



מִיכָה  
TEMPLE  
MIÇAH

# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, June 6 | 7 PM

Temple Micah + On Zoom



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Temple Micah Members,

Your presence is needed at our annual membership meeting on Tuesday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. You can join us in-person at Temple Micah or on Zoom.



Our annual membership meeting is the one time of the year that our entire community gathers together to focus on the state of our synagogue—what we have achieved together over the past year, what challenges we face, and what we have to look forward to in the year ahead.

Importantly, this year, we will be voting on updated bylaws. It has been over 10 years since we have amended our bylaws, and much has changed at Temple Micah and in the world around us. The proposed amended bylaws are intended to serve Temple Micah well into the future and ensure that we continue to follow applicable laws and good governance practices. I ask that everyone review the updated bylaws and cast your vote during the meeting (in person or on Zoom), or via the absentee ballot contained in this packet if you are unable to join us for the June 6 meeting.



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As has been our tradition, at the meeting, Rabbi Zemel will share his views on the state of our synagogue, and I will provide a President's Report. We also will receive updates on Storefront, Machon Micah, and our fiscal affairs. The bylaws working group will review the proposed updated bylaws and then we will vote on them, and the meeting will conclude with the election of board members.

Thank you for your support of Micah and engagement in our vibrant community. This fiscal year has been marked by many transitions for our congregation. Perhaps most significantly, we transitioned to a new normal for our operations - for the first time since the 2018-2019 fiscal year, we had a full year of in-person operations. And with the installation of our new audio-visual system, we were able to offer hybrid participation for many community-wide events.

Additionally, we transitioned to our clergy, staff, and board integrating the Roadmap into our conversations, decision making, and processes. As we look to next year and our congregation's 60th anniversary, I am confident we can navigate our new transitions with our Roadmap as our guide. I hope to see you on June 6.

**Warmly,**



**Rielle Miller Gabriel**

*Board President*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Meeting Agenda ..... page 4

Bylaws Materials ..... page 5

A Message from the  
Nominating Committee ..... page 6

Board Member  
Nominee Biographies ..... page 8

Absentee Ballot ..... page 12



# MEETING AGENDA

June 6, 2023 | 7 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. President's Report, Rielle Miller Gabriel
3. Rabbi Daniel Zemel's Report
4. Report on Storefront, Rabbi Beraha & Rabbi Crawley
5. Report on Machon Micah, Sharon Tash
6. Finance Report, Brent Goldfarb
7. Bylaws Working Group, Vote on Amended Bylaws, Roberta Aronson and Susannah Nadler
8. Nominating Committee Report, Joshua Berman
9. Election of Directors
10. Adjournment



# BYLAWS: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Click on each link below to access the bylaws materials.

[Memo to Temple Micah Membership](#)

[Resolution and Proposed Bylaws](#)

[Redlined Version of Bylaws](#)





# A MESSAGE FROM OUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dear Temple Micah Members,

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

*Mark Blumenthal*

*Dorian Friedman*

*Jamie Gardner*

*Benjamin Mark Moss*

Attached are brief biographies of the Board nominees. The election will be held at the Annual Membership Meeting on June 6, 2023.

The Temple's bylaws 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 Harriet Tritell, Miriam Grogan, Lee Futrovsky, and Owen Herrnstadt as representatives from the congregation, and Evan Bloom and myself from the Board.



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Committee solicited nominations by reaching out to the membership at large through the weekly email, requesting input from a wide variety of existing Micah groups, reviewing suggestions from past years and asking staff, the board, and other committee chairs for their thoughts. Over an approximate 10-week period, we communicated multiple times each week.

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 one of the nominees is a current Board member who is 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.

**Sincerely,**

**Joshua Berman**

*Chair, Nominating Committee*



# MEET OUR BOARD MEMBER NOMINEES

Mark Blumenthal

2nd term

Mark and his wife Helen Burstin joined Temple Micah in 2008 and found not just a synagogue but an unmatched spiritual home, sense of belonging and outlet for their Jewish identity. They twice co-chaired the annual Underwear Drive during the b'nai mitzvah years of their two children, Deena and Sam, introducing virtual participation via Amazon orders. They created a multi-media presentation for Micah's Yom Hashoah service that told the holocaust survival story of Helen's father with his poems, photographs and video testimony. With their children, they joined Rabbi Zemel's trip to Israel in 2015.

Mark has worn many hats during his career as a survey researcher, pollster, political consultant, award-winning blogger and journalist. In his current role as the principal at MysteryPollster, LLC, he provides freelance questionnaire design and survey analysis to clients, including the ongoing polling conducted by YouGov for Yahoo News. He was previously head of election polling at SurveyMonkey, senior polling editor for *The Huffington Post*, co-founder of Pollster.com—which won the Warren Mitofsky Innovator's Award from the American Association for Public Opinion Research—and a long-time campaign consultant who conducted and analyzed political polls and focus groups for Democratic party candidates.



