

Senior Rabbi Congregation Bnai Yeshurun

Congregation Bnai Yeshurun (CBY), in Teaneck, New Jersey, is the oldest and largest Orthodox shul in one of the country's leading Modern Orthodox communities. Located just six miles from New York City with all its business, cultural and educational opportunities, this Bergen County enclave is home to well over a dozen Orthodox shuls; a large, modern *mikvah*; a wide variety of elementary and high school *yeshivot*; kosher supermarkets and restaurants; *seforim* and Judaica stores and all the amenities that continue to attract young Orthodox families. Teaneck is a cohesive community where members of the various shuls and the rabbis get along well with one another.

With a membership of over five hundred families and with more than two hundred affiliate families, CBY hosts twelve daily *minyanim*, over a dozen weekly *shiurim*, frequent guest lectures and adult education events, active Sisterhood and Men's Club organizations, and multi-faceted teen and youth programs. From five am, when our *Daf Yomi* participants begin to arrive, to nearly midnight, when the last person leaves our beautiful *Beis Medrash*, CBY is a core community asset.

After serving as CBY's *Rav* for twenty-five years, Rabbi Steven Pruzansky and his family have decided to make *Aliyah*, necessitating this search for a new *מרא דאתרא*. Our new Senior *Rav* will be an experienced pulpit rabbi, ready to assume full authority and accountability for all aspects of our religious activity. He will guide our shul's Associate Rabbi and Assistant Rabbi (neither of whom will be applying for the Senior Rabbi role) to best serve our seven (near simultaneous) *Shabbat* morning *minyanim*, to provide pastoral care to an age-diverse membership, and to work with the shul's lay leadership to ensure the congregation's future growth and vigor.

Given the size of Bnai Yeshurun and the breadth of the rabbi's responsibilities, it is anticipated that the Senior Rabbi would essentially be a full time position.

While Bnai Yeshurun has the same goals and objectives as most other large American Modern Orthodox shuls, our membership has, over the past several months and in anticipation of this search for a new Senior Rabbi, sought to characterize our particular nuances and priorities. This will allow us to identify a Senior Rabbi whose personality, skills and experience can best serve our needs.

Perceived as the oldest and most established of the community's shuls, CBY must, nevertheless, continue to attract new, young residents to insure our long-term vitality. The successful candidate should demonstrate the style and substance to appeal to and attract young families to our shul.

Our membership wants a Senior Rabbi who is warm and approachable, willing to invest in developing a personal connection with each of us; someone with superior pastoral skills who will provide comfort in times of need and anguish and will enhance *smachot* in times of joy; someone who will personally interact with and serve as a role model for our children; and someone sensitive to the evolving roles of women in our society, who can ensure that they have a connection to and meaningful role in our *kehilla*.

Our congregants seek a *rav* who will inspire and move us religiously, serving as a catalyst for a more meaningful shul experience and a richer religious life. In his role as *posek* and as educator of a community where many members have an extensive Jewish education, the rabbi will be expected to have a deep and broad background in all aspects of Jewish learning.

Bnai Yeshurun's Senior Rabbi should be a strong leader, an executive with a participative management style. He should be a unifier who can use his diplomatic skills to influence and to create consensus.

The membership hopes that the spouse of the successful candidate will be an active participant and role model in achieving some of our shul's key objectives.