

May 2021

Dear Temple Micah Members,

Please join us at our annual Congregational Meeting on Thursday, June 3 at 7:00 pm via Zoom Conference. A link will be sent to you in advance of the meeting. Yes, we are still on zoom but are looking forward to more and more in-person meetings in the months ahead. This annual congregational meeting will be a great opportunity to get a sense of the past year as well as the bright future ahead.

During this meeting, Rabbi Zemel will share his views on the State of the Synagogue and I will similarly give a President's Report. Our Board Treasurer will provide a brief summary report on the fiscal affairs of the Temple and information regarding our budget for the year ahead, FY2022. At the meeting (or in advance if you prefer), you can vote for the board candidates and officers. There are a number of exciting new initiatives that we hope to share with you at the meeting, too, and of course address where we stand on evaluating the physical reopening of our Temple. It will also be a moment – among many we have in the weeks ahead – to toast Teddy!

Our goal is to get a healthy turnout (with a quorum as required by our by-laws), so please join and feel free to bring your spouse or partner too. You will also receive separate instructions about on-line voting, so please take a moment to respond.

Looking back over the past year – a full year in pandemic mode – many things about Micah have changed, but so much still remains the same. We prayed together, but just not in person. We studied together, sang together, shared memories together, celebrated mitzvahs together and clung together during tougher moments. We cheered and jeered current events together (in D.C., across the U.S. and throughout the world). Our incredible rabbinic, music, education and office teams put so much energy and time into every aspect of Micah. Think back and reflect on the overwhelming number of study sessions, Pirkei Avot and Omer counting, Shabbats, sermons, racial justice initiative learning, Covid health sessions, and panels we shared together. Sure, not in person, but still together. And of course, we still managed to sing together – even if on the small screen.

I hope to see you on the 3rd. Please stay safe and healthy.

Warmly,

Joshua Berman
Board President



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WASHINGTON, DC 20007
202.342.9175
WWW.TEMPLEMICAH.ORG

DANIEL G. ZEMEL
Rabbi

JOSH BERAHA
Associate Rabbi

STEPHANIE CRAWLEY
Assistant Rabbi

RACHEL GROSS
Executive Director

TEDDY KLAUS
Music Director

DEBRA WINTER
Worship Music Artist

SHARON TASH
Education Director

Temple Micah Annual Membership Meeting Agenda

June 3, 2021, 7:00 pm on Zoom

1. Call to Order
2. Rabbi Daniel Zemel's Report
3. President's Report: Joshua Berman
4. Treasurer's Report: David Wentworth
5. Nominating Committee Report: Harriet Tritell
6. Election of Directors
7. Adjournment

May, 2021

Dear Temple Micah Members:

In accordance with Temple Micah's by-laws, the Nominating Committee is pleased to announce its nominees for election to next year's Board of Directors:

Evan Bloom
Susannah Nadler
Jennifer Oko
Robin Rudowitz
Noel Salinger

The Temple's by-laws establish the process for selecting members of the Temple Board of Directors. The nominating process began with the Board's appointment of the Nominating Committee, which is composed of Lee Futrovsky, Miriam Grogan, and Owen Herrnstadt as representatives from the congregation, and Jennifer Kaplan and myself from the Board. The Committee conducted three meetings, two meetings in closed session to consider candidates for nomination, and one meeting that was open to Temple members. We sought nominees who represent the breadth of Temple Micah's membership, and who have demonstrated leadership ability and a commitment to the congregation. We considered a range of members whose experience, skills, judgement and commitment to Micah would enhance the leadership of our congregation. We believe that this slate of candidates meets these criteria. Three of the nominees will be serving on the Board for the first time, and two of the nominees are current Board members who are running for a second term. We are confident that each of them will bring welcome talents, perspectives, and energy to the Board.

