

Bernard Betel Centre

Board of Directors' Biographies 2025-2026



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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.

Susan Argintaru*

Susan worked in the import/export business of drapery fabric for 18 years, where she was responsible for import / export documentation, dealing with European suppliers, freight forwarders, customs brokers, sales analysis, and occasionally customer service. She then worked for another import / export business which also manufactured both men's and boys' outerwear garments for 20 years, responsible for dealing with Far East suppliers, freight forwarders, import and export documentation, customs brokers (both Canadian and U.S.), as well as Canadian banks.

Susan began volunteering at the Bernard Betel Centre in March 2013 as a driver for Meals on Wheels while still working for the garment company and became a member of the Betel Centre at the end of March 2017, following her retirement. She has participated in Betel's computer program, attended lectures and concerts and joined some fitness classes as well as Sudoku. Susan has thoroughly enjoyed the Centre's both day and overnight trips in which she participated and looks forward to participating in more trips, for which she has already signed up.

Susan began making volunteer calls on behalf of the Betel Centre in February 2018, advising members of coming events, digital class availability, collecting members' email addresses as well as reminder calls for the Chiropody Clinic, which she continues doing to the present day. She has participated in the Learn and Lunch programs on Sundays, and during the pandemic, made wellness check-in calls to members.

Susan was happy to join Members' Council in August 2019 and honoured to submit her name as one of the Members' Council representatives on the Board of Directors in 2023, 2024, and again in 2025.

Julie Gilbert**

Julie has been the Chair of the Bernard Betel Board since September 2024 and has been on the Board for 5 years. Julie is a health services research professional and credentialed evaluator with the Canadian Evaluation Society. She has extensive experience working with organizations in the public and non-profit sectors, helping them improve the quality and impact of their programs and services.

For over 10 years, Julie worked at Cancer Care Ontario (now part of Ontario Health), the province's main advisor on the delivery of cancer care. Julie is passionate about supporting her community. In addition to her volunteer work at the Bernard Betel Centre, she worked locally in her neighbourhood for many years with the Kidney Foundation of Canada on their March campaign and has helped support members of the community through Beth Shalom's Out of the Cold program. Julie is excited about continuing her work with the Bernard Betel Centre so that it remains a vital source of support for members of the community.

Julie has a Master of Science degree in Epidemiology and a PhD in Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, both from the University of Toronto. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University and lectures in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. Julie and her husband live in North York. They have two daughters.

Amy Grief*

Amy is a writer, editor and journalist who has contributed to some of Canada's largest publications and brands, including *Chatelaine*, *Toronto Life*, *blogTO* and Indigo Books. She is currently a Manager, Senior Digital Content Writer in the Communications and Public Affairs department at TD Bank. Amy graduated with a Masters of Journalism from Toronto Metropolitan

University (Ryerson University) and was a long-time contributor to the *Canadian Jewish News*. She lives in Toronto with her family.

Johanna Herman**

Johanna Herman is proud to serve on the Board of Directors of the Bernard Betel Centre, bringing with her a deep connection to the community and a strong background in education, advocacy, and non for profit leadership. A lifelong member of Toronto's Jewish community, Johanna grew up at Bathurst and Steeles, and has long felt a strong affinity for the Centre's mission and the role it plays in supporting seniors and strengthening Jewish life.

Johanna currently works at Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC), where she leads national outreach and education initiatives that combat antisemitism and promote human rights. Her work focuses on empowering communities, professionals, and organizations through education, with a special emphasis on justice, inclusion, and the lived experiences of Canadian Jews. Prior to joining FSWC, Johanna held roles at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and JIAS Toronto, where she developed and managed programs that supported immigrant and Jewish community engagement, deepening her experience in community development.

Johanna's involvement with the Bernard Betel Centre extends beyond her board role. Her family is actively engaged in volunteer work at the Centre, further deepening her commitment to its values and programs. With her background in strategic communications, education, and community engagement, Johanna brings a passionate, values-driven perspective to the board and is honoured to contribute to the Centre's continued success and vibrancy.

David Katz*

David Katz, MBA was elected to the Board in 2024. He had over 30 years of experience, primarily in a finance role in Consumer Packaged Goods, most recently retiring after 16 years as VP Finance and Administration for Nestle Purina PetCare Canada.

David has been an active volunteer for Bernard Betel. He has been a Meals on Wheels driver since April 2020, and joined the Finance Committee in September 2021. David was actively involved in Canadian Jewish Congress, initially as Treasurer of the Ontario Region, and subsequently as President of the CJC Charities Committee, including oversight of the CJC Archives. David is a native of Montreal. He lived in Israel for a decade, during which time he served for 6 years in the Israel Defense Forces, including running medical clinics. He has been a Thornhill resident for 40 years, is married to his wife Marilyn, with two children and three grandchildren.

