

## Rabbinic Search Committee Bios

- **Gil Benghiat**, his wife Ilene, and their sons Abe, Isaac, and Elias live in Lexington and have been active members of Temple Isaiah beginning with Rabbi Jaffe officiating his first Temple Isaiah bris for their youngest son. Gil is currently the steward for First Friday Torah study, a steering committee member and an active participant for the Brotherhood Family Camping Trip, and he helped start the biking group for TI Together. In the Lexington community, Gil has been town coordinator of the Destination Imagination program, coached youth soccer, and is the coordinator for the ACROSS Lexington Challenge. Gil's career has been in software and he is most recently a co-founder of DataKitchen, Inc.
- **Gary Fallick** and his wife Bebe have been members of Temple Isaiah for 50 years, joining not long after settling in Lexington. Their son and daughter both attended Temple Isaiah religious school through high school graduation, and now live out of state and are married, with college age children of their own. A chemical engineer, Gary spent his career in R&D, consulting, technology marketing, and business development.

He served as Temple President from 1984-1986, helping to plan 25th anniversary events and establishing the original Temple endowment fund. Subsequently he twice served full terms as a trustee. Gary completed the two year Me'ah program, has participated in planning some Yom Shabbat events and was president of SAGE (Senior Adult Group Extraordinaire) for a number of years. Currently he is co-chair of the Second Thursday Coffee program. Both SAGE and his current role reflect his interest in maintaining a mix of activities to build and support the sense of community among the senior members of Temple Isaiah. He applies similar focus to the larger community through past or present service on boards and leadership roles for English At Large, Minuteman Senior Services and Lexington At Home.

- **FayeRuth Fisher**, her husband John and daughters Dylan and Molly have been active members of Temple Isaiah since 2010 and live in Belmont. Having grown up at Isaiah, FayeRuth has enjoyed watching her children enjoy their religious education at Isaiah. FayeRuth is currently the Temple Isaiah Board Secretary after serving as a Trustee. Professionally, FayeRuth is the Massachusetts Political Director for 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. FayeRuth has been working in politics and legislative advocacy through the labor movement for more than 20 years with a passion for empowering communities. FayeRuth will bring her lifelong love of the Isaiah community and her relational-based organizing perspective to the search committee.
- **Sharon Grossman** and her husband, Irwin, have been active members of Temple Isaiah for over 30 years and live in Arlington. Their two grown children, Ben and Mia, attended Temple Isaiah's religious school through high school and live in the Boston area. Among other leadership roles in Arlington, Sharon recently completed a stint as Co-Chair of the Arlington Human Rights Commission and continues as an appointed member. Throughout the years, Sharon has held leadership roles at Temple Isaiah, including when she was Vice President for Leadership and Community, as a trustee, and a Co-Chair of the Youth Education Team. She works as a school psychologist and will bring her skills and interests in community engagement and issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as an historical perspective to the rabbinic search team.

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- **Rachel Hayes**, currently Temple Isaiah President, has been a member of the temple since 2003. She and her husband John live in Arlington. Their son Spencer attended Temple Isaiah religious school through high school, was a Bar Mitzvah, and is a rising senior in college. Rachel spent her career in marketing in both profit and non-profit organizations. At the temple, Rachel has been a trustee and First VP. She completed the Leadership Development Program. She has led kitchen crews for Mazon, Shabbat Together, Project Ezra and Mitzvah Day for many years. Particular perspectives she brings to the rabbinic search are about interfaith families, diversity and inclusion, music in worship, the rabbi as a member of sacred partnership and congregants raised with limited Jewish education.
- **Meryl Junik**, her husband Kyle, and their sons Evan and Aaron, live in Belmont and have been active members of Temple Isaiah since 2014. Evan and Aaron attend Temple Isaiah's religious school, and Meryl's family will see Evan become a Bar Mitzvah at Temple Isaiah in June. At the temple, Meryl has been a trustee, lead trustee, and nominating chair. She has been a Mitzvah Day project captain and an active member of Sisterhood and the Yud for several years. After a career in technology consulting and project management, Meryl transitioned into the classroom and currently works as a preschool teacher.
- **Wendy Liebow** (Co-Chair) and her husband, Scott Burson, have been members of Isaiah and Lexington residents since 1993. Their now-adult daughters, Allison and Esther, became Bat Mitzvah at Isaiah and attended religious school and Tichon Isaiah.

Wendy practiced law before focusing on volunteer work. Currently VP of Jewish Living at Isaiah, she served as Board Secretary; VP of Programming; co-chair of Family Education, Yom Shabbat, College & Alumni committees; and a member of adult education and other committees. She has participated in previous searches for senior and assistant/associate rabbis. She will bring to the search knowledge of Isaiah history, a passion for broadening and deepening congregational engagement, and familiarity with current trends and challenges in the Reform movement (and beyond).

- **Dan Ostrower** is Temple Isaiah's First VP. He, his wife, and his three sons have been members for about 10 years, beginning shortly after they moved to Lexington from Brookline. They have deeply valued Temple Isaiah as a community that welcomes interfaith families. In February, Dan and Coreen will see their third son Bar Mitzvahed at Temple Isaiah. Dan has spent his career in innovation, design and strategy as both an entrepreneur and a consultant. He is currently utilizing these skills to co-lead Temple Isaiah's Shaping Our Future project and will serve as a key liaison between that Visioning effort and this committee, helping to bring a perspective of innovation and modernization to the search.
- **Sam Zales** (Co-Chair), his wife Leslie, and their three daughters, Gracie, Jessie and Betsy, live in Lexington and have been proud members of Temple Isaiah since 2004. They have greatly valued our community and the exceptional Temple Isaiah religious school, Tichon and LEFTY high school programs as powerful paths to a Jewish future for our next generation. Sam has served as New Member Representative to our Temple Board, chairs the Lexington MLK Day Commemoration Committee, and is a New England regional board member of the American Technion Society. As Leslie has held numerous committee leadership positions, they both value the appreciation of interfaith families at Temple Isaiah.