



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 19, 2015, Franklin, N.J

Temple Shalom and the Jewish Center of Sussex County announce merger.

B'nai Shalom of Sussex County Formed

To better serve the growing Jewish population in Sussex County and surrounding areas two Sussex County N.J congregations recently announced their historic merger. Temple Shalom , Franklin , N.J and The Jewish Center Of Sussex County, Newton , N.J will provide on going services to their congregations while sharing their two respective locations. It was also announced that Rabbi Josh Cantor will lead the newly merged congregation, named B'nai Shalom Of Sussex County.



The Jewish Center of Sussex County, a conservative congregation, was formed about 75 years ago. The founding fathers were predominantly local Jewish businessmen from Spring Street. Its synagogue building is a historic landmark in the area.

Temple Shalom , a reform congregation, was founded in Vernon , NJ in the late 1960's. In the early 1970's it took over the Sons Of Israel Synagogue building, Franklin , NJ that was founded in the late 1800's by a group of Franklin , NJ Jewish merchants. Its synagogue building was originally a church built in the early 1800's and is likely a historic landmark as well.

For continuity the newly formed B'nai Shalom will have co-presidents, Robert Levy of Temple Shalom and Dr. Robert Richman of the Jewish Center Of Sussex County as well as a merged board of trustees. Services will continue at both locations. Friday Shabbat services will be in Franklin and Saturday morning services will be in Newton .

Press release sent to: The New Jersey Herald, The Sparta Independent, The North Jersey Advertiser, The Pike County Advertiser, The Warwick News, The West Milford Advertiser Aim (local Vernon Paper) and Metro West. There will also be an article in the NJ Jewish News.



B'nai Shalom of Sussex County

Having a conservative and reform congregation merge is a new phenomenon not without precedence. From coast to coast mergers of smaller synagogues are taking place to contain expenses while offering religious services, life cycle events and social events to larger geographic areas. As a sign of the times smaller churches are merging as well.

B'nai Shalom's Hebrew School will continue to serve Jewish children at the Franklin , N.J location. With additional teachers a growing school is anticipated.

In a statement both presidents said "We are excited to announce this merger to cement and serve Judaism and have a greater presence in the area while providing services to all regardless of affiliation."

All interested families are invited to attend services at either location. A Sabbath schedule and High Holiday Schedule will be announced as the holidays are almost upon us. Contact either location, or soon to be new website, for further information.

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Photo Caption

Presidents Robert Levy, left and Dr. Robert Richman congratulate each other on the new merger.