



Lerner Jewish Community Day School *A Refreshing Approach to Jewish education*

Board Bios 2008-09

Julie Harris – President

We have been part of the Lerner School for 3 years now. Etan and I will have two children at Lerner next year; Jayden, a rising Kindergartner, and Noam a rising second grader. I have served as the PAC co-chair, Vice President, and search committee member. I am proud to be a member of our Ladies of Challah (a.k.a the challah club) and plan to participate even more in the coming year. I am also a lifetime member and co-chair of the Care for the Mosaic Wall Committee.

We have found Lerner to be incredibly warm and welcoming community. I am passionate about Jewish Day School education and am excited to be involved during this exciting time of expansion and development of the school and Jewish community.

Professionally, I've worked at non-profits my adult working life as a teacher, and director of Jewish Studies, and program manager. I earned a joint masters degree in Jewish Education and Jewish Communal Service from the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles in 1997. I am an art, crafts, and photography enthusiast- and Tar Heel Fan. My husband, Etan works at The Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke. We like to run, hike, bike & play ultimate frisbee.

I am thrilled to be involved in the Lerner School community during such an exciting time in the growth of the school!

Patty Wild – Past President

After serving two years as Board President and previously as Vice President and PAC Co-Chair, next year I look forward to remaining on the Board as Past-President, Chair of the Committee on Trustees and the school's representative to the PJC Executive Committee. I will also become an alumni parent as our older daughter graduates from Lerner, our younger daughter continues at Lerner in the 4th grade. Besides being a Board member, I am a founding member of the Challah Club and have helped with the Mishloach Manot Committee. When not at Lerner, I work 3 days a week as an Audiologist and catch up with my husband Michael when he is not traveling as a sales manager for Nestle Clinical Nutrition.

Anne Marie Schneider – Vice President (fundraising)

Originally from Massachusetts, I attended Boston University and graduated with my degree in Occupational Therapy. After many years of patient care, most of which were as a certified hand therapist, approximately 3 years ago I left the practicing arena and have developed into the practice manager for my husband Rob's Physical Therapy practice, still seeing the occasional patient. This has allowed me to become more involved at Lerner. I have 2 daughters, Alexandra, a rising 5th grader, and Julianne, a rising 3rd grader. It has been great seeing them and their friends grow and learn. I have been on the board for 4 years, first as PAC Co-chair with Patty Wild, then as Fundraising chair, now as Vice President in charge of fund raising. I will continue in that same role next year. In addition, I converted to Judaism 2 years ago and will become a Bat Mitzvah on May 31.

Susan Springer – Vice President (recruitment)

Susan and her husband, Matt, moved to Chapel Hill 8 years ago from Rockville, MD. Their daughters, Madison, 8, and April, 5, are both students at the Lerner School. Susan has enjoyed being a member of the Lerner School Board, serving as PAC co-chair, book fair coordinator, student recruitment and head search committee chair. She is presently an adult literacy tutor and the chair of the Durham Literacy Center board. Prior to moving to Chapel Hill, Susan taught 4th grade and worked as a commercial real estate lender at SunTrust Bank.

Marc Joseph – Treasurer

I am originally from the Washington, D.C. area and the father of Michael and Annie, former Lerner students and husband to my whimsical wife, Betsy who is also very active in the community and currently serving on Lerner's Governance Committee. We currently members of Judea Reform and former members of the Chapel Hill Kehillah. To the position of treasurer, I bring experience gained from over 17 years working in various finance roles for companies such as Siemens Medical (current), MCI, Ericsson and the Federal Government. Before taking over as Treasurer, I served on Lerner's Finance Committee. My other volunteer positions include Chair of the JCC Business Planning Committee and the coach of Annie's soccer team.

Education: Accounting, Frostburg State University and a Masters in Telecommunications Management from the University of Maryland.

Jeff Spinner-Halev - Secretary

My family and I moved to Chapel Hill nearly three years ago, when we enrolled our three children at Lerner. We now have one Lerner graduate; Shoshana is a rising second grader at Lerner, and Davida is a rising fifth grader. My wife Elyza is often found at the school, taking pictures, assisting in a classroom, organizing a fieldtrip, or helping out in other ways. I have just finished my first year on the Board as chair of the Policy committee, and look forward to moving over to the Secretary position. During the day I teach at UNC, where I am a Professor of Political Science, with a speciality in political theory. During the 2006-7 academic year, I was also the Interim Director of Jewish Studies. We are family with many Israel connections, and we lived in Jerusalem for a year in 2003-4. With the expansion of the school, and the new JCC, this is an exciting time to be at Lerner, and I'm happy to be able to help the school as it enters this new stage of growth.

