

BOARD MEMBERS – BIOS & PHOTOS 2020-2021



Gary Elman

Gary currently serves on the Executive of Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity and has served on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Dental Association, United Synagogue Day School and CHAT. He has been co-chair for the UJA Dental Division and is presently an active participant at Little Minyan and the Membership Committee of Beth Tzedec. Gary has been on the Board of Directors of Beth Tzedec for several years and is currently Parnas, as well as co-chair of the Adult Education Committee and co-chair of the Ritual Committee.



Jamie Golombek

Jamie Golombek is Managing Director, Tax & Estate Planning with CIBC and pens the weekly “Tax Expert” column in the *National Post*. He received his B.Com from McGill University, earned his CPA designation in Ontario and qualified as a U.S. CPA in Illinois. Jamie currently serves on the Jewish Foundation’s Professional Advisory Committee and the SickKids Professional Advisors Council. He’s served on the board of both Sha’arei Shomayim and the Jewish Foundation. In 2018, Jamie was awarded the Professional Advisors Award of Excellence, which recognizes the outstanding contribution made to the Jewish Foundation by professionals in our community.



Bernie Gropper

Real estate and corporate lawyer. Married for 30 years, with four children. Beth Tzedec member since birth. Currently Beth Tzedec Chairman of the Board. Other community involvement includes being President of Bialik HDS, an Executive Member of the board of Camp Ramah; a member of the UJA Executive; a March of the Living chaperone and an Avenue Road Hockey convenor. At Beth Tzedec, he has been a Board member since 2017, has co-chaired the Senior Rabbi Search Committee, chaired the transition team for Rabbi Steve Wernick and is a long-standing participant in the Little Minyan. He also frequently provides pro bono legal services to various Jewish organizations.



Marice Hart

Marice holds Master of Social Work degree from Carleton University and an MBA from the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto. She has served in several positions at Jewish Family & Child, including Child Protection Worker and Hospice Social Worker, as well as working with adoptive and foster parents. Prior to JF&C, she worked at SickKids in the Child Abuse and Neglect program and the NICU. Marice has been member of Beth Tzedec since 2017 with her husband Benjamin and their two young daughters. She is enthusiastic about contributing to the Beth Tzedec community and most recently served on the Associate Rabbi Search Committee.



Karen Hersh

Karen is a finance executive who has held senior leadership roles in both private equity-backed and public companies. She began her professional career in 1988 and spent a number of years at PriceWaterhouseCoopers, specializing in mergers and acquisitions. Karen holds a Bachelor of Commerce and is a CPA, CA. She has been an active member of Beth Tzedec since 1997 with her husband Lawrence Davis and their two children, one a student at TanenbaumCHAT and one a recent graduate of the University of Western Ontario. Karen currently serves on Beth Tzedec's Budget and Finance, Visioning and Audit committees.



Naomi Kramer

Originally from upstate New York, Naomi attended Hebrew Academy in Albany and spent 13 summers at Camp Yavneh in New Hampshire. After earning her Masters in Chemical Engineering from McGill University, she moved to Toronto in 2008. She works at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre as the Director of Operational Excellence. Naomi first became involved in Beth Tzedec while attending premarital classes with her now-husband Illan in 2009. They became members in 2010. When she is not spending time with family, she volunteers with La Leche League and Robbins Hebrew Academy. Naomi is excited to help contribute to the future of Beth Tzedec!



Ruthann Lubin

Law clerk for more than 25 years. Started Ontario Juvenile Arthritis Association. At Beth Tzedec, she has served on the Youth and Education Committee, Membership Committee and the Search Committee to hire Rabbi Frydman-Kohl. She is a member of Sisterhood (Co-President) and has been the board representative for a number of years.



Mitch Max

Mitch is a CPA, CA and consultant with a professional focus in performance management and strategy. Mitch also teaches at the Rotman School of Management at U of T. A member of the Board of Directors since 2019, he leads the new Visioning Committee and is a member of the Digital Strategy Advisory team and the Ritual Committee. Mitch and Anne have been members of Beth Tzedec for nearly 40 years and were early members of the Little Minyan. They now enjoy being grandparents and think often of how Beth Tzedec will be a relevant and meaningful home for this next generation.



