



For **Stacie Schapiro**, “there’s nothing more important than raising a Jewish family, Israel, and having a community. Park Avenue Synagogue brings that all together.” Since joining PAS with her husband, David, in the early 2000s, Stacie has dedicated her time, energy, and talents to forwarding the synagogue’s mission and building connections between congregants.

As a child in New Jersey, Stacie watched her mom volunteer at her synagogue, her school, and with Women’s American ORT, a Jewish organization dedicated to education and job training. Her mother “instilled the importance of giving your time to meaningful causes that are important to your family,” a mantle that Stacie carries through her own volunteer work.

At PAS, Stacie has co-chaired the Gala and Kol Nidrei Appeal three times each, chaired multiple Gala subcommittees, co-chaired the search committees for Rabbis Koffman and Solmsen, and co-chaired the 2023 Women’s Trip to Portugal. Additionally, she has worked on Shabbat programming and planning, the communications committee, the membership task force, and the synagogue’s 2019 rededication event. As she notes with a laugh, “I joke that whoever calls me and asks me something, I just say, ‘Yes.’” Honorary board president Lizzy Markus calls Stacie “the consummate team player. If there was help needed, anywhere, she was consistently my first call. Needless to say, a second call wasn’t necessary.”

To each of her volunteer endeavors at PAS, Stacie brings decades of professional experience. For more than 20 years, she worked in sports media, where she negotiated sponsorship deals for major clients. Today, she is a travel advisor at JW Travel Design, an affiliate of the luxury travel agency SmartFlyer. Both roles require an attention to detail, strong organizational skills, and “the ability to carry something through from start to finish,” as she notes, all of which inform her work at PAS.

In addition to volunteering, Stacie has traveled with the synagogue on multiple occasions. In 2013, her family participated in the Young Family Israel Trip, where they made connections that continue to this day. “There are at least six families that are our closest friends now, who we really got to



know in Israel,” says Stacie. Her family returned to Israel with the congregation in 2018, where they became even closer with Rabbi Cosgrove and Rabbi Zuckerman. In 2017, Stacie went on the Women’s Trip to Poland, where she toured Auschwitz-Birkenau and learned about Polish-Jewish history. Stacie describes the visit as “one of the most impactful and meaningful trips that I’ve been on.”

To Stacie, PAS’s emphasis on *l’dor v’dor* and community are key to the synagogue’s impact. “I think 90 percent of our friends are centered around Park Avenue Synagogue,” she says. “It will always be at the core of our family and our friends.” Her daughters, one a recent college graduate and the other a sophomore in college, attended Congregational School and had their Bat Mitzvahs at the synagogue. “And knowing that PAS gave them their backbone, their priorities, I saw that continue into college,” she says. “I think for PAS to continue believing in the lives of Jewish families is what’s really important, because that’s what continues the tradition from family to family to family.”

Stacie, who excels at behind-the-scenes work, “literally was speechless” when she learned she was this year’s honoree. “It’s a huge honor, and I’m just beyond – I was taken aback. It’s something for my family to see that the hard work that you do put in does pay off.” Reflecting on her time at the synagogue, she says, “I think [PAS is] a leader in, for lack of a better word, the synagogue space. They are who everybody else aspires to be. Being a part of that and a part of the growth over the last decade has been super special for me, and I can’t wait to see what PAS does next.”