About Young Israel of Merrick

At Young Israel of Merrick, you’re family the minute you walk through our doors. Our shul is a vibrant and welcoming environment; the kind of place where you can come in and make a difference right away. Said simply, we are an in-town shul, with an out-of-town feel. Through our diverse educational and social programming, we aim to foster the spiritual and religious growth of each of our members. Located in the beautiful suburban town of Merrick, Long Island, we are very close to major highways and just a short, direct train ride away from Manhattan. With our young and dynamic Rabbi and Rebbetzin, a beautiful mikvah, a well-maintained eruv, a plethora of kosher options in town and nearby, and many schools just a short drive away, Young Israel of Merrick is the perfect place to raise your family.
Rabbi Winston received his rabbinic ordination from Yeshiva University’s Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He has a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Jewish Studies from Yeshiva University. In addition, Rabbi Winston is in the final stages of completing his M.A. in Biblical Studies from the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies. He also currently serves as Community Programming Director of the Center for the Jewish Future at Yeshiva University.

Rena received her bachelor’s degree from Stern College and then went on to complete her M.A. in Occupational Therapy from SUNY Downstate. Rena has worked in some of the top O.T. Rehabilitation facilities in the country. In addition to her “day job”, Rena has previously served a crucial role in a number of communities. Most notably, Rena was on the board of Mount Sinai Jewish Center, the most prominent shul for young Modern Orthodox families in Washington Heights, NY. Rena is also a certified Kallah teacher.

In April 2018, the Winstons welcomed Leora to their family. While napping and eating are two of her most favorite past times, she also really enjoys meeting new people.
Eruv

Our community has a large eruv that is constantly expanding to meet the needs of our growing community.

Mikvah

Merrick is proud of its brand new community mikvah, built in 2017. Our stunning mikvah attracts Jews from all over Long Island and Queens.

Schools

There are many Jewish Day Schools and Yeshivot just a short drive away with free busing available.

Kosher Food

Merrick currently has a kosher bagel restaurant and many kosher grocery options in the local stores. We are also just a short drive away from all of the kosher establishments in West Hempstead and the Five Towns.

Affording Housing Near the Shul

As the New York area continues to become increasingly unaffordable, Merrick, has many housing options that young families can afford.

Beautiful Community

Merrick is a picturesque town with local duck ponds, streams and other beautiful natural landmarks.

Parks and Playgrounds

With a brand new park and playground facility in Merrick and the many state parks and nature preserves in the surrounding area, there are many ways to enjoy the great outdoors.
AMENITIES

Public Transportation
Commuting into Manhattan is a breeze with a direct LIRR line from Merrick to the city, taking less than 45 minutes!

Travel by Car
Merrick is perfectly situated among many major highways making commuting by car simple and easy.

Merrick Library
Merrick boasts a state-of-the-art public library that is unmatched in its quality educational programming, events and an entire floor dedicated to children.

Shopping
Merrick hosts great local shopping as well as access to many surrounding malls that are just minutes away.

Beaches
Merrick is minutes away from some of the finest beaches on Long Island including Jones Beach and Long Beach.

Entertainment
With movie theaters, ice skating rinks, bowling alleys and museums just a hop, skip and a jump from Merrick, you’ll always have a place for a fun family outing.
The three weeks is an auspicious time for personal growth and reflection. Our annual three-weeks series focuses on the loss that we incurred so many thousands of years ago and how we can rebuild and bring the redemption in our days.

Understanding the lives of our forefathers and foremothers and applying the lessons they learned to our own experiences, is quintessential to what it means to be a Jew. This series that takes you through the development of each of our great ancestors is not one that you will want to miss!

The Gemorah implores us to familiarize ourselves with the laws and customs of each holiday thirty days before its arrival so that we can be ready to experience each of our holidays to their fullest. This series starts four weeks before every holiday in order to prepare our participants for what’s to come.
Shiurim and Lectures

5 Minute Mishnayos
5 Minute Mishnayos is a daily class that takes place right after Shacharis. With Rabbi Winston’s quick yet thorough explanations, this shiur endeavors to complete all of Shas Mishnayos in just a few years.

Hilchos Tefillah
Prepare for davening with a pre-Shacharis shiur that takes place 10 minutes before Shacharis on Shabbos morning. This shiur for the dedicated early-minyan comers is on its way to mastering an understanding of the laws, customs and assorted practices of prayer in Judaism.

