

## **DANI HOUPT**

### **Candidate for Secretary**

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

Having been part of the Shaare Tefillah family since its early days on Lincoln Place, we have witnessed Shaare transition from a fledgling shul to a real hub of Jewish communal life in our area. Throughout the years, I have tried to contribute to the shul by being a consistent presence at the various minyanim and shiurim that have been offered and by suggesting ideas for new programming and initiatives to satisfy different interests and gaps. Although I am not one who craves the spotlight, I always have tried to help in many ways behind the scenes as schleppers, organizers, builders, and cleaner-uppers have been needed. Creating and printing labels for sefarim donations, kibbudim cards, event/oneg song sheets, and other such tasks have been gratifying ways for me to contribute in my own quiet way.



#### **How will you be an asset for the Board?**

Since the shul's inception, there have been very talented and tireless members of the Board who have contributed in ways I have witnessed but cannot even begin to enumerate. I have been so impressed with their abilities to juggle their family and job obligations, while still finding so much time and energy to help the shul in ways both small and extremely significant. I hope that I have emulated some of those traits and added my own unique talents to help continue to grow the shul when I joined the board two years ago. Some of my strengths that continue to help me are my ability to be a calm and patient listener and to offer feedback in a way that helps to bring about positive change while fostering mutual respect and a sense of shalom. As an individual with project management responsibilities in my professional life, I have gained experience working with many different personalities and know how to help make various perspectives heard and understood. I also pride myself on being a creative thinker who can take calculated risks. Additionally, I can balance attention to detail with an ability to pan out and appreciate the big picture.

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

Every member of our community has been impacted by the pandemic in ways that we cannot even fully grasp, yet the individuals who make up our wonderful shul continue to impress me, both with their words and actions, during this difficult time. Our primary objective should be to continue to take care of one another physically, spiritually, and emotionally, and to ensure that our shul is a place that helps people to feel connected and supported. We will all get through this, become stronger for it, and grow in our Ahavat Torah, Ahavat Yisrael, and Ahavat Hashem. I look forward to continuing to work closely with the Rabbi, the ST Board, and the rest of our community to continue ensure that our next chapter looks even brighter for all of us.