Anna Kissin*

With over a decade of experience in the non-profit sector, Anna has developed comprehensive expertise across both program development and fundraising. This dual perspective has given her a deep understanding of how non-profits operate and what it takes to drive impact from both the front lines and behind the scenes. Currently, as Manager of Community Giving at Sunnybrook Foundation, she leads strategies that engage donors and secure critical resources for the hospital.

Anna's relationship with Bernard Betel Centre is longstanding and deeply personal. At the beginning of her career, she organized collaborative, intergenerational programs that brought university students and Bernard Betel members together for meaningful shared experiences. Throughout her career, Anna has focused on building bridges between organizations and communities. She sees relationship-building, strategic planning, and fundraising not just as

professional tools, but as ways to advance causes she cares about. Anna lives in Thornhill with her husband and their two young daughters.

Inna Kravitz**

Inna Kravitz, CPA, is currently the Chief Financial Officer of the Building Ontario Fund, a new provincial agency focused on delivering impactful investments across Ontario. In this role, she leads the organization's financial strategy, risk management, and audit functions.

Previously, Inna spent 16 years at Ornge, Ontario's provider of air and land ambulance services, where she held progressively senior roles, including six years as Chief Financial Officer. During her time there, she led Finance, IT, Procurement, and Risk Management through significant organizational change.

Active in the community, she has served as Chair of the Logistics Committee and Co-Chair of the Governance Council for Limmud FSU Canada, and on the Advisory Committee of the Russian Canadian Jewish Newspaper. She also sits on the Finance and Audit Committee of the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Inna lives in Vaughan with her husband and two children. Her father is a grateful client of the Bernard Betel Centre.

Jules Lewy*

Jules was born in Montreal and is a graduate of McGill University where he received an Honours BA (Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Sociology) in 1972, BCL (Bachelor of Civil Law) in 1975 and LLB (Bachelor of Common Law) in 1976. While at McGill, Jules was president of the McGill Liberals and a Vice President of the Liberal Party of Canada.

Jules practiced tax and corporate law with Dentons Canada LLP and its predecessor firms (Fraser & Beatty and Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP) from 1976 to 2015 in Toronto, North York and Hong Kong. From 1986 to 1989, Jules was the first Resident Managing Partner of Fraser & Beatty's office in Hong Kong. As well, Jules was the President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong from 1988 to 1989. From 1993, to 1999 Jules was the Managing Partner of Fraser Milner Casgrain's North York office. While in practice, Jules was a frequent speaker at many legal conferences and the author of numerous articles on tax, trust, and corporate issues. In addition, Jules was a co-editor of the CCH Canadian Tax Reporter and the editor of CCH Canadian Transfer Pricing, 2nd Edition. As well, Jules was an instructor in the Tax Section of the Ontario Law Society's Bar Admission Course and a special lecturer in the Advanced Tax Course at the University Of Windsor Faculty Of Law for many years. Jules retired from Dentons Canada LLP in 2015.

Jules has been a member of the Advisory Board, Finance and Audit Committee and Governance Committee of Burnbrae Farms Limited, Canada's largest family-owned egg producer from 2016 to 2023. Jules was an advisor to Burnbrae and continued as a member of its Finance and Audit Committee from 2023 to 2025.

Jules was a director of Jewish Free Loan Toronto (JFLT) from 2016 to 2023 and has acted as co-chair of JFLT's Loan Committee, as well as chairman of its Policy and Procedures Committee and its Legal Committee. In addition, Jules has been a director of the Bernard Betel Centre since 2022 and is chair of its Governance and Nominations Committee as well as a member of its Finance and Audit Committee. Jules has also been a member of the Finance and Audit Committee of the New Israel Fund of Canada since 2023.

Jules lives in Toronto and is the proud father of his son Ira who is completing his PhD thesis in International Relations at McMaster University.

Sandi Pelly**

Sandi Pelly is a seasoned leader in health and social systems strategy with over 30 years of experience advancing community engagement, capacity building, and system transformation. She currently serves as Director, Older Adults at the Waltons Trust, a limited-life grant-making foundation, where she fosters collaborative partnerships to accelerate systems change in communities across Canada.

Sandi's career includes pivotal roles in health system reform through two District Health Councils, community engagement leadership at the Central LHIN, and advancing integrated primary care models with the Ontario Ministry of Health. As Director of Social Services at UJA Federation, she worked alongside agencies supporting vulnerable populations—including individuals with disabilities, seniors, newcomers, and those experiencing mental health and addiction challenges—to design innovative solutions, advocate for policy change, and forge new partnerships. Sandi brings strong connections in the Jewish community, including having developed the strategic plan for the Reform Jewish Community of Canada and volunteering with several Jewish communal organizations.

