Senior Rabbi Position
at Temple Shalom

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Temple Shalom, a Reform synagogue in Chevy Chase, Maryland and member of the URJ, is seeking a Senior Rabbi who will lead our congregation, inspire us, teach us, grow with us, and help us grow. We are looking for a leader who will cherish the community that our founders nourished and who can simultaneously recognize, appreciate, and embrace the new and different ways that individuals today approach Judaism.

In keeping with the spirit of community service that draws many people to the Washington D.C. area, Temple Shalom brings together a diverse community of individuals with a longstanding commitment to learning, inclusion, kindness, and social action. Founded where Chevy Chase meets Silver Spring, Maryland (just outside Washington D.C.) in July 1959, our membership today is very intergenerational, with highly engaged members at all stages of life, and includes Jews by birth, Jews by choice, single, and LGBTQ members, interfaith and multi-racial families, and more. Our incoming rabbi will have the opportunity to play an integral role in guiding the next chapter of our story.

Temple Shalom is seeking a senior rabbi who is an inspirational leader and a partner; someone who is spiritual and intellectual, warm, empathetic, and engaging and brings:

- Love of Jewish ritual, prayer, culture, history, traditions, and teachings and the passion to share knowledge. That is, one with an intellectual gravitas, who is creative and thoughtful in exploring the meaning of Torah and our liturgy, and helps diverse congregants connect with the tradition and spirituality in meaningful ways.

- Compassion and inspiration as she/he guides us through all life cycle events -- from the beginning of life to its end. From namings and brit milah to b’nai mitzvah, from weddings to funerals and shiva minayns, and is comfortable with bikor cholim, visiting the sick.

- Demonstrated deep commitment to tikkun olam, who partners with Jewish and non-Jewish organizations and speaks out while representing Temple Shalom on social justice issues.

- Devotion to youth that will inspire and guide our children and young adults.
• Leadership and management skills to foster a strong and collaborative working relationship with our clergy, staff, and lay leadership.

• Genuine comfort in, experience with, and commitment to serving a diverse Jewish community.

Temple Shalom’s next senior rabbi has the opportunity to work with our warm and welcoming congregation and be a leader who:

• Engages in meaningful worship with our youngest members to our oldest, and recognizes that our members come from many different walks of life.

• Works collaboratively with lay leadership to develop a sustainable vision for Temple Shalom’s future and continued success.

• Adeptly leads and strengthens our senior staff.

• Engages our community by teaching, listening, and counseling, and provides pastoral care to our adults, youth, and children.

• Encourages discussion and constructive debate on a variety of topics of concern about Judaism, including our Sukkat Shalom effort to invite true dialogue about Israel.

• Welcomes and supports all members of our community however they come to Temple Shalom.

• Explores new and innovative ways to engage community members through technology, programs, and activities.

• Is a warm, “menschy” presence – the type of rabbi who makes a point to get to know congregants by name (not just Temple leaders), is approachable, and brings a sense of equanimity and inclusivity to their pulpit. That is, a rabbi who is naturally aligned with the culture and values that our congregation proudly embodies.

**Applying for the Position**

If you are interested in becoming the next Senior Rabbi at Temple Shalom, please submit your resume and supporting materials to the Director of Rabbinic Placement of the Joint Commission on Rabbinic Placement, a partnership of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Union for Reform Judaism, and the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion.
Temple Shalom - Overview

Temple Shalom is a congregation of approximately 375 member units. Our congregation includes some founders, many others who have been active members for 20, 30, or 40 years, and a new generation of members who are stepping into active roles with the Board of Trustees, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, and our vibrant seniors Renaissance Group. Our religious school is very popular with participants for its meaningful engagement of students with tradition and creativity, and our teachers include seasoned educators as well as energetic young adults and congregants.

We are entering the fifth year of our Gift of Membership program, which allows new members to “try us out” and receive the benefits of membership for their first year with no dues. This program has retained new members each of the past four years, and we expect the trend to continue going forward. We are also entering our third year of hosting a private childcare organization that operates a Jewish preschool in our facilities.

As we approach our 60th anniversary, we are deeply grateful to our past and present clergy, who have inspired and guided us to become the congregation that we are today. Yet, we are excited to begin our journey into the future as we seek to engage our next senior rabbi.

Worship

From High Holy Days and weekly Shabbat worship, to monthly Tot and Family Services, to frequent creative musical worship experiences, Temple Shalom offers individuals a vibrant Jewish community with meaningful and fulfilling experiences and tools to build their own foundation in Jewish values.

Our congregation offers a longstanding lay-led midweek minyan and a vibrant Shabbat morning service and Torah study that have grown into a deep and enriching experience of worship and exploration of Judaism. On many Saturday mornings, our B’nai Mitzvah students step confidently into their role as “teachers of Torah, leaders of prayer,” and lead the congregation in worship. This service reflects our pride in our students. And their commitment to continue their Jewish education represents, in turn, the best hope for the next generation of Jewish adults.

