



SUKKAT SHALOM REFORM SYNAGOGUE



WHO WE ARE?

As our name Sukkat Shalom suggests, we would like to be a friendly and inclusive shelter of peace for the local Jewish community. We aim to:

1. Bring people together to build lifelong relationships
2. Provide care and support for our members
3. Meet the spiritual, intellectual and mental needs of our membership
4. Play an active role in supporting the vulnerable in our community
5. Educate, listen and foster an environment of respect for other faiths and opinions

We are based in Wanstead London E11 with over 450 adult members and around 100 children of all ages up to 21 years old. Our membership comes from most of the local boroughs, some from other counties in the south of England and from as far afield as Leeds and Australia. Our current rabbi is Larry Becker, who works part time.

We have a service every Shabbat morning and once a month we have an Erev Shabbat service which is followed by a chavurah meal. The services are taken by lay readers as well as the Rabbi. We also have services on festivals, some of which (as well as other events), are held jointly with other local synagogues and /or with our twinned community in Juneau Alaska.

We seek to increase community involvement by providing greater opportunities for members to participate in adult education, interfaith work and secular activities such as a book club and a bridge club. A partnership has been set up with Leo Baeck College to host their Lehrhaus programme in the local area and, as well as our Rabbi and guest Rabbis leading classes, we have encouraged our own members to deliver classes on topics such as sustainability, Yiddish songs and challah making. We have in our membership a number of proselytes and people in mixed faith relationships and courses in Judaism and Hebrew are provided for them. Our cheder meets regularly on Sunday mornings and is run by a headteacher, Bryony Bathie. We also have members of the community who provide bnei mitzvah tuition. As we have a Jewish primary and secondary school in the area, one of the challenges we are facing is

how we can attract parents and their children to our synagogue by providing more than a formal Jewish education and services.

We also take an active part in local Jewish communal organisations such as Essex Jewish Community Council and Eastern Counties Association of Masorti and Progressive Synagogues and interfaith groups such as the Redbrige Faith Forum.

A BIT OF HISTORY

The community was founded in 1981 with help from South West Essex Reform Synagogue (now SWESRS) and RSGB (now RJ) with a small number of members, some of whom are still involved in the synagogue today. Our beautiful synagogue was purchased in 1996 and was the chapel building and annex at the site of the old Wanstead Hospital (formerly the Merchant Seamans Orphans Asylum). It was built in 1861, is Grade II* listed and has now been renovated and restored to a very high standard. In 1996 we also purchased the entire contents of a synagogue, which was at that time inside an old people's home in Tottenham (including the timber, stained glass windows and some furniture) and with help from the Lottery Fund and English Heritage, it was installed into the building in Wanstead.

Over the years we have been lucky to have had many rabbis working with us both as students and rabbis - Rabbi Howard Cooper, Rabbi Alex Wright, Rabbi Michael Hilton, the late Rabbi Sheila Shulman(z"l), Rabbi Elizabeth Tikvah Sarah, Rabbi Lee Wax, Rabbi Jonathan Black and Rabbi David Hulbert.

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

Although we have grown considerably in recent years, we are keen to expand our community and look for new ways of engaging members. We have recently established both a young persons' committee and a strategy committee and we anticipate our next Rabbi playing a major part in this drive to engage with more members.

Since the beginning of the pandemic we have held our events on "zoom"; an additional area to look at is how and to what extent we will continue with "remote access" when life has returned to normal.

In 2021 we are celebrating our community's 40th birthday and the significant role it has played in so many people's lives over that period. We look forward to the huge part it will play in so many lives in the future with our new Rabbi!

**** Our appointment process will respect the privacy of the applicant at each stage**



January 2021

Our
40th Anniversary
Year

Job Description For Rabbi

.....
Sukkat Shalom

Reform

Synagogue

.....
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respect the privacy of the applicant
at each stage



Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue

Rabbi

Job description

1 Accountabilities

Accountable to: Chair of Board of Trustees

Liaison: Professional staff, lay leaders, volunteers, congregants, RJ, colleagues within the Assembly of Rabbis, other external agencies and organisations

2 Job Purpose

- 2.1 To be the spiritual leader of the community
- 2.2 To be an inspirational Educator
- 2.3 To provide pastoral guidance
- 2.4 To immerse himself/herself in the life of the community

3 Administrative support

- 3.1 The Rabbi will be expected to manage their own diary and some of their own administration.

