



## SIMXA VIP RETREAT CENTER

### Guest Instructions

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*Dear Guest,*

*Welcome to the SimXa VIPRC, a special place that serves the SimXa community as a spiritual getaway for learning, soul searching, and introspection. Before you arrive in Oxnard for your retreat, there are some important logistics to be aware of:*

**SCHEDULE:**

*The schedule of your retreat is provided to you via email upon your registration and receipt of confirmation. There will also be printed schedule pamphlets on the premises when you arrive.*

**PARKING:**

*There are 3 parking spaces that belong to the retreat. They are in front of our garage and front gate on Amalfi Way. There is also street parking available on Mandalay Beach Road.*

**SECURITY:**

*The security alarm should only be used by the leader(s) of the retreat and is for your safety and protection at night and during outings.*

**SUKKAH:**

*The sukkah (used during the holiday of Sukkot) is on the covered deck outside the main classroom. It should only be built by the leader(s) of the retreat, as there are intricate laws about its construction and usage.*

**TRASH:**

*All trash should be emptied into a large gray trash bin on the west side of the building which should be left inside the white line on the pavement. Our trash pickup day is Monday, so please take care of the trash disposal before Monday morning. Make sure that all trash is covered or sealed well in trash bags, so that there are no insects attracted to it.*

**GARDENER:**

*Gardener works on Fridays and has his own key to the back yard. He takes care of disposal of garden trash (leaves, branches, etc.) in a narrow gray bin with a blue top.*

**LINEN:**

*All linen, towels, table cloths, place mats, etc. are provided for your use and enjoyment and are included as part of your retreat experience. Please be sure to wash and put away everything that you've used before you leave. In case, this is not possible or practical, the used dishes, linen, and towels can be washed and put away for an additional fee (inquire from the retreat leader).*

**KITCHEN:**

*Use of both kitchens (main and dairy), including all appliances needs the retreat leader's approval. Please follow usage instructions for stove tops, and ovens, located in the top right drawer of the pareve section. Please be extra careful to keep the highest possible standards of kashruth. All dairy, meat, and pareve areas, cookware, dishes, and utensils are clearly marked and color-coded, as blue/white for dairy, red/black for meat, and green/brown for pareve.*



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**DO NOT bring to the retreat ANY Non-Glatt-Kosher meat or any non-Cholov Yisroel dairy products or non-Pas Yisroel baked goods.**

**Kashering the kitchen for Pesach should be done as follows:**

Ovens should be thoroughly cleaned and put on a self-cleaning cycle. Stove tops should be thoroughly cleaned and burners turned on for 10 min on high. Stove top grates can be cleaned and kashered inside the ovens during the self-cleaning cycle. Granite counters should be kashered by the process of hag'ala – by pouring hot boiling water onto them. This must be done carefully so that no water gets into or onto the wooden cabinets or drawers. Any water splashed onto the wooden cabinets or drawers must be wiped off dry immediately. No blow torch is allowed to be used in the process of kashering the kitchen. The sinks are enamel and are not kasherable. They thus require sink inserts. All electrical kitchen appliances must be stored away, and not kashered for Pesach. Refrigerator shelves may be washed or wiped clean and covered with foil or plastic shelf liner, if preferred. All non-Pesach cutlery and kitchen utensils must stay in their drawers and can be marked "Chometz." Do not put tape on the drawers as it leaves residue and destroys the finish. All and any utensils and/or cutlery or paper/plastic goods purchased for Pesach can be stored in the pantry or on top of the kitchen counters during the week of Pesach.

**PHONE:**

The phone landline in the retreat is internet based and is not available to guests during the retreat. We recommend using cell phones. Reception is better closer to the center of the building (not far from front entrance).

**INTERNET:**

The retreat leader possesses the login procedure and password for Wifi.

**UTILITIES:**

Please use heating, air conditioning and hot water sparingly, turning off the heating/air conditioning unit and/or hot water whenever they're not in use. There are heating controls both downstairs and upstairs (two separate systems) on the center pole near the dining hall. Ask retreat leader for help if needed.

**KEYS:**

The guests will not need a key to the retreat center as there is a combination lock that can be used. Access to combination lock is solely at the discretion of the retreat leader. Someone will be on premises to open the door.

**MAIL:**

The mail box is not provided as part of the retreat. If guests wish to receive mail during their stay at the retreat center, prior arrangements must be made.

**VISITORS:**

Retreat participants are allowed (and in certain cases encouraged) to have visitors during their stay at the retreat center. Any visitors that come while a retreat is in session need to obtain permission from the leader of the retreat.

**FIRST AID:**

First Aid Kit is located on the laundry room counter next to the garage.

**IMPORTANT:**

Smoking is prohibited indoors, with absolutely no exceptions.

**Enjoy your stay and your learning, and come back again soon!**