

May 2022

Dear Temple Micah Members,

Please join us at our annual Congregational Meeting on Thursday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m. As we continue to expand our in-person offerings, this year's meeting will take place in person at the Temple and also via Zoom Conference. For those joining on Zoom, we will send you a link in advance of the meeting. We have an ambitious agenda for this year's meeting – sharing so much from the past year but also focusing on many great things ahead of us.

As has been our tradition, Rabbi Zemel will share his views on the State of the Synagogue. I will similarly give a President's Report, which will include an introduction to the professional staff, many of whom joined us during the pandemic. We also will hear from our Rabbis Beraha and Crawley about Storefront, and from our Director of Education Sharon Tash about Machon Micah. Our Treasurer will provide a brief summary report on the fiscal affairs of the Temple and information regarding our budget for the year ahead, FY2023. The meeting will conclude with the election of board members (voting in person or online). If you prefer, you may vote in advance by absentee ballot.

Our goal is to get a healthy turnout (with a required quorum), so please join and feel free to bring your spouse or partner, too.

It has been an absolute privilege to serve as the Board President for the past two years. Yes, so much of it was via Zoom, but that didn't stop us from being our authentic Micah selves. We looked after each other and mourned together. We celebrated and sang together. We studied and prayed together. We embraced the traditions of generations and even began some new ones. We searched out for and acted on ways to improve the lives of others around us – whether it be Afghan or Ukrainian families in need, victims of gun violence in our city, women transitioning from abuse and others. We continued to educate ourselves, push each other and rally in support of fundamental racial, gender and other rights and liberties to which all human beings are entitled. And, believe it or not, over the past several months, we have begun to do all of that with such vigor in person. So much credit is due to our amazing rabbinic, music,



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DANIEL G. ZEMEL
Rabbi

JOSH BERAHA
Associate Rabbi

STEPHANIE CRAWLEY
Associate Rabbi

BETH WERLIN
Executive Director

DEBRA WINTER
Director of Spiritual Arts

SHARON TASH
Education Director

education and office teams who put so much energy and time into every aspect of Micah.

I hope to see you on June 2nd. Please stay safe and healthy.

Warmly,

Joshua Berman

Board President



Annual Membership Meeting Agenda

June 2, 2022 | 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order
2. President's Report, Joshua Berman
3. Rabbi Daniel G. Zemel's Report
4. Report on Storefront, Rabbi Josh Beraha and Rabbi Stephanie Crawley
5. Report on Machon Micah, Sharon Tash
6. Finance Report, David Wentworth
7. Nominating Committee Report, Harriet Tritell
8. Election of Directors
9. Adjournment



May 2022

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:

Roberta Aronson

Brent Goldfarb

Lauren Laitin

Rielle Miller Gabriel

Erica Perl

David Wentworth

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 Herrstadt 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, who think critically and creatively, and who have demonstrated leadership ability and a commitment to the 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 three of the nominees are current Board members who are running for a second term. As we look toward our congregation's future, 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 27, 2022. Enclosed are brief biographies of the Board nominees. The election will be held at the Annual Membership Meeting on June 2, 2022. 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



Temple Micah Board of Directors Absentee Ballot 2022

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 SIX out of SIX candidates for the board and return to Temple Micah via email by noon on Tuesday, May 31, 2022.

- Roberta Aronson
- Brent Goldfarb
- Lauren Laitin
- Rielle Miller Gabriel
- Erica Perl
- David Wentworth

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return via email by noon on Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Please send as an attachment, or simply send your ballot as the body of an email.

EMAIL: disa@templemicah.org



Temple Micah Board Nominee Biographies 2022

Roberta Aronson

I am delighted to have the time to commit to prayer, study and tikkun olam at Temple Micah. My husband Paul and I just retired. For many years, I served as the General Counsel of a non-profit organization, Cooperative Finance Corporation, and advised the members of the board of directors about their fiduciary duties. My primary focus was on best governance practices and I developed a comprehensive ethics and legal compliance program for the company. I also oversaw all other legal work, including finance, contracts and employment law. Hopefully, I will be able to bring my expertise and experience to bear while serving on the Temple Micah Board.

Over twenty-five years ago, my first exposure to Temple Micah was attending an auction at which I bid on meals at members' homes and immediately made wonderful friends. Religious school shaped our lives as my daughters Lindsay and Emily progressed from kindergarten to Bat Mitzvahs and on to high school graduation. I also embarked on my own spiritual and educational journey through the fabulous Adult B'nai Torah class and ceremony. Temple Micah inspired Emily to continue her immersion in Jewish life, and she was ordained as a Reform Rabbi last year.

