

## RATIFICATION OF CHAIRMAN ELECT

ANDREW STONE



I was born into a modern orthodox family in Leeds, Yorkshire in 1953, my Bar Mitzvah taking place on World Cup day, 1966. A law degree at Nottingham University took me to Articles at Lewis Silkin, qualification as a solicitor in 1977 and partnership in the same year. When I joined the firm, we were perched above a supermarket in Rye Lane Peckham. By the time I left, some 20 years later - steered by Roger Alexander (a long standing WLS member) and I - the firm had grown to be a significant corporate firm, based in Westminster. I stayed at that firm, eventually as a Corporate and Commercial lawyer, until 1997. A change of direction from black letter law saw me appointed as Group Legal Director and head of the UK family office of a High Net Worth overseas family. This has involved me in very frequent overseas travel, which has been rewarding, interesting – and tiring.

When we moved to Marylebone in 1996, my now husband, Terry, joined WLS. He was a regular Shabbat attendee, eventually becoming a warden. I was a member at Western, Marble Arch, although an occasional visitor to WLS. Those visits became more frequent over time and joint membership at WLS was the result.

I joined the board in 2017. My experience as a board member has enhanced my knowledge of this wonderful community. I have been struck by its complexity, its colourful and fascinating history, its wonderful musical tradition and the warmth of the congregation, with its eclectic mix of interesting people. I have loved its inclusivity and marvelled at its sometimes quirky traditions, its flagship awe and its unashamed modernity. I have learned to love the building, the rituals and those who work and worship here.

In 2014, on 10 December, with no fewer than three of our rabbis taking the ceremony, Terry and I were married in the Sanctuary. Rabbi Julia and I had worked together for some months to change the regulations for conversion from civil partnership to marriage, so that religious content was permitted. When an institution does that for you, you owe it a great deal.

I have always been a Zionist and was honoured to obtain my Israeli passport this year. My intended retirement in June will allow me to stand for Chair in the knowledge that I will have the time and energy to dedicate to what I fully anticipate to be an exacting and important period in our history.

If permitted by the Congregation to become Chair, I will follow the traditions of the founding families and others who have steered us over the decades. It would be an honour and a privilege to do so. I will employ my dedication and effort to work with our rabbis, lay leaders, diligent staff and amazing volunteers to support our Community.

## NEW BOARD MEMBER NOMINEES

### TIM ANGEL



I am chairman of Angels Costumes which supplies costumes for Theatre, TV and film. Angels is one of the most well-respected and celebrated companies in the industry and has been in existence since 1840 and is a seventh-generation family business.

My family has been involved with and members of WLS since 1840 and my wife Eleanor's family have been members since 1945 and she has previously served on the Council of WLS.

I have served as the Chairman of BAFTA and was a Governor of the BFI as well as a trustee and treasurer of Hammerson House and then Nightingale Hammerson.

I have three children Emma, Daniel and Jeremy and three grandchildren Matthew, Charlotte and Ezra

2019 - May Awarded CBE  
2012-2016 - Nightingale Hammerson, Trustee and Treasurer:  
1980-2016 - Hammerson House, Trustee and Treasurer:  
2002-08 - BFI Governor. & Treasurer  
1997- 2000 - BAFTA Chairman  
1997 - May Awarded OBE  
1967 - Angels Costumes

### JOAN ARNOLD



Joan's family has been associated with West London Synagogue for several generations. Her parents and grandparents were members and Joan was Bat mitzvah in 1961. Educated at South Hampstead High School, she trained as a teacher and gained an Honours degree in Music, Education and Philosophy at Bristol University. A talented pianist and oboist herself, she had over 35 years experience as a teacher of music and the arts, adviser and a senior inspector for Nottinghamshire before working as a freelance inspector nationally for Ofsted.

