Prospective Membership Packet

2023-2024

We are Building a House of Friends, One Family at a Time,
By Creating a Welcoming Jewish Home for a Diverse Community.
21740 Beaumeade Circle, Suite 100 Ashburn, VA 20147 • 703-729-1659
• www.bethchaverim.org • www.facebook.com/bethchaverim
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Dear Prospective Member:

Welcome and thank you for your interest in membership at Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation! Beth Chaverim means “House of Friends” in Hebrew, and friends are what we hope you will make at our synagogue. We are a welcoming community, connecting with one another and with centuries of Jewish tradition. We aim to fill our gatherings with energy, warmth and spiritual meaning. We celebrate our diversity – we are young families, singles, teens, and empty nesters. Many members are interfaith families. We are more than a congregation – we’re a family, a community, and a Jewish home for you and your family.

Come meet our rabbi, Rabbi Amy Sapowith, and join us on your Jewish journey! For more information about us, our Board, activities around the synagogue, our religious school, worship services and more, please visit our website, www.bcrcva.org, give us a call and schedule a visit to see us in person!

In anticipation of your becoming a member, we’ve enclosed the forms you’ll need:

- Membership Form
- Religious School Registration (one completed form per child)
- Financial Commitment Pledge Form

Please complete and return these forms to us at the address below, Attention: Membership VP. Or you may apply for membership online at http://www.bcrcva.org/membership-form.html.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me at membershipvp@bcrcva.org. To reach our office manager, Taylor Medoff, please email office@bcrcva.org or call us at 703-729-1659.

We look forward to you joining our House of Friends!

Suzanne Elbeze, VP Membership
Dear Prospective Member:

Come and make yourself at home! As Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation’s rabbi, my priority is to help you to feel at home here at BCRC. I say this intending it to apply as much to the physical space that we share on Beaumeade Circle in Ashburn as to your individual and family practice of Judaism.

BCRC is affiliated with the Reform Movement. Reform Judaism today and BCRC as a Reform congregation continue to reflect the highest values of traditional Jewish and modern Western culture. Albert Einstein captures the essence of our modern spirit in his quote cited above. Learning, justice and independence, all in the service of the Oneness we call Adonai and with the goal of lasting peace, are our highest values. We are the heirs of Abraham and Sarah who, approximately 3,800 years ago, heard a divine call to found a people and a faith based on the insight of one God who endows the cosmos with Meaning. We continue to listen for that divine voice as it speaks to us through Torah and through the truths of our own lives.

At BCRC, we are young families, singles, teens, and empty nesters, LGBTQ+ and straight, multiracial, adopted and not, single-parent families and two parent working households. Many members are interfaith families. Each of us defines our own Jewish journey that we explore through a variety of Shabbat and holiday services, other holiday and life cycle rituals, religious school and adult education classes, a vibrant young families program, cultural and social gatherings. As a religious community and culture, we are fully egalitarian. Men and women, girls and boys share equally in the participation and leadership of all aspects of our worship practices and educational and cultural programming.

Our members are committed, friendly, caring and busy. And on top of all the many options and opportunities they are each presented with every day, they have decided that living their Judaism as part of a Jewish community is a priority. BCRC is their spiritual and Jewish home, and I hope that you too will feel at home here. I commit to doing my best to help guide you toward this end. Bruchim ha’baim. Welcome!

Rabbi Amy Sapowith
About Us

Beth Chaverim was established in 1997 by five families eager to create a Reform Jewish home in Loudoun County. Our membership has grown, and today we have approximately 115 family members representing all different stages of life. Our religious school programs currently educate roughly 60 children per year and approximately 50% of our b’nai mitzvah students continue on to Chaverim Chai, our 8th-10th grade class.

Our members enjoy a variety of programs, including social, spiritual, educational, and religious activities, led by the combined efforts of our rabbi, Amy Sapowith, and our very dedicated lay leaders and volunteers.