Temple Micah has played a key role in many of our life cycle events over the years. Observing rituals has given a rhythm to my life. Temple Micah has been a source of strength in times of sorrow and a place to celebrate simchas together. I always come away from Temple Micah with a sense of hope. I look forward to serving on the board of directors.

Brent Goldfarb

After returning from a sabbatical in Argentina in 2011, Beth and I decided we needed a new Jewish home for our family. We chose Temple Micah because it just felt right. The mix of social values, warmth and the longstanding mission to find relevance in an evolving American Jewish experience attracted us. This was a place where we felt welcome, not just a place to park our two kids (Elena, now 19 and Nathaniel, now 16) for 2 hours on Sundays. We found our home. At Micah, I helped coordinate the underwear drive in 2014 and 2017, and have served on the Temple Micah Board for

the last 3 years. Professionally, I am an economist who teaches entrepreneurship at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business. I lived in Israel from 1983-1996 where I attended high school, served in Israeli submarines, and studied at Tel-Aviv University. I visit Israel frequently. We have lived in Washington since 2002. I'm humbled to be renominated to continue my service on the board.

Lauren Laitin

Over the course of their first 15 years in DC, Lauren and Marc Laitin visited almost every synagogue in the area, but never felt like they had found the right one until they fortuitously came upon Temple Micah and knew immediately that this was the Jewish community for them. From Tashlich in Rock Creek to Machon Micah, Friday night services to Racial Justice programming, Temple Micah has become a place where Lauren, Marc and their two daughters feel at home. Lauren, a former litigator now executive coach and facilitator, finds joy in all things community and looks forward to serving the Micah community in the hopes that everyone in search of a Jewish community can feel welcomed and at home at Temple Micah.

Rielle Miller Gabriel

Seth and I came to Temple Micah via NextDor, which was introduced to us by a neighbor (turned family) and long-time Micah member, Mace Broide. When we had our daughter Emerson, we came to Temple Micah for her naming ceremony and then routinely for Young Family Shabbat services (pioneering the introduction of wine and whiskey to the 'afterparty'). Once we officially became members in 2014, we became more involved with the Micah community. I have enjoyed working with the Forging Micah Connections group finding ways the temple can be even more welcoming and inclusive; co-leading the monthly Mazon Micah sessions making sandwiches and trail mix for Friendship Place; and hosting/participating in the "Drink and Think" sessions where I get to let out my inner philosopher (I've been in the organizational ethics field my entire career) with other parents of young(er) children. Temple Micah is an amazing community, and I am honored to represent you on our Board.

Erica Perl

Erica S. Perl is the author of over forty popular and critically acclaimed children's books. She received the National Jewish Book Award for her middle grade novel, *All Three Stooges*, which takes place in a warm, supportive reform congregation in Northwest DC (sound familiar?). Erica has also received

three Sydney Taylor medals, as well as DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and Virginia Center for the Creative Arts fellowships, and her books have been P.J. Library selections. Erica, her husband Michael Sewell, and their daughters, Francesca (Franny) and Beatrice (Bougie) have been Micah members since 2008. Both girls attended Machon Micah and became b'not mitzvot at Micah. Erica has participated in Micah's People of the Book Fair and she has helped lead the annual *Ninth Night of Hanukkah* celebration, which is based on her book of the same name. Erica is also active in many DC literary organizations, including *An Open Book Foundation*, *Turning the Page*, *PEN/Faulkner's Writers in Schools*, and the *Children's Book Guild of Washington, DC* (serving as President from 2021-2022). In her free time, Erica likes to run, ski, bake, read, and spend time with her family, friends, dogs, and guinea pigs. If elected, it would be her honor to serve on the Temple Micah board.

David Wentworth

David, his wife Betsy Broder, and their daughters, Ariel and Caroline, joined Micah when the Temple was still in Southwest DC. Micah was clearly "worth the schlep" for a family looking for a progressive, thought-provoking, and inclusive congregation. Micah has been at the center of their lives ever since. Betsy served as Board President from 2005 to 2008. Both girls became b'not mitzvah at Micah, continued to chant Torah as teenagers, and were active members of MiTY. David and Betsy joined Micah trips to Israel in 2006 and 2017.

David has worn many hats at Micah. In 1995, he helped organize the move from Southwest and helped install the office computer network. He was chairman of the Finance Committee in 2001 and 2002, and again from 2006 to 2008. He has participated in the Temple's Sukkat Shalom work. He has played clarinet during Friday night services as a member of the Pick-Up Band. David joined the Temple's Board of Directors in 2019. He has served as Treasurer of the congregation since 2020.

Outside of Micah, David is a tax policy consultant, working primarily for the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the United Nations. He also volunteers with KindWorks, a local social services organization, helping to resettle refugees in the metro-Washington area.