

FAQ about Potlucks at Beth Shalom

Who can host potlucks at CBS?

All CBS programs and constituent groups – including youth groups, the religious school, and the ECC (following Washington State licensing protocols) – may organize potlucks if they follow the policies outlined in this guide.

Any group that would like to hold a potluck at Beth Shalom must have a **potluck coordinator** who is familiar with these policies and will ensure all participants follow them. The potluck coordinator should also know how to request a room and schedule events through the CBS office, as well as be acquainted with set-up and clean-up procedures. Anyone interested in becoming a potluck coordinator should contact the Rabbi's Assistant, Ellis Engbar.

Where can potluck meals take place?

Potlucks may **only** take place in the Beit Midrash, the open space on the first floor of CBS (“downstairs”), in the house (the annex), and in the CBS sukkah during Sukkot. The Social Hall and Sanctuary are not available for potluck events.

When may potlucks events occur?

Potlucks may take place at Beth Shalom on most weekdays and Sundays. Groups may hold a potluck on Friday nights only if the event is scheduled to begin before Shabbat candle-lighting (see the *Ruach* or visit <http://www.hebc.com> for candle-lighting times).

Potlucks may not take place at Beth Shalom during Passover.

Which foods may be brought to a CBS potluck?

<p>Everyone is welcome to bring...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✧ Prepared packaged dairy or pareve foods with acceptable hechshers.✧ Cold, uncooked food: fresh fruit (whole or cut), fresh vegetables and salad (must not include onion, garlic, and radish), tuna salad made from canned kosher tuna, etc.✧ Sushi: vegetarian or made from kosher fish.✧ Vegetarian food purchased from vegan or vegetarian restaurants.	<p>People who keep kosher or vegetarian homes may also bring...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✧ Cooked dairy or pareve foods prepared with kosher ingredients, using kosher or vegetarian pots, dishes, and utensils.
<p>ATTENTION! CBS is a peanut-free facility. Please make sure that no potluck items contain peanuts.</p>	

Participants who do not have a kosher or vegetarian home and wish to bring cooked foods to the potluck have two options:

1. Make arrangements to cook in the CBS kitchen. (This food must be stored at the cook's home as the shul kitchen will be locked during the potluck.)
2. Prepare cooked foods in their own homes, under the conditions described below.

*Potluck Cooking in a Non-Kosher **and** Non-Vegetarian Kitchen*

- ✧ Use only kosher ingredients (fresh fruits, vegetables, and fish and canned or processed foods with acceptable hechshers)
- ✧ Use new, unused utensils (including pots, pans, cutting boards, and knives) **or** kosher existing ones (contact the rabbi for information about how to kasher items)
- ✧ Use a new sponge for cleaning utensils
- ✧ Do not use a toaster oven for cooking potluck items
- ✧ Clean and kasher the microwave and oven if they are to be used for potluck cooking:
 - Microwave: Clean the microwave. Put a cup of water inside and microwave on high until the water boils.
 - Oven: If the oven has a self-clean function, run it to kasher the oven. (Wipe out the ash when the cycle finishes.) If the oven does not have a self-clean function, wait 24 hours after its last use, then clean the oven thoroughly. Once the oven is clean, turn it on to its highest temperature setting and let it bake for an hour prior to using it for potluck cooking.
- ✧ Do not cook any non-kosher or meat items in the oven or microwave at the same time as food for the potluck.

PLEASE NOTE:

- ✧ During a potluck, the CBS kitchen **must be locked**. CBS dishes, cutlery, and serving pieces may not be used for potlucks. In addition, there are no fridges, freezers, stoves, dishwashers, or other appliances currently available for potluck use.
- ✧ All potluck food must be removed from the building after the event.
- ✧ Items for potlucks must be brought to CBS **before** Shabbat candle-lighting.
- ✧ Potluck items should not be purchased or prepared on Shabbat. Ingredients should also not be purchased during chag.

For more information or to schedule a potluck event, please contact Ellis Engbar at ellisengbar@bethshalomseattle.org or by calling (206) 524-0075, ext: 2508.

Charges may or may not apply as they would for any private event. For details and costs, please consult the Rabbi's Assistant.