Shabbos Afternoon Class
This once-a-week class that meets 30 or 45 minutes before Mincha on Shabbos afternoon (depending on the season) is one of the most popular shiurim at YIM. With Rabbi Winston’s engaging and interactive lectures on relevant topics of the day, this is certainly a crowd favorite!

Long Island Torah Network
YIM hosts a Beit Midrash night every Monday that is overseen by Rabbis from the Long Island Torah Network. The evening features two Torah learning opportunities: an engaging and interactive Gemorah shiur and a text-based Chumash shiur. Whether you’ve been learning for a few years or your entire life, this Monday night Beit Midrash has something for everyone.

Breakfast in the Beis
If you ever wanted to learn more about some of the greatest Torah giants in Jewish history, this is the class for you. This Sunday morning series explores the Torah, life and thought of some of the greatest Jewish thinkers impacting our time. Following Shacharis on Sunday morning enjoy a great breakfast while you listen to this class taught by Rabbi Winston!

Women’s Rosh Chodesh Class
The monthly Women’s Rosh Chodesh Class is an opportunity for all of the women of YIM to come together to hear relevant Torah thoughts on the month ahead.
Community Programming

Young Israel of Merrick provides programming that serves a diversity of interests and age groups. In a single calendar year you will find special Shabbos programming such as onegs, scholars in residence, visiting student groups, cholent cook-offs and musical havdallahs. YIM also hosts additional communal programming that engages the mind and spirit such as evening lectures and discussions, young professional events and community socials.

Special Shabbos Programming

Every Shabbos at YIM is meaningful and inspiring. Below you will find a sampling of some of the exciting Shabbos programming at YIM.
Our active sisterhood runs regular events and programming for our YIM family as well as overseeing all of the chesed initiatives in our shul. From coordinating meals for our members in need to running holiday programming, blood drives, bowling nights and challah bakes, the YIM Sisterhood is always busy with something! Below is a list of some of the events and programming that are run on a regular basis.

- **Bowling Night** - The annual bowling night is one our most popular events of the year. Families come together on a Saturday night in the winter to go bowling, have pizza, and enjoy a night on the town with friends.

- **Book Club** - The YIM Book Club meets monthly and features stimulating conversations and thought provoking dialogue on the latest trending books.

- **Challah Bake** - Our Sisterhood challah bakes are always a highlight on the YIM calendar. Women come and bake delicious challah’s for Shabbos along with hearing some words of Torah shared by a guest speaker.

- **Coat Drive** - The annual sisterhood coat drive raises awareness of those who are in need and collects coats to help others stay warm for the winter.
Holidays at YIM are uplifting and exciting. Below is a sampling of some of the diverse programming that we offer throughout each of the holiday seasons.

**Secrets of Selichos**
Saturday Night | September 1st | 11:15 PM
Join Rabbi Winston for a meaningful pre-Selichos class which will delve into the deeper meaning and purpose of the custom to recite Selichos.
Refreshments will be served.
Selichos will follow at 12:00 AM.

**Turning Over a New Leaf**
Shabbos Shuva Drasha 5779
Shabbos Day | September 15 | 4:45 PM
New year's means new beginnings. But, how can we look forward from the mistakes we've made in the past? Join Rabbi Winston this year to learn the Jewish perspective on starting fresh, self renewal and not looking back.

**Sukkah Party with The Winstons**
WHERE: Young Israel Sukkah at JCP Hevraim, Ariz.
WHERE: Shabbos Chol Hamoed, September 29th, 4:30 PM

**Highlights of Shemini Atzeres & Simchas Torah**
at Young Israel of Merrick
Friends are invited to special evening services scheduled in the Shabbos Sukkah at Young Israel. All are invited to join in the prayers and learn that will be shared throughout the year (Tu B'Shevat).

**Sukkot Drasha Series**
Join Rabbi Winston and Young Israel of Merrick and uncover the true meaning of the holiday of Sukkot.
Sukkot Day 1 | September 24th
True Happiness
Sukkot Day 2 | September 25th
Realizing the Divine
Shabbat Chol Hamoed | September 24th
The Meaning of Life
Shemini Atzeret | October 1st
Letting Go
GREEN ACRES MERRICK STYLE
PURIM NIGHT, MARCH 20

LYRICS BY IRA ZIGLOVER
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY IRA ZIGLOVER

YIM COSTUME CONTEST
PURIM NIGHT, MARCH 20
Judges TBA
Open to ages 0-100

15 NEW THINGS TO SAY AT YOUR SEDER
SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 7, 9:15AM
Prepare for your seder with Rabbi Winston and learn new insights and thoughts to share with your family and friends at the Passover Seder.

