



FY2025 Board of Directors

Officers

Kal Migler – President

My wife and I have been members of the Temple for almost thirty years, starting on Hurley Avenue when our oldest child was in the 2's. Our three children have since become B'nei Mitzvah at Temple Beth Ami. I enjoy giving back to the synagogue by serving on the Board, and have worked in various capacities including Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary. I find the Temple to be a wonderful Jewish home that creates many meaningful ways to celebrate our community. We are now at an important crossroads in the life of the Temple. As President, I will fully focus on healing and restoring the critical relationships that have made TBA an exemplary institution for the past 50 years. I know we all want to work together for 50 more.

Heather Luxenberg – 1st Vice-President

Heather, her husband and two children have been members of Temple Beth Ami for nine years. Both of her children attended Machane. Heather's children both became B'nei Mitzvah at TBA. Heather served on the Rabbi Transition Committee when Rabbi Pokras joined TBA and has also served on the Purim Planning Committee, Challah Bake Committee, Culinary Crew Member, and TBA Cares.

Stacy Derrick – 2nd Vice-President

Stacy is a co-founder of Help in the Home, LLC, which provides in-home support to adults who have chronic mental illnesses. Stacy, her husband Greg, and children have been Temple members for over 10 years. Greg is a pre-school teacher at Gan Ami, and both of her children attended TBANS and are now in TBA High following their B'nei Mitzvah. Stacy previously served on the Board of Directors and served on several committees, including the Mental Health Committee, Inclusion Committee, and Security Committee.

Gail Orendorff Weiner – 3rd Vice-President

Gail, her husband, Barry, and children, Paul and Isabelle have been members of Temple Beth Ami since 2009. While her children attended Gan Ami (then Temple Beth Ami Nursey School), Gail co-chaired the nursery school's silent auction several times and developed close ties with the staff and fellow parents of the nursery school. Gail teaches 3rd grade Judaics and Hebrew in Machane every Sunday and is a member of WTBA. Gail's children became B'nei Mitzvahs in January 2020 and November 2021, respectively. Gail herself became Bat Mitzvah through TBA's adult B'nei Mitzvah class in the spring of 2023. She is honored to have served the TBA community as a member of the board of directors.

Michael Wolly - Treasurer

Mike has been a member of the Temple since 1979. He previously served on the Board for 10 years and was Temple President in 1996 when the congregation decided to move from Hurley Avenue. He then co-chaired the fundraising campaign for the new building. He has written and participated in many of the Temple's theatrical productions and Purim shpiels. His three sons all became bar mitzvah at TBA and are graduates and confirmands of the religious school. Now retired, Mike was a labor and employment lawyer who served as General Counsel for several national railroad labor unions. He and his partner Cathy Friedman are regular attendees at Friday night services and serve as greeters, welcoming all who come to share in the special spirit that is a TBA Shabbat.

Jackie Kauff – Assistant Treasurer

Jackie Kauff is a Social Policy Researcher who joined Temple Beth Ami in 2003. She previously served on the board as a member at large and as third vice president. She also chaired the endowment allocation committee for several years and served on the budget committee for the past two years. She has three girls, all of whom went through Gan Ami, Machane TBA, b'not mitzvah, confirmation, and TBA High graduation. In addition to volunteering on several projects with the Tikkun Olam committee, she is an active participant in the Grown and Flown group for parents of teens and 20 somethings and traveled with the congregation on the Southern Civil Rights trip this past February.

Ron Weinstein - Financial Secretary

Ron and his family have been members of Temple Beth Ami for over 10 years. He has served as the assistant financial secretary, a Member at Large on the board for 4 years, has chaired the Security and Spirituality 2020 committee, and is active in TBA Brotherhood. Ron and his wife Lisa have two kids in Machane TBA.

Andra Abramson – Assistant Financial Secretary

Andra Abramson has been a member of TBA for 16 years. Andra previously served as an at-large member of the Board for 4 years and since leaving the Board has served on several committees. For the past 8+ years she has been a key member of the Financial Aid committee. Her daughter, Meredith, attended TBANS starting at age 2 and finished Machane in the Confirmation class of 2022. Meredith celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at TBA and has appeared in multiple Purim Spiels and shows, including the recent Stephen Schwartz cabaret. Professionally, Andra is a Senior Content Strategist who is currently assigned to a key project at the Department of Education. Andra and her husband Jordan live in the Lakelands. Meredith will be attending Bryn Mawr College starting in the fall.

