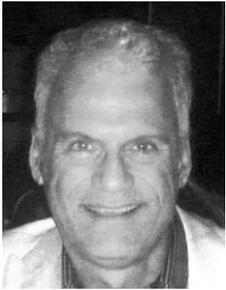


## Biographies of the Nominees for the 2016-2017 Board of Directors



### **Jerry Hermes (President)**

Jerry is completing his second term as Tifereth Israel's president. Previously he served in the #2 position under President Seth Krosner as Tifereth Israel's Administrative Vice President from 2010-2014.

Jerry and his wife Sue have been members of Tifereth Israel for almost 36 years. During most of the 1980s and the early 1990s Jerry served on our Board of Directors as Men's Club President, Director, Secretary, and Activities Vice President, among other offices. That dozen years of Board service was followed by a Board hiatus of 17 years until he returned to the Board, as a Director, in 2009.

Jerry is well known for having been, in the past, a principal performer in our annual Purimshpiel play where he has played every role except for Esther (he came close while playing "Edna Mordecai" in high heels in The Hairspray Purimshpiel of 2014). The 2017 Purimshpiel will be his farewell performance. Additionally, Jerry just retired as the Commissioner of the 120-member San Diego Warriors Senior Softball League after running that 23-year-old league since 2006.

Jerry still works, and is in his 35th year as an independent insurance broker, specializing in property and casualty, workers' comp and group health insurance sales. He and Sue, who will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary in a few months, have two married children, and three young grandchildren, all of whom live in the San Fernando Valley.



### **Lisa Berman-Hernandez (Administrative VP)**

Lisa Berman-Hernandez is a life-long member of Tifereth Israel Synagogue. She was one of the first Bat Mitzvahs in the new sanctuary on Tommy Drive. She made the trek from 30th Street, marching alongside the congregants and leading her USY youth group to our new home. She was later confirmed in the same sanctuary and made a pilgrimage to Israel with USY. Lisa met her husband, Angel Hernandez, at Tifereth, where they celebrated their union with the blessings of

Rabbi Rosenthal over seven years ago. Their pride and joy, Madeline (Maddie), seven years old, was named at TIS.

Lisa's great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers, Saul and Bessie Blanc and Louis and Ida Zemen, were some of the original pioneers of Tifereth when it was located on 18th Street. Her grandfather, Max, was a president of the synagogue, and her grandmother, Lillian, was an original member of our Sisterhood. Lisa's parents, Sharlene and David Berman, have held similar active positions within the synagogue for decades. Sharlene one of the first Bat Mitzvahs in the history of Tifereth Israel. Currently, Lisa practices law with the law firm of Bender & Gritz. She previously taught Hebrew school in Chicago.



### **BarbaraSue Barnes (Finance and Development VP)**

BarbaraSue Barnes is a partner and controller for a show management company headquartered in Las Vegas. She was married to Lewis (z"l) for 25 years, mother to Harry (Dani), Pam (Sunny), Mindi (Mark), Jeff, Adrian (Ori) and Wendy, grandmother to Savanna, Race, Jacob, Ben, Tom (Aurianne), David (Rachel), Becca, and Gaby (Avishai), and great-grandmother to Kiwan, Shine and Oona. BarbaraSue joined Tifereth Israel when it was still on Howard Street and four of her children became Bar

or Bat Mitzvah at TIS: Harry at the Howard Street synagogue, Pam in the temporary quarters while building our current building, and Mindi and Jeff in our current sanctuary. BarbaraSue was also involved in organizing and running the weekly Tifereth Israel Bingo Night many years ago. It is her pleasure to continue to serve our Congregation as Finance and Development Vice President for the coming year.



**Dr. Debbie Mishek (Ritual VP)**

Debbie grew up in Los Angeles at Temple Beth Am. She earned a degree in biochemistry from Pomona College and then graduated from UCSD Medical School. Debbie has lived in San Diego since 1984. She is a developmental/behavioral pediatrician and enjoys helping children successfully navigate school and life. Her husband Steve is an airline pilot. They are empty nesters but are lucky enough to have their children Sarah and Daniel living in the San Diego area.

Debbie has been actively involved in the Jewish community most of her life. She sang in a Jewish choir for over 15 years and feels that music is such a great way to connect to spirituality and God. Debbie and Steve love celebrating Shabbat and inviting people over to share in the experience - they are trying to spread Shabbat dinners throughout the congregation. She is an avid walker and loves to bake. She was in charge of parent education at Francis Parker School. She has been on the Religious Life Committee for the past 2 years.

Debbie looks forward to having the opportunity to continuing to serve on the board with the ultimate goal of continuing to build community and connections.