Nathan & Rachel Bearman – Development Co-chairs

We live in Chapel Hill with our rising 3rd grader - Noa; rising 1st grader - Dov; and future day schooler - Lev. Nathan is the Sales Director of The FurnitureLab and Rachel currently works as a researcher at UNC Department of Family Medicine. We have been active in the Jewish community for 10 years and witnessed the day school's growth from an idea to a community institution. That passion and commitment of the founders and past and present school families has created a strong and vibrant school and community of which we are proud to be a part. Thus, we could not resist the opportunity to be development co-chairs and be a part of the continued growth and strengthening of the school.

Jodi Beetham - Parent Activities Committee Co-Chair

My name is Jodi Beetham and I have a wonderful Husband, Mik, and two equally wonderful children Ryan 6 and Nicole 4. We moved here from New York City 3 years ago where I owned and operated a Real Estate Brokerage Firm for 14 years. One of our main reasons for moving out of the city was to obtain a greater sense of community and more room to spread out; 2 kids and 2 dogs in an apartment was way too crowded. We have since become a part of a warm Jewish Community and feel lucky to be able to contribute to the intimate community at

Lerner. We own a business that specializes in home improvement with Mik doing all the contracting and both of us doing the sales and marketing. I have a great love for exercise and general fitness and hope to complete the NY Marathon this year in November!!

Miriam Cohen-Franzen - Parent Activities Committee Co-Chair

I have been living in Durham with my husband and our two sons and one daughter since August of 2006. Prior to that, we lived in Massachusetts for ten years. Ethan is a rising 3rd grader at Forest View Elementary. David is a rising 1st grader at Lerner. Anja, who is now 4, will be in preschool again next year at Lerner.

I have a degree in finance. Prior to having children, I worked in two brokerage firms in Greensboro, NC and a mutual fund company in Boston, MA. While I lived in Medford, MA, I was active in the city's one synagogue. I was on the board for several years during which time I chaired the membership committee, served on the Hebrew School committee, and served as 2nd vice president. Currently I am not working so that I can be home with the children.

I have been so happy with the quality of education at Lerner as well as the culture of the school. So I was very honored to be asked to join the board.

Tal Lewin-Wittle – Policy Chair

I am practically a North Carolina native having grown up in Chapel Hill. Our Jewish community has certainly grown over the years! I currently live in Durham with my husband Eric and two daughters, Liora, a rising 3rd grader, and Ilana, a rising 1st grader. We have greatly enjoyed being a part of the Lerner community these past three years. We have always volunteered in classroom and school wide activities, and this year I was room parent and served on the Policy Committee. I now look forward to contributing to the Lerner School in an even more substantive way, as a member of the Board.

Sue Egnoto – PR Chair

Sue, Morris, Grace and Eve moved to Chapel Hill, NC from the Bay Area just three short years ago looking to slow down and integrate ourselves into a smaller community. Grace (now a rising senior) settled in at Durham Academy and Eve attended our local public elementary school. After a short and disappointing experience we frantically looked for an alternative for Eve (then in 3rd grade). I had heard great things about Lerner, so I decided to check it out and two weeks later Eve was attending! It's been a fabulous choice for Eve and our family. Being connected to the school has provided us a path to be actively involved in the Jewish community.

I have been privileged to serve for several years on the board as PR chair. I also serve on the finance, strategic planning & technology committees. We are an interfaith family & members of Judea Reform.

In my work life, I am a marketing professional specializing in new product development, positioning and branding. If I ever find the time I'll restart my marketing consulting practice. I have an MBA from M.I.T Sloan School of Management and a BS/MS in Imaging Science from R.I.T.

I make a mean Cosmo, make challah with the challah club, still play soccer, and hate to miss a party.

Matt Diamond – Religious Practices

Matt Diamond is the Director of Community Midrasha, the Jewish education program for teens in Durham and Chapel Hill, and has been a Jewish and Zionist educator for such organizations as

USY, NFTY, Koach and the Jewish Agency for Israel. He helped found the North American Association of Community Hebrew High Schools and served on the Mazkirut and Programming Vaad for the CAJE 31 Jewish Education conference. Matt taught a course on “Israeli Politics” at Duke and has published several academic articles about Israel, the Middle East, and Jewish law.