Jennifer Blacker – Recording Secretary

Jennifer and her family have been proud members of Temple Beth Ami for eight years. She and her husband, Scott, have two daughters. Her older daughter attended Machane and became a Bat Mitzvah in 2023. She volunteered as a Madrachim for Machane this year and began volunteering for Kayitz from the day she was eligible. She loves attending TBA High and is on the Board for the 2024-25 school year. Her younger daughter, a rising 4th grader in Machane, has attended Kayitz for the past few summers (on the weeks she's not at Capital Camps). Her husband and younger daughter have also been proud cast members of the Purim Spiel for the past 2 years. Jennifer enjoys giving back to the Temple through serving on the Board. She is slated for the role of Recording Secretary for the coming term.

Samantha Kravitz – General Counsel

Samantha, her husband, Michael, and their identical twin 11-year-old girls Madelyn and Hailey joined TBA in 2021. However, Samantha is no stranger to TBA, as she was a member more than 35 years ago and celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in the old building on Hurley. You can also see her confirmation picture on the wall! Madelyn and Hailey love attending Machane, and they will become B'Not Mitzvah at TBA in October 2025! Samantha is a family law attorney at Offit Kurman practicing in Maryland and DC. When she is not in a courtroom, you can see her performing in TBA's Purim Shpiel, attending Moms of Machane (MOM) events, co-leading Mah Jongg for MOMs, and participating in TBA Cares.

Lauren Bogart – Immediate Past President

Lauren is a proud mother of three young adults and a 26-year Temple member. All three of her children attended TBANS and Machane TBA. Lauren has served on the Temple Board for nine years, eight of them on the Executive Committee, and was a member of the rabbi and executive director search committees that hired Rabbi Pokras and Debbie Ezrin. Lauren is an estate planning attorney and previously worked for the National Brain Tumor Society. Temple Beth Ami has been a support for Lauren's family in good times and bad, and she is honored to have the opportunity to give back to the Temple community through lay leadership roles.

Judi Rosenzweig – WTBA Representative

Judi Rosenzweig and her husband Elliot joined TBA in early 2022 after moving from NY. They have 2 married sons and 5 grandchildren, ranging in age from 11 to 21. Although new to Maryland and TBA, Judi is not new to temple life. Judi was a Trustee at Temple Beth El, NY for decades, Sisterhood President 3 times, chair of Temple Membership Committee, on various search committees, and chaired with Elliot the TBE 90th anniversary year of celebrations. Judi is a 40+ year Jewish educator, teaching toddlers in the nursery school, and grades K, 2 and 4 in Religious School. Since joining TBA, Judi is on the board of WTBA and involved in Encore planning. Judi does a lot of volunteering, at "I support the Girls", "Comfort Cases", "Manna", and making soup for ill congregants. Judi also volunteers at Gan Ami regularly and runs the Cooking Chug on Sundays for pre-K-2nd graders at Machane. She is known in school as "Morah Judi". She is a regular at services, and enjoys Live and Learn, Rosh Chodesh, Broadway Buzz, and the friendships she's making.

Matthew Rosenstock- Brotherhood Representative

Matt, his wife Lori, and daughter Julia have been members of Temple Beth Ami for 11 years. Lori works for Machane TBA (religious school) and Julia attends TBAHigh and is a Madrichim on Sundays. Matt chaired the Executive Director search committee and is the cooking specialist for TBAHigh. Matt is currently the President of the Brotherhood, and a Culinary Crew member.

Members-At-Large

Dave Barash

Dave Barash and his wife Shari have been proud members of Temple Beth Ami for 14 years. Dave has led Kehillah groups to help build communities for parents of teens and tweens, and most recently, for parents of teens and twentysomethings. He has also served on TBA's human resources task force in developing a review process. Their children, Seth and Leah, became B'nei Mitzvah at Beth Ami and attended Machane and TBA High. Dave went on the civil rights trip earlier this year and is interested in joining the board to give back to the Temple.

Alain Briançon

Alain joined the Temple in 2017, and his wife Iris joined in 2012. Alain is a regular at Torah study, a charter member of the TBA TV team for services and B'nei Mitzvahs and is currently the chair of the Endowment Investment Committee. Alain is Vice President of Engineering at Amida Technology Solutions, an IT provider. He is an advisor to Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), where he mentors entrepreneurs and helps startups get NSF grants. Alain holds a Ph.D. from MIT and 88 patents.

