

## **NEW BOARD MEMBER BIOS**

### **MITCH BLOCH**

Mitch and his family have been members of Temple Isaiah for several years. Despite a long gap, there is a wonderful connection to the Temple as Mitch had his Bar Mitzvah there in 1979.

Mitch has a bachelor's degree from Emory University and a law degree from Pepperdine. He is currently the owner of California Closeouts and Liquidations which buys and sells closeout and liquidated merchandise.

### **DAVID CHIU**

David has been of a member of Temple Isaiah since 2014. He serves as a greeter for Friday Night Shabbat Services, and also helps to coordinate the volunteer bagel pick-up for Rabbi Klein Miles's Saturday morning Torah Study minyan - both are things he attends weekly.

As a member of the Green Team, David has assisted in putting on environmental education events for Temple Isaiah, as well advocated for climate legislation at LA City Hall and our State Capitol in Sacramento. He has also written many articles for The Isaian, both on behalf of the Green Team and as an individual. In addition, David has joined Janet Hirsch and others in conjunction with ONE-LA to advocate for policy changes in housing and immigration. He helped write Isaiah's 2017 Purim Shpiel, was honored to deliver a Shabbat sermon on the history and theology of the Jews of medieval China, and presented a lecture for Isaiaans on his experiences visiting his ancestral shtetl in Lithuania. This year, David was awarded the Temple Isaiah Emerging Leaders Award.

As screenwriters, David and his writing partner have written an episode for the Amazon Prime series LORE, sold a VR project to Dreamscape Immersive for development with Sam Raimi and Walter Parkes, and wrote a biopic about Rod Serling that made Tracking Board's 2015 Hit List.

David draws inspiration from his Chinese and Litvak heritages, and is a member of a Los Angeles group for Jews of Color. He has written a piece for the Jewish Women's Theatre show True Colors, which explores the experiences of multiracial Jews.

### **IDELLE DAVIDSON**

Idelle and her husband, Peter, are long-time Temple members. Their two boys attended Hebrew school and were bar mitzvahed at Isaiah. Idelle has been an active participant in ChaiVillageLA, having spearheaded the voter registration interest group where members partner with the League of Women Voters to register voters at high schools and festivals in L.A. In addition, she started and edits the "Introduce Yourself" column in the ChaiVillageLA newsletter for members to write about their lives. More than 30 essays are archived so far. She is also a member of the Isaiah Caring Community. Outside of Isaiah, she volunteers at the Cancer Support Community Benjamin Center in L.A.

Professionally, Idelle is a freelance writer and author. Her work has appeared in the Washington Post, Time magazine, the Los Angeles Times and several other publications. She is the co-author of a New York Times-reviewed book on health.

## **JIM KNOTT**

Jim has been an active member of Temple Isaiah since 2010 when he became a Jew-By-Choice after attending the Introduction to Judaism class at the AJU.

He grew up on a family farm just outside of Owensboro, Kentucky. He joined the US Airforce right out of high school, and subsequently earned his degree in mechanical engineering at St. Louis University. He met his Beshert - Layne - at a Swing Dance event in downtown Detroit while working for Ford Motor Co. designing the robotic systems that built the cars. He moved to Los Angeles in 2010 to be with her, and now runs her medical practice.

Their daughter Lily attended Temple Isaiah Preschool from Teddy Bears through Glittery Galaxies and is now finishing up Kindergarten at Mirman School, as well as her first year of Hebrew School at Temple Isaiah.

Jim has served on several committees for the Synagogue including the Security Committee and the Nominating Committee, and has also been an active member of the Men's Group.

In his spare time, he enjoys Lindy Hop, SCUBA diving, Disney Cruises, sharing his extensive knowledge of Bourbon and BBQ, and attempting to win negotiations with his 5 year old.

He may have grown up Catholic, but has always been a Mensch at heart, and finally found his "tribe" when he joined the Temple Isaiah Family.

## **ADAM SIEGEL**

Adam has been a part of the Temple Isaiah community for over 35 years, starting from the time he was in preschool through his Bar-Mitzvah and now into adulthood. He and his wife, Amy, have two sons, Ethan and Spencer, both of whom also attended preschool at the temple and are continuing their Jewish education in the Religious School. The family has been deeply involved in Temple activities and organizations, attending family camp, fourth Fridays, and many other Temple events. Adam is also part of the Development Committee and Amy is on PAC. Adam and Amy have also hosted several Temple events at their home. Adam is a Partner at the law firm of Jackson Lewis, specializing in representing employers in workplace law and management. In his spare time, Adam enjoys spending time with his family, including watching his kids' sporting events, and playing golf.