“Jewish education is very important to me, personally and professionally, and so I am excited to be able to contribute in this way to the Lerner School. Lerner provides a unique Jewish educational experience that is vitally important for our community. I look forward to continuing to work with the rest of the board to strengthen this.”

Matt met and married his wife, Sheryl Weiss, in Jerusalem, where they lived for eight years. They have a daughter, Suzie, in the Lerner School kindergarten.

Anne Derby – At Large

Anne Derby joined RTI in October of 1998 with extensive years of experience in private and governmental medical facilities and academia where she is still employed half time. In October 2006 she opened a yarn shop in Hillsborough, NC. Anne worked at an area hospital as Director of HIS; at NIEHS as Deputy Chief OFE and member of the Mass Spec research unit; and as Regional Director for Biomedical Engineering for the VAMC. For eleven years Anne was on the faculty of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in NYC. Anne received both her AB and MSEng degrees from Columbia University in NY; her graduate degree is in Biomedical Engineering. At RTI she has been working as a Senior Project Manager where she has been leading cross functional teams to deliver validated systems through all phases of the validation. This includes management of project scope, budget and timeline within a specified target, the management of vendor relationships for customizable and COTS software and the integration and management of systems. Actions have been to leverage functional and industry experience in recommending system and process enhancements while making scope, timing and cost trade-off decisions/recommendations with the team and system owner. Some of Anne's successes have been the validation and implementation of electronic data capture systems, release of software product deliverables on time and within budget, and successful client/vendor relationships. Anne has been involved in managing ITS computer support services and is currently working as the Senior Project Manager and System Integrator for SEG-HS electronic data capture systems as well as Senior Advisor for Regulatory Affairs for ITS.

Anne is active in the Beth El Synagogue community where she and her husband Jeff developed the curriculum for the "Pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parent" classes; they continue to teach the parents of 6th grade students. Anne is one of Beth El's gabbaim and manages the Gabbai rotation. She also manages the Haftarah assignments and has participated in training post bar/bat mitzvah students to become schliach szibur.

Janis Kupersmidt

My name is Janis Kupersmidt, and I have two children who attended and graduated from the Lerner School. My son, Sam Hughes, was in the second cohort at the school and attended from kindergarten through 5th grade. My daughter, Miriam Hughes, attended the Lerner School from preschool through 5th grade and she graduated two years ago. I served as the Secretary of the Board in the early years of the school. Our family is very dedicated to the success of the Lerner School, and I'm happy and honored to serve on the Board. Both of my children received excellent Judaic and secular educations at the Lerner School, and received much love, care, and attention. The dedication and competence of all of the staff at the school contributed to building my children's strong moral and ethical values, self-confidence, organizational skills, and academic abilities. My husband and I regularly credit the school for

helping our children make an easy and extremely successful transition to middle school and high school. I am also a licensed child clinical psychologist and spend most of my time doing research on the assessment, prevention, and treatment of mental health and substance abuse problems in children and adolescents. Thus, I also bring much knowledge and experience in the mental health, substance abuse, and education fields to this position. Thank you for inviting me to serve and I look forward to helping make additional contributions to our wonderful school.

Chip Bailin – At Large

Education: BA- Washington University, MHA- Duke University, JD- NCCU

Work: I've worked in the health care industry for almost 30 years in a variety of administrative and financial positions. Currently I'm serving as the Financial Director for the Department of Community and Family Medicine in the Duke School of Medicine

Family: Robin and I arrived in NC 28 years ago so I could attend graduate school at Duke and we never left. We've raised three children in Chapel Hill. My oldest daughter, Rori is a lawyer working in Washington, DC. My other daughter, Jessica is a television producer living in Knoxville, TN and my youngest is Josh who is a sophomore at Penn State. My wife, Robin, manages the Chapel Hill Senior Center and is active among the senior community.

Since its inception we have been supporters of the Day school even though we never had the opportunity to send any of our children. I see the school as an entity that can engage the entire Jewish community regardless of synagogue affiliation or Jewish background. As a non-parent board member for the past year, I enjoy working on ways to expand support for the school from across the broader Jewish community.