**Dr. Eva Friedberg Isaak (Congregational Services VP)**

Eva joined the Tifereth Israel family in 2011 when her oldest daughter started at Silverman Preschool. Originally from the San Fernando Valley, Eva grew up in a large conservative synagogue, was active in USY, attended Hebrew High School and Camp Ramah.

Eva currently works with her husband, Ari, growing their business as the Business Manager of Evari GIS Consulting. She is also on Adjunct Faculty at Woodbury University School of Architecture teaching courses in art and architecture history, urban studies and landscape. She has published and lectured on the history and politics of urban design and architecture, and has an essay forthcoming in a publication on the American Jewish environmental designer, Lawrence Halprin. In her free time, she loves working in her vegetable garden with her daughters Hazel (6) and Sherrie (4), both enthusiastic students at Abraham Ratner Torah School and Silverman Preschool.



**David Ogul (Education and Youth VP)**

David Ogul is a regular at the daily Minyan and Saturday Shabbat services and has been active at Tifereth Israel Synagogue since becoming a member in 2004. A professional journalist for more than 31 years, David now owns and operates Ogul Communications, a media strategy and public relations firm with a clientele consisting primarily of colleges and universities in the region. David is the guitarist in the Shir Chadash band and is a volunteer driver delivering meals for Jewish Family Service's Foodmobile Program.

David, a graduate of San Diego State University, has two older sons who have been living on their own for awhile. He lives with his wife, Sharon, and their daughter, Allison, in San Carlos.



### **Eric Kaufmann (Secretary)**

Eric Kaufmann is a management consultant who guides executives and leadership teams to make wiser decisions and strategies. Eric is a native of Israel who, in 1985, moved to San Diego to attend SDSU. He is married to Shayna, a clinical psychologist, and their daughters Tara and Maya attended Abraham Ratner Torah School. Eric founded his firm, Sagatica, in 1999, and has been consulting to Fortune 1000 companies, governments, and not-for-profit organizations. He has served and presided over three boards, Gathering of Healers, San Diego Leadership Initiative, and the Zen Center of San Diego.

Eric's book *Leadership as a Hero's Journey* describes the four virtues that transform uncertainty and anxiety into results. Having had the honor of leading the "What's the Point" initiative, Eric looks forward to continuing to serve the Tifereth Israel Community.



### **Dr. Seth Krosner (Immediate Past President)**

Seth Krosner works as a trauma surgeon at Scripps's Mercy Hospital, where he is also active in the surgical critical care department. He moved to San Diego in 1998, and has been a member of TIS ever since. He joined the Board of Directors in 2005, and is the Immediate Past President and, has served as Education, Programming, and Executive Vice Presidents. Other Jewish activities in San Diego include the Agency for Jewish Education (past president), J pride (past chairman), Center for Jewish Culture (President), and UJF (mid-level campaign co-chair, 2009). He will be chairing the San

Diego contingent (The nation's largest!) for this year's national UJF LGBTQ mission to Israel. He twice served as trip physician for the San Diego contingent of the March of the Living. On the 2004 trip, Seth had the opportunity to rescue a holocaust era Torah from Warsaw, which the congregation restored, and uses weekly. That scroll has been donated to TIS in honor of Hanna Marx and all of our survivors. Seth is a graduate of the Wexner Foundation's Heritage Program for lay leaders. He lives in University Heights with his husband, local actor Phil Johnson.

### **Brian Abramson (Director)**



Brian Abramson has spent most of his professional career as a long-term healthcare administrator in Maryland and California. After graduating with a BA from UCSD and MA from SDSU he met his wife, Rachel, while working in Los Angeles. They moved to San Diego after Rachel completed medical school in Maryland. Their three children, Maya, Justin, and Brandon are all involved with the synagogue. Maya is in the Shofar Squad while Justin and Brandon currently attend Silverman Preschool. Rachel is a practicing pediatrician in City Heights. Brian founded his own business, *Finding Home for Older Adults*, which facilitates the placement of seniors to appropriate long-term care communities. He also helps seniors and their families find home care for those who wish to stay in their homes.



### **Lawrence A. Casper (Director)**

Larry is an attorney who has spent the last decade working as a criminal prosecutor in San Diego. He is passionate about ensuring that the next year brings a smooth and successful transition between Rabbis that will enable Tifereth to continue to thrive and grow for years to come. Larry looks forward to working to grow membership, reaching out to younger potential members, and to developing creative programming ideas. In his younger days, Larry was also a Jewish youth group advisor and he is a graduate of Brandeis University.

