

Shabbat Morning Ushering Notes for Parents

It is an honor to usher and an important task to help create a קהילה קדושה *kehillah k'doshah* – a “sacred community.”

The week *before* your family Bar/Bat Mitzvah, it is your responsibility to serve as a Shabbat morning usher. There will also be two ushers from the synagogue Board, who will help you and present the Bar/Bat Mitzvah gifts.

Please arrive no later than 10:10 am. At 10:20, please go through the lobby and ask people to enter the Sanctuary, so we may begin on time at 10:30 am.

Before services:

1. The most important thing you can do is to be cheerful, pleasant and welcoming. As people arrive please wish them “Shabbat Shalom” and tell them how nice it is to have them join us.
2. Have the young people who attend sit throughout the sanctuary.
3. Ensure that our younger guests sit in groups of five (5) or fewer. This has been extremely helpful in avoiding having the students disrupt services.

Once services begin:

1. Encourage latecomers to fill in the empty seats, particularly on mornings when the sanctuary is full.
2. Tell people who are just coming in what page we are on in the סדרה *siddur* (prayer book).
3. Allow only one (1) student out of the sanctuary at a time. It is best to tell students this as they begin to leave the row rather than have them be sent back by the Board usher at the sanctuary door.
4. Control any overly disruptive behavior (from adults or young people) in services. Most of the time, with students, all it takes is to walk over towards them, and they will settle down. Unfortunately, sometimes it does require separating some of the youth from the others.
5. We cannot put extra chairs in the sanctuary, either at the back of on the sides of the pews. This is for fire safety & wheelchair accessibility. The only way that we can add seats is to open the doors in the back and add them there, which hopefully would have been done before services start.

Security

Though it is highly unlikely, there is always the potential for a more serious disruption of our services. If you have any concerns for the safety of those present or any suspicions about the behavior of anyone, please *do not* hesitate to contact the Village of Sands Point police immediately at 883-3100. Please do not engage in any altercation and always err on the side of safety.

**Thank you for your support – and reminding all who come here what it
means to be a caring community.**