



BETH CHAI NEWS

The Greater Washington Jewish Humanist Congregation

You Are Invited to Beth Chai's Summer Havdalah, Potluck & Pool Party

Saturday, July 23 from 6 to 9 PM. All members of Beth Chai are invited to come to our mid-summer get-together at the home of our generous hosts, Cindy Welsh and Scott Greenberg. There will be a Havdalah service (a short ritual to mark the end of Shabbat). If you would like to invite guests who might be interested in becoming members of Beth Chai, please feel free.



What to bring? A swimsuit, towel, and a potluck dish that feeds ten.

RSVP Information: Please RSVP to say how many are coming, what you'll bring, and get the exact address and directions to the Welsh/Greenburg home in Potomac, MD. Email cindywelsh@gwellc.com or call 301-983-3357.

Beth Chai Members to Receive Survey, Urged to Make Wishes, Opinions Known



Do you find Beth Chai's services spiritually satisfying and its programs intellectually stimulating? Are you happy with the education that the Sunday school offers your children? Are there features of community life that you feel are missing and would add, or current congregational practices that you would change or drop? Do the demands that Beth Chai membership makes on your time and pocketbook seem appropriate?

You'll have a chance to communicate your likes and dislikes, suggestions and observations directly to Beth Chai's Board, thanks to a survey that you will be receiving with the September issue of the newsletter. It will be the first such poll taken in several years, and the Board asks — nay, exhorts — all members to respond. By devoting a few moments' time and effort, you will provide the Board an invaluable opportunity to learn how to keep present members happy and engaged, and how to attract new members to our community.

Unlike most surveys that come in the mail these days, this one will not be a pretext to ask for money. In fact you won't be asked for money, you will be asked what you think — which, at Beth Chai, is the most important currency of all.

So, please, once you receive the survey, make the effort to send us your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Ken Jacobson

On behalf of the Beth Chai Board

Beth Chai Directory	Position	Email
Suzanne Greenfield	Co-President	greenfieldshapiro@msn.com
Deborah Signer Balaschak	Co-President	balasig@verizon.net
Bob Rosenblatt	Vice President	boblatt@aol.com
Ilene Sokolsky	Treasurer	i.sokolsky@verizon.net
Diane Page	Bookkeeper/Accts. Payable	dmpage1@comcast.net
Diane Sonnenberg	Secretary	dianesonnenberg@mac.com
Dr. Arthur Blecher	Rabbi	ablecher@starpower.net
Rain Zohav	Education Director	rainzohav@earthlink.net
Julie Zalkind	Membership/Past Pres.	JuliehZ@erols.com
Ken Jacobson	Program Chair	kenjacobson@hotmail.com
Sheldon Hofferma	Liturgy Ctte./Past Pres.	ibkoolpaw@yahoo.com
Flora Wolf	Friendship Committee	florakw@starpower.net
Mary Ellen Petrisko	Past President	mpetrisko@tai.edu
Gail Gertner Shapkin	Events Coordinator	ggertner6@hotmail.com
Warren Milberg	Outreach Coordinator	imcrewzen@hotmail.com
Ron Leve	Fundraising	theron@comcast.net
Peggy Robin	Newsletter Editor	probin@adlerrobin.com
Alan Kotok	Assistant Newsletter Editor	AlanKotok@cs.com
David Elfin	Publicity Committee	ElfinD@aol.com
Josh Lubell	Social Action Committee	JoshLubell@yahoo.com
Beth Chai Answering Service/Email	Beth Chai Web Site	www.bethchai.org ; info@bethchai.org

Financial Need Policy: Beth Chai welcomes anyone to attend services, become a member, or have their children attend our Jewish Family 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 Diane Page for assistance.

b Community News a

Bar Mitzvah of Byron Hulcher

Saturday, September 10 at 10 AM. Laurie and Charles Hulcher cordially invite the members of Beth Chai to attend the bar mitzvah of their son Byron at Beth Chai Congregation at River Road U.C. The Hulchers say, "Everyone has been so supportive of Byron as he has worked towards having his bar mitzvah as an older teen. We hope that many people will be able to join us for this special celebration." A Kiddush will follow the service.



New Baby Congratulations

Beth Chai member Wendy Baber and her husband Dusty are the happy parents of a baby girl born on June 12.

Liturgy Committee Meeting

Beth Chai's Liturgy Committee will meet on Sunday morning, July 31, at 10:00 AM at the home of committee chairman Sheldon Hofferma in Fairfax Station, VA. The committee will be considering ways to improve Beth Chai ceremonies and celebrations, in content, style, and practical details. All Beth Chai members are welcome to join the committee and/or participate in the meeting. Call 703-323-1885 or email ibkoolpaw@yahoo.com to RSVP and get directions.



