

## Biographies of the Nominees for the 2017-2018 Board of Directors



### **Dr. Seth Krosner (President)**

Seth Krosner works as a trauma surgeon at Scripps's Mercy Hospital, where he is also active in the surgical critical care department. He moved to San Diego in 1998, and has been a member of TIS ever since. He joined the Board of Directors in 2005, and is the Immediate Past President and has served as Education, Programming, and Executive Vice Presidents. Other Jewish activities in San Diego include the Agency for Jewish Education (Past President), J-Pride (Past Chairman), Center for Jewish Culture (Immediate Past President), and UJF (Mid-Level Campaign Co-Chair, 2009). He chaired the San Diego contingent (the nation's largest!) for last year's national UJF LGBTQ mission to Israel. He twice served as trip physician for the San Diego contingent of the March of the Living. On the 2004 trip, Seth had the opportunity to rescue a holocaust-era Torah from Warsaw, which the congregation restored, and uses weekly. That scroll has been donated to TIS in honor of Hanna Marx and all of our survivors. Seth is a graduate of the Wexner Foundation's Heritage Program for lay leaders. He lives in University Heights with his husband, local actor Phil Johnson.



### **David Ogul (Administrative VP)**

David Ogul is a regular at the daily Minyan and Saturday Shabbat services and has been active at Tifereth Israel Synagogue since becoming a member in 2004. A professional journalist for more than 31 years, David now owns and operates Ogul Communications, a media strategy and public relations firm with a clientele consisting primarily of colleges and universities in the region. David is the guitarist in the Shir Chadash band and had for several years served as a volunteer driver delivering meals for Jewish Family Service's Foodmobile Program. A graduate of San Diego State University, David has three adult children, 19, 26, and 28, and lives with his exceptionally understanding wife, Sharon, in San Carlos.



### **BarbaraSue Barnes (Co-Finance and Development VP)**

BarbaraSue Barnes is a partner and controller for a show management company headquartered in Las Vegas. She was married to Lewis (z"l) for 25 years, mother to Harry (Dani), Pam (Sunny), Mindi (Mark), Jeff, Adrian (Ori) and Wendy, grandmother to Savanna, Race, Jacob, Ben, Tom (Aurianne), David (Rachel), Becca, and Gaby (Avishai), and great-grandmother to Kiwan, Shine and Oona. BarbaraSue joined Tifereth Israel when it was still on Howard Street and four of her children became Bar or Bat Mitzvah at TIS: Harry at the Howard Street synagogue, Pam in the temporary quarters while building our current building, and Mindi and Jeff in our current sanctuary. BarbaraSue was also involved in organizing and running the weekly Tifereth Israel Bingo Night many years ago. It is her pleasure to continue to serve our Congregation as Finance and Development Vice President for the coming year.



**Eric Kaufmann (Co-Finance and Development VP)**

Eric Kaufmann is a management consultant who guides executives and leadership teams to make wiser decisions and strategies. Eric is a native of Israel who, in 1985, moved to San Diego to attend SDSU. He is married to Shayna, a clinical psychologist, and their daughters Tara and Maya attended Abraham Ratner Torah School. Eric founded his firm, Sagatica, in 1999, and has been consulting to Fortune 1000 companies, governments, and not-for-profit organizations. He has served and presided over three boards, Gathering of Healers, San Diego Leadership Initiative, and the Zen Center of San Diego. Eric's book *Leadership as a Hero's Journey* describes the four virtues that transform uncertainty and anxiety into results. Having had the honor of leading the "What's the Point" initiative, Eric looks forward to continuing to serve the Tifereth Israel Community.



**Dr. Debbie Mishek (Religious Life VP)**

Debbie grew up in Los Angeles at Temple Beth Am. She earned a degree in biochemistry from Pomona College and then graduated from UCSD Medical School. Debbie has lived in San Diego since 1984. She is a developmental/behavioral pediatrician and enjoys helping children successfully navigate school and life. Her husband Steve is an airline pilot. They are empty nesters but are lucky enough to have their children Sarah and Daniel living in the San Diego area.

Debbie has been actively involved in the Jewish community most of her life. She sang in a Jewish choir for over 15 years and feels that music is such a great way to connect to spirituality and God. Debbie and Steve love celebrating Shabbat and inviting people over to share in the experience - they are trying to spread Shabbat dinners throughout the congregation. She is an avid walker and loves to bake. She was in charge of parent education at Francis Parker School.

Debbie looks forward to having the opportunity to continuing to serve on the board with the ultimate goal of continuing to build community and connections.



**Dr. Eva Friedberg Isaak (Congregational Services VP)**

Eva joined the Tifereth Israel family in 2011 when her oldest daughter started at Silverman Preschool. Originally from the San Fernando Valley, Eva grew up in a large conservative synagogue, was active in USY, attended Hebrew High School and Camp Ramah.

