



Beth Chai

Information From the Greater Washington Jewish Humanist Congregation

Observe 5774 With Us

Beth Chai Congregation welcomes you to join us in celebrating the High Holidays with our non-traditional, thoughtful and meaningful services.

All services are held at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, located at 6301 River Rd. in Bethesda, MD; the entrance to the parking lot is on Whittier Blvd.

On Thursday, September 5, we'll hold Rosh Hashanah Family services at 9:30 a.m. and Adult services at 10:30 a.m.; a Kiddush follows the Adult service and is open to all.

On Friday, September 13, the Kol Nidre service begins at 7:00 p.m.

On Saturday, September 14, we'll hold Yom Kippur Family services at 9:30 a.m. and Adult services at 10:30 a.m. A potluck break-the-fast will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the close of Yom Kippur. We provide the bagels, cream cheese and lox; we ask you to bring a non-meat dish to serve six to eight people. (See page 4 for details.)

Adult services are geared to those ages 12 and older, and all ages are welcome.

Ticket Information: High Holiday tickets are available at no charge to Beth Chai members. Let us know you're coming! Go to www.bethchai-registration.org; login at the top of the page; click on the High Holiday Tickets button on the left; and choose which service you plan to attend. If you plan to attend all three services, there is a short-cut to register for "all services."

Non-members who wish to purchase tickets to any or all services also use the same website: [\[registration.org\]\(http://www.bethchai-registration.org\). Simply click on the High Holiday Tickets button on the left. Non-member tickets are \\$80 per person per service for the Adult services, which include admission to that day's Family service. For the Family service only, tickets are \\$80 per family per service. PLEASE SEE THE ADDITIONAL TICKET POLICIES ON PAGE 2.](http://www.bethchai-</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

Non-members who decide to join Beth Chai can credit the cost of their High Holiday tickets toward membership dues.

Schedule of High Holiday Services

Rosh Hashanah—Thursday, Sept. 5

Family Service 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Adult Service 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Kol Nidre—Friday, Sept. 13

Adult Service 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur—Saturday, Sept. 14

Family Service 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Adult Service 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Break-the-Fast Potluck 6:00-7:00 p.m.

You may also reserve tickets in advance by telephone by leaving a message at 301-229-7400. Tickets may be purchased on the day of the service you attend — cash or check only please! — and we ask you to arrive a little early to allow for extra processing time.

High Holiday tickets will be available on a Will Call basis only. Simply check into the Will Call desk at

RRUUC before each service; and it always helps to bring a printed copy of your receipt.

Childcare: Free childcare for children ages 2 and up is available for all ticket holders during the Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur adult services. (There is no babysitting during Family services.) Please reserve your child's space online while you are purchasing or reserving your tickets. You can find a designated childcare section on the registration page. You may also contact Jeffrey Gerber at squeffrey@gmail.com.

We hope you'll join us and wish you a peaceful, healthy and happy new year!

Additional Ticket Policies

- Members may transfer their high holiday tickets to a guest if the guest is accompanied by a registered member or a paying non-member.
- Au pairs may attend as part of a family registration.
- Adult children of members and non-members who are not full-time students must purchase a ticket to attend services.
- Children of non-members who are high school aged and younger and are accompanied by a registered adult may attend at no extra charge.
- If you have a situation that doesn't fall into these categories, please contact Michele McNally, the High Holidays Chair, at mcsturm5@verizon.net.

BETH CHAI LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

Position	Name (* = board member)	Email
Rabbi	Dr. Arthur Blecher	ablecher@starpower.net
President	Alexa Claybon*	aclaybon@msn.com
Vice President	Howard Feinstein*	khfeinstein@verizon.net
Treasurer	Ela Koniuszkow*	Ela.mike@verizon.net
Secretary/Print Newsletter Editor	Jerilyn Schweitzer*	jerilyns@verizon.net
Past President & Development Co-chair	Keith Parsky*	keith@parsky.org
Development Co-Chair	Daniel Korn*	dkorn@comcast.net
Adult Education Program Chair	Karim Chaibi*	kcljb@hotmail.com
Social Action Chair	Stacey Downey*	staceybethdowney@yahoo.com
Membership Chair	Katie Turnacioglu*	Katieandsinan@gmail.com
Communications Chair/E-Newsletter Editor	Meredith Bowers*	meredithjbowers@gmail.com
IT Director/Website/WA Database Manager	Brandon Hemel*	bhemel@gmail.com
RRUUC Event Coordinator	Mark Israel*	marksisrael1@hotmail.com
Liturgy Chair	Matt Schneer*	matthew.schneer@ed.gov
Volunteer Coordinator	Jeff Gerber*	squeffrey@gmail.com
Education Director	Roni Rosenthal	roni_rosenthal@yahoo.com
Mitzvah Coordinator	Suzanne Greenfield	greenfieldshapiro@msn.com
BTES Member Liaison	Chelle Parsky	chelleparsky@parsky.org
Sunday School Volunteer Coordinator	Phyllis Kristal	kristal@fr.com
High Holidays Chair	Michele McNally	mcsturm5@verizon.net
Pastoral Care Chair	Beth Sodie	ehs20@aol.com
School Parents Council Chair	Laura Emmons	laura.e.emmons@gmail.com
Bookkeeper/Accounts Payable	Diane Page	dianepage@verizon.net

