

Instructions for completing this form:

Please go through each section and fill out the questions. If a question does not apply to you, you may skip it

If you'd prefer to fill out this form online, you can find it on our website or ask Rabbi Dov to email you a link.

Part of this application is submitting payment to help sustain Shabbat With Friends. To pay by check:

Please make out your check to: Shabbat With Friends NM

Memo: Chaver commitment

Mail to: 9701 Montgomery Blvd. NE Box 1015 Albuquerque, NM 87111



Shabbat with Friends New Mexico Community

Our Communal Vision

What is Shabbat with Friends NM?

Shabbat with Friends is a growing, Shabbat-centered Jewish community in Northern and Central New Mexico. We seek to revive the hospitality traditions of the Jewish Sabbath through joyful home-based gatherings that celebrate the holiness, beauty, music, and food of Shabbat. We do what our name suggests: We create joyful Shabbat gatherings. Everyone is welcome. We share a meal, sing together, and learn together. The result is a Shabbat experience that builds community through the joy of Shabbat, the wellspring of Jewish life. Shabbat with Friends began two and a half years ago through the leadership of our founder and convener, Rabbi Dov Gartenberg. Starting with 10 gatherings in Albuquerque in 2022 and expanding to Santa Fe in 2023, Shabbat with Friends now convenes over than 25 gatherings a year in the Albuquerque and Santa Fe areas. More than 25 households have hosted our Shabbat gatherings, and more than 1000 people have participated since our inception. Participants are singles, young families, mid-age families, and seniors. Our community is multi-generational, diverse and growing!

How SWF Works:

We work with volunteer hosts who open their homes - or backyards - to convene joyful gatherings for a minimum of 12 people and up. Some people co-host with others. Some host at a local venue such as a community center, a restaurant, or a public park. Once the host and the location are set, we publicize the event to the community. Participants only need to register (so we know who's coming) and sign up to contribute to our popular Shabbat potlucks. There is no cost to attend. Often, our hosts include family and friends in the gathering as well. We help each host to organize and support these gatherings with ritual leadership, potluck planning, setup, and cleanup. There is no cost to the host. More importantly, our hosts feel fulfilled and touched by the experience of Shabbat hospitality. Guests and our hosts enjoy gatherings full of friendly people, good food, singing and music by our talented Oneg Shabbat Music ensemble, and stimulating learning and conversation often led by our Convener, Rabbi Dov Gartenberg

The Shabbat with Friends Community:

SWF is committed to exploring new and creative approaches to Jewish life, both to revive traditional practice and experiment with new forms that fit our 21st century needs. If that speaks to you—or if you simply want to meet new people and expand opportunities for Jewish community in New Mexico, now is a great time to join with us. We are organizing SWF intentionally based on a communal vision of membership. People who believe in our mission and want to see Shabbat with Friends grow are invited to become Chaverim-Friends of SWF. As SWF grows, there are more gatherings, more hosts, and more moving and memorable experiences; more ideas to experiment, more learning and more music to share. SWF Chaverim - Friends are partners in this effort.

What We Ask:

To become a Chaver of Shabbat with Friends, we ask each participating household to make three commitments. **In our pursuit of creating an engaged community centered on the joy of Shabbat, the non-financial commitments are just as important - if not more - than the financial commitment.**

1. **Host:** Each Chaver household will commit to host or cohost at least one Shabbat with Friends gathering each year. There is no cost for hosting. We will guide and support you to help make your gathering a great experience.
2. **Learn:** Because the Shabbat experience is enriched by deeper knowledge of Jewish tradition and culture, we ask you to take part in the learning opportunities SWF offers or to pursue other avenues of Jewish learning that fit your interests. (See suggestions in appendix A.)
3. **Sustain:** To sustain the SWF community, we ask each Chaver household to make a financial commitment of at least \$360 per year (\$300 for members of synagogues or similar type of Jewish communal institutions). If that poses a financial burden, please consider an amount you can afford.

To be clear, SWF gatherings are open to all at no cost. Chaverim - Friends have taken a step to support SWF, become active stakeholders, and ensure its sustainability.