Responsibilities

4 Spiritual Leader

Services

- 4.1 Lead most main synagogue services in conjunction with wardens, choir leader and lay readers. The Rabbi will have every opportunity to be creative in the areas of services and celebrations.
- 4.2 Arrange for participating lay readers to lead and participate in services on a regular basis to ensure maximum community involvement.
- 4.3 In liaison with the Senior Warden/the Religious Activities Committee Committee, consult with the Board on any proposed substantive changes to synagogues services.
- 4.4 Participate in and lead life cycle events such as child naming ceremonies, weddings, and Bar/Bat mitzvah
- 4.5 Dealing with funeral, stone setting and shiva services together with lay readers

Weddings

- 4.6 Oversee with the Administrator the necessary formalities in a timely manner prior to the ceremony, including Jewish status.
- 4.7 Meet with the couple in good time before the wedding and advise on commitments being undertaken, the ceremony etc...
- 4.8 To officiate at the wedding ceremony or arrange for an appropriate deputy.

4.9 Assist in obtaining gittin.

Funerals

4.10 Officiate at funerals, cremations and tombstone consecrations.

4.11 Respond positively to requests for Shiva services liaising with lay readers to help when necessary.

5 Educator

Youth & Education

5.1 Be an inspirational leader for all those at the religion school..

5.2 Participate creatively in the work of the Religion School resulting in interesting and fun lessons that provide a high-quality educational experience.

5.3 Ensure Bar/Batmizvah pupils are properly prepared and that the highest standards are reached, meeting initially with parents and pupils to discuss the meaning of the ceremony and their responsibilities.

5.4 Give guidance and advice on adult education; initiating programmes and participating whenever possible.

6 Proselytes

6.1 Interview prospective proselytes sympathetically.

6.2 Direct all new proselytes to the Administrator for Associate Membership

6.3 Teach as appropriate with a view to conversion in accordance with the procedures and standards of the Movement for Reform Judaism Beth Din.

6.4 Manage all appropriate documentation ensuring timely submission to the Beth Din ahead of the Court session.

6.5 Accompany proselytes to the Beth Din.

7 Counsellor

7.1 Provide pastoral support to members of the synagogue; in particular to comfort the dying and bereaved providing family support and guidance.

7.2 Ensure that an effective communication system is in place so timely visits and/or phone calls can be made to the sick and those in need of pastoral help.

7.3 Ensure the members are aware of core hours when the Rabbi is available to meet or speak with congregants.

7.4 Provide support and understanding to families and people with special needs

8 Community Partner

8.1 Proactively work with lay leaders to attract new members.

8.2 In liaison with the Fundraising Committee, support new and ongoing initiatives ensuring new/steady income streams.

8.3 In conjunction with lay leaders, work together in developing the community.

8.4 Attend community events e.g. quiz evenings and other social events; using the opportunity to develop excellent relationships with congregants.

8.5 In liaison with the line manager, participate in local community activities including interfaith work and school visits.

- 8.6 Attend Assembly of Rabbis Meetings and other RJ events.
- 8.7 Liaise with RJ to develop an excellent working relationship

9 Self Management

- 9.1 Proactively set up and manage new initiatives e.g. developing participation and engagement amongst students and young adults.
- 9.2 Proactively seek out opportunities for personal development and learning.
- 9.3 Attend Synagogue and Board Meetings.
- 9.4 Attend Religious Activities and when appropriate other synagogue committees.
- 9.5 Regularly meet with line manager to agree and review progress against mutually agreed objectives.
- 9.6 Be responsible for liaising with line manager in respect of personal performance, development and training needs.
- 9.7 Organise own time ensuring efficient and timely communication to congregants and lay leaders (i.e. email, phone calls, letters etc...)
- 9.8 Ensure the day is appropriately planned to minimise travel time.
- 9.9 To undertake other duties within the scope of the job, as directed from time to time.

10 Synagogue Media

- 10.1 Provide articles for the Synagogue newsletter.
- 10.2 Provide copy for the Synagogue website.
- 10.3 Assist with production of the Synagogue Calendar.

NB: The post holder will be expected to work flexibly including evenings and weekends



SUKKAT SHALOM REFORM SYNAGOGUE

A growing Reform community in East London

Friendly, welcoming and inclusive

**With rich religious, educational and social
programmes**

**Open minded and constantly looking at ways to
transform and evolve**

IS LOOKING FOR

A PART-TIME RABBI

TO BE OUR

Spiritual leader

Inspirational educator

Pastoral counsellor

Enthusiastic community builder

ARE YOU THIS PERSON?

Please apply with your CV to admin@sukkatshalom.me.uk

Applications to be received by 1st March 2021.

Our appointment process will respect the privacy of the applicant at each stage.