

Rabbi and Synagogue Description – Keneset Israel Torah Center of Sacramento
– May, 2011

The only Orthodox synagogue in a medium-sized California city, seeks a full-time rabbi who excels in the areas of leadership, people skills, outreach and community organizing, teaching, delivering effective sermons, pastoral care, halachic guidance, and fundraising. It is expected that the rabbi's wife will fully welcome her role as rebbitzin.

Founded in 1982, the congregation is warm and welcoming. Our synagogue has an active and engaged membership, a vital adult education program, shabbatonim with distinguished rabbinic scholars from the USA and Israel, an active though small NCSY chapter, and an innovative after-school children's education and Hebrew language program. Our neighborhood is enclosed by an eruv. In addition to a sanctuary, our facilities include a multi-purpose room and library, classrooms, a mikveh, and a Shabbos apartment.

It is located in an affordable residential neighborhood just blocks away from parks and shopping areas. Neighborhood supermarkets have responded to our community's needs by stocking supplies of kosher products, including fresh meat and poultry, and we are also served by a Kosher Co-Op. In addition, several local small markets sell many Israeli products from frozen foods to dessert items.

In 2000, soon after a fire set by anti-Semitic arsonists, the shul purchased a 1.4-acre parcel down the street from its prior location. We built a handsome facility, adorned on the exterior by Jerusalem stone donated by firms in Israel. Shul volunteers, joined by non-members from the surrounding community, did much of the actual contracting and construction work. Our sanctuary sits on a beautifully landscaped campus, with tall, old growth trees, expansive lawn areas, and a beautiful rose garden. An enclosed children's play area, facilities for outdoor celebrations, the abovementioned multi-purpose room, and a newly renovated kitchen are prominent on the campus.

Although the synagogue community encompasses a wide spectrum of practice and outlook, its "center of gravity" can generally be described as Modern Orthodox (without being strident) and Religious Zionist. As such, it has adopted those practices that maximize the inclusion of women in its communal life. The president of the congregation is a woman, the Torah is passed through the women's section, there are women's hakafot on Simchat Torah, and a women's megila reading. We fully observe Yom HaAtzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim as genuine religious holidays, complete with the recitation of Hallel and its blessing.

Our home is in a Jewish community that has existed since 1849. Our community-wide resources include a Chabad Outreach Center, a restaurant (under the kashrut supervision of the local Chabad rabbi), a community day-school, the Jewish Federation, and a senior citizens retirement home.

The community Jewish day school has existed for nearly 30 years and has a state-of-the-art campus built in 2007. It offers preschool through 6th grade and is less than 2 miles from synagogue.

The local Jewish Federation offers programming including PJ Library, an after-school Jewish high school program, introduction to Judaism courses, an annual Jewish festival

featuring celebrities and artists from around the world, as well as regular programming with an Israeli *shaliach*.

The Senior Residence Center provides affordable independent living for seniors, featuring a kosher kitchen that provides take-out Shabbat meals, full-scale Kosher catering, as well as a dine-in option. The kitchen has generally been under the supervision of the rabbi of KITC.

The two local universities share an active Hillel that just broke ground on what will be one of the only “green” Hillel Houses in the world.

Our shul is ideal for people who want to escape from expensive, congested urban areas and seek a safe, friendly place to raise children, to work, or to retire in an inviting, nurturing Orthodox community at prices families can afford.

The rabbi of our shul will have the opportunity to enjoy all of these features, but more importantly, he will de facto function as the primary Orthodox rabbinical leader in town. He will have the opportunity to shape every aspect of the city’s Orthodox life and to play a major role within the larger Jewish community, as well as representing Judaism to the Gentile population. The shul is a community with an active volunteer spirit but it is seeking a genuine leader with vision, who can proactively act as the catalyst for a fuller expression of the significant potential for Orthodoxy in this delightful location.