

## **2021-22 Board of Trustee Nominating Committee**

Temple Isaiah's Bylaws define the charge of the Nominating Committee and its process. Please refer to Bylaws' Sections 4G and 6E for the complete text. The 2021-22 Nominating Committee was Co-chaired by Mike Diamond, the Immediate Past President and Nick Gentin, a current member of the Board of Trustees. Other committee members included:

- Nick Gentin
- Idelle Davidson
- Nancy Dreier
- Brit Finney-Conlon (1)
- Ken Friedman (1)
- Rachael Kallick
- Jami Messinger (1)
- Amy Siegel
- Martha Sklar
- Allie Samek, ad hoc
- Deb Moses, ad hoc

Note (1) at certain points in the committee's deliberations, Ken Friedman, Jami Messenger and Brit Finney-Conlon resigned from the committee or recused themselves from any committee discussions or deliberations that might have involved their potential nomination.

The 2021-22 Committee had to fill one (1) Officer Vacancy (VP of Social Justice), seven (7) Board seats that will become vacant on June 30, 2022 and consider for renomination three sitting Board members who were eligible for another term. Following are the nominee slates for each individual category:

### **Officer Nomination**

- VP Social Justice – Britt Finney-Conlon

### **Board of Trustee Slate of Renewing Members (members who completed their first term and asked to be reconsidered for a second 3-year term)**

- Katie Berman
- Melissa Lustgarten
- Adam Siegel
- Orly Tabibi

## **Board of Trustee Slate of New Nominees (note 2)**

- David Felman: 2-year term
- Ken Friedman: 3-year term
- Marisa Kaplan: 3-year term
- Ilana Isakow: 2-year term
- Jami Messinger: 1-year term
- Debra Silverman: 2-year term
- Madeline Wolf: 1-year term

Note 2: The normal Board term is three years, however several members resigned from the Board prior to the end of the terms. The terms less than 3-years reflect that these individuals will serve the remainder of the resigned members' terms and are then eligible for a full 3-year term if re-nominated by the Nominating Committee at the end of their partial terms.

Please see the following pages for brief bios of all nominees

## **Bios for 2022 Nominees**

### **Executive Committee – VP Social Justice**

#### *Britt Finney-Conlon*

Brittany Finney-Conlon is a 5th generation Angeleno and a proud Irish-Jew, along with her husband, James Finney-Conlon. Brit has served on the Board since 2020 and has participated in various Isaiah leadership opportunities prior to joining.

Brit graduated Cum Laude from Brandeis University in 2017 with a dual B.A. in Global Studies and Anthropology, and then in 2018 with her M.A. in Global Studies, concentrating in refugee integration. Currently, Brit works at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles as a Donor Relations Associate, helping build Jewish communities and engaging in donor stewardship. At Temple Isaiah, Brit is heavily involved in Am Tzedek as a community organizing leader with OneLA. Brit also enjoys attending Torah Study classes, weekly Shabbat services, partaking in Isaiah's Small Groups, and engaging with her "mostly-millennial" young adult group. In her free time Brit enjoys hiking, visiting her family in the South Bay, and spending time with James and their two cats.

### **New Board Nominees**

#### *David Felman*

David was born and raised in Los Angeles (not far from Temple Isaiah), where he lives with his wife Erin and two children, Benjamin (4) and baby Brianna. Benjamin is a proud graduate of Isaiah Preschool, and Brianna looks forward to her enrollment this Fall. David has participated on various Isaiah Board committees, and Erin has served in leadership roles on the Preschool Parent Association and Preschool Advisory Committee.

David has over 20 years of financial operations, transactions, and investments experience, as a board member, chief financial officer, investment banker, and institutional investor. He is Chief Financial Officer of College Health Enterprises, a private healthcare services company, and oversees the founding family's investment and philanthropy office. David has extensive experience advising management teams and Board directors on critical strategic transactions, including mergers and acquisitions and debt and equity financings representing over \$100 billion of announced transactions.

David served as Chief Financial Officer of Jewish Family Service LA, the oldest charitable organization in Southern California, after serving as a Board member and Finance Committee Chair. For his work, David was recognized as CFO of the Year by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* for nonprofits. Previously, David was an investment banker at Morgan Stanley, Moelis & Co., and Greif & Co., and served on the investment staff at Stanford Management Company, which manages Stanford University's endowment.

