



THE JEWISH CONGREGATION OF NEW PALTZ KEHILLAT AHAVAT ACHIM

קהילת אהבת אחים

Rabbi Job Description

We seek a part-time rabbi at this time, who we hope will help grow the congregation, and ultimately grow their role into a full-time position.

A Rabbi serves the religious, spiritual, educational, and emotional needs of his or her congregation (and the larger community where appropriate) with inspirational leadership. The Rabbi is instrumental in shaping and modeling the congregation's religious and spiritual values for congregants and for the greater New Paltz community.

Below are the **key functional responsibilities** of this role:

Religious services:

Primary responsibility for the organization, content and structure of services with input and assistance from our Ritual Committee.

Lead Services, handle logistics and prepare and deliver teachings or sermons as a part of the Service as warranted. Bring forth new materials for services, e.g. music, stories, commentaries.

In conjunction with our choir, lead the congregation's ongoing and engaged exploration of religious and spiritual musical expression, and foster a high standard of music in our services and activities.

Lead Torah study class for all interested congregants immediately following regularly scheduled Shabbat morning services.

B'nai Mitzvah program/Post B'nai Mitzvah:

Provide general oversight of the B'nai Mitzvah program. Participate in religious school activities: offer support, counseling, classroom lessons, and study for b'nai mitzvah students and adults; actively engage with students and families.

Teach classes for B'nai Mitzvah and Vav students and for Post B'nai Mitzvah students. Meet with the B'nai Mitzvah students beginning six (6) months prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and address any questions or concerns of the parents.

Provide guidance in creating a youth group and connecting our younger membership to other Jewish networks/camps/experiences.

Education and scholarship:

Educate members and community on history, culture, custom, Torah, Israel, religion, spirituality, and other aspects of Jewish life.

Lead the weekly Torah study group. Provide leadership by bringing an array of relevant and engaging programs into the congregation for adults, teens and children, and community.

Participate in the selection of occasional guest speakers. Help the synagogue become an integral part of the Jewish education of children as they progress from pre-school toward bar/bat mitzvah and beyond.

Care of the sick/ those in need:

In coordination with the Caring Committee, make hospital visits and Shiva calls to congregants within the local region as needed. Call or visit congregants who are ill at home and/or speak with congregants by telephone if they are not in the local region.

Pastoral support/Life cycle ceremonies:

Support congregants who wish to observe life passages with Jewish guidance and traditions. Provide religious and emotional support and offer counseling in life crisis situations.

Officiate at weddings, funerals, b'nai mitzvahs, shivas and other life cycle events such as a bris or baby naming ceremony; there is no Rabbinical fee for officiating for members of the congregation.

Community Building/Tikkun Olam:

Be the 'face of the congregation' and foster a sense of community both within the congregation and in the broader community. Engage/reach out to unaffiliated Jews in the area and actively support attracting new members to the congregation.

Be the congregation's representative to local Interfaith groups and be a recognizable face in the New Paltz community. Serve as a representative and/or advocate of the congregation to the larger community on other occasions as they arise.

Participate in congregational events and those of the community and other Jewish organizations; write and publish articles for the congregation (and the broader community where appropriate); encourage inter-Judaic and inter-faith respect and understanding for Judaism; encourage support and understanding for the needs of vulnerable Jews in other lands.

Events:

Take a lead role in partnering with the Executive Committee and various committee chairs to develop and execute a comprehensive annual calendar of events designed to appeal to current and prospective members and the larger community.

Fundraising:

Participate in fundraising activities to aid the Synagogue in consultation and collaboration with the Fundraising Committee, Executive Committee and/or Board of Trustees.

Professional development:

Attend workshops, classes, and training for professional development. Serve as the lead for addressing questions of a practical, spiritual, cultural and/or social nature that may arise from congregants or the larger community.

Synagogue development/management:

In the spirit of growing our Synagogue, meet with prospective members and ensure they are warmly welcomed into the community; encourage members to play an active role.

Actively participate in Board of Trustee meetings and keep the board apprised of activities, ideas and concerns.

Administration:

In this Part-time role, the Rabbi's duties occupy four workdays each week, with the exception of emergency situations which must be addressed as they occur.

The Rabbi posts consistent weekly hours, held on two days each week at the Synagogue/Community Center, during which he/she may be reached in person or by telephone. This time is to be used to meet with congregants or for outreach to congregants.

There are eight Shabbats during the year when the Rabbi has no duties; these are not normally taken consecutively. During these times the Rabbi should ensure there is coverage for services with as much advance notice as possible.

The Rabbi attends Board meetings regularly and Executive Committee meetings by invitation. In addition, the Rabbi is an advisory member of the education and ritual committees and such other committees as seem appropriate and attends these committee meetings regularly.

The congregation recognizes that the Rabbi has responsibilities to the Reconstructionist movement, including the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the Jewish Federation of Ulster County and helps to make it possible for the Rabbi to serve these larger organizations.

Job Requirements:

- Rabbinical Ordination; post-graduate training desirable. (Reconstructionist ordination preferred, but not mandatory)
- Three years of direct congregational experience in a leadership capacity is strongly desired.

You are:

- Engaging, dynamic and committed to growing our congregation and seeing it flourish.
- Non-judgmental and accepting, demonstrating a deep commitment to providing a welcoming, inclusive, spiritual, and diverse environment for our Jewish community.
- Learned in areas of Jewish religion, Torah, history, literature, culture, and spirituality, including reading, writing, Hebrew, and able to transmit significant knowledge of Torah to adults and children of all ages and levels of knowledge.
- An outstanding communicator, able to easily communicate effectively verbally and in writing, as well as create and deliver sermons and teachings in a concise, passionate, meaningful, and relevant way.
- Possessing excellent leadership skills and a friendly, approachable manner; able to relate easily to others.
- Experienced working with children, creating youth groups and connecting with younger members
- Able to connect to issues outside our congregation: applying our Jewish practice to world events.
- Computer literate, proficient with word processing, internet, email and Zoom.
- Able to demonstrate strong commitment to the state of Israel.
- Conversational Hebrew is a plus.

Salary and Benefits:

- \$50,000 base salary for the part time position
- Pension contribution: 4% of salary
- FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Tax) is covered or reimbursed
- Major Medical Insurance with hospitalization
- Income – Disability Insurance
- Vacation: 3 weeks (for the part-time role)
- Convention Allowance/Continuing Education/ Professional Dues
- Housing is **not** provided by the congregation.
- **Total value of benefits for the rabbi: Approximately \$60,000.00 for the part time role**