Surviving three attacks of breast cancer, she now enjoys a busy retirement as a proud and active grandparent. She is an assistant coordinator for the National Garden Scheme in London, she is active in promoting music for young people in the St Judes festival for music and literature in Hampstead Garden Suburb and has been community visiting for West London Synagogue over the past 8 or 9 years. She enjoys giving tea parties for the elderly, both for West London and locally for Care for the Elderly. Following training for bereavement visiting, she is now a member of the team who provide support to those who have suffered loss, an activity that she finds very worthwhile and rewarding

Music remains an important part of her life. Her hobbies also include cooking, creative stitching (which she still teaches), water-colour painting and a passion for gardening – she and her partner Tom have a lovely garden and enjoy growing vegetables on an allotment.

She has maintained her membership of the synagogue throughout her life, even when living in Nottinghamshire and was honoured to be co-opted on to the synagogue board and very much enjoys her work, particularly her close involvement with the social care team.

## BRAD ALTBERGER



I have been a member of WLS for more than a decade and have found it to be an open and embracing community and would welcome the opportunity to give back to the synagogue by being a dedicated and hands on board member should you elect me.

By way of background, I grew up in Denver, Colorado and headed for the East Coast for university. In 1994 I received an undergraduate business degree from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and moved to New York to begin my business career. I have since enjoyed working in the financial services sector in NY and London for more than 25 years with large and small firms, most recently as a partner in a small family office that invests in companies and real estate.

My wife, Jeanne, and I have lived in London for 15 years and we have two boys aged 11 and 8 who have attended Sunday School at WLS since they were in reception. I very much enjoy spending time and travelling with my family.

I believe it is important to give back to the community and have tutored high school students in maths and volunteered and worked with not for profits, particularly those with a focus on children. I would be delighted to bring my experience to the board.

## TAMARA BARNETT



Tamara Barnett runs an anti-slavery charity, the Human Trafficking Foundation, set up by cross-party parliamentarians. In the role, Tamara acts as Company Secretary and oversees governance, fundraising, all staff, projects, communications, research and policy work, including chairing the Home Office Minister's UK Victim Care group.

She has written a number of ground-breaking UK policy reports on crime, policing and public health, and is published in the Palgrave Book on Human Trafficking. Due to her expertise in modern slavery and human trafficking she has been asked to write a number of guides in recent years for organisations ranging from the Local Government Association, Citizens Advice Bureau, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and has been quoted in the main chamber in Parliament. She sits on a variety of national and government advisory groups and has provided oral evidence to Parliamentary Committees and is frequently in the printed, radio and broadcast media.

Before working at the Human Trafficking Foundation, Tamara had a range of roles in the public and voluntary sector as well as in parliament. She advised Assembly Members in City Hall on policing and crime for four years, was a Chief of Staff for an MP, ran a leading think tank (Policy Exchange) research unit, and was Producer then Operations Manager at Catch21, an NGO that aimed to engage young people with politics.

She has a history of campaigning for those whose voices are often overlooked in policy. For example, she worked with sex workers and made sure their voices were heard in police and mayoral policy leading to her being asked to sit on the National Police's (ACPO/NPCC) group on Prostitution. She is also willing to put her head above the parapet to speak at contentious events, including speaking at a large protest last year of several thousand people in Parliament Square about the organ trafficking of Falun Gong practitioners by the Chinese Government.

Tamara has been a member of WLS since she was five or six, attending Sunday school from that age until 16 and was a member of the junior choir. She had her Bat Mitzvah with Rabbi Jackie Tabick and was later a Sunday School assistant until she left secondary school. She continues to be a member to this day. Her fiancée Adam is currently converting with WLS and she loves celebrating Shabbat with Adam and her nine-year-old stepson, Alfred, who shares a passion in Jewish tradition and history.

Tamara's father is British Sephardi while her mother was born in France to a Jerusalem-born father and Parisian-born mother of Polish/Ukrainian heritage. Tamara is a proud feminist, Zionist and rights advocate, and in her free time writes plays, watches Love Island, and also volunteers as a mentor to survivors of human trafficking with Hestia. She previously volunteered as Production Coordinator with Conflict Relief, an Arab-Israeli interfaith theatre collaboration, who used to rehearse at WLS in 2009/10.

