



Nan Rubin

Nan Rubin's journey to Park Avenue Synagogue began because of her children. She and her husband lived downtown and were active members of their synagogue but moved uptown because they wanted their children to be closer to school. Once in their new neighborhood, they joined PAS. Their son was older and already had had his bar mitzvah, and he went to Prozdor at JTS for high school. Their younger daughter went to Congregational School and had her bat mitzvah at PAS. The decision to join PAS was life changing for the entire family.

PAS turned out to be a great fit for the whole family, and she was becoming a more active member while her daughter continued onto Hebrew High School.

While raising her children, Nan attended services, but it wasn't until 2010 that she got involved as a lay leader. Nan started getting involved in Adult Education and helped with Shabbaton, among other things. One of the officers asked her to co-chair Adult Education the next year and that's when her real involvement began.

Nan served her four-year term as vice president, which ended June 2022. Her portfolio as an officer included Adult Education, the Women's Network, Men's Club, UJA and JTS, Travel Committee, Arts Engagement, and the Archives Committee.

Being an officer during the pandemic truly stands out for Nan as it was challenging to navigate during that time when the whole model was turned upside down. "We were in uncharted waters," Nan said. "None of us knew how this was going to affect the community, and we had to do our best to keep things going."

The professionals and officers all worked hard to find innovative programming so people would Zoom in hour after hour and day after day. The team went the extra mile to keep people connected to each other during those trying times. Plus, there was the additional challenge that the community had spread out and was in all different places.

It was a very stressful and difficult time, and there were certainly proud moments. While the first year of High Holiday services during the pandemic was completely virtual, Nan served on the High Holiday committee, and everyone worked extra hard to produce those services, which were "spectacular."

"I very much enjoyed being an officer, even with the challenges of the pandemic," Nan said. "It was a wonderful team to work with and it was a very fulfilling experience."

Nan calls PAS a very special place with amazing clergy and professionals who work hard every day to keep people interested and engaged. "It's a privilege to be in the presence of so many smart and committed people who have so much to offer."