

# TEMPLE EMANU-EL OFFICER & BOARD PROPOSED SLATE 2022–2023



**Pamela Kaitin-Miller**  
PRESIDENT

Pam Kaitin-Miller has been a fixture at our Temple since joining in 1980. In those 42 years you may have seen her performing in the Purim spiel, participating in Soulful services, facilitating affinity groups about New York on Zoom, leading parts of daily minyan or joyfully praying in the sanctuary. Pam has been on the officer corps in a variety of roles over the years, most recently as VP of Religious Engagement.

Pam and Sam have three children—Shoshana (who, you may know by her own involvement in Temple life), David and Michaela. She is a very proud grandma of 5 and kells to see her two oldest grandchildren participate in services routinely.



**R. Josh Bolton**  
VP RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Josh Bolton and his family arrived in Providence and Temple Emanu-El three years ago. He serves as Executive Director of Brown RISD Hillel and has worked with Jewish students on college campuses for over a decade.

Josh has written several books of poetry and holds an MFA from the Program for Poets and Writers at UMass Amherst. Josh, his wife, Natalie Lyalin, and their two boys, Oren (10) and Boaz (7), live near Lippitt Park and can often be found on the playground and East Side coffee shops. Oren and Boaz are proud students at JCDSRI and Natalie serves as Chief Experience Officer at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

Josh loves Shabbat mornings at Emanu-El, especially davening in the main sanctuary, inspired by the beauty of the physical space and generosity of the many wonderful friends and congregants all around. He is honored and excited to serve on behalf of the Emanu-El community and its bright future!



**Joyce Juda**  
VP EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Joyce has been a member of Temple Emanu-El since she moved to Providence from the Boston area in 2006. She was looking for a Shabbat friendly community, and had visited Emanu-El several times in connection with her work with Jewish teens. Emanu-El was always such a warm, welcoming shul that she found it hard to resist! Joyce grew up in Fall River, Massachusetts, and often visited Providence with her parents to go to the kosher bakery and deli.

Joyce served as New England Region's United Synagogue Youth Director for 37 years, also overseeing other regions in upstate NY and Canada. As a great many of USY's regional youth leaders and active participants came from Temple Emanu-El, she was honored to be part of their Jewish teen experience. Two years ago, Joyce left her long-time position and became the International USY Alumni Director. Throughout her years with USY and since moving here, Joyce felt fortunate to meet and become friends with many amazing Emanu-El members and connected to this great community.



**Jeff Levy**  
TREASURER

Jeff grew up in Indianapolis and was a member of the Sephardic shul, Etz Chaim, his grandparents helped to create in the 1920's. His roots are from Monastir, Serbia and Grodek, Austria. Jeff has four kids: Heather (25), Drew (25), Adam (22), and Miriam (8). He and his wife Rachel moved from Madison, WI to Providence in 2017 to be closer to her parents, Sheila (past President) and Paul Alexander.

Professionally, Jeff manages a project management office for a consumer products company.

Jeff has a history of volunteerism; he was on the board of both his shul in Madison and the Federation, has been a scout leader, and also a volunteer cook at homeless shelters. Jeff has been a member of the Temple Emanu-El board since 2019, previously serving as the VP for Membership, and is now currently our Treasurer. Jeff's hobbies include extensive research into his genealogy; he also likes woodworking and strategy board games.



**Michael Leshinsky**  
4 YEAR TERM

Michael is the proud father of two beautiful girls, ages 7 and 9, and husband to the love of his life, Amy Leshinsky. His father, Herb Leshinsky, moved back home to New England in 2001 after being away for over 40 years, and was a Temple Emanu-El member until he passed away on April 26, 2021. Michael followed his father to Providence in 2004 and has been a Temple Emanu-El member ever since.

His family loves Temple Emanu-El. Before retirement, Rabbi Franklin married Michael and his wife and presided over their two daughters' baby namings. Cantor Mayer and Rabbi Fel were present for Michael and his family while Michael's dad was in hospice and only had weeks left on earth. Rabbi Fel officiated at Michael's father's funeral last year. Michael felt so much comfort from the congregation during last year while they were doing kaddish for his dad.

Michael owns a boutique CFO service company with his main office in Cranston, RI. They underwrite deals, create pro formas/budgets, model out valuations, review key ratios and source capital. Michael loves what he does for work, and finds it fulfilling and meaningful. He is grateful for the opportunity to have a positive impact on Temple Emanu-El as a board member.



**Paul Oeser**  
4 YEAR TERM

Paul was born in the wild pine barrens of the New Jersey Shore. He moved to Providence in 2000 with plans to expand his role in the culinary world and to be a part of something bigger.

