

# Job Description - Rabbi, Jewish Congregation of Maui

The Jewish Congregation of Maui is an inclusive, non-affiliated community on Maui. Our shul, Beit Shalom, is Maui's only synagogue. Our small egalitarian congregation includes members from a broad spectrum of Jewish background and practice, including a sizable Israeli population. Our shul also serves Maui tourists, who regularly join us for Shabbat and holidays, as well as Jews from the mainland seeking to organize a destination wedding or Bar/Bat Mitzvah on Maui.

We have existed as an organized congregation for over 20 years, but the past few years have seen a dramatic fall-off of membership and community involvement. We are currently in transition, working to rebuild our community.

Our ideal Rabbi candidate must relish the challenge of re-building broken relationships and establishing new ones, as well as providing spiritual inspiration to an exceptionally diverse community. Our ideal Rabbi candidate must be highly approachable and will have the essential skills necessary for initiating sustainable programing and fostering strong lay leadership.

## **PRIME RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Provide religious and spiritual leadership to invigorate and energize this community in transition, which includes members of all levels of observance
- Inspire, challenge and encourage all members in their Jewish knowledge, understanding, beliefs and practices
- Create personal and meaningful interactions with congregants and community members
- Promote communal activity and actively work to build membership numbers
- Support the larger envisioning of the community and be committed to our growth

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

The successful candidate will provide the community with a positive and engaging role model of Jewish life. The candidate should demonstrate the following qualities, skills and experience:

### **Education**

- Semicha
- Learned in Halacha, Torah, Jewish history, literature, culture, and spirituality

### **Jewish Observance**

- Post-denominational outlook
- Highly engaged in a Jewish personal spiritual path
- Open and flexible approach towards people from differing backgrounds
- Demonstrates a strong commitment to the State of Israel.

- Sensitive to mixed marriage couples and their children
- Sensitive to LGBTQ members of the community

### **Interpersonal and Communication skills**

- Enthusiastic and engaging, welcoming and hospitable, open, gracious, empathetic and tolerant
- A good listener and an outstanding communicator
- Friendly, personable, approachable, kind, trustworthy, caring, and respectful
- Will proactively seek opportunities to visit the sick, isolated and bereaved
- Motivated to drive the community forward through passion and active management
- Eager to engage positively with, and motivate, people of all ages
- Accomplished at leading energetic and motivational services
- Able to clearly communicate knowledge to others and give over concise, passionate, meaningful, and relevant teachings
- Capable of and willing to work collaboratively as part of a team with the Executive Director, Board of Directors and volunteers
- Seeks and responds to feedback
- Demonstrates a high standard of verbal and written English and Hebrew communication
- Able to work collaboratively with the Board of Directors to actively promote membership
- Interested in playing a positive role in cross-communal relations
- Embraces debate and discussion, even if the views expressed diverge from the norm
- Relates to real-world issues and causes
- Maintains high levels of discretion and confidentiality at all times.

### **PRINCIPLE DUTIES**

#### **Religious**

- Organize, manage, schedule, and facilitate all prayer services including Friday evening, Saturday morning, all Holidays, and weekday minyan services as needed.
- Create a warm and welcoming environment for children (including the very young) in the shul and at services
- Create a warm, welcoming and accepting prayer environment for people of all levels of Jewish knowledge and observance.
- Deliver meaningful, concise sermons designed to educate, inform, challenge and inspire members of the congregation at different levels
- Encourage strong lay participation, provide training where appropriate
- Coordinate and officiate the lifecycle needs of the community, including but not limited to Bris, Baby namings, B'nai Mitzvot, weddings, funerals, and Shiva services.
- Serve as a resource for the community on questions of Jewish law, traditions, and values.

- Coordinate with the Ritual Committee to analyze current ritual practices, tunes, and service activities and make recommendations on ways to modify or innovate service to enhance prayer and spirituality for our congregation.

### **Education**

- Coordinate with the Education Committee to develop and deliver adult education programs designed to appeal to a broad range of members of differing levels of religious observance, practice and knowledge, with a view to widening and deepening their knowledge and commitment
- Oversee our Hebrew School for children
- Coordinate with Education Committee to develop and deliver family educational, Shabbat, and holiday programs
- Develop and oversee a Youth Shabbat Group program.
- Develop and deliver teen programming designed to instill a pride in being Jewish in our youth

### **Community Building**

- Reach out to members and engage with Jewish individuals and families on Maui, including teenagers, young singles, divorcees, single parents, widow/widowers, couples where one partner may not be Jewish, LGBTQ Jews, and Jewish-Buddhists.
- Actively seek out and welcome new members and help them to integrate in all aspects of communal activities
- Proactively engage with children and teenagers of the community on a regular basis, and encourage the involvement of young parents in communal life
- Foster and maintain good relationships with all Jewish presence on Maui, including Chabad
- Foster and maintain good relationships with interfaith groups on Maui
- Attend and participate in and, where appropriate, assist in the planning of communal activities and events
- Entertain members and welcome visitors at home on a regular basis for Shabbat and Holiday meals
- Take an active interest in troubleshooting and mediating congregational interpersonal issues.
- Work with the Executive Director and the Board of Directors to develop strategies for engaging members to actively participate in the community
- Work with the Executive Director and Board of Directors to develop and execute a comprehensive annual calendar of events designed to appeal to current and prospective members and the larger Maui community.

### **Communal Support**

- Attend to the spiritual/emotional, welfare and personal needs of the members of the congregation
- Work with Chevra Kadisha and Bikur Cholim committee to visit the sick, elderly and bereaved and be in contact, as necessary, with their families both on and off island

- Offer support and counseling to congregants in critical or difficult life situations

#### **Communication**

- Write a weekly column for shul newsletter.
- Maintain an active blog on shul website
- Proactively work with Executive Director to develop engaging content for the shul website
- Be available via telephone, email, and text
- Actively contribute to shul's presence on social media
- Hold regular office hours for consultation by congregants and staff

#### **Fundraising**

- Assist the Executive Director and Board of Directors with fundraising efforts
- Attend community fundraising events

#### **Administrative**

- Work closely with the Executive Director and the Board of Directors, and be receptive to full performance feedback and review processes
- Take direction from Board of Directors
- Attend monthly Board of Directors meetings

*This job description and person specification is not prescriptive. It merely outlines the key tasks and responsibilities of the post, and the key tasks and responsibilities are subject to change. Any changes will be made in consultation with the post holder. This Job description is subject to alteration in response to the changes in legislation of the By-laws of Beit Shalom synagogue.*

To apply for this position please email a Letter of Interest and your Resume to:

[admin@mauijews.org](mailto:admin@mauijews.org)

Please indicate “Rabbi Resume” in the subject line.