

# **Bernard Betel Centre**

## **Board of Directors' Biographies 2021-2022**



**bernard betel centre**

**1003 Steeles Avenue West  
Toronto ON M2R 3T6**

**416-225-2112  
[www.betelcentre.org](http://www.betelcentre.org)**

**Marcus Staviss**

Marcus has provided communications and public affairs strategy for more than 15 years to government, health care, non-profit, association and private sector organizations. He is currently Director, Communications, Public Affairs and Events for the Ontario Dental Association, where his portfolio includes media relations, digital strategy, graphic design, marketing communications and corporate events. He is Publisher of a leading dental journal and oversees one of Canada's largest dental conferences.

Marcus was previously Account Director at Counsel Public Affairs and Director of Strategic Communications at St. John's Rehab Hospital. At the hospital, he led the marketing efforts supporting a \$15-million capital fundraising campaign and steered employee and community engagement regarding a merger with a major acute care health sciences centre.

Marcus has been President of the Bernard Betel Centre Board since September 2019. He also volunteers on the Program Advisory Committee for Centennial College's Public Relations programs. He lives in Toronto with his beautiful wife and two children.

**Bonnie Baker**

Armed with a Masters degree in public administration from Carleton University, Bonnie headed west to Regina to begin her public service career with a brief stint in the Saskatchewan government working in human services, primarily doing staffing and job evaluation. Moving back east, Bonnie joined the Ontario Public Service where she worked in policy analysis, policy development and program/project management in a variety of areas including classification standards, compensation policy, pay equity, business continuity planning, pandemic planning and security screening. Her most recent position was as a senior policy advisor in labour dispute contingency planning.

Now retired, Bonnie has been on the board for 11 years: nine years as an elected director and the past two years as immediate past board chair. Bonnie co-chaired the Betel at 50 celebrations and continues to volunteer at a local synagogue.

Bonnie's proudest moment over the past couple of years was acquiring the title of Bubby!

**Hava Aharoni**

Hava has been an active member at the Bernard Betel Centre since 2012. She came to the Centre after dedicating 38 years of her career managing a library department at York University in Toronto. She was instrumental in forming the CHAGAI group, and sat on its Steering Committee; which involved planning and preparing programs for younger Israeli seniors. Hava continues to play a pivotal role to support fundraising initiatives to promote and strengthen the Bernard Betel Centre. She continues to endorse the centre and encourages new membership.

Hava has been an active participant on the Members' Council Committee since its reconstitution in 2015. Currently, she serves as the Chair of the Members' Council Committee and is one of two representatives on the Board of Directors. Hava participates in several programs and services provided

by the Centre. She is also a member of the Shira Singers, performing for the larger community. In the past, Hava was a volunteer driver for the visually impaired persons (VIP) group. She is grateful for the Trips and Travel program at the Centre and hopes to continue experiencing new adventures and meeting new friends.

### **Julie Gilbert**

Julie is a health services researcher with over 25 years of experience working with healthcare organizations to help them improve the quality of their programs and services. For over 10 years, Julie worked at Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), the province's main advisor on cancer care delivery (now part of Ontario Health). While at CCO, she advised and evaluated programs at a provincial scale, including colorectal cancer screening, diagnostic assessment, palliative care, and cancer survivorship.

More recently, Julie served as the Research Director and Chair at Humber River Hospital, where she led strategic planning for the hospital's applied research program. Currently, Julie is currently an independent consultant providing measurement and evaluation services to organizations in the public and not-for-profit sectors. One of Julie's clients is the Movember Foundation; she helps them evaluate the global programs they run to support men with prostate cancer in managing their symptoms and treatment side effects.

Julie has a Master of Science degree in Epidemiology and a PhD in Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, both from the University of Toronto (U of T). She is currently an Adjunct Professor at U of T's Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation.

### **Deborah Glasser**

Deborah is an accomplished marketing and brand strategy leader focused on consumer goods and services and nonprofit management. For over 25 years, Deborah has worked as a general manager, operator, and marketing leader for organizations such as Colgate Palmolive, Tata Consumer Products, and Jewish Family & Children's Services of Northern New Jersey. Deborah is currently a member of the Board of Directors of The Tile Shop, a public company and specialty retailer of man-made and natural stone tiles based in the US. She sits on the Compensation and Nominating & Governance Committees.

Deborah holds a BA in Economics from Cornell University and an MBA from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Deborah recently moved to Toronto from New Jersey with her family and has volunteered with the Bernard Betel Centre as a Meals-on-Wheels volunteer since November 2020.

### **Amy Grief**

Amy is a writer, editor, marketer and journalist based in Toronto. As a self-proclaimed bookworm, she currently works in Indigo's Editorial Studio creating engaging digital content for this beloved Canadian brand. Previously, she was on the editorial team at *Chatelaine*, as the Senior Editor, Social Media and Associate Food Editor. After receiving her Masters of Journalism from Ryerson University, Amy became a Staff Writer and Digital Editor at the enormously popular BlogTO. She was fortunate to cover local news

and more deliciously, the local food scene. In her spare time, Amy is a freelance journalist and content marketer and was a longtime contributor to the *Canadian Jewish News*.

### **Sonia Jacobs**

Sonia is an accomplished healthcare executive with a passion for quality, patient safety and excellent client experience. She is currently VP Industry Relations, Healthcare, at GS1 Canada, a neutral, not-for-profit standards-based organization dedicated to improving the efficiency, safety, security, sustainability and visibility of the supply chain in healthcare, among other sectors. In addition to quality and patient safety, Sonia's experience includes strategic and operational planning, client engagement, ethics and privacy. Sonia volunteers with CHW Canada and the Kidney Foundation of Canada, and was the 2019 recipient of the GTA Chapter Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian College of Health Leaders. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in French Literature from York University and a Master of Health Sciences (Health Administration) from the University of Toronto.