Over the last two decades, he shifted focus and built a career in the Data/IT industry. He also searched for his own meaning of 'something bigger.' It was during this phase of his life that he was drawn to the richness and depth of Judaism. In 2021, he converted to Judaism with Temple Emanu-El, and daily cherishes being accepted into the tribe.

He lives with his wife, Rebecca, and their cats, Pandora and Izzie. In his free time, Paul loves to hike, cook, skateboard, hunt for treasures at thrift stores, and watch documentaries.



**Ilona Berman**  
1 YEAR TERM

Ilona Berman has been a member of Temple Emanu-El for over 14 years. She became a member of the congregation after joining a havurah, where she made friends and spent some wonderful time with Rabbi Kaunfer and his wife. During her time at Temple Emanu-El, she has participated in the Youth Committee.

Currently, Ilona lives in Pawtucket with her husband, Moshe, and her two sons, Levi (10) and Meir (8), who both attend the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island. In addition, Berman is a finance manager at an engineering firm.

Ilona was born in Odessa, Ukraine and moved to Western Massachusetts in 1991. Her sister, Zoya tseytliv, and her family live in North Providence.

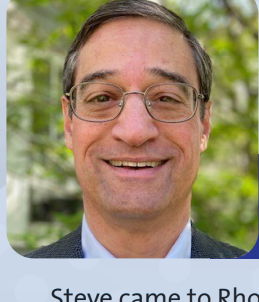


**William Sikov**  
1 YEAR TERM

Bill Sikov was born in Pittsburgh, PA, where his family was (and still is) very active at Tree of Life. He joined Temple Emanu-El in 1989, when he came to Providence for his first job (at the Miriam Hospital) after completing training in Hematology-Oncology in Boston.

As a Conservative Jew, Bill is very comfortable with the religious observances at Emanu-El, a connection which was bolstered several years ago while saying Kaddish for his father. He also appreciates the temple's and clergy's strong commitment to education and reaching out to the wider RI community, Jewish and non-Jewish. Bill's wife, Susan Gleklen Norman Sikov, has been a member of Emanu-El since her childhood.

Bill's son, Mark, returned to RI last year for his residency in Internal Medicine, and his daughter, Jennifer, will be starting a PhD program in psychology in Miami this summer. Eight years ago, Bill Sikov joined the Breast Health Center at Women and Infants Hospital, where he specializes in clinical research and the treatment of breast cancer.



**Steven Goliger**  
VP HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Steve came to Rhode Island when he married his college sweetheart (and Providence native) Donna. They have been active members at Temple Emanu-El for over 20 years, and have two grown daughters and a new granddaughter.

Over the past two decades, Steve has volunteered in many lay leadership and board positions throughout the Rhode Island Jewish community, including the former Alperin Schechter Day School, the former Bureau of Jewish Education, and the Foundation for Rhode Island Day Schools. At Temple Emanu-El, Steve has previously served on the Budget & Finance Committee and the Board. He became an Officer in 2015, serving as Vice President of Financial Development and subsequently, as Treasurer, helped to outsource the Temple's accounting function. He continues his active involvement in both the Endowment Committee and House Committee. As the current Vice President of Human Development and Planning, Steve also attends to matters concerning staff employment and contracts, policies and procedures, and governance.

Professionally, Steve is a private consultant in the areas of technology, finance, project management, operations and administration for the Financial Services and Public sectors.



**Terence Sullivan**  
VP FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Terry has been a member of Temple Emanu-El since 2000, and currently serves as our Vice President for Financial Development. Terry has served on both the Temple's Capital Campaign Committee and an ad hoc committee on governance.

Terry has been active on other boards, including the Southside Community Land Trust, which promotes sustainable agriculture and community food systems across Rhode Island, and the Touro Synagogue Foundation.

Currently, Terry is Northeast Division Director of the Nature Conservancy, where he leads the collective efforts of chapter directors in 12 New England and Mid-Atlantic States to realize large-scale conservation outcomes on behalf of the Conservancy's mission. Terry joined the Conservancy in 1993.

A graduate of George Mason University, Terry lives in Cranston and feels fortunate that his two adult sons, Eli and Jonas, live nearby in Providence and Pawtucket.



**Audrey Kupchan**  
VP MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH

Audrey moved to RI in 1981 for her Internal Medicine Residency Program and soon after started attending services at Temple Emanu-El. She became a member a year or two later and was warmly welcomed. Audrey raised her family in the Emanu-El community and both of her sons became a Bar Mitzvah with Rabbi Franklin and Cantor Mayer. Over the years she has been on the Board and many other committees, and has come to the shul in both happy and sad times. Audrey has also developed deep friendships over the years.

