

## Director of Education & Engagement

B'nai Zion Congregation  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

### *Job Description*

#### **About B'nai Zion**

We like to say that Chattanooga is a small, but mighty community, and that B'nai Zion is likewise a small, but robust congregation. After 125 years and counting, our thriving 163-family Conservative synagogue boasts a warm, welcoming, and inclusive environment infused with an egalitarian spirit and multi-generational approach. We are fortunate to have a passionate and dedicated team at B'nai Zion led by Rabbi Susan Tandler, the first female rabbi to serve at any congregation in Chattanooga. Rabbi Tandler joined the B'nai Zion family in August 2012 from Congregation Beth El in Norfolk, Virginia, where she served as assistant rabbi, with her primary focus being on education and programming.

#### **About the Position**

We are looking for a charismatic, creative, and dedicated educator who loves working with people of all ages and is able to naturally connect with, inspire, and engage our members in Jewish study, culture, and celebration. We also want someone who will appreciate the unique offerings of Southern Jewish culture and the benefits of living in one of the most progressive and livable mid-size cities in the U.S., run by one of only ten Jewish mayors in the country.

#### **Primary Responsibilities**

- Administration of and teaching in our Pre-K through 10<sup>th</sup> grade Religious School, including our weekly *Beit Sefer Ivrit* Hebrew School program for approximately 30 students in grades pre-K through 7, the monthly *Bagrut* (post *B'nai Mitzvah*) program for grades 8 and 9, and monthly Confirmation class for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Create and manage the annual Religious School budget. Approve all expenditures in relation to the Religious School and educational programs of the congregation
- Serve as co-administrator for the Chattanooga Jewish Congregational Religious School, our community Sunday School (along with the Director of Education from Mizpah Congregation, the Reform Temple)
- Organize and facilitate the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program, in conjunction with Rabbi Tandler and staff. Including, but not limited to, conducting all B'nai Mitzvah tutorials
- Spearhead youth programming, specifically Kadima and USY programs, for students in grades 6-12
- Promote Jewish summer experiences, such as Camp Ramah Darom, and build upon those experiences throughout the year
- Collaborate with the Rabbi and lay leadership to envision and implement formal and informal-based learning opportunities and continuing education programs for the entire congregation
- Lead Junior Congregation on Saturday mornings and holidays, and assist coordination/ leadership of quarterly Family Shabbat Services on Friday evenings
- Participate and contribute to Shabbat, weekday (Wednesday evenings and monthly Sunday mornings) and holiday services when asked to do so; and serve as backup for Rabbi Tandler when needed

- Prepare for and attend all congregational board meetings and education committee meetings; attend other committee meetings by request
- Provide leadership, creativity, and infuse "*ruach*" in religious educational programs and services
- Envision and establish new educational programs as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors and/or Education Committee

### **Profile of Candidate**

- Passionate, energetic and creative leader who infuses *ruach* in his/her life and in the lives of others
- Leads by example with a strong connection to Jewish life and culture, and a personal commitment to and understanding of Conservative Judaism
- A leader in the community at large
- Familiar with weekday, Shabbat and festival *nusach*, and understanding of Jewish lifecycle, holidays and festivals
- Organized, detail-oriented, and self-motivated with ability to effectively multi-task
- Able to hire, manage, and inspire teachers
- Comfortable working with people of all ages and abilities and able to collaborate and build relationships with diverse constituents
- Excellent written, communication, and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrated ability to manage administrative and fiscal job requirements
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office (Excel, PowerPoint, Word and Outlook), Internet research and web-based programs
- Experience using social media in a professional/programmatic context
- Willingness to work a flexible schedule
- Hebrew fluency (reading and writing with some degree of comprehension preferred) and ability to chant and teach *Torah* and *Haftarah trope*

### **Requirements**

B.A. or comparable degree required, plus a minimum of 3 years experience in religious, informal, or general education, or other appropriate religious work experience.

### **About Chattanooga**

Chattanooga, the 4th largest city in the state, is located in Southeast Tennessee near the border of Georgia at the junction of four interstate highways. With a metropolitan population of 492,000, Chattanooga blends "Big City" amenities with "Small Town" ease of living. Area residents enjoy the friendly atmosphere, moderate housing costs, and easy commuting typically associated with smaller communities, but Chattanooga's cultural and recreational opportunities rival those in much larger metropolitan areas. Add to these assets a downtown recently rejuvenated by a \$120 million waterfront transformation and the area's breathtaking natural beauty and you have one of the nation's most livable cities with much to offer people from all walks of life. Chattanooga has a rich legacy of entrepreneurs – from startups that grew into industry game-changers to civic leaders who changed Chattanooga from the "dirtiest city in America" into being twice named Outside Magazine's "best town ever." Also known as "Gig City," Chattanooga is the first city in the Western Hemisphere to offer 10-gigabit-per-second fiber Internet service to all residents and businesses. Chattanooga is located within two hours' drive of Atlanta, Nashville, Knoxville, and Birmingham.

**Jewish Chattanooga**

With approximately 1,500 Jewish residents, Chattanooga has a longstanding and thriving Jewish community that supports three congregations (Conservative, Reform and Chabad), a Jewish preschool (Aleph Bet Children's Center) and Chattanooga Jewish Congregational Religious School (combined Sunday School program), a nationally recognized chapter of Hadassah, and active AIPAC and ADL groups. The Jewish Cultural Center houses the Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga and is a venue for programs, classes, and art exhibits as well as social services and a preschool, all rooted in Jewish values. The facility raises the visibility of the Jewish community, fosters relationships, and strengthens Jewish identity in the Chattanooga area. Jewish Chattanoogaans continue to support a broad range of religious and communal functions and the Jewish residents of Chattanooga continue to play a vital role in the city's economy and civic life.

**How to Apply**

Please send a cover letter and resume to [bzedsearch@gmail.com](mailto:bzedsearch@gmail.com)