

Preparing an Oneg for Friday Night Service

Sponsoring an Oneg presents a good opportunity to meet friends and to help visitors and new members in our community feel welcomed. Here are answers to questions that you may be asking with regards to providing an Oneg:

What should I buy and where should I purchase it?

Food: Fresh fruit is very much appreciated as are nuts and baked goods. Purchased baked goods should be kosher. Home baked goods are also permissible.

Drinks: Kosher wine and grape juice will be provided by the congregation. Chilled bottles are in the bottom of the refrigerator in the back of the kitchen. They are marked DH.

How many people should I buy for?

On a typical Friday night we expect 20-25 people.

How, when and where should I set up the Oneg?

All set up occurs prior to the service, so you should plan to arrive at 7:30 pm. When you enter the Tree of Life building (TOL), turn left and go down the stairs. The service takes place in the Sisterhood room to your right. The kitchen is straight ahead of you. As you enter the kitchen you will see ahead of you a few cabinets that have "DH" written on them. In the low cabinet opposite the kitchen entrance you will find table cloths. In the bottom of a cabinet by the entrance (to right of the door as you face it) there are extra serving trays for any pastries that you might bring. Further into the room in the right hand corner on top of the counter, you will find a metal rack containing paper supplies: small cups, large cups, small plates and bowls and candles, matches, goblet for wine, napkins, and two trays for the juice and wine. That tray also contains a Challah knife, a corkscrew, and plastic spoons. If you need larger serving spoons or extra plastic ware, those are contained in the marked drawers and cabinets around that rack. The rack is replenished regularly, and there are specific instructions on a laminated page on the rack which inventory what is there, and give instructions on where to find extra paper and plastic products.

In the refrigerator on the lower shelf you will find chilled wine and juice for the Kiddush. For a typical evening you will need to open only a small wine bottle. If there is an open bottle it will be marked with the date it was opened. Empty that bottle first, and then open a new one if necessary. There are labels and markers so that you can date any leftover wine and juice that you have opened. These are located on the counter opposite the entrance. Once a month leftover wine is discarded, so dating the wine is very important. Undated opened wine will be discarded.

Set the food on the table at the area outside the doors of the Sisterhood room and kitchen. Pour some wine and grape juice into small cups and place them on two separate trays. Place the candle holder (and candles and matches) and the Kiddush cup on the table, too.

At the end of the Oneg please put everything back in its place. Throw any empty wine and juice bottles in the large trash can in the kitchen, wash the trays and dry them before returning them to the cabinet. (Feel free to use paper plates and bowls for the oneg if you do not wish to be responsible for cleaning up serve ware.) Please let me know if any supplies are missing or of any other problem.

Is there a ritual aspect to this role?

Yes. As the Oneg sponsor you have the honor of saying the blessing over the Shabbat candles before the service.

Can I get reimbursed for my expenses?

Yes! Turn in your receipts to: Dor Hadash 5898 Wilkins Ave Pgh. PA 15217

On behalf of the congregation we thank you for performing this Mitzvah.