Our High Holy Days offer simultaneous worship and activities for adults and children to provide meaningful Days of Awe. Children are welcome at all services throughout the year because we believe that feeling wanted and welcome increases children’s sense of connection to our tradition and their feeling of comfort with Jewish identity. Our Sanctuary includes a quiet room where children can go with an adult if they need to move, play, talk, and roam while adults can still see and hear the service in the Sanctuary. You can find detailed information about worship at Temple Shalom here.
Learning and Engagement

The value of education and learning is strongly embedded in Jewish culture and with our members at Temple Shalom. Visitors to the Temple will find students ranging from infants to adults on most Sundays - engaging in our Kids’ Time class for infants and toddlers, our religious school programs from consecration through post-Confirmation (with many teens assisting in classrooms of younger children), and our myriad adult learning opportunities.

Temple Shalom’s religious school is centered on experiential learning because for many, Jewish learning is at its best and most engaging when it is about participation. Our active program includes:

- Religious School
- Hebrew School
- Adult Education
- Adult Hebrew
- Youth Programs
- Adult and Family programs
- NFTY-affiliated youth groups for grades 6 through 12, and Temple Shalom youth group programming for grades 2-5.

Students meet for Religious School classes primarily on Sundays, either in the morning or evening. In addition to their core curricula, our 3rd - 5th graders choose chugim (electives) each semester, allowing them to explore areas of their own interest in Jewish learning and culture, from cooking to book group to rikud (dancing).

Students in 3rd through 7th grades attend an additional day of Hebrew School once weekly, choosing classes on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. Students’ Hebrew education culminates in our B’nai Mitzvah program where students work with an adult Temple volunteer (a madrich or madricha) to study, understand, analyze and develop a presentation about their Torah and haftarah portions and with a Hebrew tutor to prepare them to lead the congregation in worship and deliver their Torah and haftarah portions.
Each B’nai Mitzvah student pledges to continue his or her Jewish education through 10th grade. Our congregation is proud of the number of students who continue their learning through Confirmation and beyond to post-Confirmation. Our religious school also offers engaging Kehillat Shalom Learning programs for adults at the same time as our student Sunday School classes.

We are proud that congregants from other area synagogues often remark on the dedication, professionalism, and skill of our religious and Hebrew school teachers. Detailed information about education and learning at Temple Shalom is found here.

Music

At Temple Shalom, music is central to the spirit of our worship, studies, and community. From religious school to adult learning, from Erev Shabbat services to Saturday minyanim, B’nai Mitzvah, and special musical guests and events, Jewish music brings us together to sing, pray, and celebrate as a community. Services frequently include the participation of our youth, teen, and adult choirs. Detailed information about music at Temple Shalom is here.

Beyond Our Walls

Temple Shalom is committed to the Jewish value of tikkun olam, “repairing the world.” The Temple’s Tikkun Olam Committee offers a variety of ways – small and large – to get involved with advocacy, justice work, and direct assistance. In past years, our community worked tirelessly towards the passage of the Maryland Marriage Equality Act and Dream Act.

A prominent social justice effort over the past year has been the sponsorship of a Muslim Syrian refugee family - a mother, father, and four children now ages six to 13. Our congregation furnished the family’s apartment, provided financial assistance, and helped the family navigate
their settlement in a new and very different country. In the process, our community has developed a close and rewarding relationship with our “adopted” family. In February 2017, the family’s children wrote and illustrated a book about these experiences. The story behind the book can be found here.

Our congregants have frequently commented on the symbolism of a Jewish congregation working with a Christian relief organization to aid a Muslim family and how this work reflects our congregation’s broader commitment to interfaith engagement to repair the world. Updates about Temple Shalom’s support for and work with this family are here and information on Temple Shalom’s broader social action work is here.

Additionally, many of our students also take their Judaism beyond our walls, participating in NFTY and other youth programs, attending Jewish summer camps, and participating in summer travel programs to Israel.

The Opportunity

Temple Shalom is a growing, vibrant, active congregation. We love our synagogue and want our community to find it a safe place for comfort, prayer, and exploration. We seek a dynamic rabbi to lead our community into our shared future. This is an exciting and unique opportunity for the right rabbi to partner with a menschlich, dedicated congregation in the greater Washington, DC area. Our region has some of the nation’s best public and private schools, a multitude of opportunities for cultural exploration, natural beauty, and active organizations engaged on local and national social justice issues.

If this holds appeal, we look forward to hearing from you!

Rabbi Search Committee

The Rabbi Search Committee is comprised of representative members of our diverse community. Information about the Committee can be found here. Questions may be sent to rabbisearch@templeshalom.net.