Larry's wife, Stacy, is a College English Professor and his daughter, Liana, is a high school junior. His son, Seth, is preparing for his upcoming Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth in July which Larry and Stacy look forward to celebrating with the Congregation. And, if you want to find Larry quickly, you can always try the daily minyan!



**Alan Goldenberg (Director)**

Alan is an electronic technician working in the defense industry as a contractor. He is married to Giela Gray and has two children and two grandchildren. Together they have been Tifereth Israel congregants since 1999. His son attended Silverman Preschool, Torah School and became a Bar Mitzvah at TIS. Alan, Giela and Brandon have contributed to the growth of Tifereth Israel in many ways and continue to be inclusive to make our synagogue a wonderful place to be.



**Norman Kort (Director)**

To summarize my biography in a single paragraph: I was raised in South Africa as an Orthodox Jew, emigrated to San Diego in 1981 where I joined Temple Emanu-El when my children were young. I have a married daughter (Jessica, MBA) and a son (Andrew, BA Environmental Science). I married Annette Feigenbaum in 2007, we moved to Del Cerro and joined Tifereth Israel Synagogue in 2012 where we found a very welcoming Jewish 'family.' I retired in January 2015 after 40 years as an Electrical Engineer. I spent over 34 years with a company in San Diego (Cubic Transportation Systems) working on transit fare collection systems around the world. I participate in services and shul events regularly,

have happily served on the Religious Life Committee for the past year, participated in Men's Club events, stacked chairs, helped plate cookies and sponsored an annual Midrash Shabbat. I look forward to helping TIS even more as a Board Member.



**Johanna Saylor (Director)**

I've been a member of Tifereth Israel Synagogue for five years. I have two children who started out at Silverman Preschool, and are both in Torah School now. I'm on the Torah School committee. I'm also committed to Purim! Not only do I help chair the hamantaschen baking fundraiser, but you will always find me in the Purimshpiel. I'm committed to our community, and our synagogue.



**Marc Silver (Director)**

My amazing wife Monique and I have three daughters: Emily, Sierra and Summer. Sierra attends Torah school and Summer attends the Silverman Preschool. I previously taught business courses in the private and public sectors of higher education. I'm currently an Education Specialist with the San Diego Unified School District teaching high school. I am looking forward to being part of this great community and serving on the temple board.



**Pamela-Rose Stern (Director)**

I have been a member of TIS since 1985 when Ted and I were married by Rabbi Gold and in 1986 I became Bat Mitzvah at TIS. I have two children. Ariela who will soon be married to Andrew Swaner by Rabbi Rosenthal and Ethan, a 3rd year medical student at Tulane University. Both children went to Silverman Preschool and Abraham Ratner Torah School. I have also been a member of Sisterhood since 1986.

I have a BA from UCSD, and worked in Advertising and as a manager of print shops in the past. I was secretary at TIS for the Preschool and Torah School. I am now happily retired from working at the Agency for Jewish Education.



**Frances Thorpe (Director)**

Frances Thorpe is a business owner who specializes in bookkeeping for small to medium sized companies. She moved back to San Diego in 2002 with her husband Jack, who works for the Department of Defense as a civilian after retiring from serving 21 years in the U.S. Navy. They have two children, Cole and Caroline. Both children attended Silverman Preschool and The Abraham and Anne Ratner Torah School, where Caroline still attends. Cole celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth Israel Synagogue in 2014 and currently attends Community Jewish High. Frances has served on many committees, most

recently the annual fundraising effort for the YMCA. This fund allows underprivileged children to attend summer camps when typically they would not be able to. Due to the effort of Frances' team, her group met 135% of their assigned goal. Frances desires to make a positive impact on her religious community and ensure the successful future endeavors of our synagogue.



**Mandy Williams (Director)**

I have been a member of Tifereth for over 30 years. I had my Bat Mitzvah here, was married here and both my daughters also have had their Bat Mitzvahs here. I have been married to Dave for almost 19 years and have two beautiful daughters Linda and Maya. The girls go to Community Jewish High, are very involved with USY and also are on the USY board.



**Evan Ziegler (Director)**

Evan Ziegler has been a member of Tifereth Israel since 1979. Evan was an active member of USY and graduated from the San Diego Hebrew High School. He currently serves on the TIS Board of Directors and attends the morning minyan on a weekly basis.

Evan and his wife Diane have two wonderful children, Sam and Maya. Both kids attended the Silverman Preschool and graduated from the Abraham Ratner Torah School, and both currently attend the Community Jewish High and are active in USY.

Evan and his family enjoy traveling around the world exploring new destinations and cultures. They are also avid San Diego Padre and SDSU Aztec basketball fans.