Your membership includes attendance to our High Holiday services, ability to enroll your children in our religious school, weekly e-mail updates, pastoral counseling, adult education, and the ability to participate in all congregational activities at no charge or the member rate, as appropriate.

We offer a range of opportunities for our members to come together as a community. Our gatherings include traditional favorites and many innovative programs. We offer programs that include our families as well as adult members, and we always have room for new ideas and new volunteers.

Services, Events, and Opportunities to Participate include:

- **Worship Services**: such as High Holiday Services, weekly Erev Shabbat Services, Tot Shabbat Services, Shabbat Morning/B’nai Mitzvah Services, Jammin’ Shabbat, Yizkor prayers;
- **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program**;
- **Sunday Religious School** for children from preschool through high school;
- **Adult Education**;
- **Spiritual Leadership** provided by our rabbinical leader and cantorial soloists who lead the congregation in ritual, prayer and song;
- **Youth Activities** such as Young Families Chavurah, grade-level programing, and Chaverim-Chai;
- **Special interest groups** such as Meditation Chavurah;
- **Holiday Celebrations**: Sukkot at the Rabbi’s and Sonja’s farm, Simchat Torah, Community-wide Chanukah Party, Tu B’Shevat Oneg, Musical Purim Shpiel, Community Passover Seder and others;
- **Social Events and Fundraisers**: such as the Annual Picnic, potluck dinners, sports outings, apple-picking, musical performances, Purim Carnival, etc.

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Beth Chaverim is dedicated to providing you with a spiritual home in which you and your family may worship, learn, and grow as you participate in Reform Jewish practices and observances. All worship services are open to all congregants and non-congregants from the community who would like to participate in a Reform Jewish service.

Rabbi Amy Sapowith is devoted to helping congregants become both spiritually connected to and better educated about Reform Judaism and post-denominational Judaism, and to bringing our community closer together in worship, study, and practices of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). We are fortunate to enjoy the musical talents of several of our own members – our team of Beth Chaverim singers, musical accompanists, and cantorial soloists bring a particularly joyful spirit to our worship services. We hope you will join our community to study Torah, to pray with sincerity, and to do acts of loving kindness both within and outside of our walls.

Tot Shabbat Services: Friday night short services (about 30 minutes) geared to introduce ages 3-8 to the prayers, songs, and traditions of Shabbat. Led by our Rabbi and one of our cantorial soloists, this service includes occasional participation by a religious school class (K – 2nd grades).

Erev Shabbat Services: This Friday night Shabbat service is appropriate for all ages. Religious school upper grades (3rd – 7th grades) sometimes participate in these services on a scheduled basis.

Morning Shabbat Service: This Saturday morning service is usually led by our Rabbi and often includes Bar/Bat Mitzvahs or other life-cycle events and a Torah reading.

High Holiday Services: We have a full complement of High Holiday observances, including Selichot service, family service, meditation and a shofar choir.

The Worship Vice President welcomes your questions or comments at worshipvp@bcrcva.org.

Oneg Shabbat and Ushering: About twice a year, each Beth Chaverim member serves as a “Helper Family” at Shabbat services or Ushers at our bar and bat mitzvah services. We need and greatly appreciate your help. Families bring food or drinks for the Oneg Shabbat (reception), greet guests, and help set up and clean up.
Religious School

The Beth Chaverim Religious School strives to create a learning environment that promotes a positive Jewish identity for students in pre-kindergarten through high school. Our Judaic Studies program is a comprehensive introduction to a lifetime of Jewish learning. We study the Torah and Bible, our Jewish identity, Israel, Jewish Holidays, the synagogue, God, life cycle, and Jewish ethics. Students are challenged to understand and apply Jewish concepts in their lives and in their community. Our Hebrew Studies program is designed to develop students’ abilities to read Hebrew and supports them in their understanding of the Torah in preparation for becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, and afterward a Confirmand. We have entered a partnership with the The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL), which supplies us with a spiral curriculum in ten key content areas: Community, Culture and Symbols, God, Hebrew and Prayer, Israel, Jewish History, Jewish Holidays, Jewish Lifecycle Events, Mitzvot and Jewish Values, and TaNaKh (Torah, Prophets, and Writings). For more information, please visit http://www.isjl.org/curriculum-highlights.html. We also feature a music curriculum designed to teach the students the melodies and prayers heard in worship services. All of our classes meet on Sundays.

