

Amy Steiner

Riffing on the well-known adage from Pirkei Avot – mitzvah goreret mitzvah, or one mitzvah leads to another – Amy Steiner likes to say, “Volunteering leads to more volunteering.” She has proved the truth of that at PAS, taking on project after project and inspiring others to become involved in synagogue life. Among other community-building activities, Amy helped organize the first Seder for young families, co-chaired the 2018 congregational trip to Israel, which included 452 members traveling in five coordinated tracks, and co-chaired the rededication of the synagogue’s 87th Street building in 2019.

Amy and her husband, Neil, joined PAS when they were expecting their first child and seeking a synagogue where their family could feel connected. PAS was convenient to where they lived, the egalitarian Conservative services reminded her of the synagogue she attended while growing up in suburban Maryland, and PAS had a growing community of young families. Once Sam was born, Amy and Neil were regulars at Tot Shabbat. Amy and Sam soon enrolled in HaMishpacha Sheli toddler class on Friday mornings, and Amy began to volunteer, helping organize Friday night dinners for families with young children and working on Vicki K. Wimpfheimer Mitzvah Day – all while working as the executive director of brand marketing for Sports Illustrated. “I loved working on these activities, especially getting to know other members of the community I might not otherwise have met, as well as the phenomenal clergy and staff,” she said. “I always made time, no matter how busy I was, and I always felt I got more out of my volunteering than I gave.”

After their second child, Rachel, was born and Sam started preschool, Amy became even more involved, eventually serving as co-chair of VKW Mitzvah Day, co-chair of the annual benefit for the PAS Early Childhood Center (now the Penn Family Early Childhood Center) and completing the two-year Melton program. After her children had completed preschool and moved on to the Abraham Joshua Heschel School, Amy continued her involvement at PAS. She stepped up as co-chair of the synagogue Membership Committee and the Kol Nidrei appeal, became a member of the Music Committee, and joined the Advisory Committee and later the Board of Trustees. “Through all these experiences,” she said, “I approached everything I did with the same commitment to excellence as I did in my professional work. My greatest satisfaction came from building teams, helping people to find a sense of belonging, achieve their best and grow into leadership roles themselves.”

Amy also appreciates that the more involved she became, the more connected to PAS she and her family felt. From 2018-2022, Amy served as an officer of the board as a vice president, overseeing a portfolio that included membership, caring, and inclusion. “My proudest accomplishments as an officer included working with the clergy and other lay leaders to reinvigorate our commitment to Tikkun Olam and to bring the Membership, Inclusion, and Interfaith Families Committees together to enhance and help each other

around the table,” Amy said. “Membership is synonymous with inclusion. We can’t be welcoming without being inclusive.”

Continuing her dedication to PAS, Amy serves on the Tikkun Olam, Bikur Cholim, Membership, and Travel Committees. She is honored to join the company of those whom PAS has honored on Simchat Torah. “As a former officer, I know what it means to bestow this honor on others, so I don’t take it lightly,” she said. “It’s incredibly meaningful to me.”