## Dorian Freedman

1st term

My family and I have been active members of Temple Micah for 20 years, during which time we have found endless ways to practice the kind of “hopeful, inclusive Judaism” we boast about in our Micah community. Our daughter Mara attended the machon, became a bat mitzvah, and made enduring friendships through the temple, and carries those gifts with her into young adulthood. Together with my husband Sander Lurie, I spent many Sunday mornings selling Georgetown bagels and coffee to hungry machon kids. I joined a succession of talented journalists as a co-editor of *The Vine*. Like so many of you, we organized donation drives and joined Micah House fundraising walks—including the memorable one years ago when our group ran headlong into Bill and Hillary Clinton out for their Sunday stroll. But maybe my most meaningful engagement has come in the last five years, as a member of the leadership team of Sukkat Shalom, Micah’s support group for immigrants and refugees. It has been an amazing privilege to help resettle two beautiful Afghan families (and much more) with the overwhelmingly generous support of the Micah community, and alongside fellow members and our clergy who inspire me so deeply with their living commitment to social justice.

In my professional life, I have been a reporter and editor at *U.S. News & World Report*; a public policy and communications executive at two nonprofits focused on strengthening working families and addressing poverty and inequality; and, early in my career, a junior aide to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. I currently enjoy my freelance work with *The Washington Monthly* magazine and a PBS/NPR affiliate in New York.



## Jamie Gardner

1st term

We have been members of Temple Micah for more than twenty years. My husband, Jonathan Stern, first attended Micah when it was still in Southwest many years before that. Our children, Ben and Rebecca, were in Machon Micah from kindergarten through high school, became b'nai mitzvah at Micah, sang in the youth choir, ate bagels on Sunday mornings and collected underwear. I had the privilege of serving on the Cantor search committees. Our family has enjoyed learning from and laughing with the thoughtful, spiritual, progressive, and fascinating people at Micah – members, clergy, staff, teachers, and friends. Temple Micah is a special place.

I began my professional life as a public defender in the District of Columbia followed by several years teaching in law school clinical programs. I am currently in private practice focusing primarily on white collar criminal defense. I have an active pro bono practice. I previously served on the Board of Trustees of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, including as the Board Chair, and am currently the Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. I am honored to have been nominated to serve on the Temple Micah Board and hope that I can continue to contribute to this wonderful community.

Also, I married into an “Orthodox Baseball” family.

Go Nats (and Yankees)!



## Benjamin Mark Moss

1st term

In the early 2010's, you may have seen me hanging around Temple Micah and mistaken me for my brother, Danny Moss, who worked with Micah kids and teens for a few years before going on to become a rabbi. I'm grateful he introduced my wife Rachael and me to this amazing community, where we've now been members for the past 13 years.

In that time Rachael and I have volunteered at the book fair and organized community events with a focus on reducing food waste; we've met lifelong friends through studying Mussar, had surprisingly good luck at the auction raffle, made connections in the Next Dor and then Storefront communities, and most recently, we've exposed the Young Family Shabbat community to our son, Jay. In addition, from 2010 to 2020 I served on the Micah House board, and for the past few years I have been a member of the House and Cantor Search committees. Rachael and I continue to be amazed by the energy and thoughtfulness in the Micah community; Jay continues to squeal with delight whenever we mention Temple Micah.

Professionally, I am a government attorney and a law professor specializing in immigration and trial and appellate skills practice. Through Micah friends I have also come to volunteer on the George Washington University Hospital Ethics Committee, which provides bioethics advice to patients, families, and providers facing difficult situations. I am honored to be considered for the Temple Micah Board of Directors. If you elect me to the Board (and for that matter, even if you don't), I hope you will tell me about what you love the most about Micah and what you want Micah to be.

# ABSENTEE BALLOT

2023

 This form may be completed [online via ShulCloud.](#)

Each of the following shall be entitled to vote:

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

## ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Please select up to FOUR out of FOUR candidates for the board.

Mark Blumenthal

Dorian Friedman

Jamie Gardner

Benjamin Mark Moss

## RESOLUTION

The Temple Micah Membership approves the amended Bylaws and the changes shall be effective immediately.

I approve the amended Bylaws

I do not approve the amended Bylaws



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# ABSENTEE BALLOT

Please type your name below in lieu of a handwritten signature and return to Temple Micah via email or mail by **noon on Friday, June 2, 2023.**

Name/Signature:

Date:

**Please return by noon on June 2, 2023**

**EMAIL: [disa@templemicah.org](mailto:disa@templemicah.org)**

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