We strive to treat each student as an individual to guarantee the best education for his or her needs. Our religious school promotes creative, dynamic, and interactive classroom lessons to keep our young students involved and focused. Textbooks, guest speakers and special program days also support classroom study. It is our hope that parents will continue to join us as educational partners in the lives of our children. Our teachers are temple members who volunteer to teach our children. Parents are encouraged to become room parents, sit in on their child’s classes, volunteer for the religious school in any number of ways, and take adult education classes.

Bar & Bat Mitzvah Program

Beth Chaverim offers a comprehensive B’nai Mitzvah program, which focuses on guiding our children toward becoming responsible members of the synagogue and Jewish community. Our approach is interactive and includes programs throughout the school year with B’nai Mitzvah students and their families. In the months leading up to Bar/Bat Mitzvah, a BCRC tutor works with each child weekly in preparation for this important ceremony. Students also work with Rabbi Amy Sapowith to prepare their Divrei Torah, review the prayers, and report on their mitzvah projects. Children must be enrolled in Beth Chaverim’s religious school for three (3) consecutive years prior to bar or bat mitzvah, unless a special exemption is granted.
Adult Education

Rabbi Amy Sapowith and talented congregants lead dynamic adult education classes. Beth Chaverim offers an evolving and expanding Adult Education Program, which may include Adult Hebrew, basic Judaism, and Torah Study, as well as Interfaith Discussion Groups and other courses initiated in response to congregant interests.

We welcome any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding education (educationvp@bcrcva.org).

Religious School Fees

Religious school fees are separate from synagogue support. For your child(ren) to participate in Religious School, you must be a member in good standing of the synagogue.

Hebrew and Religious School Tuition – Programs Available with Basic Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten (9-11 am)</td>
<td>$293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st – 3rd Grades (9-11 am)</td>
<td>$586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th – 7th Grades (9-12 pm)</td>
<td>$796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaverim-Chai (8th-10th Grade) (11-1 pm)</td>
<td>$586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Confirmation (11th &amp; 12th Grade)**</td>
<td>N/C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Chaverim-Chai is a combined Chai School discussion and Youth Group experience. While the majority of classes revolve around Jewish discussion, there are approximately 5 sessions per year where the students have the opportunity for Youth Group experience both inside and outside of the temple.

**Madrichim (Student Helpers) Program
Social Activities at BCRC

Youth and Social Programs

Participation in BCRC’s grade-level youth programs helps foster friendships and a stronger Jewish identity among our youth. Youth activities include: our Young Families Chavurah, grade level outings and movie nights, Chaverim-Chai, field trips and community service projects, and various Religious School programing.

Adult Social Programs

Our programming is constantly evolving and has included:

- Book clubs
- Sukkah building and decoration
- Hamantaschen baking
- Preparation and planning for various parties and events
- Theater outings
- Movie nights
- Purim party and shpiel
- Sisterhood and Brotherhood events
- Concert outings
- Shabbat in the ‘hood
- Visiting scholars
- Meditation Chavurah
- Joint interfaith events including the Community Table of Loudoun and joint educational programming with our neighboring congregations ADAMS and Christian Fellowship Church.
- Food drives
- Mitzvah Day
- Art auction
- Game night
- Paint and sip nights

To join the Young Families Facebook Page, please reach out to membershipvp@bcrcva.org
To accomplish our mission, Beth Chaverim must have the support of each of our members. If we all had similar incomes, similar demands on our resources, and similar plans for the future, everything would be simple; however, the reality is more complex. Some of us have more time than money, and some others have more money than time, while others have lots of both, or even neither. Thus, we have developed the Membership Plan presented in the tables below, remembering that making BCRC temple membership a priority helps to ensure that there will be a liberal Jewish voice in Loudoun County.