Debbie Rothstein

A third generation Beth Tzedec member, Debbie's grandfather, J. Barney Goldhar, was a founding Board member and past Chairman. Her father, Paul Rothstein, is a Past President. A Board Director for 10 years, Debbie currently serves as President. Director of Finance at Wilder and Rose Inc., Debbie is married to Michael Friedman and has two children, Emma, studying at Queen's University, and Zachary, studying at Western University. Through expanding programming and engagement opportunities, Debbie is focused on ensuring the success and well-being of the Beth Tzedec community.



Patti Rotman

Patti is a retired dental hygienist, married to Sheldon since 1981. Patti sat on the Shaareh Haim Board, was President of Alpha Omega Auxiliary, volunteers with Out of the Cold, attends weekly Shabbat services, and is the proud mother of four USDS/CHAT graduates and Bubie of Rory. Patti's Beth Tzedec involvement includes: Catering Chair, Building Committee, Mother's Day Chai Tea, Paul Kowarsky/Lorne Hanick dinners, Beth Tzedec's 50th and 60th Anniversaries, Mitzvah 613/ "BARuch Mitzvah", Rabbi Tanenbaum retirement luncheon, Scotch Nights, Lulav & Etrog distribution, "Dead Sea Scrolls", all eight Purim Musicals and the Tribute Executive organizing the R'BFK Year of Tribute Gala. Patti is excited to welcome grandchild number two.



Sheldon Rotman

A lifelong member of Beth Tzedec, Sheldon graduated dentistry at the University of Toronto in 1980 and practices in Richmond Hill. Having served as President of Shaareh Haim Synagogue and on the Board of USDS/RHA, he has participated on numerous special events committees like Grand Night of Song, Mitzvah 613, the 50th Anniversary Celebration and the Beth Tzedec Musical Concert Series. Sheldon has been married to Patti for 39 years and enjoys life with their children and grandson- Shaun, Lauren, Jodi & Ryan, Robin and grandson Rory. He served as Immediate Past President last year.



Allen Schacht

Allen has been a member of Beth Tzedec for over fifty years and attends the Little Minyan with his wife Susan and their two children. Allen is a member of the Beth Tzedec Men's Club and serves as its board representative. He is a member of the House Committee and spent many years on the Festivals Committee. Allen currently serves as a Director and member of the Executive of the Forest Hill Hockey Association. Allen served on the Executive of the Real Estate Institute of Canada for both the Toronto and National Boards for eleven years. Allen is the Director of Commercial Property Management for a private equity real estate firm and has been involved in property and asset management since 1992.



Earl Schwebel

Earl and his wife Joanne have been members of Beth Tzedec since 1981. His daughter Rebecca is a Beth Tzedec member and daughter Andrea is a member of a Conservative synagogue in Boston, Massachusetts. He has served on the Adult Education Committee for many years and is pleased to be joining the Ritual Committee and is also a volunteer at Out of the Cold. Earl's community involvement includes past service on the tuition committee at Associated Hebrew School and president of his trade association. Earl holds an MBA and was active in their family bowling and entertainment business. He looks forward to being on the Board of Directors, contributing in this exciting time of change.



Brian D. Segal

Brian is a tax partner with the Toronto office of the global law firm Baker McKenzie, and was for many years the financial administrative partner of the office and was a member of the office's management committee. Brian has considerable experience advising in the area of registered charities and was instrumental in establishing and, for many years, advising one of Toronto's important cultural institutions. In 2018, Brian chaired the committee that drafted the new constitution for Beth Tzedec, the first major revision to the firm's constitution in over 60 years. Brian is married to Roslyn Levine. They are longstanding members of Beth Tzedec. Both their sons had their *b'nei mitzvah* at Beth Tzedec.



