

Kemp Mill Employment Assistance Initiative

lyar, 5763

www.JobAssist.org

Dear Member:

Young Israel Shomrai Emunah, Kemp Mill Synagogue, and Silver Spring Jewish Center have formally endorsed the creation of a joint community support program to address the needs of members who are unemployed, underemployed, or whose jobs are threatened. Details of the program are attached.

A critical aspect of the program is an electronic database that job seekers will be able to use to network with shul members who could advise, recommend, and provide further contacts. **We can only build the database with information you provide in filling out the attached questionnaire. It is crucial that all shul members (both spouses separately) complete the attached "Employment Assistance Form" and return it ASAP as indicated on the form.**

Please note that the database will be secure and private (access password required) and all information will be kept in full confidence. In addition, once your networking information is included in the database, members in need of job networking will contact you directly via "blind email" without knowing your identity. You may respond and offer help where appropriate.

To be successful we need the input from all of you, including from members who are retired. We urge you to participate in this practical and important mitzvah.

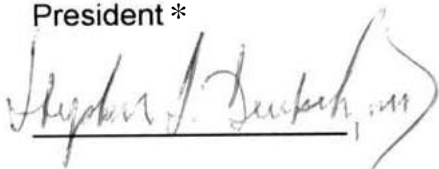
Sincerely,

YISE

Rabbi Gedaliah Anemer



Dr. Stephen Deutsch
President *

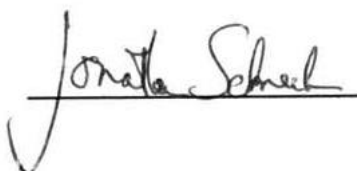


KMS

Rabbi Yaakov Bieler



Dr. Jonathan Schneck
President

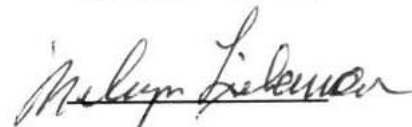


SSJC

Rabbi Herzl Kranz



Melvyn Lieberman
Executive Director



* The current President, Dr. Stuart Cohen, endorses this initiative, which started when Dr. Deutsch was President.

Employment Assistance Committee:

YISE	KMS	SSJC
Beth Lichy (301-649-5492)	Jonathan Fink (301-681-5857)	Elliot Jacob (301-649-7494)
Avi Zemelman (301-649-4485)	Edward Tolchin (301-649-7694)	Sandy Tenenbaum (301-649-5513)

Employment Assistance Form

This form will be used to compile information for employment networking opportunities for unemployed persons in the Kemp Mill community. A separate form should be filled out for each working-age or retired member of the family. **All information will be held in strict confidence.**

I. General Information

Your name, telephone number and email address will **not** be visible on the website.

First Name: _____ M.I.____ Last Name: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

II. I am willing to assist with (Please check and complete each applicable item):

(1) Job Networking ___ (Your contact information, and the “employment information” below, will be added to the secured database. Members in need of job networking will contact you directly via “blind email” **without** knowing your identity. You may respond and help)

- Your Employment Sector (e.g., Law): _____

- Your Employment Sub-Specialty (e.g., trademarks): _____

(2) Direct Job Placement ____ (One-on-one assistance in locating a job)

(3) Support/Guidance ____ (Assistance by social workers, psychologists, and others)

(4) Resume Preparation ____ (Assist with writing job seeker’s resume)

(5) Interview Skills Preparation__ (Assist with strengthening interview skills of job seekers)

(6) Updating database information____ (periodic updating of available job postings)

Comments: Please indicate below any relevant background/experience with employment and job placement assistance.

Please send completed form to the Kemp Mill Employment Assistance Initiative using one of the following delivery methods:

Online: Fill out this form online at: www.JobAssist.org/register

Fax: 301-649-7809

Mail: c/o Avi Zemelman, 1218 N. Belgrade Rd., Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

III. I would like assistance

Go to www.JobAssist.org or call one of the six community representatives listed below.

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Kemp Mill Employment Assistance Initiative

www.JobAssist.org

Jobless and still looking? Working, but barely enough to make ends meet? You're not alone. The sluggish economy has not spared the Washington area Jewish community, and many of us know people in Kemp Mill who have lost jobs or are severely underemployed.

