

ALEC BORENSTEIN

Candidate for: Director

How have you been involved in the shul past and present?

I'm currently on the security committee for the shul, where we took a two-month training (including learning some Krav Maga!) on how to be prepared in case of emergency. In past years, I've been on the Strategic Planning Committee. I've also worked with a great group of people to put together our Community Dinners and Shabbos ha-Gadol lunches for the past four years.

How will you be an asset for the Board?

The shul needs people who have a vision and the ability to carry out that vision. I have experience in planning on the legal side (as an estate and business planning attorney) where the entire goal is to create a plan and execute it for my clients. I have a vision for our shul (see next questions) and I'm excited to help carry it out to fruition if given the chance.



Similarly, the shul needs practical experience as a landlord as we strive to get a tenant who will help us meet our financial burdens. I am also a property manager for 49 commercial units in New York City, so I know how to find tenants and manage properties as efficiently as possible.

What challenges do you see ahead for the shul and how will you help face them?

We have many challenges as a growing shul, but there are three on which I'm going to focus:

1. Security: After Pittsburgh, it's incumbent upon us to be diligent in trying to protect our shul from those who might want to harm us. I am currently on the Security Committee, working with an amazing team that is trying to address that problem through creating a security presence in the shul and training members on how to be ready in case of emergency.
2. Resources and Tenancy: As of this writing, the shul does not have a tenant to fill our space during the week, which has become a tremendous drain on our resources. As a property manager and landlord, I have experience in finding tenants and working with them, and I would love to be part of the solution to help fill our current vacancy.
3. Growth: We are a shul that is thankfully growing in membership, but we are running out of room. Moreover, even if we don't grow in membership, our children are getting older, and we must figure out a way to accommodate their needs. It's going to take out-of-the-box thinking in order to best utilize our current setup to and be ready for the future.

If I am elected, I will do everything I can to create solutions to these three issues and help our shul be ready for our exciting future.

Where do you see the shul five years from now and how do we get there?

I see our shul as a model for any growing Modern Orthodox institution. In the next five years, I see us creating a plan to accommodate our growth, already having started to implement the plan as well. I see our security apparatus up and running, in a way where our members are contributing to our own safety. I see our children getting excited about davening and being involved in the shul as we grow. And I see our community bonded together in good times and in bad times, all the while knowing that we can rely on each other to meet our communal needs.

We have a tremendous opportunity to continue the great work our current Boards have started and to take that to another level as our shul enters a new phase in its growth. I would be honored to be part of that process and I think I have a really good vision and temperament to be part of the solution.