Financial Need Policy: Beth Chai welcomes anyone to attend services, become a member, or have their children attend our Beth Chai Sunday school, regardless of ability to pay. Considerations available include extended payment plans, service exchange, and fee reduction. Financial aid determination will be made on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Noah Dropkin, treasurer, for assistance.

MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI



Whether it is because of historical reasons, because of the processes of nature, or mere coincidence, the start of the Jewish religious year and the start of the academic year in America occur around the same time. And for many people, September represents the resumption of work routines that were interrupted by vacation.

In any case, the fact that the celebration of the Jewish New Year takes place at the beginning of the school year is actually very meaningful. For all Jewish congregations, ongoing education for all ages is no less important than the daily and weekly cycles of religious services. For Beth Chai in particular, education and intellectual inquiry are vital to the life of our community. When we gather for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, meaningful discourse and the consideration of ideas are the central element of each day. And our Shabbat morning Mitzvah services are designed around the research projects and presentations of our students.

Yet even though we do not meet on Shabbat and Holidays for the purpose of worshipping God, I believe our religious gatherings are sacred times. We take refuge for a brief while from the stress and harshness of life in modern society and set aside time for holy purpose: time for affirmation and for the celebration of being, time for remembering who we are and where we have come from, time for reconnecting with the memory of all we have lost, time for acknowledging our pain, and time for healing the bruises of spirit that occur as we move through the universe.

Whenever we join together as community for religious services and for educational and social programs, we come home to the ideas and sounds and images and literature we share as members of the Jewish People. We merge our individual histories with our national history, and we conjoin our personal values with Judaism's ethical heritage. This process is what endows our congregating with holiness.

Very soon we will gather again at the beginning of the New Year 5774. Together, we will recreate the ancient pageant: to mourn the losses of our past, to reaffirm our existence in the present, and to proclaim our hope for the promise of the future.

With my best wishes to you all for a New Year of sweetness and light,
Rabbi Arthur Blecher

Break the Fast, Sat. Sept. 14

This is uncanny. I can't explain how, but it works every time. I'm going to think of a number between 1 and 6. Okay, concentrate. What's my number? That's it! This works with multiple families which is why you each received different numbers.

If your number was	you provide for your family + 6-8
1	entrée
2	salad/side
3	dessert
4	2 bottles of wine
5	help with set up
6	help with clean up

Amazing!

Sadly, this only works one way so now I need you to e-mail me and tell me what you're bringing and how many will be attending with you. Thanks for making this so easy.

Susan Lubman-Edwards
susan.lubmanedwards@gmail.com

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



“Without understanding there is no knowledge, and without knowledge no understanding.” ~~ Avot 3:21

As our community comes together for a new year, I’d like to reflect on what makes our congregation so unique: independence, diversity, and commitment. As an independent congregation in a multitude of ways – volunteer-based, unaffiliated, and filled with rugged individualists - Beth Chai is a community of diverse, and sometimes divergent, opinions. While diversity could push a membership apart, our diversity pulls us together as we seek to find the common threads embedded in our backgrounds and values. Our willingness to acknowledge and embrace, not just accept, the differences among us defines our congregation and is a reflection of our congregation’s humanist perspective. We strive together – believers, non-believers, interfaith families, members from the entire spectrum of religious observance – to make Beth Chai a place of knowledge and understanding. There are no outsiders in our community.

As our membership expands and families grow, there is a constant sense of renewal and rediscovery of what Beth Chai means in our members’ lives. Beth Chai’s Sunday school is a place for our kids to establish a deep connection with Jewish history, customs and values. Through Beth’s Chai’s Adult Education discussions on history, literature, culture, religion, and current events, we ask questions and seek perspective on what it means to be part of the Jewish community and explore the foundations of our shared history, helping us gain insight about how our beliefs and actions affect the present. Through Shabbat services, social outreach and pastoral care, our members share friendship, support, and engage with each other in a common purpose. Beth Chai’s Mitzvah students, who conduct a research project that is individually meaningful, yet intended to enlighten the congregation, exemplify how powerful the combination of independence and commitment within a community can be.