How many is difficult to say. But according to one estimate, perhaps 20 or so families in the Kemp Mill area are suffering in this fashion. While apparently not a large number, B"H, it is a mitzvah to assist any and all members of our community. As the Torah commands: "If your brother becomes impoverished and his means falter in your proximity, you shall strengthen him . . . so that he can live with you." (Vayikra, 25:35).

To immediately address this problem, the community's three shuls – Young Israel Shomrai Emunah, Kemp Mill Synagogue, and Silver Spring Jewish Center – are creating a program to help its members who are unemployed, underemployed, or whose jobs are threatened. The effort, known officially as the Kemp Mill Employment Assistance Initiative, has been enthusiastically endorsed by the shuls' rabbis and their lay leaders, each of whom is urging all members of the community to participate.

A key aspect of the program, scheduled to begin June 22, is an electronic database job seekers can use to network with shul members for advice and possible referral to additional contacts. However, the database (discussed in more detail below) can be effective only if all members of the community contribute information by completing the enclosed "Employment Assistance Form" and returning it as soon as possible.

When fully operational, the program will offer five types of assistance:

A. Online networking A confidential electronic database will draw on the three Kemp Mill area shuls' diversified workforce to identify jobs and help people secure them. The database will consist of information provided by shul members who fill out the "Employment Assistance Form," found below and in a forthcoming mailing to be sent to each shul family. All working-age shul members – regardless of their job status -- are encouraged to complete and submit the form, which will identify individuals who can help with contacts, resume preparation and interview techniques, and who can also provide other forms of support -- depending on their expertise -- such as direct job counseling and psychological assistance. In the interests of strict privacy, the database will be secured; a password is required for job seekers to enter the database and network directly with appropriate members. The database can be found at www.JobAssist.org or through a newly created "employment section" in each shul's Web site

B. Job Seekers Club Looking for some quality "face time" with other job seekers? This is the place to find it – a group that meets regularly to compare notes on the hunt for employment, provide emotional support for each other, hear from experts, and benefit from other services as needed. "It's a work in progress," says Job Club coordinator Gail Sanders, a licensed clinical social worker. "We want to see who shows up and what their needs are." Mrs. Sanders says the Job Seekers Club may be modeled after a job seekers' support group in Teaneck, N.J., whose invited speakers include job recruiters, financial planners, and career counselors.

C. Direct Job Placement Individuals with extensive business contacts will work directly with individual job seekers to help them find work. Shiduchim will be arranged by members of the Employment Assistance Committee, consisting of two individuals from each of the participating shuls. Note: Committee members have pledged to maintain the confidentiality of those seeking assistance by agreeing to obtain their consent before directing them to others in the community.

D. Indirect job placement This type of support would involve four services available at www.JobAssist.org:

1. Database of local full-time jobs. Listings to be provided by shul members who learn of new job openings in their places of employment or elsewhere. The database will be divided into employment categories.
2. Database of freelance service providers. A listing of workers and a description of services they offer. Examples: Driving to or from the airport or train station, tutoring, bar mitzvah instruction, gardening, bookkeeping/accounting, day care or babysitting.
3. Online list of employment Web sites. Links will be posted to reliable Jewish and generic jobs-related information clearinghouses, such as Monster.
4. Database of resumes. Interested members will be able to post their resumes (anonymity optional), grouped by employment categories.

E. Guidance The objective of these activities is to help unemployed or underemployed individuals re-enter the work force through personal guidance, encouragement, and practical assistance as follows:

1. Direct support/guidance. Social workers, psychologists, and other relevant members of the three Kemp Mill area shuls will discuss employment problems with job seekers and direct them to the appropriate resources, all without charge.
2. Job-search coaching. Free assistance by Kemp Mill professionals (including attorneys and human resource specialists) with resume-writing and job-interview techniques. The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) will be consulted when appropriate.
3. Career reassessment. Those seeking career reassessment may be directed to JSSA for job-aptitude testing and other services. The role of the Kemp Mill Employment Assistance Initiative will probably be limited to arranging for the JSSA testing and follow-up.