



Frequently asked questions about Guess Who's Coming for Shabbas

Who should I invite?

We encourage you to invite one, two, or more synagogue families, preferably those you don't know well. Please reach out beyond your comfort zones to include those who may not feel part of our community. You may also invite past members, prospective members, or those you haven't seen in some time.

Once I have decided whom to invite, how do you suggest I issue the invitation?

Far and *away* the best approach is to make a phone call. It's quick, personal, and allows you to confirm all of the details (dinner time, food plans, which family members are coming) all in one step. If necessary, you can follow-up by an email.

What time should I ask guests to come?

That's your choice. If you and your guests want to attend Kabbalat Shabbat, then you may schedule the dinner to start after services. If you have young children, or if you prefer to start earlier, that's also fine. On selected Fridays, Kabbalat Shabbat may be scheduled at an earlier time, enabling hosts and guests to easily attend services before Shabbat dinner. Check the temple calendar for the week you are hosting.

How fancy does the dinner I serve need to be?

The key message is KEEP IT SIMPLE. It's not about the food; it's about being together with members of our community.

Can I ask guests to bring something?

Yes. Share the work, share the rewards.

Can I host if my home is not kosher?

Absolutely yes, but please ask your guests about their level of kashrut observance. There's a wide range of observance in the Temple Beth El community. If a family you have invited prefers an option you cannot provide, please let us know and we will find another host for them. If you don't keep a kosher home, but you want to serve a meat meal, we ask that you purchase kosher poultry or meat for that night, and that you do not serve any dishes containing dairy products. For more information visit: <https://www.tberochester.org/join-us/guess-whos-coming-shabbas/kosher-information>

I'm not that familiar with the Shabbat rituals but would still like to host, is that okay?

Yes. You are encouraged to do what you are comfortable with, and to invite your guests to share their own Shabbat customs. Recordings of the Shabbat blessings will be emailed to you in the weeks before your dinner.

If I am a guest, am I expected to reciprocate by inviting my hosts to my home?

No, you are not required to reciprocate. We hope you will honor your host by "paying it forward" and inviting other people to your home on subsequent Shabbats.

Questions we have not answered? Contact Debbi Goldman at 585-381-8258, or visit our website: <https://www.tberochester.org/guess-whos-coming-shabbos>