Eva currently works with her husband, Ari, growing their business as the Business Manager of Evari GIS Consulting. She is also on Adjunct Faculty at Woodbury University School of Architecture teaching courses in art and architecture history, urban studies and landscape. She has published and lectured on the history and politics of urban design and architecture, and has an essay forthcoming in a publication on the American Jewish environmental designer, Lawrence Halprin. In her free time, she loves working in her vegetable garden with her

daughters Hazel (6) and Sherrie (4), both enthusiastic students at Abraham Ratner Torah School and Silverman Preschool.



**Lisa Berman-Hernandez (Education and Youth VP)**

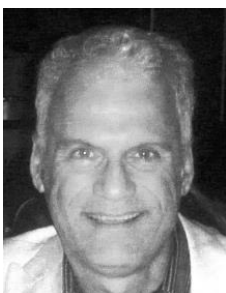
Lisa Berman-Hernandez is a life-long member of Tifereth Israel Synagogue. She was one of the first Bat Mitzvahs in the new sanctuary on Tommy Drive. She made the trek from 30th Street, marching alongside the congregants and leading her USY youth group to our new home. She was later confirmed in the same sanctuary and made a pilgrimage to Israel with USY. Lisa met her husband, Angel Hernandez, at Tifereth, where they celebrated their union with the blessings of Rabbi Rosenthal ten years ago. Their pride and joy, Madeline (Maddie), eight years old, was named at TIS.

Lisa's great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers, Saul and Bessie Blanc and Louis and Ida Zemen, were some of the original pioneers of Tifereth when it was located on 18th Street. Her grandfather, Max, was a president of the synagogue, and her grandmother, Lillian, was an original member of our Sisterhood. Lisa's parents, Sharlene and David Berman, have held similar active positions within the synagogue for decades. Sharlene was one of the first Bat Mitzvahs in the history of Tifereth Israel. Currently, Lisa is a partner at the law firm of Bender & Gritz. She previously taught Hebrew school in Chicago.



**Norman Kort (Secretary)**

Norman was raised in South Africa in an Orthodox Jewish home. He immigrated to San Diego in 1981 and spent the next 36 years raising two children and as an Electrical Engineer for Cubic Transportation Systems, working on transit fare collection systems around the world. He has a married daughter (Jessica, MBA) and a son (Andrew, BA Environmental Science). He married Dr. Annette Feigenbaum in 2007 and in 2011 they moved to Del Cerro where they were warmly welcomed by Rabbi Rosenthal and the congregants of Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Norman has been a regular participant in services and shul events, has served on the Religious Life Committee since 2015, participated in Men's Club events, stacked chairs, and even helped Annette plate the Shabbat cookies. Since July 2016 he has served as a Board member and on Tifereth Israel's Finance Committee and the Rabbi Search Committee. He made an amusing cameo appearance in the 2017 Purimshpiel to show his feminine side! He is keen to join the Executive board and contribute even more to the growth and success of this wonderful community and congregation.



**Jerry Hermes (Past President)**

Jerry Hermes has served as Tifereth Israel's President since July 2014 and will be completing his final term in June 2017. After being a member of the Tifereth Israel Board of Directors in numerous executive and leadership positions during most of the decade of the 1980s, Jerry took an almost 20-year hiatus before returning to Board service in 2009 as a Director. Prior to ascending to the

Presidency, Jerry served as our Administrative Vice-President from 2010-2014. Jerry and his wife Sue have been members of Tifereth Israel since 1980.

Jerry is well known for having been a principal performer in our annual Purimshpiel play where, over the years, he has played every role except for Esther (he came close while playing "Edna Mordecai" in high heels in The Hairspray Purimshpiel of 2014). His memorable 2017 Purimshpiel portrayal of Haman was his farewell performance. Additionally, from 2006-2016 Jerry also served as the Commissioner of the 120-man-strong San Diego Warriors Senior Softball League, in which he is still an active and power-hitting player. And finally, Jerry is the current president of the Home of Peace Cemetery.

Jerry is in his 36th year as an independent insurance broker, specializing in property and casualty, workers' comp, and group health insurance sales. He and Sue, who will celebrate their 46th wedding anniversary in a few months, have two married children, and three young grandchildren, all of whom live in the San Fernando Valley, and all of whom he will now get to see more frequently.



**Brian Abramson (Director)**

Brian Abramson has spent most of his professional career as a long-term healthcare administrator in Maryland and California. After graduating with a BA from UCSD and MA from SDSU he met his wife, Rachel, while working in Los Angeles. They moved to San Diego after Rachel completed medical school in Maryland. Their three children, Maya, Justin, and Brandon, are all involved with the synagogue. Maya is in the Shofar Squad while Brandon currently attends Silverman Preschool. Rachel is a practicing pediatrician in City Heights. Brian founded his own business, *Finding Home for Older Adults*, which facilitates the placement of seniors to appropriate long-term care communities. He also helps seniors and their families find home care for those who wish to stay in their homes.