Audrey is winding down her career in Primary Care Internal Medicine, and also has been on the Faculty at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. She is involved with several non-profits and other organizations. Her passions are travel, exercise and hanging out at the beach.



**Stephanie Trachtenberg**  
SECRETARY

Stephanie Trachtenberg has been a member of Temple Emanu-El with her family (husband Marc, and sons Sanford and Abram) for nearly 10 years. The Trachtenberg family has been firmly rooted in the congregation for decades, and is proud to bring new generations to the community.

Since joining the Temple, Stephanie has served on religious school committees, volunteered at fundraising events, sang and participated in High Holiday services, and particularly enjoys contributing to Purim activities – from party chairing to song writing to singing, and most recently starring as Vashiti.

When she's not having fun with her family, volunteering or singing, she's leading the marketing and public relations efforts across North and South America for a global consumer products company.



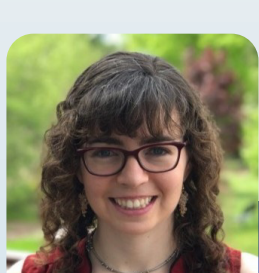
**Boris Nakhlis**  
4 YEAR TERM

Originally from Ukraine, Boris moved to Providence in 1996 and has been a member of Temple Emanu-El since 2018; his parents have been members for many years.

Boris earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from Rhode Island College and a Master's of Business Administration from Fitchburg State University. He is currently working on his Doctor of Business Administration. Over the last 20 years, Boris worked in IT in various roles around software development.

During High Holidays, Boris volunteers to assist members with accessing synagogue services and events via technology.

Boris is blessed with the love and support of his wife, Sommer. Their daughter, Aria, is currently attending JCDSRI. In his spare time, Boris enjoys cooking, woodworking, and spending time outside.



**Rebecca Wolkoff**  
4 YEAR TERM

Rebecca Wolkoff is a Cleveland-native turned Providence transplant, and has been a member of Temple Emanu-El for eight months. She and her husband, Benjamin, joined when they first moved to Providence last September in order to find community; they love how welcoming everyone was and have enjoyed many ATEED events.

While they don't have any roots in Providence, Rebecca recently learned her Uncle Jonathan Levin was in the Temple Emanu-El choir while he attended Brown University.

Rebecca is the CTO and co-founder of a start-up installing fast electric vehicle chargers and solar at fast food restaurants. In her spare time, she runs programs at the Volta Foundation's Battery Brunch and mentors the Wheeler School robotics team.



**Judy Fishman**  
1 YEAR TERM

Judy moved to Providence with her husband, Bob, in the fall of 2014 and immediately joined Temple Emanu-El. She was attracted to Temple Emanu-El by the breadth and depth of its community and has truly found a "home" at the synagogue. Judy has been a member and contributor to Minyan Chadash, served on the Membership Committee, been a student of the Adult Education Institute, and served as a trustee of the synagogue for the past 3 years.

Judy is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Old Colony YMCA in Brockton, Massachusetts. Her particular focus in that organization is the Family Services Division, which shelters families experiencing homelessness. She has two grown children who live in Massachusetts, and in her professional life is a project manager in marketing research.



**Charles Blackman**  
HONORARY PRESIDENT

Charles is a fourth generation Temple member and a Religious School graduate. Charles first joined the Board of Trustees in 1998. Since that time, he has served as a Temple Officer for 14 years in various roles including Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President for Financial Development and Vice President for Human Development, most recently, as President beginning in 2019. Charles has chaired the Nominating Committee, Budget and Finance Committee and the "Israel is 50" celebration, in addition to his active involvement in the last two capital campaigns and the planning and transitioning to the "Gift of the Heart."

Charles is grateful for the work of the clergy, the professional staff, past and present officers and all of the board members and volunteers with whom he has served over the past 24 years.



**Toby Liebowitz**  
1 YEAR EX-OFFICIO

Toby has been a member of Temple Emanu-El for about 25 years. She taught in the Religious School for about 17 years, and just completed her seventh and final year as an officer of Temple Emanu-El. Toby loves Temple and is proud of her role in helping us become a strong Institution prepared for whatever the future holds.

Toby is a retired special educator and is presently privately tutoring reading to students who are dyslexic. She also teaches Hebrew to adults both in the US as well as in Poland.

## Nominating Committee

Jeffrey Davis	Jeffrey Prystowsky
Judy Fishman	Holly Rothenrich
Sandi Gordon	Nicie Weiner
Marilyn Katz	Jonathan H. Lentz, <i>Chair</i>
Margie Pelcovits	