

Senior Rabbi - Congregation Rinat Yisrael, Teaneck, N.J.

Congregation Rinat Yisrael is seeking an outstanding Senior Rabbi to lead our 425 families in Tefillah, Torah learning, and spiritual growth, and to further nurture our congregation as a caring community.

About Rinat

Our shul was started by a small group of young couples in 1978. Roughly 30% of our members are below 45 years old, about 40% are between 45-60; and about 30% are above 60. This position is as a successor to the founding Rabbi, Rabbi Yosef Adler, who has served as our much-respected spiritual leader and teacher for 42 years and has announced his retirement.

Rinat stands out, both in practice and in philosophy, for its dedication to serious, decorous Tefillah; the breadth and depth of weekly and special occasion shiurim, covering an array of Torah topics at multiple levels to meet the needs of our members' varied backgrounds; a dedicated and welcoming membership that makes a wide range of committed Jews feel comfortable; and a robust and varied Adult Education program. We are also proud of our unparalleled youth program with its inclusion - through shadow counselors - of children with special needs.

Our shul's philosophy and practices are very much influenced by the Hashkafa of The Rav through his talmid, Rabbi Adler, with that Hashkafa seen as a guide to navigating the complexities of engaging with the modern world while fully maintaining halachic practices and values. We embrace Religious Zionism and the centrality in our religious lives of Medinat Yisrael; many children of our members serve in the IDF, and several of our families make Aliya each year. We were one of the first shuls in Bergen County to hire -- and are strongly committed to retaining -- a Yoetzet Halacha; we offer high-level Torah learning both for and by women. Our constitution allows, within Halachic parameters, for a female president; our current shul president is a woman.

Our membership ranges from relative newcomers to observance to leading Judaic scholars and educators, but it is characterized primarily by an educated and religiously committed laity dedicated to Shemirat HaMitzvot, serious, inspiring Tefillah with high levels of attendance at our many daily minyanim, Talmud Torah, Gemilut Chesed, and a deep respect for our religious leadership. We have established, and seek to continuously enhance, a warm, welcoming culture in which a wide range of members can feel comfortable. One expression of that culture is the high level of volunteerism both for shul-focused needs and active involvement in Chesed initiatives within the broader community.

We are looking for a Senior Rabbi to help us continue to serve as a model of Modern Orthodoxy. We are looking for a leader who will foster religious growth through inspiring sermons and engaging shiurim. We are seeking a Rabbi who can connect with members of all ages, life circumstances, and backgrounds, to form meaningful relationships and to provide pastoral care. We are looking for a Rabbi who will work in partnership with our Assistant Rabbi, Rabbi Ezra Weiner, who will be staying in that role by choice, with our lay leadership, our Yoetzet, our executive director, our youth directors (who have worked in the shul in that capacity for more than 15 years), and with the Rabbinical Council of Bergen County to represent the values and Hashkafa of our shul.

Candidate requirements

Candidates must have a minimum of 3-5 years of Rabbinical experience, with at least a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college. They must be eligible for membership in the Rabbinical Council of America. Our diverse membership reflects different backgrounds, and it is essential for the Rabbi to be able to relate to and teach people with varied levels of Judaic education across a range of Torah topics. We are looking for an inspiring, articulate speaker who will encourage religious growth through his sermons and shiurim. The Rabbi must be a Talmid Chacham with self-confidence as a Posek, but with the humility to seek guidance when necessary. He should be approachable, empathetic, open, aware of the wider culture, and engaging, so that he can serve as an effective pastoral counselor and connect with our members.

Job requirements

- Delivering sermons on Shabbat and Yom Tov.
- Delivering a range of shiurim in varied formats, including accessibly-presented high-level Gemara shiurim and shiurim that engage a broad range of participants.
- Serving as a Posek.
- Officiating at life-cycle events.
- Acting as a pastoral counselor to members who are ill or otherwise in need.
- Developing and maintaining relationships with members.
- Collaborating with other shuls and Jewish organizations in the community.
- Serving as a member of the RCBC.

This is a full-time position, with salary and benefits.