

Congregants nominated for the board – December 2019

The following current board members are nominated for their second three-year term:

Adam Bluestein
Nat Lew
Bill Miller

Following are the three additional people nominated for the board:

Joshua Kernoff

I grew up in Burlington, Vermont and attended Hebrew School at OZ, where I had my Bar Mitzvah. OZ has been a special place for me and my family who have been members going back several generations. After leaving Vermont for awhile for college and my first job, my wife Kathryn and I decided to move to Vermont and we've been here ever since. We now have 2 children, Annie who is 5 and Daniel who is 3, and one more on the way! Our family has been involved with the preschool (Daniel attended in the past), the Hebrew School (Annie is in Kitah Gan), as well as the monthly Tot Shabbat services. Kathryn has volunteered as an occasional service leader at Tot Shabbat, substitute teacher at the Hebrew School, and Hebrew School committee member. Kathryn and I have also hosted several intergenerational Trivia Night events at OZ.

My career has been in business and general management. I am currently the Director of Business Development for Keurig Dr Pepper, a new role that I started this fall. I've been with Keurig for a little over 6 years and have had several roles including on the Innovation and Partnership teams. Prior to Keurig my career experience included founding a local startup (K2 Trivia), a brand management role for Vermont Teddy Bear, and Product Management experience for MBI, Inc (a direct marketing company in Norwalk, Connecticut). Much of my experience has been in general management roles including leading cross-functional teams. This has included "P&L" ownership (ie: owning a budget), continuous process improvement, marketing strategy, supply chain, and operations.

Jeff Priest

Ohavi Zedek has been a wonderful source of community and spiritual centeredness for me and my family since settling in Vermont more than six years ago. My wife, Nazly, and I first attended a Pesach seder at OZ in the spring of 2014 and became members soon afterwards. I learned at the congregational meeting of Spring 2014 that getting a minyan during the week was an ongoing challenge. I volunteered to attend regularly on Wednesday nights and have been coming to shul on Wednesday nights ever since. In December 2016 I assumed the role of minyan "captain" for Wednesday nights, sending out the weekly message to gather the troops to pray, kibbitz, find out about upcoming events, and help make it possible for those in mourning or observing a Yahrzeit to say Kaddish. I believe strongly the daily minyan at OZ distinguishes us from so many other Jewish congregations across the country, and I would like to work with Marv Greenberg (the "commanding officer" of minyan captains) and the Board to find ways to shore up minyan attendance as much as possible.

Beyond Wednesday night minyan, Nazly studied with Rabbi Joshua for a year before converting to Judaism in June 2015. I received wonderful instruction from Kochava Munro in leyning Torah and had an opportunity to chant on a Shabbat morning in July 2018, again something I would love to continue to develop. In January 2019, our son Benjamin, was born, and at the beginning of February we held his brit milah at OZ. We are fortunate to be able to enroll Ben in the Full Circle Preschool two days a week. Our sense of community at OZ has grown as we join the committed families of Full Circle to raise the next generation of Jewish menschen. I hope the program will continue to grow in future years and I look forward to the opportunity to work to make this happen.

When I'm not at OZ or with my family, I work as a research analyst in the Medical Biostatistics Unit at the University of Vermont, helping researchers plan, execute, and analyze their studies. I also serve as the

biostatistical representative on the University's Committee on Human Research in the Medical Sciences. I earned a PhD in Educational Psychology from the University of Minnesota.

I believe deeply that OZ represents a uniquely special place in the Jewish and non-Jewish communities of Vermont, and I would like to be a part of expanding the community, learning, and worship of OZ in the years to come.

Rebecca Stern

As a child and adolescent, synagogue always felt like home to me. My husband, Seth, and I started attending OZ in 2014 when we moved to Burlington so I could complete a PhD in Natural Resources. In every place I have lived as an adult, I have made it a priority to join and support a Jewish community, and thus have experienced lots of different models of how synagogues function to serve the diverse needs of their communities. I'm very interested in the challenges that synagogues face today in staying relevant to both new and current members. It is a priority of mine that OZ continues to be an increasingly inclusive community that feels welcoming. I'm also interested in the ways that OZ can continue to act as a community center as well as a religious institution.

Our now 4 year-old daughter is part of the first class that opened Full Circle Preschool - and each morning she cannot wait to go to school. She returns home singing songs she learned from Cantor Steve. Watching her emerge into her own Jewish identity makes me *kvell* and is an incredible joy to watch. Being a preschool family, a Tot Shabbat leader, and the chair of the Preschool Committee, I see great potential in finding more ways to integrate Full Circle with the OZ community. I am also interested in continuing to work to engage young families in ways in addition to the preschool.