

CHABAD OF BONITA SPRINGS

Social, educational, humanitarian and religious programming.

- Adult Education
- Sunday Hebrew School
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah Lessons
- Senior Circle
- Camp Gan Israel
- Holiday Celebrations
- Counseling
- Kosher Restaurant Nights
- Café Chabad
- Humanitarian Aid
- High Holiday Services
- Hospital & Nursing Home Visitation
- Jewish Publications
- Jewish Woman's Circle
- Shabbat Dinners
- Synagogue Services



Dear Friends,

A little over a year ago, our family moved to Southwest Florida to start a Chabad Jewish Center that would serve both Bonita Springs and Estero.

We hoped to provide services and programs for the entire Jewish community that would provide everyone the opportunity to learn more about Judaism, experience our rich traditions, and learn from our ancient source of wisdom, the Torah.

We are gratified by the response we have gotten from our initial programming. From public Menorah lightings, to Kabbalah lectures; from Shabbat dinners to High Holiday services, the programs and classes we offer are warmly welcomed by the community.

We encourage you to become acquainted with our organization and the many opportunities we present to help grow your Judaism. Young and old, observant or not, there is a place for you at Chabad.

This brochure was designed to help you understand what Chabad is: our philosophy, goals and roots. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything you read here, please contact us!

We feel privileged to be among the ranks of the Chabad lamplighters whose task is to help illuminate the journey, transforming the darkness of the world with the light of Torah and Mitzvot.

*Rabbi Mendy & Luba Greenberg
Directors, Chabad of Bonita Springs*

CHABAD OF BONITA SPRINGS

CHABAD

ILLUMINATING
life's journey



Where every Jew is Family!

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ABOUT CHABAD

Under the dynamic and inspired leadership of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, Chabad has become an organization with an international presence of over 3,000 centers world-wide. Its diverse range of participants are united in a simple philosophy; Love every Jew, reach out to every Jew, educate every Jew.

Motivated by his profound love and spurred by his boundless optimism and energy, the Rebbe set into motion a dazzling array of programs, services and institutions to serve every Jew. In a non-judgmental environment, Chabad provides opportunities for participation in the many facets of Jewish life - educational, religious, communal, and personal.

Here in Bonita Springs, the Greenbergs are the “**Rebbe’s Lamplighters**,” seeking to bring the joy and light of Judaism ablaze in people’s minds and hearts.



SHEDDING LIGHT ON CHABAD...

As a non-practicing Jew, why would I participate in Chabad programming?

Chabad of Bonita Springs is a place where all Jews come together to connect and feel a sense of belonging, regardless of religious background or affiliation. In fact, the vast majority of people who participate in programs at Chabad are not Orthodox. The teachings of Chabad are imbued with Chassidic spirit and joy, but in no way is the commitment to a religious lifestyle a prerequisite to one's acceptance at Chabad functions. In fact, the programs and projects of Chabad are designed specifically to meet the needs of the unaffiliated.

What do you want to accomplish with your Chabad Jewish Center in Bonita Springs?

We want to bring people together to create a vibrant Jewish community. Through social events and holiday celebrations, we hope to foster a sense of family in our towns.

Equally important, we strive to create an environment where Jews from every walk of life can feel comfortable to learn about their heritage and traditions at their own pace, in a welcoming setting.

Finally, we envision building a Chabad Jewish Center that will have programs for people of all ages, from babies to seniors. We hope to open a Sunday Hebrew School and a summer day camp to serve our school-age children, offer an array of adult education courses and classes, and celebrate the Jewish holidays with the entire community. Many of these programs are already under way, others will take shape in the near future.

Are you supported financially by the Chabad Lubavitch Headquarters in New York?

It is the policy of the world-wide Chabad movement that each center is supported by the community it serves. Funding for local Chabad programs is solicited locally. None of the money contributed in Bonita Springs is sent to Chabad headquarters in New York - all funds donated remain right here in our community. Likewise, we do not receive funding from a central fund.

To help pay for our programming, overhead and administrative costs, we rely solely on people like you, who are interested in creating a Jewish presence in Bonita Springs.

What CHABAD means to me...

Having Chabad here has so enriched my life. Words cannot express how grateful I am that a strong Jewish presence has finally arrived in Bonita Springs!

~ Rivkah Lewis Denney, Bonita Springs

I made many Jewish friends through Chabad. I especially appreciate the special visit to my home when Rabbi Mendy came specially to blow the Shofar. It is very moving when the Rabbi treats us individually.

~ Jean Lager, Bonita Springs

Chabad of Bonita Springs has provided me with amazing insight to Judaism as much as I can handle at a time. Through Rabbi Mendy and Luba's kindness and non-judgmental manner I have been able to grasp Judaism in mind, body and soul.

~ Claudia Lefla, Bonita Springs

Living in this community has been so much more enriched by the presence of Chabad and the Greenberg family. We now have a place of study, a place to worship together with other Jews and a superb example of how to live a Jewish life.

~ Gene Sipe, Estero

I am not Orthodox in my lifestyle, however since I have started studying with you and participating in your Bonita Springs Jewish activities I felt my Jewish life being enriched. I feel that our studying and interaction has significantly deepened and improved my understanding in Judaism and life in general. It has helped me to improve my focus in my personal and professional life

~ Adam Ryzeman, Bonita Springs

What I have learned more than anything from Chabad is how to emphasize points of agreement, rather than points of disagreement, how to look at the positive. Chabad doesn't require agreement; Chabad simply opens itself up to Jews without regard to their theology, to their perspective, to their attitudes towards life. If you want to come to Chabad there are no questions asked, and Chabad provides a wonderful model for the entire Jewish community.

~ Professor Alan Dershowitz
Harvard Law School