Even with this Plan, we recognize that some people may not be able to afford the Basic Membership Levels; other people may be able to afford more. To strike a balance, the process relies on each of us to honestly assess our financial situations. Such an assessment, along with generous giving of volunteer hours and prompt payment of pledges, will help build a healthy congregation and a strong Jewish community in which all who desire to can participate.

**Membership Levels**

Membership includes High Holiday attendance, access to Member Directory, email communications, mailings, voting rights & responsibilities, Adult Education, and (in some categories) eligibility to participate in Religious School and Bar/Bat Mitzvah training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Annual Commitment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dual-Parent Family</strong> – Open to families with two adult spouses or partners, with all membership privileges. Includes dependent children through age 25.</td>
<td>$2656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Family</strong> – Open to families (single or dual parent) whose oldest child is under 1st grade, with all membership privileges.</td>
<td>½ rate of applicable category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adult</strong> - Single individuals between 18 and 24</td>
<td>$974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Couple</strong> – Open to adult couples without children, with all membership privileges except eligibility for religious school enrollment.</td>
<td>$2502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Single-Parent</strong> – Open to families with a single parent, with all membership privileges.</td>
<td>$2197</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Individual</strong></td>
<td>Open to adult individuals without partners/spouses or children, with all membership privileges except religious school enrollment.</td>
<td>$2120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Senior</strong></td>
<td>Open to singles and couples with at least one person over 70 years old, with all membership privileges except religious school enrollment.</td>
<td>$1319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Affiliated</strong></td>
<td>Open to members in good standing at another URJ synagogue. No voting or religious school enrollment privileges. (Please provide a letter from your primary congregation now and with annual renewal).</td>
<td>$1246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Day Care</strong></td>
<td>Families with a child enrolled at the onsite day care at Beth Chaverim. No High Holiday attendance, voting or religious school enrollment privileges.</td>
<td>Included with day-care tuition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Special Senior Membership Categories**

We have added two special membership categories applicable to some seniors:

**Senior add-on for Senior family members currently living with members.** Dues set at 1/4 regular senior dues per person. Dues will be added to the family’s bill rather than as a separate bill for the Senior(s).

**Senior add-on for senior family members not currently living with members but still living within the community.** Dues set at 1/2 regular senior dues per person. Dues may be added to the family’s bill or billed as a separate bill for the Senior(s).

**Building Fund**

Just as you need to maintain a home, Beth Chaverim needs to maintain our building! For this purpose, a Building Fund has been created. It helps fund all major maintenance, repairs, and expansion efforts. This fee, currently $7,500 payable over ten years
($62.50/mo.), is required of all Dual Parent, Single Parent, Couple, Individual and Senior membership categories. The fee for Young Families is deferred.\(^1\)

**Donations**

*Membership and Building Fund represent only a portion of what is required to cover our operations!* Please consider the three scenarios listed below to determine how you can help ensure the future of our congregation.

FOR CONGREGANTS WHO CAN AFFORD TO PAY MORE, the Board offers sincere appreciation for your help in balancing the financial scales so that any Jew, regardless of income, has the opportunity to join our congregation. We rely on your generosity to help keep our doors open, and we apply your donations to our annual pledge drive. Beth Chaverim is especially grateful to our donors. For those who would prefer to donate anonymously, please designate this on your pledge.

FOR CONGREGANTS PAYING MEMBERSHIP ONLY, you can choose to pay annually, quarterly, semi-annually or monthly. We also hope you will consider making other donations throughout the year to honor special occasions or remember a loved one, and we thank you in advance for your support.

FOR CONGREGANTS WHO NEED ASSISTANCE TO PAY MEMBERSHIP COSTS, please complete the Membership forms and add a note requesting a phone contact from our Dues Assistance Committee. We consider all family special needs on a case by case basis and will not make any charges before contacting you.

