



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum
280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

Rabbinic Fellow - Job Posting

Synagogue Description:

Kehila Kedosha Janina (the Holy Community of Janina) is the only Romaniote synagogue in the Western Hemisphere. Romaniote Jews are a unique community of Jews with history in Greece dating back over 2,300 years to the time of Alexander the Great. The Romaniotes are historically distinct from the Sephardim, who settled in Greece after the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492. Romaniotes are also distinct from Ashkenazim.

Our congregation was first organized in New York in 1906 by Greek-speaking Romaniote Jews from the city of Ioannina (Janina) in Northwestern Greece. In the early twentieth century there were hundreds of other synagogues on the Lower East Side that served Yiddish-speaking Ashkenazi Jews or Ladino-speaking Sephardic Jews. Needing a place of our own where we could preserve our unique traditions, customs, liturgy, and language, property was purchased at 280 Broome Street and the congregation opened its doors to worship at our current location in 1927.

For the past century KKJ has served the Romaniote community on the Lower East Side, and after the closing of nearby Sephardic synagogues, many of the remaining neighborhood Sephardim. In 1997, a Museum was created in the women's gallery to tell the story of our distinct community to a world that knows so little about us. Today, KKJ is proud to be one of only a handful of active synagogues that remain on the Lower East Side.

Our synagogue is a designated New York City historic landmark and continues to hold traditional Orthodox services every Saturday morning as well as all Jewish holidays. In addition, the Museum at KKJ is a center for the study of Greek Jewry and is open to the public every Sunday, as well as by appointment. The museum serves as a repository for Greek Jewish history, both in Greece and on the Lower East Side, and hosts many educational events including lectures, book signings, film screenings, and concerts. Learn more about our community at www.kkjsm.org.

Job Description:

KKJ seeks a qualified candidate to serve as a Rabbinic Fellow who will lead public outreach, recruitment, and general community development for our synagogue. This person will work with KKJ leadership to plan events and bring people in through meaningful Jewish moments, immersive experiences, and innovative programming. The Rabbinic Fellow will also assist with religious services, including reading Torah and general hazzanut. Work will include direct communication to current and prospective community members and interfacing with partner organizations.

This person will report directly to the KKJ Director of Community Development and provide monthly reports that document activities and progress metrics (e.g. attendance numbers, funds spent on activities, funds raised, etc.) The Fellow will receive quarterly evaluations and will provide reports to the Board of Directors as needed. This position is part-time and allows for a flexible schedule as approved by the Board. The Rabbinic Fellow will need to work on Shabbat, select Sundays in coordination with the Museum and event program schedule, and other days depending on programming.

This position is about building community, increasing member engagement during services and religious programming, and creating a feeling of belonging to our Greek Jewish home. A successful candidate will understand that relationships, and not only programs, are the key to successful engagement.

Primary Job Responsibilities:

1. Conduct outreach to the Greek Jewish community in the New York metropolitan area, the Jewish community in Lower Manhattan, and the general Jewish community in Manhattan, by:
 - a. Recruiting regular attendees for religious services and welcoming people to our community
 - b. Engaging with current community members who do not visit KKJ frequently and encouraging them to visit KKJ more regularly
2. Plan, coordinate, and execute a variety of public events and programs that attract people to engage with our synagogue and grow our community
 - a. Develop a program plan, timeline, and budget
 - b. Collaborate with Greek Jewish and Sephardic organizations, colleges, and other institutions to recruit people and plan events
3. Conduct duties related to religious services, including leading services and reading Torah, lead Jewish educational classes for a variety of ages, and participate in or lead Jewish community life cycle events as needed
4. Develop fundraising efforts to support this position and related programs, such as cultivating individual donors and identifying grant funding opportunities

Job Requirements and Ideal Skills:

- Demonstrate a passion for, expertise in, or willingness to learn Greek Romaniote traditions and liturgy, and be able to inspire others to want to join our community
- Strong interpersonal skills, proactive, personable, outgoing, comfortable engaging different age groups, demonstrates a level of emotional intelligence and a desire to enhance communal life
- Experience in event planning and willingness to learn fundraising techniques
- Must be a student or graduate of an Orthodox Yeshiva or Rabbinical Seminary. Strong Jewish education background with ability to lead religious services and classes, including Hebrew classes, Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons, etc. Must be able to read Torah.
- Must be willing to work Saturdays and Sundays, as well as Friday nights and Jewish holidays as needed (work will not violate laws of Shabbat)
- Strong facilitation, collaboration, and coalition-building skills, and ability to lead and motivate volunteers

Job Schedule: Part-time (schedule is flexible; we are open to accommodating candidates' scheduling needs). Anticipated start date on Rosh Hodesh Elul.

Qualifications: A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college and at least two years of satisfactory experience in Jewish community development, nonprofit programming, or Jewish education.

Salary: \$40,000-\$45,000 per year, including a housing stipend

How to Apply:

To apply for this position, please email your resume and cover letter including the following subject line: **Rabbinic Fellow**, to Amarcus@kkjism.org **The deadline to apply is May 5, 2024.**

For any questions, please email Amarcus@kkjism.org.