



**Park Slope Jewish Center (PSJC) Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 4:00 PM  
Nominees and Continuing Board Members**

**SLATE OF  
OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

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**Nominated Officers:**

Co-President - Stephen Gandel (2025-2027)  
Vice President - Yair Reiner (2025-2026)\*  
Recording Secretary - Sarah Chinn (2025-2027)  
Financial Secretary - Jenny Peters (2025-2027)

**Nominated Trustees:**

Barbara Auslander (2025-2027)  
Abby Ingber (2025-2027)  
Adina Lerner (2025-2027)  
Bruce Meyerson (2025-2027)

The following Board Members will continue their terms for another year:

**Continuing Officers:**

Co-President - Elizabeth Wollman (2024-2026)  
Treasurer - Mona Schnitzler (2024-2026)

**Continuing Trustees:**

Carrie Sadovnik (2024-2026)  
Randi Vacca-Rosenstein (2024-2026)  
Erik Lieber (2024-2026)  
Roberta Moskowitz (2024-2026)  
Faye Penn (2024-2026)

\*Finishing Vice President term held by Stephen Gandel

## **NOMINATED OFFICERS**

**Stephen Gandel, Co-President (2025-2027):** Steve and his wife, Jill, joined Park Slope Jewish Center when they moved to the neighborhood in 2005. They loved the warmth of the synagogue and the services from day one, and it has been their spiritual home since. They have had many simchas at PSJC, including two baby namings and two bat mitzvahs of Leigh and Caroline. Jill serves on PSJC's membership committee and is a former member of the Hebrew School committee. Professionally, Steve is an award-winning financial journalist. He has worked at Time, Bloomberg, CBS News and the New York Times. He is currently the US banking correspondent at the Financial Times. Stephen has served as a trustee on the PSJC Board, and currently serves as Vice President, where he has taken on the task of recruiting and coordinating Shabbat greeters (Greeting is great! Sign up!) and trouble-shooting synagogue operational issues. He is honored to help to continue to make PSJC as special for other families as it has been for his own, and assume greater responsibility as Co-President.

**Yair Reiner, Vice President (2025-2026):** I was born in Israel to a family of holocaust survivors and Zionist pioneers and grew up in the San Fernando Valley at the height of the Valley Girl era. As a kid, I identified strongly as an immigrant and a Jew, but my connection to Judaism consisted almost entirely of the paternally imposed, bi-annual trudge to our local Chabad.

When my wife and I and our two young daughters showed up at Cantor Ben's Tot Shabbat in 2010, it was my first time in a synagogue in over 20 years. And to my utter surprise it felt like home, a community of people who searched and questioned, who engaged our traditions wholeheartedly, yet critically. Fifteen years hence, our family has celebrated two bat-mitzvahs at PSJCs, and Judaism means much more to my children than it ever meant to me growing up, a framework for exploring and assuming their responsibility toward themselves, loved ones, their community, and the stranger. My professional life has been a nomadic one (editor, translator, radio producer, stock analyst, gadget entrepreneur), and I look forward to contributing my varied experiences to strengthening and preserving the PSJC tent.

**Sarah Chinn, Recording Secretary (2025-2027):** I've been a member of PSJC since the early 1990s, along with my partner, Kris Franklin. After our twins were born, we first brought them to shul after a week, and they were

b'nei mitzvah at PSJC thirteen years later. This is my second time on the Board, and I served as Recording Secretary last time around as well. As a Board member, I see my task as both supporting the best parts of our communal and religious lives, and nurturing new ways for us to pray, build community, and participate in the world around us. I've been a professor in the English department at Hunter College, CUNY for the past 23 years, as well as publishing 4 scholarly books, and I've used my expertise in 19th and 20th century US literature to present at three PAI Shared Wisdom sessions.

