

## Meet the Sinai Temple Board Nominees for 2023



Dave Bashein

Hello Everyone! I'm Dave Bashein and I'm excited to join the board of Sinai Temple. My wife and I moved to the area in 2019 with our two children to be closer to both of our families. Our boys attend religious school on Sundays. They really enjoy B'Yachad; so most of our time spent at Sinai has been related to youth activities for the boys. I work in tech, managing a software platform for renewable energy financing, and my wife, Liz, is a physician at Baystate. I'm looking forward to working with the other Board members to enhance the community.



Esta Sobey

I've been a member of Sinai Temple since 1985, and served on the Board for two terms; Chaired the Adult Ed Committee and I currently Chair the Music Committee. I also served on three Anniversary Committees (the 60th, 75th, and 90th), conducted oral history interviews for the 60th Anniversary, and participated in the original discussions about combining of our Religious School with Temple Beth El's. A retired educator, I taught high school US History in Granby, MA in the late 1970s, then held various positions at AIC in Springfield, including Associate Professor of Education and Associate Dean of the School of Education. My husband, Tony is a retired physician. We live in Wilbraham, have three adult children and two grandchildren.



Ellie Sesko

I am excited to be a part of the Sinai Temple Board. We have belonged to Temples from coast to coast as we have moved a lot over the years, finally settling down in Longmeadow in 2019. Since the Summer of 2022, we have really enjoyed being members at Sinai Temple. Everyone has been so inviting and accepting of my entire family. I am a Mom of four children, three of whom attend B'Yachad. I am the Operations Officer at the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts and my husband works in Finance. I look forward to getting more involved within our community.

# Board Nominees for 2023

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Leigh Cherkas

I am a mother of 3 and grandmother of 9 who reside in Jerusalem. I try to live my life according to the Jewish values of integrity, honesty, kindness, Shalom Bayit, and walking in the path of Torah. I was taught to honor my parents, observe Shabbat and holidays, keep kosher, pursue justice, and most importantly, DO MITZVOT and BE A MENSCH! I love everything about Judaism—from culture and customs, heritage, celebrations and Israel to the arts, music and food! I have been practicing law for three decades, devoting the last 20 years to working in the Springfield Juvenile Court as a zealous advocate for indigent families in state intervention cases. I am the voice of the abused and neglected child. Throughout my career I have maintained a connection to the Jewish community as a Hebrew school educator, a Judaic family programming director, an arts and crafts teacher and a tutor to pre-Bar and Bat Mitzvah students locally and in Boca Raton. I enjoy singing in the choir, chanting Torah and Haftarah, baking, painting, and the beach. I look forward to working with others on the Sinai Board to strengthen our community.



Cara Lavender

I am a full-time stay at home mom, a part-time cottage baker and a part-time caregiver to my elderly mother-in-law, who lives with us. I have a BA in Journalism from the State University of NY and worked in the publishing industry until we left NY in 2008. I have a 12-year old son and a 9-year old daughter, both of whom attend B'Yachad Springfield. I also have a husband and a 17-year old cat :) We live in Enfield and have attended Sinai since 2017 when we relocated from Revere, MA.



Tricia Freedman

I am honored to be serving on the Board at Sinai Temple. I have been a member at Sinai with my husband, Michael, and my three adult children since 2001 when we moved back to the Northeast to be closer to family. I have been involved in several committees and groups throughout the years, including the Welcoming Committee, the Interfaith Committee, the Rabbi Search Committee, the Social Action Committee and the Visioning Task Force. I am especially interested in social action opportunities and hope to promote more inclusiveness and participation in our religious community.