The personal commitment that our members have to the congregation, demonstrated through volunteering for the mundane and the extraordinary, organizing events, and serving behind the scenes, is the engine of the congregation. We also share a commitment to each other as individuals, which reflects basic humanist values of respect for each individual, pursuit of core ethics, and acting with a sense of responsibility to others. As has been said before about Beth Chai, the sum is greater than its parts!

This year, I look forward to building on the work of our congregation’s past volunteers and board members. It is a privilege to serve the congregation as President, and I invite all members to contribute their talents to expanding our congregation’s knowledge and understanding of the breadth of the Jewish community. Welcome back!

Alexa Claybon

2012-2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, August 17

Havdalah Gathering
Keith and Chelle Parsky's Home
Time and details to follow via email announcement

Sunday, Sept. 1

No School (Labor Day Weekend)

Thursday, Sept. 5

ROSH HASHANAH

- 9:30 a.m.: Family Service
- 10:30 a.m.: Adult Service followed by Kiddush

Beth Chai Congregation at RRUUC

Sunday, Sept. 8

First day of Sunday School

- 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
- 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K-7th grade classes & first day of post-mitzvah class
- 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed

Burning Tree Elementary School

Friday, Sept. 13

KOL NIDRE

7:00 p.m.: Adult Service

Beth Chai Congregation at RRUUC

Saturday, Sept. 14

YOM KIPPUR

9:30 a.m.: Family Service

10:30 p.m.: Adult Service

6:00 p.m.: Break-the-Fast Potluck

Beth Chai Congregation at RRUUC

Sunday, Sept. 15

Sunday School

- 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
- 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K-7th grade classes
- 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed

Burning Tree Elementary School

Friday, September 20

7:00 p.m.: Shabbat Dinner

Beth Chai Congregation at RRUUC

Sunday, Sept. 22

Sukkot Party (No Sunday school)

Celebration to be held at Mark Israel's farm

Time and details to follow via email announcement

Sunday, Sept. 29

Sunday School

- 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
- 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K-7th grade
- 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed

Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, Oct. 6

Sunday School

- 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
- 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K-7th grade & post-mitzvah classes
- 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed

Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, Oct. 13

Sunday school

- 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
- 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K-7th grade classes
- 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed

Burning Tree Elementary School

Friday, Oct. 18

7:00 p.m.: Shabbat Dinner

Beth Chai Congregation at RRUUC

Sunday, Oct. 20

Sunday school

- 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
- 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K-7th grade classes
- 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed

Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, Oct. 27

Sunday school

- 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
- 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K-7th grade classes
- 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed

Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, Nov. 3

Sunday school/New Member Reception/

Visiting Day

- 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
- 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K-7th grade & post-mitzvah classes
- 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed

Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, Nov. 10

Sunday school

- 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
- 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K-7th grade 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed

Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, Nov. 17

Sunday school

- 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
- 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K-7th grade classes
- 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed

Burning Tree Elementary School

Friday, Nov. 22

7:00 p.m.: Shabbat Dinner

Beth Chai Congregation at RRUUC

Sunday, Nov. 24

Sunday school/Chanukah celebration/
Visiting Day

- 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
- 10-11 a.m.: pre-K-7th grade & post-mitzvah classes
- 10-11 a.m.: adult ed
- 11 a.m.-noon: Chanukah party

Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, Dec. 1

No school (Thanksgiving Weekend)

Sunday, Dec. 8

Sunday school

- 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
- 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K-7th grade & post-mitzvah classes
- 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed

Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, Dec. 15

Sunday school

- 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
- 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K-7th grade classes
- 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed

Burning Tree Elementary School

Beth Chai Event Locations:

Beth Chai Congregation at RRUUC is located at 6301 River Road, Bethesda (parking lot entrance on Whittier)

Burning Tree Elementary School is located at 7900 Beech Tree Road, Bethesda

EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE—
CHECK YOUR WEEKLY EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR UPDATES

(Continued on page 7)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—CONTINUED

(Continued from page 6)

Friday, Dec. 20

7:00 p.m.: Shabbat Dinner
Beth Chai Congregation at RRUUC

Sunday, Dec. 22 and 29

No Sunday school (winter break)

Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014

Sunday school
• 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
• 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K–7th grade & post-mitzvah classes
• 10 a.m.–noon.: adult ed
Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, Jan. 12

No school/Community Work Day
Details to follow

Sunday, Jan. 19

Sunday school/Martin Luther King Day celebration/Visiting Day
• 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
• 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K–7th grade classes
• 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed
Burning Tree Elementary School

