



2021 Board Candidate Biographies

Below are biographies for candidates who are **new to the Board of Trustees or new to the role for which they are nominated**. Per our Constitution, all members of the Board of Trustees are General Trustees, unless designated as an Officer. Committee chairs are appointed by the President at the beginning of the fiscal year; they are not elected.

OFFICERS:

HEIDI TYSON (President)

Gary and I feel so fortunate to be a part of the Judea Reform community. We have seen our three daughters become Bat Mitzvah at JRC and grow into proud and engaged Jewish citizens, much in part to the warmth and nourishment they found at Judea Reform. In 2012-2013, I participated in LEAD JRC and joined the Board of Trustees soon after. I co-chaired the Framing our Future Campaign in 2016 raising over 1.7 million for Judea Reform in order to repair our roofs and establish the John S. Friedman Endowment. In 2018, I fulfilled a lifelong dream of becoming an Anshe Mitzvah. I reinvigorated and chaired Judea's Caring Community for 5 years and Gary and I chaired Rabbi Soffer's transition. I have also served on Judea's Board of Trustees in various capacities for several years, including three years as Financial Secretary and two years as Vice President. I am truly honored and humbled to be asked to serve our congregation as President and hope that I can bring half as much to our community as it has brought to me and my family. I can be reached at: heidit@judeareform.org

ARON SILVERSTONE (Vice President)

Tai-ping Sun and I have been members of Judea Reform Congregation for 21 years. Our daughter Esther is a rising junior at Carolina Friends School. I work for Syngenta Crop Protection, a global agribusiness, where I currently lead the Residue Science team. I have been on the Board for two years as a General Trustee and serve on the Development Committee and the Membership Committee. I also led a Membership Support Taskforce that updated our dues and fees structure and was a member of the LEAD JRC class of 2019-2020. Through the Covid pandemic, JRC has continued to be a warm and inclusive community. As we begin to emerge from remote praying, studying, and interacting, there is still a great deal of uncertainty. I look forward to engaging with our membership and providing leadership to support our vibrant community as we move forward. I can be reached at: aronls@frontier.com

GENERAL TRUSTEES:

KERSTEN BIEHN (General Trustee)

I was raised in Pinehurst, North Carolina, where my family was among only a handful of Jewish people in the area. My mom drove the family an hour-and-a-half away each week to attend services and Sunday school at Temple Emanuel in Greensboro, where I became a Bat Mitzvah. To me, Judea Reform is a safe haven, a place where I can invest time in social justice work while nourishing my spiritual life in community with people whom I deeply respect. I became a member at JRC the week after my family moved to Durham in the summer of 2015. I have dedicated my career to education, including fourteen years of experience as a teacher and administrator in Jewish day schools. From 2015-2019, I served as the Principal at Lerner. I have completed the intensive year-long YouLEAD training at Prizmah for educational innovators at Jewish day schools, which was partially funded by the Gladys and Earl Siegel Leadership Development Scholarship. Over the past two years, I have served on the Lerner School Board of Directors, where I am currently a Vice President and Co-chair of the Governance Committee. In terms of work, I teach humanities and serve as a student advisor in the Carolina Friends School Upper School (high school), where I am also the sponsor for the Jewish Affinity Group. In addition, I am collaborating with my brother, Lars, on a book and movie project while completing an additional graduate certificate in special education at NC State. At JRC, I have been involved in supporting teen education, focusing on anti-racism and social justice initiatives, and serving with the Caring Community, as well as a smattering of other activities. My older son, Chance (age 13), became a Bar Mitzvah in September 2020 in a beautiful virtual ceremony, while my younger son, Grant (age 11), is holding out hopes for a trip to Israel. I look forward to continuing to support programming related to children and teens, education, inclusion, anti-racism and social justice as a representative on the JRC Board. I can be reached at: biehnkersten@gmail.com

KRIS HERFKENS (General Trustee)

Betty Rider and I have been members of Judea Reform since 2013. I am a member of the Inclusion Committee and look forward to becoming more involved with Judea Reform. This would be my first time on the Board of Trustees; participating in LEAD showed me that I would like to serve and have talents to bring to the Board. In my “day job,” I am a clinical neuropsychologist and owner of Triangle Neuropsychology. Betty and I moved to North Carolina in 1995, settling first in Durham and now in Hillsborough. Converting to Judaism and joining Judea Reform has been among the most rewarding and grounding experience for both of us. I can be reached at: kmherfkens@gmail.com.