Are We Still Slaves?
April 13th, 6:40 PM

Biur Chametz
Starts at 11AM
YIM Parking Lot

TISHA B'AV COMMUNITY KINOT SERVICE
SUNDAY, JULY 22
AT THE YOUNG ISRAEL OF MERRICK

JOINT DHAV & YI SHACHARIT SERVICE AT 9:30AM
FOLLOWED BY A JOINT EXPLANATORY KINOT SERVICE
LED BY RABBI DOV WINSTON & RABBI IRA ZIGLOVER
Weekday Davening

Shacharis
Sunday - 8:30 am
Monday, Thursday - 6:10 am
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 6:20 am

Mincha/Maariv
In the Summer - At zman
In the Winter - Maariv is at 8:00 pm

Weekly davening times can be found at www.yimerrick.org

Stay Connected with YIM

YIM Whatsapp Groups
Getting Healthy with YIM
YI Merrick Minyan
Sisterhood
Social

Want to join any of these groups? Let us know.
Affordable Housing

Below is a sampling of the range of houses that exist in Merrick from affordable starter homes to beautiful estates. Merrick offers homes that you can move into when you are first starting your family as well as larger homes to move up to as your family expands. (The homes below are a sampling of those that were available as this guide went to print.)

- 380K | 13 Court Street | 4 beds, 2 baths | 1,123 sq ft
- 499K | 10 Beach Dr | 4 beds, 2 baths | 1,256 sq ft
- 499K | 145 Frankel Blvd | 3 beds, 2 baths | 1,238 sq ft
- 529K | 203 Babylon Tpke | 5 beds, 3 baths | 1,662 sq ft
- 575K | 17 Oak Brook Ln | 5 beds, 2 baths | 2,086 sq ft
- 579K | 2748 Lincoln Blvd | 4 beds, 3 baths | 3,014 sq ft
- 959K | 108 Frankel Blvd | 4 beds, 2.5 baths | 1,238 sq ft
- 1.425M | 49 Lindenmere Dr | 4 beds, 4 baths | 4,100 sq ft
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is there kosher food in Merrick?
A: Yes. Bagel Boss on Merrick Road has a full dairy menu and tables and seats for diners. Local supermarkets carry many Kosher products and have fully stocked kosher aisles. Kosher butcher shops and restaurants are just 10 minutes away in nearby West Hempstead and many more establishments are 25 minutes away in the Five Towns and Far Rockaway.

Q: Are there Yeshivot in Merrick?
A: HANC (Hebrew Academy of Nassau County) is 10 minutes away in West Hempstead. HANC Middle School and High School are nearby in Uniondale. Children from our community have also attended HAFT, HALB, NORTH SHORE HEBREW ACADEMY, CENTRAL YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS in the Five Towns, Great Neck and Queens. School busing is made available to many yeshiva by the local school district. Early childhood Jewish education is available at the Oceanside JCC’s satellite location in Merrick. Merrick’s Chabad also has a very active Early childhood learning center.

Q: What type of housing is available and in what price range?
A: Merrick enjoys a wide variety of homes within walking distance to the Young Israel. While there are rental options, Merrick stands out as a neighborhood where a young Orthodox family can purchase a starter home at a reasonable price relative to the high cost of housing in Orthodox communities in the New York metropolitan area. In addition to capes, high ranch homes and colonials on small or oversized lots, Merrick’s south shore location offers waterfront options to those desiring a water view, private boat dockage and such amenities. Local real estate agents understand the needs of our prospective members for homes within the Eruv. From time to time the Eruv is extended to include a new member’s home and walk to shul.

Q: What does a typical week look like in YIM?
A: We have regular minyanim throughout the week. In the Winter months YIM has a late maariv only and in the Summer months we switch back to a mincha/maariv minyan. Rabbi Winston gives a daily 5 Minute Mishnayos shiur at the conclusion of Shacharis services. On Monday nights YIM hosts the Long Island Torah Network’s Beit Midrash night with a Gemarah class and a Parsha class. On Shabbos we have a packed

Q: What LIRR line is Merrick on, how long to Penn Station and Brooklyn, and how often do the trains run?
A: Merrick is on the Babylon line. Non-stop trains run regularly to Penn Station and Atlantic Terminal and the ride is only 42 minutes. Merrick enjoys one of the best LIRR commutes from Long Island to Manhattan or Brooklyn.