David serves on the Board of the Friars Charitable Foundation, which supports social services and the arts in Los Angeles. David was previously recognized on the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* "LA 500" list of the 500 Most Influential People in Los Angeles. David holds a B.A. in Economics and Political Science with Distinction and Honors from Stanford University, and an M.B.A. in Finance and Entrepreneurship from UCLA Anderson School of Management, where he graduated as a Carter Fellow.

*Ken Friedman*

Ken and his wife, Caryn, joined Temple Isaiah in 2008, shortly before their son Brayden was born. Brayden and his sister Ella each graduated from Temple Isaiah Preschool and continued to the Religious School. Brayden became a bar mitzvah at Isaiah in 2021.

Ken has served on multiple temple committees, including the committee considering acquisition of the Jonas Property, now the Sales Community Center, the Futures Planning Team during the early months of the pandemic, a Board Nominating Committee, and the High Holy Days Task Force. He is an attorney by training, having worked at a large, international law firm prior to shifting to working with entrepreneurial technology companies.

*Marisa Kaplan*

Marisa Kaplan has been a member of Temple Isaiah since 2018. Marisa is deeply committed to raising her two young sons, Max and Noah, with Jewish traditions and Jewish values. Marisa has held various volunteer roles in the preschool, including room parent and PAC member. In her professional career, Marisa is a Senior Vice President at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles where she oversees Federation's vision and strategy to create a Jewish social service safety net in Los Angeles. She has nearly 20 years of experience identifying communal needs and trends; managing lay committee processes; gathering and analyzing data; and assessing program impact and financial reporting. Marisa is married to Adam Kaplan, an LA native. In her free time, Marisa enjoys playing outside with her two sons, listing to live music with her husband and sharing a good cup of coffee (or wine!) with friends.

*Ilana Isakow*

Ilana has been a member of Temple Isaiah since 2014 when her oldest son Jack was in the Teddy Bear program at the preschool. He was later joined by his brother Max and Ilana was actively involved in the school serving on the PPA, as challah lead and room parent. Her kids, now 9 and 7, continue their Jewish education at the temple's religious school. Ilana also was on the planning committee for Temple Isaiah's 70th Anniversary Gala.

Jewish values have been an important part of her life since growing up in suburban Chicago and meeting her husband Richard at Hillel services while at Michigan State University. Ilana has nearly 20 years experience working in the wholesale fashion industry for PVH, Speedo and most recently Levi Strauss. She currently serves as co-president of the PTA at Overland Avenue Elementary School and is an active volunteer.

### *Jami Messinger*

Jami and her family have been members of Temple Isaiah since 2011, and she is excited to join the board this year. Jami chairs the Religious Education Committee, is a member of Isaiah Women, and previously served on the nominating committee. Her children, Hallie and Brendan, attended the Religious School and have been active in Camp Isaiah (as campers and counselors), Rishonim, and ITY.

Jami grew up in Long Beach, CA and attended UC Berkeley (BA) and Georgetown University (MA), returning afterward to live in Los Angeles. She has worked in Guest Facing Technology for Hilton Hotels since 1998.

In her free time, Jami is an avid baker. During COVID, she got a kick out of teaching cooking classes to Isaiah Women over Zoom. She also plays mahjong, recently learned to play canasta, loves pickleball and tennis when her knee cooperates, and is excited to begin traveling again.

### *Debra Silverman*

Debra and her husband Chris have been active members of Temple Isaiah for 13+ years. Their boys both celebrated their bar mitzvah at Isaiah – Isaac in the sanctuary and Jude in Jerusalem on an Isaiah family trip to Israel. It's a community that the Silverman-Hebert family holds close in their hearts.

A native of Cincinnati, OH, Debra holds a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies from Miami University and a PhD in English Literature from the University of Southern California. She's worked in the film & TV industry for many years, beginning as a researcher for the visual effect division of Sony Pictures, followed by a stint as a freelance researcher on a variety of WWII-era movies, then as the head of the rights & clearance department of MGM, and most recently as the head of legal delivery at Apple Original Content.