SONIA LAURIE (General Trustee)

I have been a member of Judea Reform since the fall of 2018, when I moved to Chapel Hill from Atlanta, GA. My husband, Dan, and I love spending time in the mountains and by the sea and are

enjoying making North Carolina our home. I am a postdoctoral fellow at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center at UNC Chapel Hill and a Visiting Assistant Professor at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC. As a research scientist and professor, I work to identify and remove institutional barriers to education to build just, safe communal spaces for all and strive to bring my passion for this work to Judea Reform. This is my first time sitting on the Board, though I have been serving as the co-chair for the Social Action Committee since early 2020 and am the congregational lay liaison to our community partner Durham CAN. I also lead the newly formed Judea Racial Justice Core Team, where we are working to address racial equity and diversity in our beloved Judea community, as well as in Durham-at-large. I look forward to bringing my experiences in advocacy and organizing to the Board and continuing to make Judea a place of diversity, belonging in the spirit of *tikkun olam*. I can be reached at: sonia.laurie@gmail.com

NANCY LUBEROFF (General Trustee)

Bruce (Boehm) and I joined Judea Reform Congregation in 1992 with our (now-adult) children Jacob, Tova, and Elana, fresh off the boat from 4 years in New Zealand. We were quickly welcomed into an 8-family JRC *chavurah*, “Friends Forever,” which has nourished and sustained us for nearly 30 years. My career has focused on non-profit management, primarily within the Jewish community. My professional roles have included Executive Director of Elon University Hillel; Interim Executive Director and Interim Education Director of JRC; Interim Executive Director of Beth E; Interim Director of Community Midrasha; Executive Director of the Oakland JCC; and instructor in Social Work at the University of Canterbury. I’ve been an enthusiastic volunteer at JRC in many roles: as founder and coordinator of the *Chevra Kadisha* (1993-present), organizer of the FELT Family Education Program (1993-2016), and Board and Executive Committee member (2008-2012). I love our Judea Reform Congregation community, and am deeply proud of our leadership in social justice, caring for our members and our community, and navigating the challenges of the pandemic. I am excited to return to the JRC Board of Trustees as a General Trustee. I hope that my professional experience and history in the community will be assets in moving our community forward to fulfill the mission of our sacred and precious community. I can be reached at: nluberoff@gmail.com

ERIC MULLER - (General Trustee)

Leslie Branden-Muller and I joined Judea Reform Congregation in 1998 when we moved to Chapel Hill with our daughters (Abby, then 4 and now 26, and Nina, then 2 and now 24), from Laramie, Wyoming. I’m a law professor at UNC; my research and writing focus on the mass removal and imprisonment of Japanese Americans in WWII. I’m also the Academic Director of an educational non-profit called the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics, in which we use Holocaust history to drive conversations among young professionals about their ethical development. My main Judea Reform committee experience was as a member of the Israel Discourse Advisory Committee, and for many years I’ve been a member of

the Federation-chartered committee that plans the Triangle's *Yom Hashoah* commemoration event. My goals as a General Trustee would include bringing a reflective, ethically-infused, listening and open-minded spirit to the body that guides the congregation, advocating for full inclusiveness of disparate identities and viewpoints in our congregation, and keeping alive and relevant the memory of the Shoah. I can be reached at: eric.muller@gmail.com

DAVID ROUSSO (General Trustee)

Gabrielle and I have been members since moving to Chapel Hill in 2015. We have 2 beautiful daughters, each having given us a granddaughter. We also have a son living in NY. I've been an entrepreneur through my career and I'm a budding documentarian. My background is in IT consulting and international trade. I currently serve on the Adult Ed and Social Action Committees and am eager to join other committees where I can best serve my JRC community. As a Board member I'm most interested in reaching out and building bonds with other area houses of worship. It will be my privilege to serve you on the JRC board of trustees. I can be reached at: david.rousso@dockingportproductions.com.

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