

BIOS of our Search Committee Members

Ofra Aslan

Ofra became a member of Shaare Zion 22 years ago when she was looking for a Conservative Synagogue where her daughter could read from the Tora. Since joining the synagogue, her three children celebrated their Bar/Bat mitzvahs there. This is the first time she is on the search committee and is looking forward to being involved in this important task.

Charlotte Dennick

Charlotte is a retired School Principal who presently works part time in McGill's Faculty of Education. Synagogue involvement has been a part of her life since her father was a founding member of Shaar Shalom. She has been on the Board of Directors of Adat Re'im and Beth El synagogues, as well as serving on Rabbi search committees in the past. Charlotte is looking forward to being involved with Shaare Zion-Beth El.

Chuck Dixter

Chuck is a practicing paediatric dentist and former director of Paediatric Dentistry at McGill University . The Dixter family have been Shaare Zion members since the synagogue was founded. Chuck has served the Shul as an executive and board member and past president. In addition to sitting on committees, he has co-chaired and served on 5 clergy search committees. He is a past president of Quebec Region USCJ, 1st vice president of Eastern Canada region USCJ and past International Vice President of USCJ. Chuck is married to Ruth and they have 2 sons and 4 grandchildren.

Melanie Kasner

Melanie's family has been part of the SZBE community for nearly 20 years. Melanie believes in the impact that a Rabbi can have on his/her community and is very much looking forward to being involved in finding the next SZBE Rabbi. Melanie is an occupational therapist and she enjoys camping, board games, and spending time with family.

Dahlia Klein

Dahlia is a medical student at the University of Montreal. She has been an active member of the synagogue since before her Bat Mitzvah, and her parents have been members for over 25 years. She is the president of the Hillel chapter at the University of Montreal, the Vice President for the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Interest Group and she coordinates presentations about organ donation in high schools at CEGEPs. Dahlia is very much looking forward to being part of the search committee this year.

Bev Mendelson CO-CHAIR

Bev is a retired Vanier College Psychology teacher. She was an active member of Congregation Beth-El for 43 years, a Past President there and is now an enthusiastic member of SZBE and Co-Chair of the Search Committee. She is married to Morton Mendelson, Co-President of SZBE. They have three married children and five grandchildren.

Sergio Moskovitz

Sergio's involvement with Shaare Zion goes back to when his children Melissa and Alex were still little nuggets at Solomon Schechter. It was his fond memories of helping to organize the annual "Raffle Night" that tugged at him and eventually drew him, his wife Celine and their children (who were then in their late 20s) back to the congregation in 2017. Since then, Shaare Zion has since become an extension of their family, and that's why the congregation is not only his Shul but his second home. He will keep dedicating as much time as he can, outside of his work as a Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Executive, to help honour SZC's legacy and to find new ways to pave the way for future generations.

William Pastor

William Pastor joined Shaare Zion when he moved to Montreal from Los Angeles 3 years ago. He, his wife and two children (ages 4 and 1) are regular attendees at Shaare Zion. He is an Assistant Professor at McGill University, where he runs a research lab that studies embryonic development.

Wendy Rapps CO-CHAIR

Wendy has been a member of Shaare Zion for over 60 years. Her grandfather, David Davis, was a founding member. Having participated in other searches for both a Cantor and a Rabbi, Wendy is now a Co-Chair of the search committee as well as a Co-Vice President of SZBE. She is married to Stephen Rapps, and they have three sons and 4 grandchildren.

Martin Scheim

Martin is a retired lawyer, a photography enthusiast, lousy golfer and sometimes biker. He and his wife Marcie were members of Beth El for 35 years and look forward to a meaningful affiliation with SZBE for many years to come. Two of their children and their families have joined SZBE and their oldest granddaughter recently celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at SZBE.

Howard Stotland

Howard is a graduate engineer from McGill and MIT. In 1973, Howard founded a software company called STS Systems which later became a leading supplier of software solutions to the retail industry in North America and the UK. Howard has been actively involved with Federation CJA since 2004 and a leader of many community trips to Poland and Israel. He created the “Kili Chez Nous” fundraiser for Hope and Cope. He is currently a board member for The Segal Center , Hope and Cope and McGill. Howard has served on the Board of Shaare Zion where he has been a member since the early 70’s. For the past 2 years, Howard has organized Kabbalat Shabbat Sur Le Lac on Lake Manitou. He is married to Vivian and has two sons.

Andrew Toeman

Andrew is a retired dentist. As an active Shaare Zion Beth El member, he helps to make a Minyan six days a week. Andrew plays a mean 5-string banjo and sings at many SZBE Kabbalat Shabbats. He is an avid biker as well. This is his second time on the Search committee for a Rabbi and is looking forward to being involved once again. Andrew is married to Riva: their son, daughter-in-law and 3 grandchildren live in NY.

Lynn Weinberg

Lynn is a newly retired pharmacist. She grew up at Beth El Synagogue and was involved at Congregation Beth Tikvah for 25 years. For the past ten years, Lynn has been a member and regular shul -goer at Shaare Zion. It’s Lynn’s first time on the rabbinic search committee and is looking forward to the experience.

Adam Weinstock

Adam is a Portfolio Manager and Director of Wealth Management with ScotiaMcLeod, a division of Scotiabank. He is married to Melanie, whose family are long time SZBE members. Melanie and Adam joined the SZBE when their eldest son was born and they are about to celebrate his bar mitzvah. Adam serves on both the SZBE Investment Committee and on a committee working with SSA. Adam is the proud father of 3 children who currently attend Herzliah High School and Solomon Schechter Academy.