**Jenny Peters, Financial Secretary (2025-2027):** I stumbled into Park Slope Jewish Center twenty years ago while shul- and soul-searching with my then-fiancé, David Pollack. For him, PSJC provided a familiar reminder of all he had grown up with, and for me, having plenty of Jewish cultural knowledge but no formal education, it offered a welcoming and accessible entry point for all kinds of learning and observance. We have since marked nearly every life-cycle event in this wonderful community: we were married by Rabbi Carie in the sanctuary; we announced the names of our now teenage kids, Lailah and Judah, at Shabbat morning services; we have leaned on the congregation for support during shiva minyanim; and we have danced joyfully at family B'nai Mitzvah celebrations – including my own, as an adult. I have served several terms on the board over the last 20 years, and am grateful for the opportunity to re-up as a member of the Exec Committee, and develop in my role as fiscal steward. At my day job, I oversee finance and operations at the Cricket Island Foundation, which supports youth-led social justice activism. Prior to my tenure there, I worked in both the philanthropic and not-for-profit sectors on anti-poverty and youth leadership programs. Personally, causes related to food justice, sustainability and cross-cultural communication are close to my heart. My B.A. is from Barnard College, and my graduate studies in not-for-profit management were at NYU. And for fun (!) I enjoy roller derby, and getting up to the mountains with David, the two kids and two dogs to hike and ski...

## **NOMINATED TRUSTEES**

**Barbara Auslander (2025-2027):** I first came to Park Slope Jewish Center in the fall of 1985 along with my husband, Andrew. As newlyweds in search of a synagogue for High Holiday services that would bridge the gap between my Orthodox upbringing and his assimilated one, we were shul shopping. It was my Holocaust survivor father who made the shul shidduch. Andrew and I were living in Sunset Park at the time and the closest temple was an aging congregation in Bay Ridge. Dad sent me an article about a shul in Park Slope with a female rabbi and said that this is kooky enough for both of you. I knew little about Conservative Judaism but dad was right in

that the shul was a mix of friendly people engaged in prayer, observance, female empowerment, and social causes. I approached the president at the time inquiring as to the price of tickets. He told me membership was whatever it was and we quickly became members. Immediately upon learning that I had attended an all-girls yeshiva for twelve years, the president "volunteered" me to teach an adult Hebrew class. Soon I was organizing monthly catered Friday night Shabbat dinners and asked to serve on the board of three administrations where I headed up the membership committee and co-chaired the auction. I experienced PSJC's trial by fire and then the inevitable burnout. For the next decade or so I drifted in and out while working in sales and eventually as the Director of Marketing for an international textile company and then in interior decorating. During the isolation of Covid and chemo I did the "shul Shuffle" and Zoomed different religious services and classes across the time zones particularly seduced by the musical ones. But in the end I realized that PSJC was home and almost everything that I was looking for in a shul. We are a warm congregation where families as well as individual attendees are encouraged to learn and pray and do acts of gemilas chesed. I personally was the recipient of the kindness and generosity of our members and now I want to pay it forward. Thank you for your consideration.

**Abby Ingber (2025-2027):** I joined PSJC with my husband, Jeffrey Easton, more than 25 years ago when our daughters, Alex and Rachel, were very young, and we were looking for an egalitarian Jewish community that also reflected the tradition, warmth and Jewish spirit I was raised with. As background, I attended modern orthodox Jewish day schools and summer camps through high school, and my Jewish home life was filled with singing and spirituality -- with my father serving as a volunteer high holidays cantor and my mother working as a Jewish early childhood educator. As an adult, PSJC has been essential in helping me continue to lead an active and meaningful Jewish life. My children had wonderful *Bat Mitzvahs* at PSJC, and more recently I have become more active in PSJC and the wider Brooklyn Jewish community, serving on the PSJC Board for the past four years (the past two on the Executive Committee as Recording Secretary), leading davening, chanting Haftorahs, writing for and performing in the PSJC Purimspiel, singing in and designing a website for *Shir Chadash* - the Brooklyn Jewish Community Chorus, and serving on the Hannah Senesh Alumni Parent Steering Committee. Professionally, I have been a financial services lawyer for over 35 years, currently serving as Managing Director and Associate General Counsel at JPMorgan Chase and Chief Legal Officer and Secretary of the Six Circles mutual funds. I look forward to continuing to serve on the PSJC Board and contribute to this wonderful community to assure that it thrives into the next 100 years.