## ALISON EDELSHAIN



I have spent the majority of my career working in Human Resources, although it was called Personnel when I first started way back in 1976! After a History degree and post-grad studies in employment law and personnel management, I started my career as an Industrial Relations Officer with the Philips group and then moved on to general HR work for Associated British Foods, recruitment with PricewaterhouseCoopers and finally as Director of Recruitment and International HR for LCH Clearnet. In 2012 I started my own HR consultancy company, which I closed in 2018 in order to spend more time on my volunteering work.

This work includes being a magistrate on the adult and youth benches in North-West London, helping to run anti-crime workshops in secondary schools in Brent and Barnet, being a school governor and helping with the Drop-In centre for refugees at WLS. In addition, there are also my grandmother duties which of all the work I find the most physically exhausting! My association with WLS goes back to 1978 when both my husband and I joined straight after our wedding, both preferring the reform services to our orthodox upbringings. Our three children were bar/bat mitzvah there and two of our children have married under its auspices. We also have had a home in Israel since 1979 and lived there for 20 months in the 1980's until we returned home for David to start his PhD and for me to do an MBA. I would be honoured to serve on the WLS Board if elected.

## HANNAH LOWY-MITCHELL



Like many members of the WLS community I have been shaken by recent events. I surprised myself by how protective I feel towards WLS and at the strength of my desire to help rebuild this wonderful institution. Hence my application to join the board.

There is something about WLS that is very special to me. Parry and I were married here and our twin sons (now 31 years old) celebrated becoming B'nei mitzvah here. Our son Felix and our daughter-in-law Louise had their wedding blessing in the sanctuary and we bring our three grandchildren to the family services when we can. I was raised as an atheist, but today I feel at home at WLS.

Professionally I started my career in feature films in Denmark and then worked for many years as a producer and director making documentaries for Danish TV, the BBC and Channel 4. From 2006-16 I sat on the board of Women for Women International, our remit was to support abused and traumatised women in post conflict countries: to give them stability and economic self-sufficiency. For the past five years I have been a trustee of the Donmar Warehouse and I chaired its Development Committee for three years.

I am an international person. I have lived in Denmark, France, India and Italy. I speak Danish, French and Italian fluently. I studied psychology at the University of Aarhus and went to film school in Copenhagen.

It may not seem an immediately obvious choice for me to apply to become a member of the board of WLS. But I see that as a strength: the ability to bring a fresh eye to the table. I am under no illusion that the job will be time-consuming and demanding, but it would be an honour to be part of building this new world. We have a new rabbinic team, a new chair and soon to be appointed, a new board. Together we can restore WLS to its greater glory and work towards a wonderful new chapter in our community's history.

## ISABELLE TARSH



I am Isabelle (or Issy), and I would like to become a new member of the West London Board.

In my relatively new professional life I am a graduate at Nestlé, currently working in digital marketing. I often get asked what this actually means, and I wish I could give a simple answer, but generally it means some 'website stuff' and a bit of social media. This has proved great experience, and allowed me to be a MarComms (Marketing & Communications) volunteer at Limmud Festival 2019, and now a MarComms co-chair for Festival 2020 (which is proving an interesting challenge in the age of COVID). I also help with Vote From Abroad's social media, an organisation that encourages Americans overseas to vote.

Before joining the working world, I studied History at Durham University, specialising in social and cultural history, with a dissertation on Victorian Jewellery. While I was at university, I was Vice President and then President of Durham's Jewish Society during which time we won JSOC of the Year 2018, and Interfaith Event of the Year 2019 (both from UJS) and I personally won the Outstanding Commitment to a Student Group Award from the Students' Union. I was a founding member of the Durham Interfaith Student Network, which worked to put on 'faith café' events and nightly programming for National Interfaith Week. I was also on the steering group for the University's race and religious based hate crime task force, and a student delegate to the European Commission for the FRA's survey on antisemitism.