Reasons to Become a Chaver in the SWF Shabbat Community:

As a Chaver, you will be an active builder of this innovative community with the ability to have a say in what we do and how we do it. You will have the opportunity to engage in 'gemilut chasadim' – communally oriented acts of lovingkindness organized by SWF. You have access to Rabbi Dov Gartenberg for rabbinic life cycle support for your family for counseling, and the support of the SWF community in times of joy and sadness. Most of all, you will be at the very core of our project to revitalize home centered, joyful, inclusive, and spiritual Shabbat experiences that bring us closer together and build an enriching and authentic Jewish community.

Application to Become a Chaver in the Shabbat with Friends NM Community

Personal Information

Full Name *

First Name Last Name

Email *

example@example.com

Phone Number *

Please enter a valid phone number.

Address *

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

What is the best way to contact you?

Additional Household Member Information

If Applicable

Name

First Name Last Name

Birthday & Age

Name

First Name Last Name

Birthday & Age

If you have school-aged children in your household, please answer the next question. SWF is working to build relationships with Jewish camps in the Western U.S. and views them as key sources of Jewish education and community.

Are you interested in learning more about Jewish summer camping for your children?

Yes

No

Do your children attend Jewish summer camp?

Yes

No

If yes, which camp do they attend?

Shabbat Hosting

Have you attended or hosted a Shabbat with Friends gathering? *

- Yes
- No

Do you host people for Shabbat (outside of SWF)? *

- Yes - regularly
- Yes - occasionally
- Yes - rarely
- Not yet

Where would you like to host? (choose all that apply) *

- At your home
- Co-host with others
- At an outside venue (SWF will help organize and fund outside venues)

When would you prefer to host a Shabbat gathering? Each gathering includes a Shabbat meal. (choose all that apply) *

- Friday evening
- Saturday late afternoon or evening with Havdallah
- Saturday early afternoon

Is there a season, festival, or time of year you'd prefer to host?

Please review SWF's most common types of Shabbat gatherings below. Rabbi Gartenberg is available to facilitate, co-facilitate, or lead any of these types of Shabbat gatherings. Feel free to chat with Rabbi about creative ideas for Shabbat gatherings. (poetry reading, movie discussions, out in nature, etc.)

- A conversation-based Shabbat gathering on a timely topic before or after the Shabbat meal. 12 people and up.
- A Torah study Shabbat gathering on the portion of the week or another Jewish text. 12 people and up.
- A musical/singing Shabbat with the Oneg Shabbos Ensemble. 20 people and up.
- A cohort-based Shabbat gathering for peers in your age group, community, life stage. (examples: singles, seniors, young families, families with teens, etc.).

What types of Shabbat Gatherings would you be most interested in hosting? (choose at least one) *

Conversation-based

Torah / text study

Musical / singing

Cohort-based

Other

If you selected "cohort-based", what cohorts would you be interested in hosting?

If you selected "other", Please share your idea here.

Jewish Learning

Please indicate the Jewish learning opportunities you would be interested in during the coming year. See the learning appendix at the end of this document. Do you have a specific interest not represented there? *

Annual Financial Commitment

Your financial commitment supports our spiritual leadership, musical resources for our Shabbat programs, and our operational costs.

Our standard commitment is \$360 / year.

If you are a member of a local NM synagogue, your commitment is \$300 / year.

If you need to adjust your financial commitment (e.g. students, or other financial situations) \$180 is recommended but you may choose an amount that fits your circumstances.

If you have the means to give a greater amount, we suggest \$540 / year or your chosen amount. SWF appreciates your additional contribution.

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If applicable, please indicate the name of your synagogue affiliation.

Yahrzeit Memorial Notifications

We will provide our chaverim with notice of Yahrzeits (personal memorial days) for their loved ones, whose names will be read when we chant the mourners' Kaddish at shabbat gatherings at the appropriate Hebrew month. Please tell us the name and date of death for those you wish to remember (please include Hebrew name and date if known).
Please use a separate sheet of paper to add more if needed.

Name

First Name

Last Name

Relation

Gregorian Date of Death

Before or after nightfall? (to help find the correct Hebrew date)

Hebrew Name (if Known) e.g. Avraham ben Baruch u'Faygie

Hebrew Date of Death (if Known)

Opportunities for Gemilut Hasadim and Hesed (volunteering / acts of service)

Opportunities for organized Gemilut Hasadim or volunteer service. Check those that interest you. We will follow up with an invitation to participate.

