



Annual Meeting of Congregants of Alyth Synagogue

19:30 on Monday 5 February 2024

Biographies of Nominees:

| Trustees Standing for Election | |
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|  | <p>JULIET LEVINSON</p> <p>I have been a member of the synagogue since childhood and recall fond memories of my time and experiences growing up at Alyth. Now I am very keen to give back and contribute to this unique and broad community.</p> <p>My background is in education. I have been a primary school teacher for over 20 years. I have taught at a variety of state and leading private schools, both in the UK and overseas.</p> <p>Alyth is a large feature of my family life. Both my children attended Alyth kindergarten - during which I was a parent governor. They have recently been through the bar/bat mitzvah programmes. We are heavily invested in the Alyth community (i.e. Hadracha training and CST security leadership) and I hope to continue this as a trustee of Alyth.</p> |
|  | <p>BEN PORTNER</p> <p>I was a member of Alyth Synagogue as a child, went to Hebrew classes and had my bar mitzvah here in 1989. I was even in the first Alyth football team in the AJY league. We then moved away from the area and re-joined 14 years ago when my first daughter Audrey attended the nursery followed a few years later by Stella. Audrey is now a mentor for the Ruach classes and is part of the Hadracha programme to become a youth leader. She goes to school at JCoss and Stella is in her final year at Alma Primary where my wife also works as year 1 teacher having retrained from being a solicitor.</p> <p>I qualified as a solicitor in 2003 in the city and am now a partner in a small West End firm where I have worked for the past 18 years. I specialise in all property related matters but focus mainly on commercial transactions. I believe the nature of my work has given me a high level of attention to detail, forcing me to be extremely organised and disciplined with a particular responsibility and duty of care to my clients.</p> <p>Over the past year I have joined the incredibly dedicated Alyth security team as a team leader, volunteering and running shifts and I recently passed the Level 2 training for CST where I am now a member enabling me to better protect our community. I am a bit of an exercise fanatic and enjoy going to the gym, training most days and still play football once a week. I used to box but had to give that up after the black eyes scared a few clients and started training about 3 years ago with my girls in Krav Maga. I also enjoy taking the dog on long walks through the woods and in the little spare time I have left I enjoy reading, watching movies and listening to music."</p> |



NOEMI ZELL

Since moving to the UK in 1983, (I grew up in Israel, studied and worked in Germany and lived in Italy) I have always been involved in Jewish life contributing to activities within the Wimbledon community - be it as chair of the Sunday School PTA, founding and running a film and culture club aimed at post Bar/Bat Mitzvah parents, or representing my community at the Board of Deputies of British Jews, where I was also Co-chair of the Women's Group, member of the International Division and Israel Committee and member of the Executive.

5 years ago I moved to North London and I've been a member at Alyth since then, along with my husband, daughter and her family.

I'm excited to play a new, active role within the community – I admire the partnership of professionals and lay leaders at Alyth and I am excited to contribute to the team.

President Standing for Election



ANDREW GELLERT

Before meeting Selina at medical school at the Royal Free in the 1970's and marrying her at Alyth and joining the community in 1979, I knew nothing of Reform Judaism: I grew up in the orthodox setting of the Nairobi Hebrew Congregation in Kenya. I quickly came to love Alyth and it became the epicentre of my spiritual life. As a GP and medical educator I have always felt that the values inherent in family medicine of cherishing interpersonal relationships and fostering teamwork were mirrored in so much of what I see at Alyth - respecting and caring for each other, a vibrant team spirit, honesty, integrity, kindness, lifelong learning and social justice. And of course Tikkun Olam.

As a father and grandfather, naturally Selina, our children and grandchildren are the centre of my life. However, Alyth is also of pivotal importance to me and to Selina. Selina and both Ruthie and Miri have been intimately involved in Alyth since their childhood. I believe passionately in the gender equality so clearly championed in all that Alyth does, and in the central role of adult and child education in the synagogue's life. Music and my beloved piano are also an integral part of who I am and have been since I was four.

I was honoured to serve a term as Vice President until 2020. I loved that time and am deeply humbled and honoured to have been nominated for the position of President of the synagogue I love so much. I would do all in my power to serve Alyth, its community, the extraordinary people who make up its members, and to support its respected lay and professional leadership.

Vice President Standing for Election



RUTH WELLIN

I have been a member of Alyth for over 20 years, together with my husband Michael and our son Zack. We joined as it felt so welcoming, friendly and inclusive, enabling our Jewish life and continuing to do so.

We soon got involved and have made good friends along the way. Zack through going to Academy, Netzer and then leading on camp. And Michael and myself through a range of different things. I was first on the Education committee, the new members committee, then I joined Council and then was on the Executive for six years.

My work background is varied, starting as a fashion buyer, then a primary teacher and following that in HR and executive development coaching. I ran my own consultancy and taught Leadership at Birbeck. I have used my career experience to support Alyth's HR and development, including the recruitment of several of the Alyth clergy.

Besides Alyth I have been a trustee for the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT), which has always felt close to me as a child of German refugees. I volunteer as a counsellor for Childline and as a speaker for the Faith & Belief Forum. We have a lovely dog who keeps me fit walking her, and I also enjoy swimming & yoga, as well as creating and viewing Art and travelling.

I feel so honoured to be nominated as Vice President and look forward to supporting Alyth over the coming years.