

Sitting Around the Table

December Chaverim 2022

A few weeks ago, we reinstated our monthly potluck dinners! It had been months, almost three years, since we gathered for our last potluck dinner. Before the pandemic, our community would gather often (at least once a month) to celebrate Shabbat and holidays by sitting around the table. One of the biggest disappointments during these last few years was that those gatherings of food, conversation, and community were lost. Yet, we are back! How great was last month's kickoff? Over sixty people attended our first potluck dinner including congregants of all ages. We had young children running around, teens heaping their plates with too much food, and lots of adults of all ages talking and conversing. It truly was like old times!

We know how important food is in our Jewish tradition. We joke at Yom Kippur about what type of food we'll serve for lunch. We never have too little to eat and even the old mantra, "They tried to kill us, we won, now let's eat" is a true refrain for almost every holiday. Food brings us together. Food allows us to sit down, to take a break, and to get to know one another. There is something special about grabbing some salad, a piece of challah, a slice of casserole, and a home baked cookie and sitting down next to an old friend or a new member.

With that, I encourage you to join us for future potluck dinners! Please mark the first Friday of the month on your home calendars. We'll join together each First Friday for a 6:30 pm service (slightly shortened) and follow-up in the social hall for some Shabbat blessings and dinner. We know that after a long week it can be stressful to prepare a dinner, so please don't fret! We just ask that you bring a side dish, salad, main course, or dessert that is dairy or veggie. You can bring store-bought, homemade, or even order a pizza (the kids will love you!).

And please also mark Sunday, December 18th at 5:30 pm on your calendar. With Hanukkah arriving later this year, we will gather for our annual Hanukkah dinner on the first night of Hanukkah which is a Sunday evening. There will be a latke contest (calling all chefs), pizza, and of course singing! Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. And bring your menorah as we will light up the social hall with dozens of chanukkiyot!

Wishing us all a wonderful Kislev. A Happy Thanksgiving, a Happy Hanukkah, and lots of joy during this month ahead!