Bob Drummer

Bob and his wife, Susan Stiles, have been members of Temple Beth Ami for about 7 years. They have two adult sons, each of whom is married and has one daughter. He is a dedicated member of the Torah Study class led by Rabbi Pokras and a volunteer for TBA TV. Bob was a practicing attorney from 1978 until his retirement in 2022. He was the Senior Legislative Attorney for the Montgomery County Council from 2007 until 2022. Prior to that, he was the Senior Counsel for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) for 23 years, an Associate County Attorney for Prince George's County for 5 years, and an associate attorney for a private law firm for 1 year.

Debbie Jacobs

Debbie and her husband, Robert, joined Temple Beth Ami when it was time to register their daughter for preschool. Both Hannah (26) and Jake (23) went to TBANS and celebrated their B'nei Mitzvah at Temple Beth Ami. Debbie worked as a lawyer representing individuals and corporations in civil and criminal fraud investigations and litigation. She now works in an admin/finance position for a software development company. Debbie served as co-chair of the search committee that "landed" Rabbi Weiss and along with Shelly Gordan and Cantor Eschler helped launch the pre-school family services (non-High Holiday). She is part of the leadership team that brings primary election forums to TBA and starting this year will be co-leading TBA's Tikkun Olam programming. Debbie is the TBA liaison to the Faith Advisory Committee of Community Reach of Montgomery County and is active with Action in Montgomery (AIM). Debbie also serves on the TBA budget committee, participates with Israel Matters, and co-chairs the Community of Action and Tikkun Olam Committee.

Jill Lachter

Jill and her family have been members of Temple Beth Ami since 2008. Her children attended TBANS, are enrolled in Machane, and both had their B'nei Mitzvahs at TBA. Jill has taught both as a teacher and substitute teacher in the preschool and religious school. Jill was a member of the TBANS Parent Committee, the 50th Anniversary Purim Committee, and is on the TBA Cares Committee.

Geoffrey S. Platnick

Geoffrey is an attorney specializing in family law. Geoff and his wife, Tobi, and two daughters, Morgan (20) and Gracyn (15) have been members of the Temple since 2011. Geoff's daughters had their B'not Mitzvahs at TBA. Geoff has previously served as the board's General Counsel.

Alysa Reich

Alysa Reich has more than two decades of experience as an accomplished communications executive in public relations and marketing. Throughout her career, she has created and led external and internal communications strategies, media relations, and social media strategies for numerous nonprofit organizations. The Reich family joined Temple Beth Ami nine years ago. Her children, Ben and Katie, attended TBA for Machane and several years of Kayitz. Ben's Bar Mitzvah was in August 2022, and Katie will have her Bat Mitzvah this year on August 24th. Alysa has actively participated in temple activities, including volunteering at Makom events, NNIA meetings, supporting MOTs events, and serving as a weekly driver for Meals on Wheels with JSSA, which she connected with through TBA's Tikun Olam Committee.

Jon Sambur

Jon is a partner of the law firm Eversheds Sutherland LLP, where he is a member of the tax group. Jon and his wife, Stacy, have been members of TBA since 2012 and their three children, Alyssa (14), Hailey (11) and Eli (8) attended TBANS and are enrolled in Machane TBA.

Rachel Schwartz

Rachel and her husband, Scott, have been members of Temple Beth Ami since 2015. They have three children in Machane, Hannah (8th grade), who celebrated her Bat Mitzvah last year and will be volunteering at Kayitz this summer, Josh (6th grade), who already has his Bar Mitzvah date for 2025 and Emma (1st grade), who attended Gan Ami and will be a camper at Kayitz this summer. Rachel is the Associate Vice President for Conferences and Events at Hillel International. She co-founded/co-leads Moms of Machane (MOM) and serves on the Purimpalooza Planning Committee.

Kate Wernick

Kate is a substitute teacher in Montgomery County. Prior to starting a family, she was a professional actor in the DC music theatre scene. Kate stayed home with her three boys until her youngest went off to kindergarten. During that time, she taught kindergarten and first grade at Machane TBA. All of her boys went through the Nursery School and continue to study and serve with Machane and TBAHigh, as mitzvah students and madrachim. Kate has served on the Nursery School Parent Advisory Committee, 20th and 25th anniversary committees, and as President of the Parent Committee. She served on the Rabbi Search Committee that selected Rabbi Pokras as well as the TBA 50th anniversary gala committee. Kate has performed in several Purim Shpiels and other musical productions at TBA. Last year she directed the Purim Shpiel with a cast of over 50. She also serves on the board of her children's PTA, and as the social chair for her HOA. Kate and her husband Seth have been members of TBA since 2010. They are also committed to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as members of the Next Generation Board and chairs of the inaugural "An Evening to Honor Survivors".