"What Is Jewish Humanism?" Talks Set for Sept. 23 & 25

Each year in the fall Beth Chai offers the community at large an opportunity to learn about our congregation and its modern, inclusive, humanistic approach to Judaism. This year we will have two such presentations, both led by Rabbi Art Blecher. Please help us get the word out about these events!

Friday, September 23 at 7 PM
Shabbat Service and Discussion
The DCJCC
1529 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC

Sunday, September 25 at 4 PM
JCC of Greater Washington
6125 Montrose Road
Rockville, MD



Searching for a New Location for Beth Chai Sunday School

Readers of the June issue of this newsletter may have seen the article asking members to recommend alternative locations for the Beth Chai Family School. Our rental costs for Burning Tree Elementary have gone up and we have experienced problems with access and use of the facility. We are currently exploring the pros and cons of making a change. If we do move the school location, we will, of course, keep you posted about the results — and we'll announce any change on our web site, bethchai.org, through our email announcements list, and in the September issue of the newsletter. So stay tuned...



High Holy Days at Beth Chai Congregation

Here's the schedule ~ Mark your calendars ~
Look for full details in September's newsletter
and posted on www.BethChai.org

Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, October 4
9:30 AM Family Service,
10:30 AM Adult Service



Kol Nidre

Wednesday, October 12 at 7:30 PM

Yom Kippur

Thursday, October 13
9:30 AM Family Service,
10:30 AM Adult Service
6:30 PM Break-the-Fast Potluck

All services at Beth Chai Congregation at RRUC
6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD
(Entrance to parking lot on Whittier Blvd.)

Membership Renewal Packets Are on the Way



The Beth Chai membership renewal packets will be mailed out in mid-July. Please take the time to fill the forms out and return them as soon as possible — especially the school forms.

School planning goes so much better when we have all the information in hand before the start of the new school year on **September 11**.

If you renew by August 15th, we will mail your High Holiday tickets to you and you can avoid the crowd at the "will call" desk picking up tickets on the day of services.

Our community is as strong as our members and we want you all with us on this journey.

Calendar of Events

Date & Time	Event	Location
Sat., July 23 from 6 to 9 PM	Potluck Havdalah & Swim Party	Home of Cindy Welsh & Scott Greenburg. To RSVP & get directions, call 301-983-3357 or email cindywelsh@gwellc.com .
Sun., July 31 at 10 AM	Liturgy Committee meeting to discuss High Holiday and other Beth Chai events. All interested members are welcome to attend.	Home of Sheldon Hofferma in N. Virginia. Please call 703-323-1885 or email ibkoolpaw@yahoo.com to RSVP and get directions.
Sun., Aug. 21 from 7 to 9 PM	Beth Chai board meeting. All interested members are welcome to attend.	Home of Julie & David Zalkind in N. Arlington. Call 703-522-1023 or email juliehz@erols.com to RSVP and get directions.
Sat., Sept. 10 at 10 AM.	Bar mitzvah of Byron Hulcher. All Beth Chai members are invited to attend the service.	Beth Chai Congregation at RRUC, 6301 River Rd., Bethesda, MD (entrance to parking lot on Whittier Blvd.)
Sun., Sept. 11 at 9:30 AM for students, 10 AM for Adult Ed.	First day of Beth Chai Family School!	Burning Tree Elementary School, 7900 Beech Tree Rd., Bethesda — but see article on p. 3 about the possibility of a change.
Fri., Sept. 23 at 7 PM Sun., Sept. 25 at 4 PM	“What Is Jewish Humanism?” talks, presented by Rabbi Art Blecher. The Friday night talk includes a brief Shabbat service.	Friday talk at DCJCC, 1529 16th St., NW, DC Sunday talk at JCC of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Rd., Rockville
Tues., Oct. 4, 9:30 AM (family svc.) and 10:30 AM (adult svc)	Rosh Hashanah Services	Beth Chai Congregation at RRUC, 6301 River Rd., Bethesda, MD (entrance to parking lot on Whittier)
Wed., Oct. 12 at 7:30 PM Thu., Oct. 13 at 9:30 (family svc.) & 10:30 AM (adult svc.) 6:30 PM (Break-the-Fast)	Kol Nidre Yom Kippur Services in the morning; Break-the-Fast Potluck in the evening	Beth Chai Congregation at RRUC, 6301 River Rd., Bethesda, MD (entrance to parking lot on Whittier)



Beth Chai Congregation

River Road U.C.
6301 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20817

Answering service: 301-229-7400

Newsletter email: alankotok@cs.com

Website: www.bethchai.org

Address Correction Requested

