

Havurah Community Home Shabbat Gatherings

What is a Home Shabbat? As part of our effort to provide a Shabbat experience for our community almost every week, in addition to Shabbat services at the Havurah led either by Rabbi David or lay leaders, our community members open their homes to members and friends of the Havurah once a month. These gatherings are an informal opportunity to make new friends and have some good *schmoozing* time with our old friends. If you are new to the Havurah, or just checking us out, this is a great way to connect to our community and meet the widely diverse people who make up our membership. We light Shabbat candles together to bring in the light of Shabbat in community, say blessings over the wine and Challah and enjoy a meal together.

When? We gather at 5:30 or 6:00 PM on Friday evenings, so that families with young children can easily participate, when there are no Shabbat services scheduled.

Want to host? If you are interested in hosting a Home Shabbat, please contact Noël Chatroux of the Membership Committee at noel@mind.net who will help you to choose a date. Whether you know the blessings or not you are invited to host a home Shabbat in your home or garden. There is always someone on hand who can lead the Kiddush (blessings).

What do I need to provide when hosting? You provide two Shabbat candles (available in the Havurah gift shop) red wine (enough for one glass to do the blessings and need not be Kosher wine) and a challah (available at the Coop) and perhaps something to drink. Whether or not you provide food is optional as a host.

How many people should I expect? How much space do I need to have? Attendance varies greatly, so you could have a small gathering of 12 or as many as 25-30 people. If your space is small, but you have a garden or deck, you might want to opt for warm weather months when folks could use that space as well. It's preferable to offer a home where there is space for a larger crowd, just in case, so that no one needs to be turned away. Hosts always have the option of requesting an RSVP if they prefer to keep tabs on how many folks plan to attend.

What should I bring as a guest? These gatherings are Vegetarian Potluck dinners. Please plan to bring an entree to serve 8-10 hungry people, so that there is plenty for everyone. If you don't like to cook, the Ashland Food Coop or Greenleaf Restaurant are great places to pick up ready-made food to contribute. If you bring dessert, don't assume someone else is bringing dinner ☺. Also, please bring plates, cups and utensils for your family.

How do I find out the date, time, location? Home Shabbat gatherings are posted on our online Havurah calendar and are announced in our weekly e-mails. Should you wish to be added to the Havurah e-list you may contact Bari, our Office Manager at ashlandhavurah@yahoo.com and request that your name be added to the e-list.

Do I need to RSVP? Most often hosts do not request an RSVP, however, please note that they sometimes prefer to know if you will be attending, so please check the announcements for individual gatherings.

We look forward to welcoming you to one of our upcoming Home Shabbat Gatherings!