Sandi also brings significant governance experience, having worked with and served on the boards of several community organizations. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from York University and a Certificate in Public Participation. Sandi is married to an excellent chef, has two grown children, and two sweet dogs.

Tina Rosenstein**

Tina is a market research consultant with over 30 years of experience. She started her own research and consulting business more than 20 years ago. Prior to her present company, Tina was Vice President of research of the Angus Reid Group/Ipsos Reid and a senior consultant for many years at Ernst and Young. She often consults with not-for-profit agencies and organizations in Ontario and the rest of Canada. She has worked on research projects in the Jewish community, most notably the Schwartz-Reisman Centre, the Prosserman JCC and UJA in both Toronto and Hamilton.

Tina's passion is to give back to the Jewish community and helping seniors. She is the daughter of Holocaust survivors and is currently an active volunteer at the Toronto Holocaust Museum. Tina has served on numerous boards including JVS, YMCA and Ontario Nature.

Marcus Staviss

Marcus has provided communications, public affairs, events management and corporate strategy for more than 20 years to government, health care, non-profit, association and private sector organizations. He is currently Chief Communications and Events Officer 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 attracting more than 11,000 attendees annually.

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 was President of the Bernard Betel Centre Board from September 2019-September 2024. He also volunteers as Chair of the Program Advisory Committee for Centennial College's Public Relations and Corporate Communications programs. He lives in Toronto with his beautiful wife and two children.

Morris Zbar*

Morris has been a correctional practitioner for the better part of the last five decades. Starting his career as a correctional officer in the Ministry of Correctional Services, he held a variety of line, management and executive positions and retired as the Deputy Minister of Corrections for Ontario.

Amongst his achievements in that leadership role were the development and implementation of a new organizational structure that profiled community corrections; a new evidence based probation and parole service delivery model that became standard practice; a number of technological innovations including a new Offender Tracking and Information System. These initiatives continue to be in place to this day. As well, Morris expanded collaboration with a multitude of community agencies and created long lasting partnerships. Following his retirement from the Ontario Public Service, Morris has served as a Special Advisor to the Commissioner of the Correctional Service of Canada, working on a major Transformation Agenda and focusing on community employment programs for offenders amongst other initiatives.

Morris has also worked in the non-governmental sector including serving as Interim Executive Director of JIAS and President and CEO of UJA. He has been an active volunteer serving in leadership roles in a variety of institutions, including terms as President of the Ontario Corrections and Criminology Associations, Chair of the North York Library Board, Chair of Operation Springboard, Governor of Centennial College, Vice-Chair of the Ontario Heritage Foundation. He has served on a number of other Boards in the not-for-profit sector.

Morris is married to Margaret, his wife of 56 years, has two children, David and Illana of whom he is very proud of and four beautiful grandchildren- Noa, Neeve, Miles and Mia who make him very happy.

Dahlia Zephrani*

Dahlia Zephrani has served on the Betel board for three years, including a recent term as Chair of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee. With over 20 years of experience as a certified Human Resources Professional, Dahlia has worked across diverse industries such as retail, consulting, manufacturing, logistics, and currently in hospitality. She graduated from York University's inaugural Honours of Human Resources Management Program and has remained actively involved in the field by mentoring HR students and new graduates, alongside volunteering with the HRP (Human Resources Professional Association) in Ontario for several years.

Outside of her professional life, Dahlia enjoys spending time with her husband and two children. She also has previous experience volunteering in the GTA Jewish community, notably with JAM (Jewish and Modern) and Limmud FSU, focusing on enriching the Jewish Russian-speaking and Russian-Israeli communities through social and educational initiatives. Dahlia holds cherished memories of attending performances at the Bernard Betel Centre during her youth, inspired by her late grandmother's active involvement in its choir.

Lorne Zon**

Lorne is a retired health care executive, adjunct professor and consultant. Lorne has held leadership positions in several not-for-profit health care agencies at the Provincial, Regional and local levels.

As CEO, he has helped several agencies through a renewal process. He has also mediated the mergers of several health care agencies. At York University, he developed and delivered courses in health care management, health leadership, and seniors' policy. As a consultant, he has been involved in various assignments for government and community organizations. Lorne has served as a Director and Chair of several new and established NFP Boards.

Lorne's specific areas of expertise include governance, strategic planning, strategic development and partnership development.

Nominated for election at the 2025 Annual Meeting.
(*One Year, **Two Year)