



## Biographies of Rinat Rabbinic Search Committee

**Chavie Acton** has been a member of Rinat since moving to Teaneck in 2013. Chavie launched the shul's Tot Shabbat program, a Shabbat morning parent-child davening and singing experience for Rinat's youngest members. She has served on the shul's Board of Directors for the past three years and is a member of the Welcoming Committee.

**Elie Berman**, a litigation attorney, received Semikha from RIETS. He has been giving a weekly shiur on Shabbat at Rinat for the last 18+ years, initially on Minchat Chinuch and later on She'elot U'teshuvot. Elie and his wife, Miriam, have been members of Rinat since 1995.

**Noam Block** and his wife Rebecca have been proud members of Rinat for the past 7 years. Noam grew up in Rinat so has actually been a member for over 30 years. He currently works as a Director in the Credit Finance Group at Apollo Global Management, Inc. Their children, Caleb (7), Amalya (5) and Yishai (2) frequent the 8:30 minyan, youth groups, and tot shabbat on a typical pre-COVID shabbos.

**Josh Goldsmith** and his wife, Miriam, have been members of Rinat for the past ten years. He is a proud father of 3 amazing kids (Eitan - 11, Ami - 9, and Sarah - 6). He currently serves on the executive board of the shul as well as assists with facilitating Rinat's Parent Child Learning program. Josh works at Citi, where he is the Director of the IA Innovation Lab.

**Tully Harcsztark** is founding principal of SAR High School in Riverdale, NY. He served as rabbi of Congregation Keter Torah in Teaneck from 1994 through 1998. He and his family have lived in Teaneck for 28 years and been members of Rinat for over twenty years. Tully frequently delivers shiurim at Rinat and serves as one of our ba'alei tefillah on Yamim Noraim and the Chagim.

**Avi Katz** has been an active member of Rinat since moving to Teaneck 31 years ago. He has served on the Board of Directors and as Gabbai Rishon. He also serves as one of our ba'alei tefillah during the Yamim Noraim and other Yamim Tovim and is a frequent ba'al koreh at the Shabbat morning Hashkama minyan. Avi is an attorney who enjoys learning and teaching Torah, including delivering Rinat's Shabbat afternoon Jr. High Mishna Shiur.

**Leora Kukin**, LMSW, is a 33-year member of Rinat Yisrael. Leora served on the Sanctuary Design Committee, which assisted in the interior design of the new sanctuary, stained glass windows, and donor recognition wall, and is a member of the Rinat CSS team. She is also a member of the Teaneck Yoetzet Initiative Committee and was a founding Board member of Ma'ayanot.

**Ari Mermelstein** and his wife, Shoshana, have been members of Rinat since 2011. Ari, who is an Associate Professor of Bible and Second Temple Literature at Yeshiva University, is a past co-chair of the

adult education committee, serves as gabbai at the shul's 8:30 minyan, and is a frequent ba'al keriah and ba'al tefillah.

**Sara Prager** has been a member of Rinat since 1999. She has served on the shul's board and was a member of the adult ed committee and of the first assistant rabbi search committee. Sara was involved in hiring Shayna Goldberg as Teaneck's first yoetzet halacha, and she has been a member of the Teaneck Yoetzet Initiative committee in the ensuing years. Sara is a Knowledge Services manager at Cravath, Swaine & Moore.

**Passi Rosen-Bayewitz** has been an active member of Rinat since moving to Teaneck close to 30 years ago together with her late husband, Moshe and their five children — Divsha, Bina, Ariel, Ora and Ashrei. Passi's professional calling as a Jewish communal professional and her academic studies focusing on Jewish history, memory, and continuity have contributed to her knowledge, expertise, and skills in strategic planning and Jewish community building. Passi and her extended family members, who represent the many ages and stages as well as the diversity of Rinat members, are all passionately committed to Rinat's continued growth and development.

**Suzy Schwartz** is a strategic and marketing communications leader. After a long and successful career at BBDO (corporate advertising), Suzy held multiple leadership positions at Yeshiva University. In addition to overseeing alumni and donor relations, Suzy served as Assistant Dean at YU's Center for the Jewish Future, a division which offers continuing education and support for Rabbis and also houses the Office of Rabbinic Placement. Suzy has been a proud member of Rinat since she and her family moved to Teaneck in 1997.