**Adina Lerner (2025-2027):** My husband, Eric, and I grew up attending shul weekly, and it was important to us that our children develop the same sense of connection and familiarity. At PSJC, we've found not only an incredible Hebrew School for Isla and Judah, but also a vibrant, welcoming community full of ruach. I've even had the privilege of serving as the Hebrew School Committee chair, which has deepened my connection to this special place.

Before becoming a full-time simcha and family photographer, I was a teacher in the NYC Department of Education. These experiences have shaped my dedication to fostering strong relationships and building community. PSJC truly feels like home, and I'm excited to contribute to its growth and vibrancy as a member of the board of trustees.

**Bruce Meyerson (2025-2027):** Bruce Meyerson has lived in Park Slope for 32 years. He grew up in Bayside, Queens, where his family was active in a conservative shul. Bruce and his wife, Elyse, have three children and have been active parents at three local public schools, with Bruce serving as treasurer for the PTA at Park Slope Collegiate for six years, and then as a member of the School Leadership Team at Millennium Brooklyn High School for four years. Bruce has also served on his co-op board for 20 years, including as president since 2017. Professionally, Bruce is a journalist, professor, and a small business CFO. As a journalist, he wrote for The Associated Press for 17 years. Since 2008, he has taught as an adjunct professor at NYU's Stern School of Business, run a boutique entertainment law firm, and produced independent documentaries and films.

### **OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES CONTINUING THROUGH 2026**

**Elizabeth Wollman, Co-President (2024-2026):** Liz Wollman and her family have been members of PSJC since 2003, and remain very happy to be part of such a vibrant and warm community. Liz has been involved with the PSJC Hevra Kadisha since shortly after its inception and its co-chair for the past decade. She has more recently gotten involved in Rodfei Tzedek and has rejoined the board after a previous stint in the Before Times. In her other life, she is a professor of music at Baruch College, CUNY, a mom to Pip and Paulina, and a wife to Andrew, all of whom show up at PSJC from time to time.

**Mona Schnitzler, Treasurer (2024-2026):** My husband, Jonathan Hurwitz, and I have a long history at PSJC. We joined soon after we moved to Brooklyn in 1984. Our sons, Ben and Daniel, celebrated their bar mitzvahs here. I served as Financial Secretary the year Rabbi Carie was hired. I've also been on the Hebrew School Board and the Fundraising

Committee. Professionally, I was an accountant and financial reporting director for 25 years. I changed careers 12 years ago and currently work as a writing tutor at The City College of New York's Writing Center and Skadden Arps pre-law honors program.

**Carrie Sadovnik (2024-2026):** I have been attending services at PSJC since 2000, after moving from Seattle with my then boyfriend (now husband) Nir Sadovnik. I sought a Jewish home, having begun the conversion process in 1991 and converting conservative in 1995. PSJC was welcoming, diverse and quirky. Check. Its ruach-filled services moved me spiritually. Check. Rabbi Carter's d'var torahs are intellectual with a social justice, literary and historical lens. Check! From the yard to the social hall and our chevruta, PSJC is where I have found dear friends. Jackpot! PSJC has given us so much, and I am honored to be able to give back to the congregation by serving on the Board. I joined the PSJC COVID-19 Advisory Committee in 2020 and have intermittently volunteered with the Hebrew School, various committees, and programming over the years. I am happy to serve another term as a trustee on the Board. Professionally, I am the Director of Environmental Health and Safety and the Campus Sustainability Chair at CUNY Brooklyn College. I oversee related programs and advise leadership on emerging issues, most recently coordinating the COVID-19 response and reopening plans. Nir and I live with our two teens and dog in Kensington.