In addition to the Nominating Committee process, the by-laws also provide an alternative means through which members can be nominated for the Board. Specifically, the by-laws provide: "A member may also be nominated for the Board of Directors by petition upon the signature of ten (10) members. The petition, together with biographical data concerning the candidate, shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Board no later than five (5) days prior to the membership meeting called for the purpose of electing Directors of the Board." Such additional nominees, if any, shall be placed on the ballot along with those selected by the Nominating Committee. Petitions should be submitted to Harriet Tritell, Secretary of the Board, secretary@templemicah.org, no later than May 31, 2021. Enclosed are brief biographies of the Board nominees. The election will be held at the Annual Membership Meeting on June 3, 2021. If you have any questions about the nominating process, please do not hesitate to contact me at htritell@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Harriet Tritell Chair, Nominating Committee



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Temple Micah Board of Directors Absentee Ballot 2021

Each of the following shall be entitled to vote:

1. The individual member
2. Or in the case of a family membership, each member shall have one vote

Please select up to FIVE out of FIVE candidates for the board and return to the temple **by Noon on Monday, May 31, 2021.**

- Evan T. Bloom
- Susannah Nadler
- Jennifer Oko
- Robin Rudowitz
- Noel Salinger

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**Please return by email by Noon on Monday, May 31, 2021
(as an attachment, or simply send your ballot as the body of an email)
EMAIL: disa@templemicah.org**

Temple Micah
2829 Wisconsin Ave NW
Washington, DC 20007
202-342-9175

Temple Micah Board Nominee Biographies 2021

Evan T. Bloom

Evan T. Bloom is a Senior Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. He retired from the U.S. Department of State in December 2020 after thirty years of service, where he held various positions including Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries and Director of the Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs. He guided U.S Arctic and Antarctic diplomacy for many years and led four U.S. inspections of foreign facilities in Antarctica. He joined the Department as a lawyer in 1991 after practicing law in Tokyo and Washington, DC. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a fellow of the Explorers Club. He graduated from Princeton University (A.B.) and Columbia Law School (JD). He, his wife Amy Royden-Bloom (a senior manager at the Department of Energy) and son Noah (a 7th grader at Thomas W. Pyle Middle School) live in Bethesda and joined Temple Micah in 2015. Noah's virtual (yet still wonderful) bar mitzvah was this past November.

Susannah Nadler

After growing up in New York City and graduating from Wesleyan University, I moved to San Francisco seeking adventure. I worked at a series of nonprofits for the next five years, until my love of literature and my growing sense that I wanted to be a teacher urged me to move to DC in 2011 to get my MA in English from Georgetown University. Since graduating with honors from Georgetown in 2013, I have been teaching English to 9th- and 12th-grade students at St. Stephens & St. Agnes, a private Episcopal school in Alexandria. In 2018 I was recognized for my commitment to promoting all aspects of student life, and I took on the role of Associate Dean of Students. Since then I have balanced being an administrator and being a teacher, and I have a deep love for both roles. My husband, Zach, and I joined Temple Micah shortly after we moved to DC, and we were thrilled to find a synagogue that felt like home to us. Rabbi Esther Lederman performed our wedding in 2014, and since then we have had two sons, Allen, who is three and a half, and Leo, who is one. We now live in Glover Park and we participate in the Micah community as actively as we can, within the confines of parenting and the pandemic. Most recently I was a facilitator for the Temple Micah Roadmap discussions; I'm honored to have the opportunity to give back to an institution that has been an essential anchor for me and my family.

Jennifer Oko

When my family joined Temple Micah around a decade ago, my husband Michael and I wanted to find a warm, engaging environment where our kids could develop a strong sense of Jewish identity and where we could find a community that felt like home. We chose well. Temple Micah has given us so much. Jasper became a bar mitzvah in 2017, challenging Rabbi Crawley on the laws of kashrut. Laila celebrated her bat mitzvah in 2020, early in the pandemic. It was a deeply moving and meaningful experience. Afterwards, I helped Laila and her friend Maggie create a video to encourage this year's class, and I have tried to make myself available to other families going through the virtual process.

In 2017 I helped establish Sukkat Shalom. Greeting the Rasoolis at the airport that October was one of the greatest honors of my life, and I am so grateful for the new friendships and connections the group has given me within the Micah community. More recently I have created videos to promote the work they are involved with, including one about an exhibit of art by children at a detention facility and another that allowed Maleka Rasooli to share her story with the congregation.