Shir Hesed-Song of Kindness. Participation in SWF group that sings Shabbat melodies for shut-ins, elderly, isolated individuals.

Assisting Shabbat Hosts: Helping our hosts with setup, cleanup.

Contributing music or vocals at Shabbat gatherings.

Assisting in fundraising activities on behalf of Shabbat with Friends.

Supporting various SWF programs such as retreats, classes, and gatherings.

Provide bookkeeping skills for SWF.

Closing Questions

Please indicate if you wish to be added to the SWF roster of Chaverim for 5785/2024-2025. The roster will be made available at the end of 2024 to chaverim and staff and used only for SWF programs and communications. It will be updated frequently in 2025. *

YES

NO

Please share any comments you might have or information that would be helpful to the SWF staff.

Rabbi Gartenberg wants to get to know you.. Expect to be contacted by him within four weeks of becoming a Shabbat with Friends Chaver. You may set an appointment directly with him through his meeting scheduler: <https://calendly.com/dovswf>

APPENDIX A. Jewish Learning Recommendations for SWF Chaverim

Below are curated lists of learning opportunities. Some are offered directly through SWF, and others are readings and online resources. ANY of these options satisfy the commitment to engage in Jewish learning.

Shabbat with Friends Jewish Learning Opportunities for the Community

1. Exploring the Jewish Experience Course. A year-round course exploring the Jewish experience, practice, and ideas.
2. Shabbat with Friends Torah Study Gatherings. These gatherings will appear on the calendar page of the website throughout the year.
3. Workshop on Shabbat hospitality. 3-session workshops are offered throughout the year on the mitzvah of hospitality and the specific traditions associated with hosting. In development.
4. Shabbat with Friends Shabbaton Retreats: These include rich opportunities for Jewish learning and enjoying a full Shabbat experience in a beautiful setting.
5. Guest teachers offering online and in-person courses for the SWF community. To be scheduled after the fall festivals.

SWF Recommended Online Jewish Learning Opportunities

1. MyJewishLearning Newsletters and Live Broadcasts. My Jewish Learning has literally thousands of articles on all aspects of Judaism: ritual, prayer, history, custom, food, text, and more! Whoever you are and wherever you are from, we empower you to take command of your Jewish learning and your Jewish story. www.myjewishlearning.com
2. Mechon Hadar. Excellent selection of online courses on Jewish texts, ideas, and skills. www.hadar.org
3. Joey Weisenberg's Master Classes on Jewish Song and Prayer. Sit down with Hadar's Rising Song Institute founder Joey Weisenberg and explore more than 1,000 videos on musical/spiritual artistry at your own pace, from anywhere in the world.
4. Shalom Hartman Institute. Outstanding lectures covering Israel, Jewish ideas, and many other topics from great teachers. www.hartman.org.il
5. Limmud North America. Offers courses and learning festivals on everything Jewish from multiple perspectives. Limmud brings together Jews of all backgrounds to learn from and with each other, ensuring that communities thrive through deep collective bonds. limmudna.org
6. Jewish Theological Seminary Community Learning. A wide range of Jewish subjects are offered by the faculty of the seminary and nationally known teachers. jtsa.edu
American Jewish University Maas Center. Best online Hebrew program as well as multiple courses, and lectures on Jewish subjects.
7. Institute for Jewish Spirituality: Focus on Jewish meditation practices. Courses, retreats, and other resources on Jewish spirituality. www.jewishspirituality.org
8. Valley Beit Midrash: A Phoenix based center of Jewish learning with lectures by Jewish scholars on a wide range of topics. valleybeitmidrash.org
Bimbam: BimBam uses digital storytelling to spark connections to Judaism for learners of all ages. www.bimbam.com
9. Jewish Studio Project (JSP)

Have a Favorite?

Please share with us Jewish learning sites that you enjoy. We are happy to add them to our list of recommendations. Send a note to the list editor, Rabbi Dov Gartenberg, at dov@shabbatwithfriends.org.