



# CONGREGATION BETH EL

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## CHACHAM YOSEF CHAIM OF BAGHDAD, THE BEN ISH CHAI

**Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:30 PM**

**Lecturer: Justin C. Beck**



*Who was this great Torah scholar, kabbalist, story teller, prolific author, and teacher?*

*Why did thousands flock to hear his weekly Shabbat sermons? How does his life and life's work impact us today? This lecture will illuminate his contributions and provide some of his relevant teachings.*

Chacham Yosef Chaim (1832-1909), known as the Ben Ish Chai, was a highly-revered Torah scholar and master of Kabbalah. Based in Baghdad, Iraq, he was recognized by the Sephardic community both locally and abroad as an eminent Halachic authority and subsequently revered in Ashkenazi and mainstream yeshivot curriculum around the world.

Despite his passing over 100 years ago, his legacy is very much alive in the hearts of those who continue to live by his seminal work, the Ben Ish Chai. Many of his disciples became great Jewish scholars who continued to disperse his teachings.

The extensive work of Chacham Yosef Chaim encompasses all aspects of Judaism: Torah law, Kabbalah, Q&A's, sermons, parables, proverbs, and prayers, liturgics and poetry for Shabbat and holidays. His work reflects simultaneously broad knowledge of the sciences, medicine, astronomy, physics and economics. His approach to Torah, though stringent, is imbued with love for its practice, and his followers, whose numbers continue to grow even today, revere his commitment to Torah law and the inspiration he brought to it. He personally funded the publishing of his books, refusing sponsorship or charity, and any income from these books would be distributed to the poor.

Many schools, particularly in Israel, have been built in his name. Thousands continue to glean from the wisdom of Chacham Yosef Chaim, studying his books, but more importantly, living by them.

**1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield  
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**This program is free and open to the community.  
Light refreshments will be served.**

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