

## Jordan Solomon

Fourteen years into his time as a congregant at PAS, Jordan Solomon says he never could have predicted how significant a role the synagogue would play in his family's lives. Now, as a longtime volunteer and Simchat Torah honoree, he said, "It's meaningfully exceeded our expectations." He recalled his early days at PAS, dating back to his older son's bris in 2009. Jordan and his family, including spouse Julie, and two sons, Bennett and Isaac, have been involved in numerous temple programs.

They participated in two synagogue trips to Israel: first for the country's 70th anniversary in 2018 and then again last year for Bennett's Bar Mitzvah. "Those have been formative experiences for us as a family," Jordan said, "and deepening longtime friendships and forming new ones with people during last year's trip helped make the trip incredibly meaningful and special."

The Solomon family regularly attends services, is involved with Congregational School, participated in the synagogue's Mitzvah Day program several times, and will celebrate Isaac's Bar Mitzvah in 2024.

Jordan, who is from Boston, attended the University of Wisconsin and then the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College and Harvard Kennedy School for graduate work. He moved to New York City in 2006.

His Jewish roots are strong. His father, Bennett (z"l), was the principal at a Jewish day school, his mother, Sue, was an assistant principal and leader in several Jewish day schools, and his stepfather, Bill, was the president of the board of a day school. Jordan also attended Camp Yavneh, a Jewish summer camp in New Hampshire that his sons now attend.

Jordan's first volunteer role with PAS was on the Congregational School Committee, and since that time, he's held numerous volunteer roles, including as co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, Adult Engagement Committee, and Congregational School Committee. He's also had roles on the Rabbinical Intern search committee, the Assistant Cantorial search, and Board Nominating Committee. He was elected to the PAS Board of Trustees in 2021.

Jordan feels strongly about his commitment to volunteer work at PAS. "I've been inspired by our leadership, Rabbi Cosgrove and Cantor Schwartz, and their dedication to PAS; and our amazing previous chair, Marc Becker (z"l), and Mark First and Lizzy Markus," he said. "They really created an inspiring vision, and I just want to help them achieve those goals because they're very much aligned with what I think the shul should



stand for: meeting people where they are, engaging our community in traditional and non-traditional venues, and building relationships as a community.

Rabbi Cosgrove often talks about a virtuous cycle of living and learning Judaism, and that really resonates with me.” When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in the spring of 2020, Jordan was co-chairing the Strategic Planning Committee, and the group pivoted its efforts to figure out how to engage members online.

The result was PAS CONNECT, which was launched in late summer 2021, with over 20,000 people signing up for online access during the High Holiday season. “It was a massive success. PAS CONNECT has been a great tool for us to stay connected with members near and far and to extend our special PAS community to Jews around the world,” Jordan said. “The only state that didn’t have a viewer was North Dakota, and we had viewer participation in 30 countries worldwide.” PAS CONNECT includes livestreaming of services, highlights from programs and speakers who have visited the synagogue, and online access to literature and prayer texts.

Jordan credits his professional experiences with helping him develop skills for his volunteer efforts, saying, “I’ve tried to use skills I’ve developed during my work as a strategy consultant, an executive at the NBA and Madison Square Garden, and now as a founder of an investment firm -- Arctos Partners -- to help PAS.”

“PAS is a big synagogue, and there is a risk that one may feel like one of many in the pews,” he said. “What the synagogue has done very well for my family, and I hope for many others, is help us feel like we really count, like we are a part of the community, and that we have deep and personal relationships with the clergy and lay leadership. It’s also helped us connect with wonderful people in our congregation and created an opportunity for Julie, Bennett, Isaac, and me to engage in a spiritual way, and in a personal way, that connects us with our traditions and history. I’m very proud to be a part of the PAS community.”