

## **POSITION DESCRIPTION**

### **B'nai Israel Jewish Center**

#### **Petaluma, CA**

Position: Rabbi  
Type: 30 hours/week  
Location: B'nai Israel Jewish Center, Petaluma, CA  
Independent (unaffiliated)

### **Job Summary**

B'nai Israel Jewish Center in Petaluma, CA is accepting applications for an ordained Jewish Spiritual Leader and Educator to serve as the Rabbi in our small independent, unaffiliated congregation of about 110 families of a widely diverse community.

### **Duties of the Position**

- \* Serve as pastoral counselor and officiant for life-cycle events including, weddings, funerals, conversions, visiting the sick in a safe and trusting environment.
- \* Develop Adult education programming including classes and guest lectures, Talmud and weekly Torah study.
- \* Plan, Lead and carry out engaging and meaningful services which include a balance of Hebrew and English, delivering drash, sermon and chanting/leyning while fostering congregational participation for weekly Shabbat Torah service (Siddur Eit Ratzon, Etz Hayyim Chumash) , holidays (Machzor Eit Ratzon) and festivals.
- \* Provide oversight to Gan Israel Preschool and BIJC Religious School to ensure qualified instruction and leadership, appropriate curriculum and a clear path to adult membership.
- \* Oversee the training and requirements of B'nai Mitzvah candidates for both youth and adults.
- \* Inspire learning and excitement about Jewish culture and traditions that will increase engagement for young adults and young families.
- \* Develop programs to increase and expand engagement and involvement in our younger constituency.
- \* Engage with the diverse demographics of our community including traditional observants, young people, experienced (older) people, interfaith couples, LGBTQ and more.
- \* Attend board and committee meetings in collaboration with the Board President.

### **Qualifications**

- \* Ordination from an accredited rabbinical seminary following completion of a multi-year program of rabbinic study. Soon-to-be ordained rabbis will be considered.
- \* The ability to inspire a spiritually vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming community.
- \* Strong working knowledge and proficiency in Hebrew, nusach and liturgy and the ability to leyn/chant from Torah
- \* Collaborates well with others including volunteers, staff and lay leaders

- \* Accepting of a spectrum of religious beliefs, practices, and observances
- \* Serve as a visible community leader and issue advocate
- \* Be welcoming to people of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances
- \* Other attributes can include pulpit experience, musical ability and fundraising experience

### **B'nai Israel**

B'nai Israel Jewish Center in Petaluma, CA, (pop. 56,000) is the oldest Jewish community center between San Francisco and Portland, Oregon. BIJC is an inclusive community for Jewish life, addressing the cultural, religious, spiritual, educational and social needs of all who wish to identify with the Jewish community of Petaluma and surrounding areas.

Congregation Society B'nai Israel was incorporated by the State of California in 1871. In August 1925, the current structure at 740 Western Avenue was dedicated as the Petaluma Jewish Community Center. Here Jews gathered to sing, dance, hear Yiddish plays, gathered in joy and sorrow.

Since the early 20th century, the Jews of Petaluma were recognized as far away as Israel for their chicken ranching and Zionist activities. Many settlers from the Pale of Settlement moved here to begin a life in agriculture, enjoying a vigorous Yiddish cultural life, maintaining intense political commitments, and taking part in sharp conflicts among themselves and with the society beyond. These exciting times are chronicled in Kenneth L. Kann's book *Comrades and Chicken Ranchers*.

Recognizing the diversity of the present Jewish community in Sonoma County and Northern Marin, the board of directors adopted the name B'nai Israel Jewish Center in January of 2006. This choice reflected the recognition that Jewish life is dynamic and that, as over the preceding years, B'nai Israel needed to be a place where all Jews could gather – for spiritual, social, cultural, and educational experiences. The newly adopted mission statement opened the doors of welcome to all who wish to identify with the Jewish community.

We have worked to maintain a community of *rodfei shalom* - people working together to pursue peace, to provide a place for Jews of all backgrounds, to serve not only our own immediate congregation, but also the larger community.

### **Petaluma, California**

Petaluma is the second largest city located in Sonoma County's Wine Country just 39 miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge. Centrally located on Highway 101 and the east/west artery Highway 116, Petaluma is an ideal headquarters for exploring Sonoma County's wineries, the dramatic Sonoma Coastline, Point Reyes National Seashore and California's redwoods and San Francisco. The historic downtown flanks the Petaluma river and lends itself to the authentic Victorian charm of the city. Surrounding the city, dairy ranches and hayfields provide the much-appreciated open space, which rises to hills on both sides of the valley.

### **Application Process**

To apply for the position send the following Required Application Materials:

1. Letter of Interest detailing your suitability to the above position description
2. Current, detailed and accurate Resume C/V
3. List of References
4. Three Reference Letters (referees can send letters directly)

Optional Materials (will be required for semi-finalists)  
Video Tape of your work (service, sermon, music)

Email to [search@bnaiisrael.net](mailto:search@bnaiisrael.net) or mail to:

Attention Search Committee  
B'nai Israel Jewish Center  
740 Western Avenue  
Petaluma CA 94952

**Direct all questions about the application process or position to [search@bnaiisrael.net](mailto:search@bnaiisrael.net)**

Applications deadline:  
Open Until Filled  
First Review - September 5, 2022

Semi-finalists will be invited for a virtual interview. Finalists will be invited to the synagogue for interviews, Shabbat service and meetings.

Visit the B'nai Israel Jewish Center website at [www.bnaiisrael.net](http://www.bnaiisrael.net)

*We will not discriminate in any way. We consider qualified applicants for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, medical condition, disability, marital status, or protected veteran status.*

*A background check (including a criminal records check) must be completed satisfactorily before any candidate can be offered a position. Failure to satisfactorily complete the background check may affect the application status of applicants who apply for this position.*