Debra previously served as a Temple Isaiah board member and for many years as Isaiah's VP of Social Justice. She was the recipient of Isaiah's inaugural Tzedek Award. She's been a member of the League of Women Voters' Homelessness & Housing Committee, is a member of the RAC-CA Leadership team, a leader with One LA-IAF and an active member of Am Tzedek. On the weekends you'll find Debra riding her Peloton, biking or hiking outdoors, playing guitar, knitting, baking, cooking, reading, hanging with family & friends or binge watching her favorite shows.

### *Madeline Wolf*

As a child, Madeline began her Jewish education at Temple Isaiah. She, and her husband of 51 years, Ken Wolf, returned to Temple Isaiah as “empty nesters” about 15 years ago. They have two children and four granddaughters that range in age from 9 to 22.

Madeline has been a practicing psychologist for over 30 years.

Madeline has enjoyed participating in Chai Village, Shabbat Torah study, the memoir writing group, LifeQuesters, Am Tzedek, and a leader in One LA. She also was part of a Temple trip to Israel. She and Ken are frequent members of Friday night services, both live and on line. Madeline was also a member of the recent cantorial search committee.

Madeline sees Temple Isaiah as a supportive and enriching environment that has become an integral part of her life.

## **Renewing Board Members**

### *Katie Berman*

Katie is a Los Angeles native and the mom of two boys, Jonah (8) and Levi (6), with her husband Brian, a Detroit native. Levi is a graduate of the Temple Isaiah preschool and both boys attend religious school at Isaiah. While she was a parent in the preschool, Katie volunteered in the classroom, served on the Friday Challah and Caring Community committees, and helped out with the Family Shabbat evenings. Being a part of and involved in the Jewish community has always been important to their family.

Katie was an elementary school teacher for 12 years. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of WISE, the parent booster organization for Westwood Charter Elementary School, where her boys attend. She loves to volunteer in the boys' classrooms and chair various committees at the school. In her free time, Katie enjoys traveling and going on adventures with her family, reading, and trying new restaurants.

### *Melissa Lustgarten*

Melissa is a Los Angeles native and joined Temple Isaiah with her husband Andy in 2008. Their two boys, Noah (15) and Blake (13) attended Temple Isaiah Preschool and Religious School. And more recently both had Bar Mitzvahs at the temple. Since joining Isaiah, Melissa served as the president of the Preschool Parent Association, and is currently the co-chair of the K-12 Parent Association for the religious school. Now she is the President of the parent board at her sons middle school. Melissa graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and enjoyed her time there, but is happy to be back in her hometown raising her family. In her spare time she likes to cook, read, and take long walks with her dog.

### *Adam Siegel*

Adam, a third-generation Los Angelino, has been a member of the Board of Trustees for the Temple since 2019. Adam has spent literally his entire life as part of this congregation, attending pre-school, having his Bar-Mitzvah and now, participating in the leadership of Temple Isaiah. Adam also serves on the Personnel Committee and previously served on the Development Committee. Adam's wife, Amy, is also active in the Temple, including most recently on the Board of Trustees Nominating Committee. Their children, Ethan and Spencer, also attended pre-school at the Temple and are currently in the Religious School getting ready for their own Bar-Mitzvahs.

Adam is a shareholder at Jackson Lewis, P.C. where he specializes in employment law, advising employers on the complexities of California's employment laws. In his spare time, Adam enjoys playing golf, rooting on LA sports teams, and spending time watching his kids play sports.

### *Orly Tabibi*

My name is Orly Partiyeli Tabibi. My husband Carlo and I have been members of Temple Isaiah since 2015. Both our daughters Georgina and Isabella graduated from the preschool and our son Phoenix is starting his last year in the fall and our experience has nothing but magical.

I am a Los Angeles native. As a child I attended a Jewish day school. Being part of a Jewish community is a value that both Carlo and I highly regard.

Our family considers this community part of our family. In my seven years at Isaiah I have been very active in the Preschool's parent association while also being a member of PAC and the board of trustees.

On my free time I like to spend quality time with my family enjoying life experiences. We love to travel and try new foods.  
I love to workout and my new obsession is breathwork.  
I'm all about Mind Body and Soul.