Friday, Jan. 24

7:00 p.m.: Shabbat Dinner
Beth Chai Congregation at RRUUC

Sunday, Jan. 26

Sunday school
• 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
• 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K–7th grade classes
• 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed
Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, Feb. 2

Sunday school
• 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
• 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K–7th grade & post-mitzvah classes
• 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed
Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, Feb. 9

Sunday school
• 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
• 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K–7th grade classes
• 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed
Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, Feb. 16

No school (President's Day weekend)

Friday, Feb. 21

7:00 p.m.: Shabbat Dinner
Beth Chai Congregation at RRUUC

Sunday, Feb. 23

• 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
• 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K–7th grade classes
• 10 a.m.–noon.: adult ed
Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, March 2

Sunday school/Visiting Day
• 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
• 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K–7th grade & post-mitzvah classes
• 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed
Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, March 9

Sunday school/Beth Chai Auction
• 10-11 a.m.: pre-K–7th grade classes
• 10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Beth Chai auction
(No adult ed or music assembly)
Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, March 16

Sunday school/Purim Celebration
• 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
• 10 a.m.-noon: Purim party
Burning Tree Elementary School

Friday, March 21

7:00 p.m.: Shabbat Dinner
Beth Chai Congregation at RRUUC

Sunday, March 23

Sunday school
• 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
• 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K–7th grade classes
• 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed
Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, March 30

Sunday school
• 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
• 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K–7th grade classes
• 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed
Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, April 6

Sunday school
• 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
• 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K–7th grade & post-mitzvah classes
• 10 a.m.-noon: adult ed
Burning Tree Elementary School

No Sunday school (spring break)

Friday, April 25

7:00 p.m.: Shabbat Dinner
Beth Chai Congregation at RRUUC

Sunday, April 27

Sunday school
• 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
• 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K–7th grade classes
• 10 a.m.-noon.: adult ed
Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, April 14

Sunday school
• 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
• 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K–7th grade classes
• 10 a.m.-noon.: adult ed
Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, May 4

Last day of Sunday school & Annual Meeting
• 9:30 a.m.: music assembly
• 10 a.m.-noon: pre-K–7th grade & post-mitzvah classes
• 10 a.m.-noon.: adult ed
Burning Tree Elementary School

Sunday, May 11

No Sunday school (Mother's Day) and Snow Make-up Day if necessary

Friday, May 23

7:00 p.m.: Shabbat Dinner
Beth Chai Congregation at RRUUC

PLEASE NOTE: All times and dates are subject to change. Members will be notified of any changes via email message.

Sunday, April 13 and and 20

NOTES FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTOR



Dear Beth Chai Families,

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year! We are very excited to have you and your children back at Beth Chai Sunday School.

A special welcome to the new members and students.

Every staff member has been working very hard to prepare for the return of our wonderful students. We have set high expectation and made plans to guarantee that the learning at Beth Chai this year is meaningful as well as enjoyable.

Our first day of school will be September 8th. We will begin our day at 9:30 a.m. with a whole school assembly for students and parents. At 10:00 the students will be accompanied to their classes by their teachers.

Letters with room assignments and teachers' names are being sent to you by e-mail. If you haven't received the letter yet, please contact me to update your e-mail address.

Over the summer, we have been working hard to modify the Hebrew curriculum to be more engaging and related to grade specific topics and age learning skills. In the next couple of months you should expect more uses of Hebrew language in daily routines, in playing game, and even in cooking activities.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce a new position in our school; starting this coming school year we will have a person in charge of the school social activities and the recess time activities. This position will be held by Ms. Arielle Pesach (and supervised by me); the goal being to emphasize more the social aspect within the school environment. We will organize a large variety of social games during recess time as well as at other opportunities.

Each year the beginning of school is a busy and exciting time, filled with change and preparation, and this year is no exception. The first month of September will be dedicated to learning and celebrating the fall holidays. The teachers are planning many fun learning activities. We will celebrate Sukkot on Sept. 22nd with arts and crafts activities, games, and decorations for our Sukkah. On Sept. 29th we will have our Simchat Torah annual parade.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments. Thank you for your continued commitment to your child's Jewish education and unwavering dedication to Beth Chai Sunday School.

Wishing you all a happy and sweet New Year

Roni Rosenthal

Education Director

Roni_rosenthal@yahoo.com

Address Correction Requested

Beth Chai Congregation
 River Road U.C.
 6301 River Road
 Bethesda, MD 20817



Answering service: 301-229-7400
 Email: info@bethchai.org
 Website: www.bethchai.org