

BOYNTON BEACH, FL / ANSHEI CHESED CONGREGATION

COMMUNITY GUIDE – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is the history of Anshei Chesed Congregation?

A. In the years 2003-2005, a pioneering group of families moved to Boynton Beach, FL and established the first-ever viable Orthodox Jewish presence in the community. They readily saw the need to establish a mainstream orthodox synagogue in the community, one that would grow and help to attract additional families going forward. Anshei Chesed Congregation held its first minyan on November 4, 2005. After going from house to house for 10 months, the shul purchased a house that was utilized as a shul, beginning in September 2006. With unwavering determination and support from so many sources, Anshei Chesed opened the doors to its new, state-of-the-art facility in April 2012.

Part of Anshei Chesed's long-term plan beginning at its inception was to be an anchor in the community and to help establish an environment that would attract young, Orthodox families to the area. With a core group of families *already in place*, we have put to the test the time-tested adage, "you build it and they will come." How true! Our membership has increased from 70 families to over 120 families in less than one year in our new building, which enjoys a prime location on the "main strip" of the Orthodox community.

We are an inclusive, modern Orthodox congregation that is warm and welcoming. Our spiritual leader is Rabbi Avi Billet, a dynamic speaker and gifted writer. Although many of our members are retirees or semi-retirees taking advantage of the warm climate and dynamic Palm Beach County Jewish life, we have a strong base of young families whose children attend Shabbos morning youth groups. We daven with melodic beauty and great kavanah and have established a widespread reputation as a shul with *unrivaled decorum* and a very high level of spirituality. The kehillah socializes each week at a sumptuous kiddush.

Q. What sets Anshei Chesed Congregation apart? Why should I think about moving to Boynton?

A. If you want to live in a rapidly growing Jewish community that has *affordable housing*, outstanding Jewish education, job opportunities and excellent kosher shopping, come to Boynton Beach. And don't forget the great weather and the wide range of leisure and sports activities. If you want to raise your family's standard of living and your spirituality, come to Boynton Beach. If you are looking for the opportunity to play a major role in the growth of a community and to be a significantly contributing member of a community and *not just another face in the crowd*, Anshei Chesed Congregation is the shul for you.

Q. What kind of housing is available?

A. The key is that housing in Boynton Beach is affordable. Simply put, you cannot do better housing-wise in any orthodox community in South Florida, considering what you can get for your housing dollar. You can buy a “starter” (3-bedroom) home in a development such as Indian Wells in the mid-\$100K range. Larger homes in Wyndsong Estates and Wyndsong Isles are priced in the mid-\$300Ks range.

Q. What are the job opportunities?

A. Boynton Beach is expanding rapidly. Palm Beach County is the fastest growing Jewish community in the country, and Boynton Beach is at the heart of that growth. This creates tremendous opportunities in many fields (e.g., medicine, law, accounting, technology, financial planning and investing, real estate, biotech and medical research). All major professions are well represented and offices/company headquarters are located within reasonable driving distance to homes.

Q. What about Yeshivot/day schools?

A. From pre-school to high school, our children attend highly acclaimed schools. There are choices of pre-schools within a few minutes’ drive. Parents can choose from a number of yeshiva elementary schools. The Hillel Day School (www.hilleldayschool.org) is the primary yeshiva for area children and has a national reputation for excellence. The demographic switch which has seen Boynton Beach become a major “feeder community” to Hillel Day School resulted in the advent of daily bus service to and from the school right to our neighborhoods. It is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County. The school is also an affiliate of Yeshiva University's Institute for University-School Partnership.

The Torah Academy (www.torahacademybr.org) offers separate campuses for boys and girls and is affiliated with Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim.

Most area teenagers attend the Weinbaum Yeshiva High School (www.wyhs.net), which has become one of the premier yeshiva high schools in the United States.

Q. I’m used to shopping at large kosher supermarkets in places like New York. What’s available in your area?

A. If it’s kosher, you’ll find it locally. Publix (the primary supermarket chain), Winn Dixie, BJ’s, Costco Wal-Mart and Target all carry an extensive array of products under excellent hashgachot, including the Orthodox Rabbinic Board – ORB – the premier kashrut oversight agency in South Florida. There are a number of “kosher-only” supermarkets from which to choose as well.

- Q. Are there any kosher restaurants in the area?
- A. There is a wide array of kosher restaurants (American, Chinese, Israeli/Mediterranean Grills, Sushi, Pizza/Dairy) all within 10-20 minutes.
- Q. I keep *hearing* that the center of Jewish life in Palm Beach County is in Boca Raton. Why should I consider Boynton Beach?
- A. Housing in Boynton Beach is *far more affordable* than in Boca Raton. Our community has a “small-town” feel where friends become extended family. At Anshei Chesed Congregation, you’ll have the opportunity to become an active, influential member, someone who can *truly* make a difference in enhancing the already vibrant Jewish life that permeates the community. Because Boynton Beach is affordable, you’ll have the opportunity to be part of a multi-generational community. Several of our members live here with parents and grandparents in the same community and it’s not unusual to see three generations of one family in shul.
- Q. How can I find out what’s happening in the Boynton Beach Jewish community?
- A. You can visit the newly launched Anshei Chesed website at www.ansheichesebb.org. In addition, there is an online community discussion group, “Boynton Beach Jewish Community.” It’s one of many Jewish community groups on Yahoo. To join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BoyntonBeachJewishCommunity/>.
- Q. I’d like to visit Boynton Beach. Is there a Hospitality Committee?
- A. The members of Anshei Chesed cordially invite you to join us for a Shabbos. We have an active Hospitality Committee that will put you up and arrange Shabbos meals with member families. This is truly the best way to get to see what our community has to offer. Please go to www.ansheichesebb.org to indicate your interest in arranging a visit to our community and it will be our absolute pleasure to assist you in any ways possible.

Housing Landscape

The neighboring developments in the vicinity of Anshei Chesed Congregation have housing options for everyone. Boynton Beach is a vibrant area which has experienced massive infrastructure growth and development in the past five years. The shul is conveniently located on El Clair Ranch Road between Boynton Beach Blvd. and Woolbright Road, 1 block east of Jog Road. Within comfortable walking distance to the shul are numerous residential developments appealing to a wide range of tastes, preferences and budgets.

BOYNTON BEACH

The following brief descriptions are intended to give you an overview of some of the real estate options in the Anshei Chesed neighborhood in beautiful Boynton Beach, FL. Most of these homes are situated along the El Clair Ranch Road corridor. Please feel free to contact us if you have additional questions.

WYNDSONG ESTATES & WYNDSONG ISLE ESTATES

102 single-family estate homes with 3 – 6+ bedrooms. Many of these homes feature deluxe kosher kitchens with separate food preparation areas, granite counters, 2 sinks, 2 dishwashers, double wall ovens and natural gas cook-tops. Tremendous values still exist, as some of these homes are selling in the mid-\$300K's and beginning to edge up in price.

Both neighborhoods feature community pools and paths for strolling, bike-riding, etc., throughout the community along a serene lakefront setting.

INDIAN WELLS

Indian Wells is located around the corner from Anshei Chesed off of El Clair Ranch Road between Woolbright Road and Boynton Beach Boulevard and is comprised of 3-5 bedroom single family homes that were built in the 1980's through early 2000's. There is a mix of ranch style as well as two-story homes on a variety of lot sizes. Some of these homes are absolute steals in the mid \$100K's!

Other communities such as Coronado Estates, Madison Lakes and Sun Valley are a bit further from the shul, but offer a variety of housing options.

