

The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong

Welcoming all who seek a Progressive vision of Jewish Life

500 Guests FAQ

What is 500 Guests?

500 Guests is a program that aims to have every UJC member participate in a home celebration of Shabbat within the UJC family. Some of us will host a Shabbat dinner for other UJC members in our homes. The rest of us will be guests at one of these dinners. All the dinners will take place on the same Friday night – January 12, 2018.

Ok, but why are we doing this?

At almost every UJC event, we find that there are members who are meeting each other for the first time. Services and programs are a great place to meet one other, but we think we can be more intentional about this. Connections between members are what gives a congregation its vitality. Connection creates holiness.

Why is the program called 500 Guests?

500 is the approximate number of souls in the UJC family. And it sounds a lot better than 468 Guests. We mean to communicate the importance of maximum participation in the project.

If I volunteer to host a dinner, will it be for people I don't know?

Yes, at least in part. We will aim for a mix, but the point is to meet new people.

If I am a guest, will I be hosted by someone I don't know and/or share the meal with other guests I don't know?

That is what we are aiming for, although it is likely you will know one or two of the people at the dinner.

What are the expectations of the dinner hosts?

To host a dinner for at least 6 people on the night of 500 Guests. We will be in touch with our volunteer hosts to work out the details of each dinner. The information we collect from the hosts will help us make good matches between hosts and guests. Hosts will receive an information packet that will include some conversation starters and a guide to welcoming Shabbat at home.

What will happen on the night of January 12, 2018?

We hope that all the hosts and guests will attend an early Shabbat service in the UJC Sanctuary at 6:15pm. Immediately afterwards, we will all head to our assigned dinner locations. There will be no Shabbat dinner in the JCC on the night of the program, but there will be a plan for visitors or others who come to services without a 500 Guests spot reserved.

Is there a charge for 500 Guests?

There will be a charge of HK\$250 for each guest family or HK\$100 for an individual guest. The funds will be used to defray expenses and to offer hosts a small subsidy if desired.

How can I help?

You can join the 500 Guests committee planning the event. Hosts are obviously vital to the project. However you would like to help, just email the 500quests@ujc.org.hk and we will put you to work. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered.

What happens next?

We are going to focus in the next few weeks on getting our hosts lined up. Shortly thereafter, we will publish registration information for guests. Watch Shabbat Shalom for details.

A final word

We know that we are asking everyone to take a decent sized step out of their comfort zone. It is easy to confine our socializing to our close friends. The UJC is worth the extra effort. Good things will happen if we all participate. We urge you all to support 500 Guests.