Q: What are YIM membership dues and is there a Building Fund?
A: Dues are currently $1,200.00 per family. There is no building fund as our building mortgage is paid off. Dues include High Holiday seats for the family with nominal charges for guests davening in our shul on Rosh Hashana and/or Yom Kippur. No family is turned away from YIM because of an inability to pay for membership. There are no public appeals and only one appeal for silent pledges during the high holidays.

Q: What makes Rabbi and Rebbetzin Winston so special?
A: We are so fortunate to have Rabbi and Rebbetzin Winston as the spiritual leaders of our community. They succeeded our Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Marc Volk and his Rebbetzin Jeryl Volk, who continue to reside in Merrick, daven in our shul and inspire us after 22 years of spiritual guidance and friendship. As Rabbi Volk accepted his newest position as Executive Director of the National Council of Young Israel, our community selected a young Rabbi who is committed to revitalizing the shul and making Merrick the destination for the new generation of young married Orthodox couples and families. Rabbi Winston continues to innovate and recreate programming in Merrick and has made the future of our Merrick shul and growing the Orthodox community his top priority. Rabbi Winston and his Rebbetzin Rena Winston are both easily accessible and can be reached any time, day or night by phone or email with any questions you may have.
schedule with great Torah learning opportunities, davening and food! On top of our regular weekly schedule there is almost always something else going on at YIM whether it be a shul outing organized by the Sisterhood, a book club gathering and discussion, a guest lecturer stopping by for an evening talk, or special monthly classes such as Breakfast in the Beis that meets on Sunday mornings following services.

Q: How far is Merrick from the 5 Towns and West Hempstead?
A: 10-15 minute drive to West Hempstead. 25-30 minute drive to the 5 Towns.

Q: What is there to do in the Merrick area?
A. Merrick is located on the South Shore of Central Nassau County which is a recreational capital of New York. It boasts the following in Merrick or within a 5 minute drive of Merrick:

- Cammanns pond and walking path
- Merrick Avenue fishing pier
- Levy preserve and park including nature walking trails, Kayaking, etc.
- Merrick tennis, golf course, club house and golf range
- Julian Lane and public school parks and playgrounds
- Newbridge park ice skating rink, snow sledding, paddleball courts, children’s playgrounds, basketball courts
- Freeport boating and fishing
- Village of Freeport recreation center with outdoor and indoor pools, state of the art gym, full service health club, indoor ice skating and more
- Wantagh County water park
- Cedar Creek Park biking path to Jones beach and beyond
- Jones Beach and Lido Beach featuring beautiful beaches, boardwalks and many more fun and recreational activities

Q: Do you have a Sisterhood and what programs exist for Women?
A: Young Israel of Merrick is a place for everyone: men, women and children. As such, we put in a lot of effort to make sure that everyone feels engaged and a part of our community. The Young Israel of Merrick Sisterhood serves to enrich our shul and to help our community members during difficult times. They host regular programming such as book clubs, monthly Rosh Chodesh learning with the Rabbi or Rebbetzin, sports outings and other exciting events. In addition, the Sisterhood fills the important role of assisting those in their time of sickness or bereavement.

Q: If I want to Daven or Layn, are those opportunities available?
A. At the Young Israel of Merrick, men frequently receive Aliyah's and are encouraged to lead our services and participate in our layning rotation. If you want to take an active role in our services then not only do we encourage you but we'll also guide you in becoming the best ba’al tefillah or ba’al korei that you can be.

Q. What is so special about Jewish life in Merrick that differs from larger Orthodox communities on Long Island?
A. At Young Israel of Merrick, our motto is, "Empowering the Individual. Building the Klal." What that means is that the most important part of our shul is that we want everyone to be involved and a part of our tight-knit, cohesive community. While living and raising a family in a large community has many advantages, many of today’s younger generation are looking for a smaller community that they can help grow in the way their parents or grandparents started new communities and watched them grow into today’s huge communities. Many people in large communities feel alienated from their own neighbors and even older members recall nostalgically the early days when everyone knew everyone by name and everyone looked after each other’s children and watched them grow up to become bnei and bnot Torah.

Living in Merrick means having that type of small shul in a beautiful neighborhood yet you are only minutes from the amenities that the larger communities offer.

However, what makes YIM so special is that our shul and mikvah are already built and we have a dynamic Rabbi and Rebetzin in place. All that awaits is the next generation to benefit from the efforts that started thirty years ago when many of YIM’s current baalei batim started the shul. And of course, to build upon that foundation to enable more learning, kosher establishments, yeshivot and Judaism to grow in the beautiful town of Merrick.
JOIN OUR FAMILY!

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