

The Jewish Community Center of Harrison Presents:



Let's continue to catch the JCCH Spirit with our program, **Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?!**

If you're not familiar with Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas, here it is in a nutshell: congregants volunteer to host a Shabbat dinner at their home and invite others from the congregation or community, especially those they wish they knew better or those that they don't know at all. Beyond asking that you start with the blessings over the candles, wine and challah, there are no rules or restrictions on your evening. We will provide easy to follow instructions for saying the blessings over the candles, wine and challah.

In future months, those "guests" that are able will, hopefully, become "hosts" in their own home, inviting different guests the next time around. As the program continues, our goal is for it to grow exponentially, eventually reaching close to 100% participation across the congregation.

The program, which began in a suburban congregation outside Philadelphia, has two goals:

1. To strengthen our synagogue community
2. To help families build *meaningful* memories

There has been so much enthusiasm for this program in the past that we hope to continue it indefinitely. Ready to be a host? Sign up at gwcts@jcch.org – be sure to include which date you'd like.

Here are some FAQs about Guess Who's Coming To Shabbas?:

Q: How often is the program?

A: We are planning 4 dates throughout the coming year. **Save the dates:**

October 20, 2017

January 26, 2018

March 2, 2018

May 4, 2018

Q: Do I have to Host to be part of the program?

A: Absolutely not! We recognize that many of our congregants may not have the facility to host a dinner, and that's perfectly fine. We also recognize that many of our congregants are unable to host for many other reasons – that, too, is okay. We encourage those congregants to please participate – by being a guest - in the program.

Q: I would like to be a host, but how do we invite people? And, whom do we invite?

A: Each host may ask as many people into their home as they're comfortable with. We encourage and hope that hosts will invite the people that they haven't yet socialized with or barely know at all – this includes JCCH professional, office or custodial staff, Early Childhood Center and Kehilah teachers as well as clergy and non-JCCH members. Think outside your comfort zone – this will only strengthen our community!

We will keep track of who goes where, who has hosted and who's been a guest. Once you sign up to host (by emailing gwcts@jcch.org), remember to let us know who you have invited, *even if they decline*. Be sure to invite your guests as soon as possible so it is set on their calendars. If you don't know who you may like to invite, please ask us and we'll make suggestions for you.

Q: I feel uncomfortable not being able to reciprocate. What do I do?

A: Please do not feel an obligation to reciprocate. That is **not** the purpose of the program. It is to share Shabbat in a warm and meaningful way with everyone. Please remember that “being invited is a mitzvah in itself.”

Q: I'm not ready/able to host, but would like to be a guest. How can I sign up?

A: We are not providing a specific "sign up" for guests. We feel that **everyone** is a possible guest, and we are assuming that everyone **wants** to be a guest! We will be keeping track of every host, every guest and everyone invited (regardless of whether that person accepted or declined), and we will be sure that everyone is included as early as possible! All that being said, if you **really** want to be a guest, please email us at gwcts@jcch.org.

Q: I would like to host, but I've never really observed Shabbat, and don't know what to do. What should I do?

A: No problem at all! As a host, the week of the Shabbat, you will stop by the JCCH to pick up a Guess Who's Coming To Shabbas host bag which will include a challah, Shabbat candles, a program guide that will tell you everything you need to know as well as conversation-stimulating cards to use at dinner! In addition, we can send you audio files that contain the Shabbat blessings.

Please don't let the fact that you've never really “done” Shabbat stop you from participating. Remember: Beyond the initial blessings, there are no rules or restrictions. We know that you will find the experience both enjoyable, meaningful and possibly awakening. You may also consider starting out as a guest.

Q: Do I have to invite only JCCH members?

A: Absolutely not. You certainly may invite anyone you choose! Prospective members, ex-congregants (this might be a wonderful way to have them rejoin us), non-Jewish guests, are all welcome to share in Shabbat.

Q: Our home is not kosher, what do we do?

A: No problem. Just be sure you ask whether any of your guests are kosher, in case you are unsure. For those guests who are strictly kosher, please let us know, and we will place those congregants in a completely kosher home for Shabbat. We especially seek to identify all potential hosts that have completely kosher homes. Please contact us so that we know who you are! In this way, everyone is included regardless of their degree of observance.

Q: What do we serve?

A: Absolutely anything at all! It can be as simple as pizza, a barbecue picnic, as fancy as a gourmet meal or anything in between. The choice is yours. What's important is not the food, but the celebration of Shabbat together.

Q: I don't drive at night, so how can I participate in the program?

A: We will see to it that between the hosts and guests that will be there the evening of your participation, will make sure that you get a ride to and from the host home.

Q: How is this program funded?

A: You may want to make a donation to the JCCH's “Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?” Fund. Donations made will help us keep this program going well into next year and beyond.

Q: This sounds great, I want to be part of it. When is the next one?

A: As mentioned above, dates are already scheduled. Email gwcts@jcch.org to reserve a spot as a host.

Don't be shy! Let us know if you can host! Excited potential hosts for **any** of our planned dates, please email gwcts@jcch.org.

If you have any other questions whatsoever, please contact:

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