

GOLAN ELIAS

Candidate for: President

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

I was elected to the board in 2016 as a Director and currently serve in that capacity. In addition, I have been involved in the following committees:

- Welcoming Committee Co-Chair (2014-present)
- Membership Committee (2014-present)
- Annual Dinner Raffle Co-Chair (2016)
- Dinner Committee (2017)

How will you be an asset for the Board?

For almost my entire tenure at Shaare Tefillah, I have been Co-Chair of the Welcoming Committee. That role has allowed me to meet all our new members and neighbors and listen to the needs of our community.

In my current capacity on the Board, as a liaison to the membership, I understand both the needs of our membership as well as the needs of the community and shul. It is through that experience, as well as my experience out of the shul, that I hope to bring the knowledge to continue to develop the establishment we are today.

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

Growth and Physical Space: As our community continues to grow, we need to manage that evolution. We need to develop a plan for space for our adults (Shabbat davening, programming, smachot, and Chagim), as well as a plan for our children (youth groups, minyanim, programming)

Financial: Along with growth and space limitations come financial considerations. As our shul continues to grow, so do the associated costs relating to the management of the shul and the programming we have become accustomed to. It will be important for us to continue to work together to fundraise and be fiscally responsible so that we can focus on the spiritual and social opportunities our great shul has to offer.

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

- Continued Growth: Shaare, over the past 14 years, began in a house and moved into a new building, and the shul is running with great competence. Our membership grows each year, and, through that growth, we will work together to maintain and develop the programs for our adults and children.
- Our focus over the next five years will be to help foster the continued growth of the shul within a warm and welcoming environment, as well as creating the physical and financial capacities necessary to achieve our goals. Only together as a continuing united community, will we be able to succeed.