**Lawrence A. Casper (Director)**

Larry is a criminal prosecutor. He is passionate about ensuring that the next year brings a smooth transition between rabbis that will ensure TIS' continued growth and success. He has served on the Security and Religious Life Committees this past year. Larry's son, Seth, is a student at Community Jewish High and celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at TIS last summer. His daughter, Liana, is headed to college next year. In addition to his commitment to TIS, Larry also participates in a fifth grade school teaching program and in court-related student mock trial and other programs. Larry was formerly a Jewish youth group advisor and is a graduate of Brandeis University. Larry's wife, Stacy, is a College English Professor at UCSD. If you want to find Larry quickly, try the daily minyan!



**Johanna Gach (Director)**

I've been a member of Tifereth Israel Synagogue for five years. I have two children who started out at Silverman Preschool, and are both in Torah School now. I'm on the Torah School committee. I'm also committed to Purim! Not only do I help chair the hamantaschen baking fundraiser, but you will always find me in the Purimshpiel. I'm committed to our community, and our synagogue.



**Alan Goldenberg (Director)**

Alan is an electronic technician working in the defense industry as a contractor. He is married to Giela Gray and has two children and two grandchildren. Together they have been Tifereth Israel congregants since 1999. His son attended Silverman Preschool, Torah School and became a Bar Mitzvah at TIS. Alan, Giela and Brandon have contributed to the growth of Tifereth Israel in many ways and continue to be inclusive to make our synagogue a wonderful place to be.



**Mickey Lackenbacher (Director)**

Mickey has been a member of Tifereth Israel Synagogue since 1999. Married to Jackie, they have two daughters who have gone through Silverman Preschool, Torah School and now CJH. Mickey grew up in Quito, Ecuador, South America going to a Conservative / Orthodox synagogue. He studied Economics and Engineering at UC Santa Cruz and UC Berkley before his professional career. It is in university where he started his interest in non-profit organizations. After receiving his Masters in Public and Private Management (MBA) from Yale, he worked for several big name companies before developing a desire to have his own business. Currently working/managing his businesses within several industries in manufacturing, real-estate and marketing, Mickey looks to help provide benefit to different organizations and to make Tifereth Israel Synagogue part of everyone's community.



**Pamela-Rose Stern (Director)**

I have been a member of TIS since 1985 when Ted and I were married by Rabbi Gold and in 1986 I became Bat Mitzvah at TIS. I have two children. Ariela, married to Andrew Swaner by Rabbi Rosenthal, and Ethan, a 4th year medical student at Tulane University. Both children went to Silverman Preschool and Abraham Ratner Torah School.

I have also been a member of Sisterhood since 1986, past President of National Council of Jewish Women in San Diego, a life time member of Hadassah in San Diego and an avid bowler.

I have a BA from UCSD, and worked in Advertising and as a manager of print shops in the past. I was secretary at TIS for the Preschool and Torah School. I am now happily retired from working at the Agency for Jewish Education.



**Frances Thorpe (Director)**

Frances Thorpe is a business owner who specializes in bookkeeping for small to medium sized companies. She moved back to San Diego in 2002 with her husband Jack, who works for the Department of Defense as a civilian after retiring from serving 21 years in the U.S. Navy. They have two children, Cole and Caroline. Both children attended Silverman Preschool and The Abraham and Anne Ratner Torah School, where Caroline still attends. Cole celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth Israel Synagogue in 2014. Frances has served on many committees, most recently the annual fundraising effort for the YMCA. This fund allows underprivileged children to attend summer camps when typically they would not be able to. Due to the effort of Frances' team, her group met 135% of their assigned goal. Frances desires to make a positive impact on her religious community and ensure the successful future endeavors of our synagogue.



**Mandy Williams (Director)**

I have been a member of Tifereth for over 30 years. I had my Bat Mitzvah here, was married here and both my daughters also have had their Bat Mitzvahs here. I have been married to Dave for almost 19 years and have two beautiful daughters, Linda and Maya. The girls go to Community Jewish High, are very involved with USY and also are on the USY board.



**Evan Ziegler (Director)**

Evan Ziegler has been a member of Tifereth Israel since 1979. Evan was an active member of USY and graduated from the San Diego Hebrew High School. He currently serves on the TIS Board of Directors and attends the morning minyan on a weekly basis.

Evan and his wife Diane have two wonderful children, Sam and Maya. Both kids attended the Silverman Preschool and graduated from the Abraham Ratner Torah School, and both currently attend the Community Jewish High and are active in USY.

Evan and his family enjoy traveling around the world exploring new destinations and cultures. They are also avid San Diego Padre and SDSU Aztec basketball fans.