### **Inna Kravitz**

Inna Kravitz, CPA, CGA is the Chief Financial Officer at Ornge, a not for profit organization that provides air and land ambulance services in Ontario under an agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. At Ornge, Inna leads the Finance, Information Technology, Procurement, Project Management and Risk Management teams.

Active in the community, Inna is a long-time supporter of Jewish organizations. She has been a Chair of the Logistics Committee and Co-Chair of the Governance Council for Limmud FSU Canada. She has also served on an Advisory Committee of Russian Canadian Jewish Newspaper. Inna also serves on the Board of Art at Heart, a charitable organization.

Born in Ukraine, Inna repatriated to Israel at age 19, where she earned a B.Sc. in Economics and Management and worked in the service and telecommunication industries. Inna lives in Vaughan and is a mother of two. Her parents, who recently moved to Canada, are grateful clients of Betel. Inna is the Treasurer of the Bernard Betel Centre.

### **Irving Lefler**

Irving holds a B.Sc. in Business Administration from Wayne State University in Detroit. He practiced in the field of public accounting from 1971 to 1995. He went on to accumulate and manage a small portfolio of real estate which he continues to manage today.

Irving's public service involvement began in 1969 as a founding member of the Rubin Madoff B'nai Brith Lodge in Windsor, Ontario. In 1972 he became a member of the Drildzer Congregation and Society where he serves as a Director on the Cemetery and Building committees. He and his family belong to both the Shaarei Shomayim and Adath Israel Congregations. He participates on the Golf Committee at Adath Israel.

Irving has been a Betel board member since 2018 and advises the board on building maintenance issues. He lives in Toronto with his wife and has two sons and four grandchildren.

**Vivian Margulis**

Vivian has 37 years of teaching experience, including 22 years as a Hebrew teacher at the United Talmud Torahs of Montreal and 15 years at the Robbins Hebrew Academy (formerly United Synagogue Day Schools). Vivian acted as a mentor to student teachers throughout her career. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Judaic Studies and Religion and a teaching certificate.

Following her retirement in 2013, she became a member of the Bernard Betel Centre, where she has been an active volunteer in various areas and committees, and participant in the Centre's diverse programs. Prior to the pandemic she always looked forward to coming to Centre to meet new people, enjoy time spent with friends. In addition to her role on the Board of Directors, she is the Secretary of the Members' Council Committee.

Vivian also volunteers her time as the President of the Board of Directors for her condominium corporation.

**Sheldon Parker**

A graduate of Osgoode Hall Law School, Sheldon was a founding partner of Baker, Parker and Zener (later Parker and Zener), specializing in Real Estate, Commercial and Estate files. Throughout his career, he was a frequent lecturer on legal issues at banks and real estate offices. He retired from active practice in early 2016.

Sheldon lectures on politics, wills and estates at GTA retirement residences, Baycrest and the Bernard Betel Centre. He has extensive non-profit volunteer experience and has held senior board positions in various organizations. He is a former president of Adath Israel Congregation and the immediate past president of Jewish Free Loan Toronto. He is also a certified Hebrew Studies teacher. Currently Sheldon is Vice-President of the Bernard Betel Centre.

Sheldon is married with two children and four grandchildren.

**Igor Skapinker**

Igor has many years of involvement with various non-profit organizations. He is driven by a commitment to positively impact the community through his experience and expertise. Igor is VP Information Technology for Endeavour Volunteer Consulting for Non-Profits, an organization providing pro-bono consulting services to charitable organizations that cannot afford professional services.

Igor was Vice-Chair of the Bernard Betel Centre Board from 2015-2019. He also serves on the board of FindHelp Information Services, the organization providing public access to information about community and social services.

Igor works as a Project Manager for the City of Toronto, where he manages multiple projects for different City divisions. He holds a BSc in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Israel) and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Schulich School of Business, York University.

**Bobby Walman**

Bobby has enjoyed an activist career in Canadian politics and government supporting Mayor Mel Lastman as his Metro Executive Assistant and Premier Kathleen Wynne as her Director of Stakeholder Relations. Bobby also has more than nine years of political fundraising experience from running the Ontario Liberal Fund as President and Chief Fundraising Officer. Bobby was formerly the International Sales and Marketing Director of EPOST, a joint venture of Bank of Montreal, Telus and Canada Post. Bobby resides in North York with his family and owns a boutique government relations consultancy. He loves to fundraise as a hobby, fish (catch & release), travel and cook.

**Ryan Zener**

Ryan brings with him a diverse set of experiences. He is currently an Axiom lawyer representing York University with a broad practice, touching compliance, corporate law, human rights and policy design. He previously spent close to a decade in the film industry working on set as a technician.

In his legal career, prior to joining Axiom, Ryan acted as General Counsel for a tax consulting firm, and as a commercial litigator in private practice, and has trained and read extensively on alternative dispute resolution. He considers himself fortunate to be a generalist who has had the opportunity to gain experience in an extensive array of legal fields.

A graduate of Queen's University (Hons. B.A.) and University of Toronto Law School, Ryan is a proud husband and father of two brilliant children.

**Marvin Zweig**

Marvin is a long-standing financial professional, having practiced in accounting, auditing and tax from 1973 to 1982 and financial restructuring for both individuals and businesses from 1982 to 2016. From 2009 until his retirement in 2016, he was a partner with MNP LLP, Canada's fifth largest accounting, tax and business advisory firm. Marvin is a member of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, CPA Ontario, the Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals (CAIRP), and the Ontario Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals (OAIRP).

Marvin's voluntary leadership has supported OAIRP, CAIRP, JVS Toronto and since 2013 the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living where he was treasurer and chair of the finance committee.