Kara Rosenfeld – At Large

Hi, I am Kara Rosenfeld and I am very pleased to be a part of the board. To help us get acquainted, let me introduce myself. I was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico and came to Chapel Hill when I was five years old. I attended Seawell Elementary for kindergarten through sixth grade. I went to Chapel Hill High and then Appalachian State University. I graduated in 1999 with a degree in Elementary Education and Applied Communication. I taught in Efland NC for five years and while there won teacher of the year in 2001-2002. Now, I am going on my 11th year of teaching and my fifth year here at Seawell. I was also awarded teacher of the year at Seawell in 2006-2007. This past summer I graduated with a master's degree in K-6 Elementary Education with a concentration in K-8 math from UNC-Chapel Hill.

I live in Mebane with my two cats, Sebastian and Sylvester. My father lives here in Chapel Hill and teaches at the University. My sister and her husband live in Cary with their two children, Olivia and Malcolm. Olivia will be in second grade this year and Malcolm is turning four.

I am very honored and excited about being elected to be a part of the Lerner Day School Board. Thank you for this opportunity.

Roxanna Bossen – At Large

My husband Ed and I have lived in Durham since 1961 (for him) and 1963 (for me) with the exception of two years in the Washington, D.C. area where Ed was stationed at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology from 1970-1972.

We joined Judea Reform Congregation in 1962 when Rabbi Efraim Rosenzweig convinced me to teach Religious School (in exchange for our dues). That was the beginning of three "tours of

duty” as a Religious School teacher—each lasting three or more years. I also served on the board of Judea Reform as editor of the bulletin and as president of the Women’s Group.

I received my B.A.E. (Bachelor of Arts in Education) degree from the University of Florida and my M.Ed. (Master of Education) degree from Duke University. I taught third and fifth grades at Mangum Elementary School in Bahama, NC, remedial reading at Orange Street School in Oxford, NC and substituted at Hope Valley School, Pearsonstown, Githens, and Durham Academy. I volunteered as a classroom aide at Pearsonstown, and was a Guardian ad Litem in Durham for several years.

Education is very important to our family. Ed teaches students and house staff at Duke Medical School. All three of our children teach. Deborah Lorber (a former Religious School teacher at Judea Reform), teaches at Solomon Schechter in Long Island; Barbara Deena teaches Religious School at Judea Reform Congregation, and is a first-grade teacher at the Lerner School in Durham, and Rebecca teaches at Act One in Chicago.

I look forward to working with the other members of the Lerner School Board.

Sabina Sager – At Large

Sabina Sager has been a part of the Durham-Chapel Hill Jewish Community for 28 years. She is employed by Duke University, where she has been involved in grant management for over 10 years. She has a background in secondary mathematics education, having taught at Akiba Hebrew Academy (Philadelphia), Durham Tech, and Duke and she continues to tutor students privately in math. She has served on several local boards, including Duke School for Children, Jewish Family Services, and Community Midrasha. She is also an active participant in many of the activities at Beth El Synagogue. She takes great delight in talking about her three children and grandchildren who live in Israel.

Michael Goldman – At Large

I am married to Abby and have two children, Ben (4) and Elie (2.5). We moved to Durham from New York in June, 2005 for my work as the rabbi for Duke. Abby just completed her first year in the graduate program in history at Duke. Ben is in the preschool at Lerner and loves it. Elie feels at home there when he comes to visit Ben at school. I have been invited a couple of times to visit Lerner kids as a rabbi, and knew from the warmth and fun that I sensed there that I would want to be involved.

Adam Goldstein – Ex Officio Past President

Adam Goldstein is a family physician at UNC School of Medicine. Adam lives in Chapel Hill with his wife Beth (a dermatologist) and his three children Jared, Michael, and Elianna (all Lerner School graduates). The Goldsteins are members at Beth El and strongly support all Jewish endeavors in the community.

Bryna Rapp – Ex Officio Past President

I have been a member of the Lerner School Board off and on since 1993. At the time, I was pregnant with my first child, Ben. Ben is now graduating from middle school and my daughter Sadie will be graduating from Lerner next month. Fortunately for me, I have a slew of younger niece/nephews who will keep me tied to the school until at least 2017!

I served as President for a couple years and now sit on the Head Support Committee and Committee on Trustees. I am a founding member of the Challah Club and a lifetime co-chair of the Care for the Mosaic Wall committee. I love everything about the school... the teachers, the parents, the amazing children who make up my extended family. I am an architect by training, but spend my professional time running a small commercial furniture business in Carrboro (the

FurnitureLab) with my husband Greg and my brother, Nathan. I spend my free time raising money for the Partnership for a Jewish Center so that we can soon have a JCC next door.

Jane McMullen – Ex Officio Past President

Emily Klein – Ex Officio Past President