Members who fall behind on their membership support payments should contact the Finance Vice President and President. They will try to accommodate any member who has genuine difficulty making these payments. Members must be in “good-standing” to attend High Holy Day services without further charge, register for Religious School, receive B’nai Mitzvah training, or have performed life cycle events such as *brit milah* and weddings.

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\(^1\) In accordance with URJ policy, Beth Chaverim grants credit to new members based upon any capital fund payments fulfilled at a prior URJ congregation during the immediately preceding three (3) years. Additionally, Seniors who have previously fully paid into a building fund at another congregation may have building fund waived.
# Family Information

**Adult 1:**
- **Circle one:** Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. Dr. Hon.
- Last Name ______________________
- First Name ______________________
- Middle Name ______________________
- Date of Birth ___/___/____
- Circle One: Jewish  Not Jewish

**Adult 2:**
- **Circle one:** Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. Dr. Hon.
- Last Name ______________________
- First Name ______________________
- Middle Name ______________________
- Date of Birth ___/___/____
- Circle One: Jewish  Not Jewish

**Home Address** ____________________________________________________  **Apt # _____**

City __________________________ State _____ Zip ______  **Home Phone ______________**

Email __________________________  **Email __________________________**

Cell: __________________________  **Cell: __________________________**

Single _____Married/Civil Union _____  Widowed _____  Divorced _____

**Date of Marriage/Civil Union:** ___/___/____

In Case of Emergency, please notify: ______________________  **Phone: ______________**

Please fill in the following as it applies to each of your child(ren)

**Child One:**  Name _______________  **Nickname _______________**  Male ___ Female ___

**Date of Birth ___/___/____  **Grade in secular school (‘15-‘16) _____

Attending College? ____  Where? ________________________________

Marital Status ______________________  **Date of Marriage ___/___/____

Child’s Spouse ______________________  Spouse’s Date of Birth ___/___/____

Address (if different)

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Child Two: Name _______________ Nickname ____________ Male ___ Female ___
Date of Birth ___/___/___ Grade in secular school (‘15-‘16) _____
Attending College? ___ Where? ____________________________
Marital Status __________________________ Date of Marriage ___/___/___
Child’s Spouse _______________________ Spouse’s Date of Birth ___/___/___
Address (if different) ____________________________________________

Child Three: Name _______________ Nickname ____________ Male ___ Female ___
Date of Birth ___/___/___ Grade in secular school (‘15-‘16) _____
Attending College? ___ Where? ____________________________
Marital Status __________________________ Date of Marriage ___/___/___
Child’s Spouse _______________________ Spouse’s Date of Birth ___/___/___
Address (if different) ____________________________________________

Child Four: Name _______________ Nickname ____________ Male ___ Female ___
Date of Birth ___/___/___ Grade in secular school (‘15-‘16) _____
Attending College? ___ Where? ____________________________
Marital Status __________________________ Date of Marriage ___/___/___
Child’s Spouse _______________________ Spouse’s Date of Birth ___/___/___
Address (if different) ____________________________________________

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Your Grandchildren: [list name(s), address and date of birth]

_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

**Special Interest(s)/Skill(s) (Please put initials of interested family member):**

- Advertising/PR
- Early Childhood
- Gardening
- Photography
- Website/Bulletin
- Caring Committee
- Finance
- Membership
- Special Events/Social
- Worship
- Building Operations
- Fundraising
- Music
- Teaching/Education
- Youth Activities

**Yahrzeit Dates**

Please include Julian date of death, including time of death, if known, and your loved one will be remembered at a Shabbat Service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date/Time of Death (include year)</th>
<th>Relationship to Member</th>
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**Do you know anyone we should contact about membership?**

Name(s) ___________________________ Phone ______________________
Address ___________________________ Email ______________________

**May We Include You in Our Online Membership Directory?**

Yes, please include us ____ No, please keep our information private ____
**Former Synagogues**

I/we understand that the Union for Reform Judaism requires that all applicants for membership be in good standing with their previous congregations. Accordingly, by signing and submitting this application to Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation, I/we state that I/we do not have any outstanding financial commitments to any other congregation, having formally resigned in good standing.

