Lower Merion Synagogue
Bala Cynwyd, PA

Assistant Rabbi

About Our Shul:

Lower Merion Synagogue (LMS), located in the Bala Cynwyd suburb of Philadelphia, is the largest Orthodox shul in Pennsylvania and the longstanding center of the well-established Lower Merion Orthodox Jewish community. We are a welcoming and inclusive, religiously Zionistic, Orthodox congregation. The mission of Lower Merion Synagogue is to bring to life the Jewish values of:

- תורה (through programming and education for children and adults)
- עבודה (through inspirational, spiritual, and meaningful worship for all Orthodox Jews)
- גמילות חסדים (through a strong, warm, active, open, diverse, tolerant, and interconnected community)

Led for the past 15 years by Rabbi Avraham Shmidman, and for many decades by Rabbi Emeritus Rabbi Abraham Levene, the congregation has grown from its founding by four families 60 years ago to nearly 500 families. Our membership is diverse on many dimensions including age (seniors to young adults), religious background, and philosophical views. Our shul is quite active, with numerous daily and Shabbat minyanim, a vibrant youth and teen department, and a myriad of spiritual, educational, and social programming. Additionally, our vibrant community is rapidly growing, with many new families and a variety of options for pre-school, day school, and high school. Furthermore, our community has a beautiful new mikvah, kosher shopping and dining, is 20 minutes from Center City Philadelphia, and is only a short drive (1.5-2 hours) to New York City and Baltimore.

Assistant Rabbi Job Description:

LMS seeks a full-time Assistant Rabbi to assist Rabbi Shmidman to meet the growing needs of our congregation. We seek an Assistant Rabbi who is strongly committed to Torah Judaism and *halacha*, has a strong background in Torah learning and teaching, and is passionate about engaging with our membership in both formal and informal settings. Additionally, the ideal candidate should possess exceptional personal characteristics, including: exemplary ethics, strong interpersonal and social skills, and a warm and engaging personality. He should have the ability to forge meaningful and close relationships with a wide variety of members, and engage in outreach to members and prospective members on a personal level. We also seek a candidate who is creative, and who in collaboration with our shul staff (e.g. Rabbi, Youth Director, Director of Operations, Office Staff), has the ability to develop and implement high quality programming for our diverse membership needs, including educational and spiritual programming, youth and teen programming, and social events.

Responsibilities Include:

- **Rabbinic Coverage in collaboration with Rabbi Shmidman:**
    - Attend Shabbat *minyanim* and events and deliver drashot
    - Attend member life-cycle events and officiate, as requested (including funerals and shiva, bris/simchat bat, shalom zachar, bar/bat mitzvahs, weddings, etc.)
    - Attend and provide Rabbinic presence and support for Youth and Teen Events
    - Cover all responsibilities when Rabbi Shmidman is away or unable to address them
    - Attend daily Shacharit/Mincha/Maariv at LMS

- **Programming:**
    - Work with the Rabbi and Education Committee to develop and deliver shiurim and educational programming that inspires spiritual and religious growth for all ages and demographics, with a specific focus on women, teens, young professionals, and seniors
    - Collaborate with our Youth Director, Mrs. Faigy Prupas, NCSY Director, Rabbi Yitzchak Levi, Teen Director, Rabbi Jonny Gordon, and Bnei Akiva Shlichim, on innovative ways and opportunities to further engage Teens and Youth
    - Partner with committees (e.g. LMS Sisterhood, Welcome Committee, Membership Committee, Young Leadership, Seniors Committee) to create meaningful social programs
    - Deliver shiurim and occasionally learn with members in chavruta or small groups

- **Personal Outreach and Engagement:**
    - Form relationships with members of varying ages, with a specific focus on younger member families and singles through formal and informal opportunities (including phone calls, *bikkur cholim*, visiting seniors, hosting Shabbat meals, etc.)
    - Outreach to welcome, acculturate, and involve new families to the community, in collaboration with our Welcome Committee
    - Work with other institutions in the community to provide joint programming and services for LMS members, where appropriate

Additional Qualifications and Skills:

- Qualifications:
    - Have a college degree from a recognized college or university
    - Semicha from a well established and well regarded Orthodox Yeshiva recognized by the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA) or comparable international organization
    - Able to provide a minimum of 3 exemplary references
- Skills:
    - Ability to deliver engaging speeches and classes
    - Ability to form meaningful personal relationships with a wide range of members
    - Ability to plan, promote, and deliver shul programming including effective use of email and social media for member and community engagement
    - Interest in pastoral guidance/counseling

Compensation and Benefits:

- Salary commensurate with experience
- Competitive benefits package including medical coverage
- 3 weeks vacation (not to overlap with Rabbi Shmidman)