Don Smith

Don came from Montreal, where he returns regularly to see his beloved grandchildren. His career has been in sales, and sales/general management, and as a business owner. His personal time has been in volunteer work in men's shelters, penitentiaries and rehabs and golf. A Jew-by-choice, Don's conversion was under Rabbi Cutler and he has been a Beth Tzedec member since then, now on the executive of the Men's Club and President of AnsheZafon region of the FJMC. He co-chairs our Building Committee. He has been with Out of the Cold since joining Beth Tzedec and is regular at Little Minyan. Don is marrying Lianne Eklove of Thornhill in the fall of 2020.



Aaron Wine

Aaron (50), born and raised in the Boston area, attended Maimonides Yeshiva High School and then Columbia College for his undergraduate degree. He graduated Boston University Law School, married a Canadian, completed the Joint Committee of Accreditation and relocated to Toronto. He runs a sole-practitioner criminal defence office. He and his wife, Nina, have three children who attended Bialik and CHAT. The Wine family have been members at Beth Tzedec for the last 15 years. Aaron reads Torah in the Little Minyan and, more recently, has been on the Cantorial Search committee. The Wines have strong familial ties to Israel.



Rafi Yablonsky

Rafi holds a BComm from York University and worked in the hi-tech industry before joining the UJA as Manager of Strategic Initiatives. Rafi has worked as Toronto Director of Chai Lifeline, Campaign Director at JNF Toronto and most recently as Manager of Major Gifts at Baycrest. Rafi has volunteered for numerous Jewish organizations and serves on the Board of the Montessori Jewish Day School. A member since 2017, he served most recently on the Associate Rabbi Search Committee. Rafi was honoured with the prestigious Notable.ca 2015 Award - Best in Not for Profit Under 40 in Canada. His greatest accomplishment to date is raising his 21-months-old son Jaden and his 1.5-year-old fur-daughter Sophie alongside his wife, Sam.



Cecile Zaifman

Cecile is a CPA involved in real estate management and investment. She has 25 years of governance experience on the boards of TanenbaumCHAT, Jewish Family and Child, UJA Federation, Leo Baeck and others. She is the Treasurer of Beth Tzedec and a member of the Executive. She serves on the Catering, Nominations, Audit, Investment and Cemetery committees of the shul and chairs Budget & Finance. Cecile is the proud parent of three RHA and TanenbaumCHAT grads. A member of Beth Tzedec for 18 years, Cecile looks forward to working collaboratively on the exciting challenges and opportunities ahead for our shul.



Josh Zelikovitz

I'm Josh Zelikovitz. I'm a public servant, and I live in Toronto with my wife Leah and daughter Noa. I joined the board because there are things I want to accomplish. I want Beth Tzedec to be a place where we can use Jewish experiences to build community. I want Beth Tzedec to foster meaningful relationships and serve demographics we have sometimes overlooked. I want Beth Tzedec to be relevant to young people, families and future generations. And if that sounds like a Beth Tzedec you want too, email me at joshaz@gmail.com so we can work together.



Arlyn Zimmerman

Beth Tzedec has always been an integral part of Arlyn's life, where she married Danny 34 years ago and celebrated their six sons' *b'nei mitzvah*. After graduating with a Bachelor Degree in Finance and working in brokerage firms, she turned to volunteering. With children at USDS, her volunteering grew to president of the Parent's Association and member of the Board of Directors. Attending weekly Shabbat Services, her commitment extends to the Cantorial Search Committee, Assistant Rabbi Search Committee, Rav Baruch Frydman-Kohl's Gala celebration committee, co-chair of the 11th annual Mother's Day Chai Tea and Chair of the Membership Engagement Committee.



Oscar Zimmerman

Recently retired as CEO of ScotiaLife, having held numerous senior executive positions at Scotiabank since 1992. Oscar founded Canadian and International insurance companies connected to the bank. Oscar represented Scotiabank as one of four founding members and served as Board Chair of CAFII. He also served on the Board of CLHIA and is a retired former Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries. A previous Beth Tzedec Board Member for over 15 years, Oscar served as Treasurer, and member of Budget & Finance, Strategic Planning and HR committees. Together with his wife Anna, they have three married children and nine grandchildren.