**Category of Membership Requested**

**Membership:**
- _____ Family – married couple (including interfaith spouse) with dependent children
- _____ Young Family – married couple (including interfaith spouse) or single parent with children, the eldest of whom is in kindergarten or younger.
- _____ Couple – married couple (including interfaith spouse) with no dependent children
- _____ Single Parent – separated or divorced parent with child(ren)
- _____ Individual – unmarried person with no dependent children
- _____ Senior – any single person or couple age 70+

Other Categories:
- _____ Affiliated – any members in good standing at another synagogue. (Please provide a letter from your primary congregation now and with annual renewal)
- _____ Honorary – single members age 18 - 24

______________________________
Signature

______________________________
Date

- Please complete next page -
Annual Financial Commitment to Beth Chaverim

I pledge:

Annual Dues: __________________________

Tuition: __________________________

Building Fund: ________________

Additional Contribution: ________________

Total: ________________________________

_____ I am unable to pay the requested financial commitment. Please contact me about dues assistance.

Note: You will be billed through our membership management system, Shulcloud. You may choose to enter secure credit card information on that system.
Please submit one form for each student.

Student’s Name ________________________________
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Student’s Birth Date: ________________ Student is (circle): Male Female

Student’s Hebrew Name______________________________

Religious School Grade Fall 2015/Spring 2016 ______ (Please note tuition costs above).

Name of Secular Public/Private School (Fall 2015/Spring 2016): ____________________________

Has this student previously been enrolled in any Jewish religious school (circle): Yes No

If yes, list temple(s)/ & grade(s) completed, including BCRC:
________________________________________________________________________

CONTACT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY):

Student Home Address: ________________________________

City: ____________________ State: _______________ Zip Code: ______________

Home Phone Number: (____) ____________ Cell: (____) ______________________

Email Address: ________________________________

Name of Parent/Guardian 1: ________________________________

Home Address: ________________________________

City: ____________________ State: _______________ Zip Code: ______________

Phone Numbers: Daytime: (____) ____________ Evening: (____) __________________

Cell: (____) __________________
Name of Parent/Guardian 2: ____________________________________________

Home Address: _______________________________________________________

City: _______________ State: _______________ Zip Code: _______________

Phone Numbers: Daytime: (___) ___________ Evening: (___) ____________

Cell: (___) ____________

If parents live at separate locations, please check if you would like school correspondence to be sent to both parents ______
If not, which parent should receive the information? ____________

Emergency Contacts:

Please list two individuals (other than listed above) we can contact if needed:

Name: ___________________ Phone: ______________ Relationship: ____________

Name: ___________________ Phone: ______________ Relationship: ____________

In case of accident or serious illness, the school will attempt to contact me. If the school is unable to reach me, I hereby authorize the school to transport my child to receive appropriate medical treatment. It is understood that this permission is effective as long as the child is enrolled in school.

Parent’s/Guardian’s Signature: _________________________ Date: _____________

You may use my child’s photo in BCRC media and promotional materials (circle): Yes  No

List any other adults authorized to drive child home (For your child’s safety, BCRC must have a dated note signed by a custodial parent/guardian authorizing us to let your child to leave with someone not listed on this form):

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Please tell us about your child:

(You may attach another page if more space is needed.)

1. If your child has any special needs, including but not limited to educational or health issues, please list below. If your child has an individual education plan (IEP) because of special needs please attach it to this registration form.

_________________________________________________________________________

2. Does your child have any food allergies? Please list.

_________________________________________________________________________

Please check if you are willing to:

_____ Be contacted if we need a substitute teacher?
_____ Be a room parent?
_____ Receive emails from Education Committee? (email address: _________________________________)

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