

Assistant Rabbi – Young Israel Shomrai Emunah

Position Overview

Young Israel Shomrai Emunah (“Shomrai”) is seeking an Assistant Rabbi for its 522-member-family congregation. The Assistant Rabbi will focus on engaging new, younger couples/singles in our community, and developing a connection between them and the shul community. The qualified candidate will bring dynamism and creativity to this role to the benefit of the entire shul. This individual will regularly provide drashos and shiurim and serve as a second and complementary “rabbinic face” at kiddushim, simchas and public events. The shul’s Assistant Rabbi Search Committee (ARSC) will facilitate the selection process.

Community Overview

Silver Spring, a suburb of the Nation’s capital, has a large and burgeoning orthodox population based in a number of different communities, with Kemp Mill, the home of Shomrai, being the largest. The community has a myriad of schools ranging from pre-school through post high school and on to the kollel level. The schools represent a range of hashkafos as well. The Silver Spring Eruv Association provides a halachically reliable eruv which covers the entire Kemp Mill area and other surrounding Silver Spring neighborhoods. There are a number of orthodox shuls within Kemp Mill catering to the diverse and large community. There are kosher markets, bakeries and a host of restaurants. A beautiful state-of-the-art mikvah, located in Kemp Mill, opened in 2011. It includes two mikvaos, ten preparation rooms, and has ample Shabbos and Yom Tov hours in addition to weekday hours. Kemp Mill is truly a large, flourishing and vibrant Jewish community.

Synagogue Overview

Young Israel Shomrai Emunah was founded in the early 1950’s, and was the foundation for the large and growing suburban Maryland orthodox community. Shomrai is a 522-member-family orthodox congregation. From 1957 to 2010 the congregation’s Rabbi was Rabbi Gedaliah Anemer z"tl. Shomrai’s current Rabbi (and former Assistant Rabbi) is Rabbi Dovid Rosenbaum.

The Membership of Shomrai is diverse with:

- A wide range of membership ages.
- Members who identify themselves as modern orthodox, yeshivish, and everything in between.
- Multiple minyanim—weekdays, for example, there are five shacharis minyanim. On Shabbos, shacharis minyanim consist of the 8:45 a.m. minyan (all minyanim are nusach Ashkenaz unless otherwise indicated), a large hashkama minyan, an 8:00 a.m. minyan, a Sephardi (Eidut Hamizrach)

minyan, a Nusach Sefard minyan, a youth minyan and a minyan at our second location (University Boulevard).

- Shabbos Youth Groups for children from age two through fourth grade.
- Two separate locations, University Boulevard and Arcola Avenue.
- A significant portion of the membership with advanced secular degrees as well as having engaged (and continuing to engage) in advanced Judaic studies.
- An excellent Nursery School operated by Shomrai.
- A vibrant Daf Yomi group and a myriad of other shiurim (including a number led by several rabbis who volunteer their time) and other learning opportunities for men, women and children.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Assistant Rabbi will:

- Work very closely with Rabbi Rosenbaum.
- Provide a weekly drasha, primarily at the 8:00 minyan, occasionally at the 8:45 minyan, and periodically at other minyanim. Shabbos speakers represent our shul, and connect people to our community. We have a rabbi speaking during or after shacharis and between mincha/maariv every Shabbos and Yom Tov. The Assistant Rabbi will have a major role in this “rotation.”
- Develop and provide a Shabbos afternoon shiur.
- Develop and provide one or two shiurim (during the week or on Shabbos), designed around the interests, needs and schedules of our younger members.
- Cultivate a strong relationship with new, younger members, leading to these members looking to the Assistant Rabbi for shaalos, counsel, etc.
- Play a role in organizing fresh, periodic programming.
- Have “light” responsibility for shaalos from the general membership if they wish to contact the Assistant Rabbi (either because of inability to contact Rabbi Rosenbaum or personal preference).
- Have responsibility for availability (limited) to visit homebound members.

Requirements

- Yoreh Yoreh Semicha (minimum requirement).
- Secular degree, Bachelors or higher.
- Strong interpersonal skills; a demonstrated depth of ability and experience in relating to others with a range of backgrounds:
 - Ability and experience in reaching out to others.
 - Ability and experience in designing programs, both formal and informal.
 - Ability and experience in working as part of a team.
- Ability and experience in public speaking including delivering drashos and classes.
- Skill in leading shiurim.
- A range and depth of personal interests.
- Availability before Rosh Hashanah.

Hours, Pay and Benefits

- This position is part-time; 20-25 hours per week is estimated. While Shomrai cannot guarantee the Assistant Rabbi supplemental employment within the community, shul leadership may offer networking contacts and other suggestions if requested.
- There is a moving allowance of up to \$3,000.
- Salary range is \$30-\$35,000 a year depending on qualifications and experience. Part of this salary is designated as parsonage. Consult with your tax advisor for details on this.
- A two-year contract is required.
- Health and retirement benefits are not included.
- Two weeks of paid vacation is included.
- An allowance for food is available when members are invited for meals or shul programs at the Assistant Rabbi's residence.

Process

- Applications will be reviewed by the Search Committee. The Search Committee will contact applicants directly for follow-up. We will invite final applicants to spend a Shabbos at Shomrai.
- Applications will be reviewed as received. We ask that all applications be received no later than April 22nd.
- The shul plans to make a final selection between June 1 and July 15th.

Applications

- **Please provide the following: a resume, a cover letter addressing each of the items listed under requirements.**
- **A list of references with contact information to whom you are willing to have us speak.**
- **E-mail all materials to ARSC@yise.org with "Application" in the subject line.**