



Steve Wasserman and his wife, Randi, joined PAS in the late 1990s, but their connection to PAS dates back nearly a half century, beginning when Randi's family became members in the mid-1970s.

Steve and Randi were married by Rabbi Nadich and Cantor Lefkowitz in 1988. Steve loves the community and has made it a central part of his life since his daughter Samantha and son Josh attended the Penn Family Early Childhood Center. It's his long and happy journey of milestones, simchas and dedicated volunteer work that has resulted in his being named a 2025 Simhat Torah honoree.

"I was first asked by Art Penn if I was interested in getting involved in the synagogue," he said. "Randi and I became friendly with Art and Ilene Penn when Josh and their daughter Madeline were in the same class at the ECC. Since then, I've participated in clergy searches, advisory committees, the audit committee, and served on the board for nearly ten years. PAS is a very special place, with an amazing community and inspiring clergy."

Steve's commitment and contributions to the PAS community are unparalleled," said Rabbi Cosgrove. "His dedication shines through in everything he does. He's the consummate volunteer, and his longtime service on various committees has been a key factor in the success and growth of our congregation."

Cantor Azi Schwartz said that "Steve's energy is infectious, and his love for PAS is evident in everything he does. He served as co-chair of the Assistant Cantor Search Committee and led that important process with care and dedication, and the results speak for themselves."

Steve, a partner at Brown Rudnick LLP, has degrees from Union College and Cardozo School of Law. His business acumen has been instrumental in much of his committee work.

"Steve is always available to support Park Avenue Synagogue and has done so for many decades at this point," said Art Penn, honorary chairman.



PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

Steve and Randi frequently attend Friday night services and have been involved with study groups and Hamptons Shabbat. Steve's daughter Samantha took inspiration from his involvement and has also been a lay leader, serving as co-chair of PAS' NextDor, a social group for young adults. Samantha, who got married in February, met her husband through NextDor in a match that was facilitated by Rabbi Shayna Zauzmer.

Steve and Randi have participated in several trips with PAS, including a Bnei Mitzvah visit to Israel for the Bar Mitzvah of their son Josh in 2008 and, in 2019, as part of PAS' largest congregational pilgrimage to Israel. They have also joined congregational trips to Poland, Germany, Budapest, and Prague. They visited Poland again, for the Ride For The Living, which supports the JCC Krakow. They are looking forward to the congregational trip to Argentina this fall.

Penn summed up Steve's hard work, saying, "He has contributed in so many ways, including from a legal perspective, a synagogue-operations perspective, and, most importantly, from a human perspective. Steve's kindness, decency, and menschlikeit are always the overriding characteristics of his involvement."