Outside of Temple Micah, I am a novelist and filmmaker. I am the co-founder of a boutique video production company, Because Media. We produce documentary-style content for news outlets, nonprofits, and NGOs. Last year, we produced a film on Vernon Jordan that premiered on PBS, as well as a short tribute film on John Lewis for the Democratic National Convention. We are currently working on a WGBH Frontline project about Civil Rights-era cold cases, and I recently completed a draft of a new novel. As Michael and I are both native New Yorkers, rooting for the Yankees is a family requirement (as is skiing, for what it's worth).

Robin Rudowitz

Our family joined Temple Micah in 2011 after attending High Holiday services with our then young children. We loved the music and energy of the services and the welcoming feeling from the rabbis and members. Our twins have attended Machon Micah and had their b'nai mitvah in December 2017. The b'nai mitzvah was a milestone for our children and for us as parents. Outside of Machon Micah and the b'nai mitzvah, one of my favorite activities at Temple Micah has been attending the weekly parenting group lead by Cantor Meryl Weiner and Martha Adler. Connecting weekly with a small group of people to discuss issues about kids, Judaism and the world has helped to make the Micah community smaller and allowed me to bond with other parents. Joining the board has provided a new and exciting opportunity for me to engage with Temple Micah in an entirely new way, separate from participation through my children. It is an honor to serve on the board and a great way for me to give back to a community that has been so great to our family.

Outside of Temple Micah, I work at the Kaiser Family Foundation doing health policy research focused on low-income populations who are on Medicaid or uninsured. I spend many evenings and weekends shuttling the kids to various sports and music lessons. Most recently, we have all been spending a lot of time adjusting to the responsibilities and needs of our black Labrador, our newest family member. I enjoy spending time outside hiking, biking, running and playing tennis. I also love to do yoga, cook and travel.

Noel Salinger

I consider myself a ba'al teshuvah. My family was not observant and I grew up with no Jewish identity. But twenty years ago, as my mother started to lose her memory and her siblings began to pass away, I felt the need to restore a connection to their Hungarian Jewish past. I joined KAM Isaiah Israel in Chicago, started going to Torah study and services, setting out on the path to my Jewish consciousness. When I decided to move to Washington, I asked the rabbi if he knew of a good temple here. "Temple Micah," he said, "that's where the Chicago people are."

Temple Micah has been central to my life ever since. I joined in 2010 when I was midway through Meryl Weiner's adult B'nai Torah class. I was called to the Torah in April, 2011 with nine "classmates." It was one of the most profound and memorable days in my life. Since then, my engagement with Micah, with Torah, and with my own inner debate about how to relate to the Divine, or the idea of the Divine, has only deepened. I joined the Saturday morning Torah Study Group. I have learned an enormous amount from other TSG participants, and from the opportunity to study for leading discussions several times a year. Before the pandemic I was a Saturday morning "regular" at services and I look forward to the time when we can resume services in person.

In 2018, I retired after a 40+ year career in nonprofit development (that's Latin for fundraising). I spent many years as a grant writer, major gifts officer and senior manager, at the national ACLU, the University of Chicago, GW Medical Center and the Smithsonian. From the mid 1990's to mid-2000's I served on the Board of the ACLU of Illinois, and was treasurer for eight years. At Micah, I've been glad to offer my two cents to support its development efforts. In 2013 I worked on the campaign to retire the Temple's mortgage and joined the Development Committee soon afterward. On the Committee, I've worked with colleagues to establish the Legacy and Endowment funds, to initiate the Temple's planned

giving program, and, most recently, helped to create an annual development plan and planning process.

Oh, and I've been a regular participant in our summer lay-led services, sometimes as a service leader, or giving the d'var Torah. For six or seven years now, several of my B'nai Torah classmates and I have chanted Torah in honor of Meryl each summer. Hope you can be at services August 7 when Betsy Broder, Geoffrey Barron and I will chant to honor Meryl again. It would be an honor to serve the Temple as a member of the Board of Directors. I hope I have the opportunity to do so.