**Erik Lieber (2024-2026):** I have been involved with PSJC since the early 2000s, after stints as a youth director at Temple Shalom of Flatbush and East Midwood Jewish Center in the 80s and 90s. Interestingly enough, I first came to PSJC as a pest control expert. Since I was familiar with the synagogue, when it came time to send my kids to Hebrew school, PSJC was the natural place to go. All three of my kids attended Hebrew school at PSJC and all became bar/bat mitzvah under Rabbi Carter's guidance. I have been an active leynner and leader of services for many years. I've also been an active participant in the annual Purim Spiel both as a performer as well as a writer. PSJC has been my Jewish home away from home. Professionally, I worked in the New York City public school system for 25 years, and currently work part-time for the Jewish Community Project (JCP) Downtown.

**Roberta Moskowitz (2024-2026):** My husband Marty and I live in Windsor Terrace with our thirteen year old rescue dog, Sadie. We have been members of PSJC for over twenty-five years. The warmth, inclusivity, humane spirit and heartfelt davening were just some of the qualities that drew us to PSJC. I believe those qualities of PSJC had a profoundly wonderful influence on the values of our twenty-five year old son Jonathan who grew up attending PSJC. Jon's Bar Mitzvah fell on the tenth anniversary

weekend of 9/11. Under the direction of Rabbi Carie, this occasion was appropriately joyous & respectfully solemn. Professionally, I taught first grade, early childhood science & third grade for over 30 years. My teaching years were incredibly gratifying. I currently work part time as a homework teacher at P.S.154's after school program. My PSJC pre-retirement volunteer experiences include CHIPS' Francis Residency, being part of the team organizing the Purim carnival in the early 2000s, organizing childcare during Kol Nidre service, working on the food and beverages at the annual auction & volunteering at Masbia. As a retiree, I wanted to give back. Through Engage Brooklyn, in which I was an active member of the Leadership Committee, I volunteered at organizations offering food & support to those in need. I have been serving on the PAI Steering Committee since its inception in 2017. In addition to working with the group to plan various activities, my pet project has been "PSJC PAI PB&J Sandwiches and Hardboiled Eggs for CHIPS ". Since October of 2021, we have donated over 3,000 pb&j sandwiches and over 2,000 hardboiled eggs to chips as well as toiletries and other much needed food items. This past MLK Day Sunday, I had the opportunity to organize the pb&j sandwich making. Working with PSJCers, as well as Brooklyn Millennium high school students, was so much fun and so productive! I look forward to the opportunity to sit on the PSJC board and continue to give back to this wonderful community.

**Faye Penn\_(2024-2026):** Faye Penn is an executive coach with three decades of leadership in areas including media, tech, government and economic development. Her expertise spans communications, strategy and public engagement as well as product / program design and launches. Most recently as Executive Vice President of the New York City Economic Development Corporation, she led the City's effort to expand priority industries in NYC including life sciences, technology and the green economy. Concurrently, she served as "New York City's Official Career Guru" as Executive Director of Women.NYC, an initiative to advance gender equity in the innovation economy. Prior to NYCEDC, Faye worked in media, in positions at A&E Television and InStyle magazine. Faye has also served in top newsroom leadership roles at New York Magazine, the New York Post and the New York Observer. Along the way, she founded Brokelyn, a buzzy grassroots media enterprise she sold in 2016. She lives in Ditmas Park with Joel, Zeke, Sami and Ezra and also serves on the board of the Borscht Belt Museum in Ellenville, NY.

**Sincere thanks and gratitude to our departing officers and trustees:** Martha Harrison (Co-President) and Trustees - Lucy Snyder, Greg Selig and Josh Rosenblum.