



November 2012

At Temple Shir Shalom, we count it among our Jewish responsibilities to create and maintain our facility as a sacred space. As a congregation, we strive to honor the spiritual and ritual significance of the Shabbat and holidays in our own way, rather than by being traditionally observant.

We strongly uphold the principle of celebrating and consecrating the Shabbat and holidays. We strive to make these occasions holy, and therefore we avoid working on them to prepare or produce anything for the days beyond. We do not perform routine maintenance or preparation for weekday events on Shabbat or the holidays. Activities at our Temple facility should focus only on the day at hand (bar/bat mitzvah luncheon preparation, for instance).

Photography is not allowed at Shabbat or holiday services without the express prior consent of the rabbi, who will, generally speaking, allow stationary, passive audio and video recording. Photography is allowed before or after these services.

Preparatory work will be allowed for Saturday or post-holiday evening programs that are for the congregation at large or in celebration of life cycle events for Temple members. Reasonable effort should be made to complete setup work for such events prior to the beginning of Shabbat or the holidays, and remaining work should be delayed until as late on Shabbat or festival afternoon as is reasonably possible.

We recognize that Shabbat and the holidays begin symbolically when we light candles and end at sundown. We will strive to be respectful of the established Shabbat and holiday start and end times, but our schedule will not be defined by them.

We hope that these guidelines will serve to educate and remind our members about the meaning of the Jewish holy days, and lead us toward a deeper appreciation of their beauty. The rabbi and Ritual Committee of Temple Shir Shalom should be consulted with any questions concerning this policy.

List of pertinent holidays:

Shabbat
Rosh HaShanah
Yom Kippur
Sukkot (first day)
Simchat Torah
Passover (first day)
Shavuot

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