Salads
- w Chicken
- w Vegetables
- w Soda
- w Juice
- w Seltzer
- w Milk (usually 1 or 2 %)
- w Non-dairy creamer
- w Ice

### **Non-perishable items**

- w Sugar /Sweet and Low/Equal (one box)
- w Decaf and regular coffee
- w Decaf and regular tea (boxes of tea bags)
- w Hot and cold cups
- w Plates: Dinner, Dessert, and small bowls
- w Plastic utensils (forks, knives, spoons)
- w Serving utensils
- w Pitchers, bowls and serving platters
- w Paper goods: Napkins, paper towels, hand towels and toilet paper for bathroom
- w Plastic wrap, aluminum foil, zip lock bags (for leftovers) and large garbage bags.
- wTwo coffee urns (coffee & hot water)
- w Ice bucket

### **To prepare at the discretion of the family:\***

- wPlastic pitcher & bowl/paper towels
- wHard boiled eggs (a dozen): Do you want the volunteers to prepare and shell them in advance?)
- wSheets, towels, tape, or Glass Wax to cover over mirrors

*\*The plastic pitcher and bowl are placed outside the door for those who have been at the gravesite to wash before entering the house. Hard-boiled eggs, a symbol of life, are traditionally available as the first thing for family members to eat when they return from the cemetery. Mirrors are traditionally covered since the focus of shiva should not be on vanity. Some people may choose not to engage in these customs so please be respectful of individual requests.*

**Please note: Shiva Set-Up volunteers are not responsible for breakage, spillage or missing items, or to lay out their own money for the above-mentioned items.**