I think very little of that would have come to pass without being a part of WLS. I grew up going to an Orthodox synagogue, where I had my Bat Mitzvah, but subsequently I ended up joining the Jewish studies GCSE and Kabbalat Torah class at West London. It was through being given that space as a near-adult to learn about, question, and connect with Judaism that I finally began to understand it and how much it meant to me. Of course, it helped that I made close friends in that class, and that there were opportunities to be part of endeavours like Peace by Piece interfaith project, but even past that point I still wanted to be involved. I was a madricha at the religion school for 2 years, working with the Aleph and Bet classes, which definitely pushed me out of my comfort zone, and now after university I attend YAD events and intend to go to more Shabbat Shira services once lockdown ends.

I think I can use my own experiences to help more young people to want to get involved with the synagogue. It is so easy for teens and young adults to feel disengaged by organised religion. It can feel stuffy, and unappealing, and there are so many things to do at any one time, it is hard to actively choose a religious space generally occupied by an older generation (and even harder when your mother keeps telling you to go). However, I believe that bringing young people in can only be done by providing more young faces to greet them, and to advocate for what they need from a synagogue community. By providing a Jewish experience that appeals to the younger generation, then hopefully young people will feel more engaged and represented within West London. I want to bring all of my collected experiences of working with young people across a spectrum of Judaism to make it happen for our community.

## PETER VOGL



I was married at WLS forty years ago and my son was bar mitzvah. and got married there.

I have spent fifty years running the family business, Panzers Delicatessen, and consequently I believe I am well known in the community. I sold the business in 2014, and retired fully in 2017.

To be frank, working seven days a week, I wasn't very much involved in community activities but since that time I have become much more active.

I have enjoyed three brilliant WLS Israel tours; I have hosted Israeli Soldiers; helped at the refugee drop in; attended study classes, and recently took part in discussions about synagogue fees and hosting new members, although these discussions are on hold.

I represent WLS at the Board of Deputies and sit on the foreign affairs committee.

I am very fit and in good health and would very much like to take a more active role in community affairs.

## EMMA LEVINSON – JUNIOR WARDEN ELECT



Over the last 5 years West London Synagogue has become a pivotal part of my life. It has provided me with tremendous support through challenges life has thrown at me and I was delighted to have my 2nd Bat Mitzvah 1 year ago, a day I will never forget. My family have been longstanding members of the Synagogue and I am honoured to become a Warden follow in my father, Sydney Levinson's footsteps.

Having worked in fashion for 11 years I recently retrained and qualified to become a therapist. I am committed to Mental health support and overcoming the stigma associated with it.

I am founder of the mental health peer support group CBT Cafe - Cake Before Therapy, which I began (and currently) run at WLS with huge support from Helen, Jo and Tirza and this gave me the impetus to run it at other locations.

Outside of my work around mental health and the associated cake making I love the arts and keeping fit and I have been known to run the occasional 10km.

## SIMON RAPERPORT – JUNIOR WARDEN ELECT



I feel as though I've been a member of WLS since before I was born. My father was brought up in an orthodox family (my paternal grandfather was a warden at Dennington Park Road), but he moved across and married my mother at Upper Berkeley Street in 1949 – she converted through WLS to marry him.

My entire religious life has been involved with WLS – I was bar mitzvah'd by Rabbi Van Der Zyl in 1963, my wife Eileen (née Day) and I were married by Rabbi Hugo Gryn in 1974, and our children's religious lives have also been centred in the community – we have a son and a daughter both aged 36, two more daughters both aged 29, and two granddaughters both aged 2.

I am a chartered accountant, working as a sole practitioner for the last 30 years or so. I was treasurer of the synagogue for seven years until 2011 and have been treasurer of The West London Synagogue Charitable Fund for more years than I care to remember! I also sit currently as a WLS representative on the boards of Hoop Lane and Edgwarebury cemeteries.

Apart from work and family activities, I play tennis, and my other interests include music, cinema, theatre, and Portsmouth Football Club.