



Mark Hirsch

Upon moving back to Manhattan after raising their children in Great Neck, Mark Hirsch and his wife Dena went about shul shopping and 12 years ago found PAS where the new dynamic Rabbi, Elliot Cosgrove, along with Cantor Azi Schwartz, with whom they had davened at another synagogue on the High Holidays, basically sealed the deal to join. And they never looked back.

Mark, an attorney and Partner at the Trump Group (no relation to the former President), has a list of memories at PAS that include Rabbi Cosgrove and Cantor Schwartz officiating at his daughter's wedding and his grandsons' brises. Then there was the trip to Cuba where he and Dena got to know Rabbi Cosgrove and other PAS members much better. New friends were made. "It was our first real connection other than coming to services on Shabbat," Mark said.

After his mother passed away in 2017, "It really drew me into the synagogue through a somewhat unique community." Mark and Dena came to Minyan every morning to say kaddish and have continued to this very day. "We are the minyan couple," Mark said. "The beauty of morning minyan is that it provides us with the opportunity to sort of pay it forward. It's a time to share Jewish lifecycle events with others... to celebrate simchas of births, bnei mitzvahs, and aufrufs but also to provide comfort in times of illness and loss."

Mark soon became involved in a major way. When Rabbi Cosgrove suggested Mark get involved with Adult Education, he joined that committee and proceeded to co-chair the Shabbaton in 2017. He then was asked to co-chair the Adult Education track for the 2018 congregational trip to Israel. "It proved to be an amazingly effective way to build community," according to Mark.

In early 2018 Mark was asked to serve as an officer with a portfolio that included ritual, music, secretarial chores, and legal responsibilities. "I was most fortunate to step into what was a golden era of Park Avenue Synagogue," Mark said. While he worked closely with our gifted clergy and an amazingly talented officer team, what Mark savored most was the opportunity to further connect with the PAS community.

While Mark put in a lot of time and effort as secretary, he said, "I got everything back with interest. I've served as an officer and director for other nonprofit organizations over the years but nothing quite compared to my experience at PAS. It was that kind of life changing experience."

The Hirschs/Cohens are a three-generational PAS family. His wife, children, and grandsons are all active participants in synagogue programs with their peers.



PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

Mark's term as an officer ended in June 2022, but he remains very much engaged in synagogue life. He continues to serve on the board and with Dena regularly attends morning minyan where he blows the shofar during the month of Elul and occasionally leads the davening. "I'm really excited for what's next," he said. "I don't look at the conclusion of my term in office as an ending by any means. Life evolves and I'm eager to learn what that means for the future. I know PAS will continue to play a major role in my life and in the lives of my family."