



# Beit Klal Yisrael

## A Community for all Israel

### Job Description: Rabbi

#### The Community:

*Beit Klal Yisrael* (BKY) was founded as a community in 1989 with its founder members coming from a lesbian and gay *chavurah* that wanted both to be welcoming and to especially recognise the contribution diversity brings to a community's Jewish experience. Today, we have approximately 60 Members and 20 Friends including non-Jewish partners.

We are a diverse community on several dimensions:

- Sexual orientation: LGBTIQ+ and straight.
- Some of us are in families, and some of us are on our own.
- Our members originate from many different countries, cultures and backgrounds.
- Most of our members live in London, but some travel long distances to join us.
- For varying reasons many of our members have been distanced or estranged from contemporary Jewish community life.

Our community is involved with those aspects of contemporary Judaism which both respect and creatively engage with those diversities. We have a strong commitment to egalitarianism and encourage people attending services to participate in community leadership by taking responsibility for parts of the services and after-service and alternative secular events.

Our community is affiliated with Liberal Judaism (UK) and the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jews.

Who do we welcome? Everyone, but especially:

- LGBTIQ+ Jews
- Patrilineal Jews
- Secular Jews



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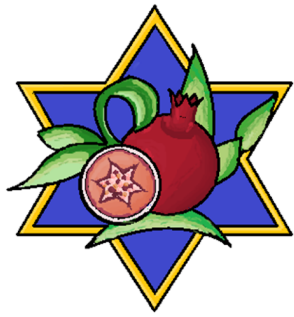
- Jewish women who want to work out an independent and challenging relation, as women, to Judaism and to being Jewish
- Jewish people who may not think of themselves as formally religious, but who do have Jewish issues and concerns
- Jewish people whose partners, though not Jewish, wish to be supportive and participate in the life of the community
- People who are on their own and who would feel more comfortable in a community which emphasises and respects **individual** presence and participation.
- Children, families and young people

#### **Position description:**

##### **Part-time Rabbi**

**Duties:** Based on a quarter of a full-time role or an average of 10.5 hours per week.

- To lead alternating Shabbat evening and morning services and most Festival services as agreed with the Community Council (*Simchat Torah, Tu B'Shvat, Pesach, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur*).
- To encourage, enable and assist lay leadership.
- To advise on and disseminate Jewish textual and liturgical tradition.
- To take final responsibility for matters of ritual and status after discussion with Community Council, and the Community as a whole when appropriate.
- To facilitate and encourage maximum participation by the diverse elements of the Community in conjunction with the Community Council in all aspects of BKY including: Shabbat and Festival Services, educational and cultural activities.
- To provide sermons, midrashim, readings, or lead discussions during or after services.
- To offer support in the case of death or illness or with people going through bereavement and other personal traumas, including referrals as appropriate to other organisations inside and out of BKY, e.g. Burial Society, Other Council Members, Chair.
- To take primary responsibility for marking life cycle events - births, deaths,



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*b'nei mitzvah*, commitment ceremonies and marriages, conversions etc in close conjunction with the individuals concerned.

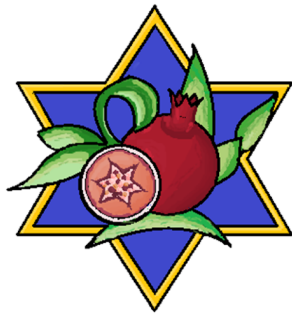
- To take primary responsibility for developing Jewish spiritual and intellectual education in all its facets within BKY:- at services, Access to Judaism courses, study days, discussions during services and at other events and other educational and cultural activities.
- To take an active part together with Council to ensure that BKY continues to develop and provide a welcoming home to this diverse Community.
- To take responsibility to support children and families within BKY.
- To participate in Liberal Judaism activities including the Rabbinic Conference and Biennial, both to bring BKY's unique voices to the Liberal Jewish Movement and to learn from the other constituent members of Liberal Judaism.

#### **Education and Work Experience:**

Must be eligible for membership of Liberal Judaism's Rabbinic Conference. Minimum rabbinic experience necessary. Would suit a newly ordained rabbi.

#### **Other skills:**

- Fundamental understanding of the social, political and personal ethos of the Community and possessing the engaged interest and ability to support its continuing development.
- Commitment to feminist principles.
- Openness and ability to engage with all of the diverse elements in the Community, religious and non-religious.
- Ability to create an atmosphere of mutuality and to encourage reciprocity within the diverse elements of the Community.
- Strong interpersonal, negotiation and conflict mediation skills including the ability to acknowledge and manage all members' concerns.
- Tact and diplomacy necessary.
- Strong written and public speaking skills for sermons. Ability to guide the Community Council to serve the interests of the Community.



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- Experience of and affinity to liaise with interfaith and other communities.
- Possess a good sense of humour.