

## **Oneg Shabbat FAQs**

### **What is Oneg Shabbat?**

Oneg translates to "joy." Oneg Shabbat is the gathering of congregants and guests after Friday night Shabbat services to experience the joy that comes from celebrating Shabbat as a community (by schmoozing with one another over coffee and dessert).

At Port Jewish Center, we gather at the back of the sanctuary at the end of the Friday evening service to say "b'ruchot" (blessings) over the wine and challah, and then enjoy some treats provided by the families sponsoring the Oneg that evening. This is a great time to meet new members, greet guests, and catch up with PJC friends and acquaintances.

### **Who provides the Oneg?**

The PJC tradition is for all members to have the honor (and responsibility) of sponsoring at least one Oneg each year, usually sharing that honor with one or two other families/members.

### **How do I know when it's my turn to sponsor an Oneg?**

The PJC office develops and shares a calendar twice a year, once for the fall/winter dates and once for the winter/spring dates. For the Oneg Shabbat preceding a bar or bat mitzvah, the family of the bar or bat mitzvah usually provides the refreshments, sets up, and cleans up. We are hoping to initiate a tradition, practiced in many synagogues of honoring the bar or bat mitzvah family through the sponsorship of the Oneg by friends and/or extended family. This relieves some of the stress to the family and allows congregants and friends to share in the celebration. Summer Onegs are typically sponsored by one or more members of the PJC board of trustees.

The Oneg calendar is posted on the PJC website at <http://www.portjewishcenter.org/worship/worship/>

### **What are the responsibilities of the sponsoring families?**

It is expected that all sponsoring families assist with Oneg on the evening of their assigned date, providing refreshments, setting them up before services, serving wine and juice after service, and helping to clean up after the Oneg. The collaboration of two or more families is a great way to meet other members and to build our community.

### **How do I know what I/my family should provide?**

Sponsoring families should contact one another prior to their Oneg date to work out the details of who will provide which items.

For the safety of those with nut allergies, please be sure that food supplied for Oneg Shabbat does not contain nuts.

*Please see the Oneg information sheet for detailed information about what is to be provided.*

### **What if I/my family can't attend services on the assigned date?**

If you and your family cannot attend services on your assigned Oneg date, please find another family with whom you can switch dates. When you make such a change, please be sure to let the PJC office know who you are switching with ([info@portjewishcenter.org](mailto:info@portjewishcenter.org) or 516-944-7202) or call Bayla Lovens at 516-581-1447. It is the responsibility of the assigned member (not the PJC office or board) to work out any changes.

Please refrain from simply "dropping off" Oneg contributions. We want to ensure that you enjoy the experience of participating in the service and to avoid leaving the remaining families (sometimes only one family) the responsibility of doing all the work required before and after the service.