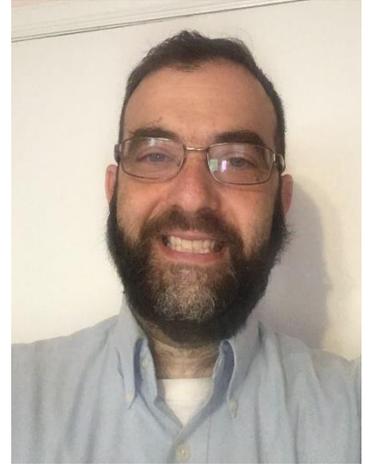


NEIL NORMAND
Candidate for Director

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

Since my family and I moved to Teaneck 15 years ago, I have been an active and consistent member of Shaare Tefillah. I also regularly attend the weekday morning minyan and participate in the Daf ha-Shavua shiur. From 2014-2017, I prepared the shul's weekly announcements. I often lein for the shul. I have given shiurim in previous years at the shul's Tikkun Leil Shavuot program. Additionally, I have played on the shul's softball team, Shaare Gaters, for all 8 years of its existence.



How will you be an asset for the Board?

I believe that my years of involvement with our shul, from its initial years through the present, gives me a sense of ways in which I can contribute and advance the primary goals and missions of our shul. I work well with other people, and I am a great listener. I can be a resource for shul members to contact if they have concerns that they want the Board to be made aware of. I take davening seriously and want to help improve the davening experience for all members. Learning is a passion of mine, and I am interested in helping to continue to expand the adult and youth learning opportunities at Shaare. My children participate in the robust youth programming offered by Shaare Tefillah, and I understand the critical role that plays for our shul. The warm and welcoming environment of the shul has been a key factor for my family, and I want to help ensure that environment remains even with the wonderful continued growth of our shul.

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

This past year has undoubtedly presented enormous challenges not only to our world, but also to our shul. The pandemic has required our shul to split up into smaller davening groups and has not allowed for large gatherings. How to maintain a sense of community and belonging for all community members despite this is a continuing challenge that has been effectively addressed by the current Board, but will need to remain an important issue for the incoming Board for the time being. However, looking forward to, G-D willing, the near future when the pandemic restrictions will ease, I feel that a bigger challenge for our shul will be reintegrating the shul into the "new normal." If given the opportunity, I look forward to working with fellow Board members to address these and other challenges and to help keep Shaare Tefillah a place that so many people feel connected to. Thank you for reading!