



**UMJCA
CENTRAL BOARD &
SYNAGOGUE BOARD
ELECTION
2025-2028**

Sunday, November 16th 2025

9:00am - 6:00pm

Mashadi Jewish Center- Shaare Shalom Synagogue



7"סב

Dear Community Members,

The **Supervisory Council 2023–2026** is pleased to announce the upcoming elections for the **Central Board** and **Synagogue Boards**. The elections will take place on **Sunday, November 16, 2025**, from **9:00 AM to 6:00 PM** at the Mashadi Jewish Center, Shaare Shalom Synagogue.

We will be holding two “**Meet the Candidates**” **nights** to give you the opportunity to hear from the candidates and ask questions:

- **Central Board Candidates Night:** Monday, November 10, 2025 | 8:00 PM
- **Synagogue Board Candidates Night:** Tuesday, November 11, 2025 | 8:00 PM

Location for both: Shaare Shalom Synagogue

Participating in the upcoming elections is one of the most meaningful and rewarding ways to contribute and make a positive impact. We encourage all community members to take part.

Thank you for your continued support.

Supervisory Council 2023–2026

Cathy Banilivy | Allen Hakim | Allen Hakimian | Babak Kamali | Herbert Livi |
Mahtab Zar

UMJCA CENTRAL BOARD CANDIDATES



Jonathan Aminoff

My name is Jonathan Aminoff, I am 53 years old and married to "The Charlene Aminoff".

I grew up in Queens and worked on Wall Street for 3 decades so I'm hardworking, great at working under pressure and an excellent problem-solver. This helps when raising 5 teenagers BH!

My greatest passion is Chessed, which is why I have worked firsthand in important organizations such as Chevra Kadisha, Tomchei Shabbat, Hatzalah and most recently, the most elite Hatzalah Air.

My mission in joining this Central Board is to help our growing community solve an important, but blessed, problem...

To implement a beautiful Simcha Wedding Hall (there are several in NY /NJ and other Jewish communities) that will allow members of our amazing community to make an unbelievable, upscale wedding for VERY affordable!! (Under \$40k, it CAN and HAS been done!!)

Wishing the new board members much Hatzlacha and Bracha!

This message is endorsed and approved by @CharleneAminoff.



Afshin Bassali

My Philosophy

“It wasn’t raining when Noah built the ark.” This quote by Howard Ruff resonates with me not as a *divrei torah* per se but more as my mindset for the future of our wonderful community. We can’t wait for the rain or a disaster to take action, we need to be goal-oriented and looking ahead into the future. We need to consider the challenges that lie ahead, to be proactive, not reactive to situations that arise. We also need to learn from the successes, and even the failures of other Jewish communities in America and abroad.

My Background

I’ve had the privilege of volunteering for the community on different boards and committees, where I got to see how our community functions from many different lenses, each experience giving me a broader understanding of our community and what changes need to be made for our growth.

- In the late-90’s I served on the **Mashadi Youth Committee**, where I ended up meeting my wife, Dana. We have been married for 23 years and have been blessed with six wonderful kids and a wonderful *domad*, Emanuel Mordekhai.
- I witnessed the opening of the Ohr Esther building and served on the TMT and **Ohr Esther Board** for almost 8 years, which gave me insight on how a new building is integrated into the community.
- Heading the Rabbi Search Committee during my tenure on this board was very monumental as the committee was able to bring Rabbi Joshua Maroof into the Mashadi Community.
- I was very excited to be part of the Mashadi Yom Kippur Mahzor and Selcihot Siddurim project, led by current CB Member Steve Idjadi. We published these two books with English translations and Mashadi minhagim, that are very well-received in the community at large.
- Currently, I am serving my second term on the board of **Magen Ephraim Sephardic Academy (MESA)**, our “dream come true” community school which has Sephardic/Mashadi minhagim and community values to our next generation of leaders.

My Passion

I hope to bring my experience and love for the community to the Central Board and address the challenges we face as a community:

- The need to facilitate the marriage of our singles and to help make weddings affordable
- To address the religious and socio-economic polarization of the community
- Making community fund-raising more robust to support our growing institutions
- Supporting Jewish Education in the community and making sure our existing programs have the biggest impact



Dr. Daniel Benilevi

My name is Daniel Benilevi. I'm running for a second term on the Central Board of the UMJCA. I started volunteering for our community at the age of 18 years and served as president of the MYC for 6 years. I moved to Israel in 1997 to receive my Doctorate of Medicine and went on to serve as Chief Resident in Pediatrics at Winthrop Hospital.

As a member of the CB, I helped develop the Kanissa News App, the Siddur Kol Avotenu App, and the implementation of UMJCA Online Billing. I am currently working on developing a broader scale App for the Mashadi community. It would be a great honor to serve on the Central Board for a second term as I thank you for your vote.



Moshe Enayatian

My name is Moshe Enayatian, son of Houshang and Raya Enayatian, and I am deeply honored to once again be nominated as a candidate for the Central Board of our beloved community.

HaShem has blessed me with an incredible wife, Monica, and six wonderful children. Together, we share a deep passion for Jewish education and family values. For over 15 years, we've had the privilege of teaching young couples in our community about the importance of love, patience, and keeping G-d at the center of their homes, values that lie at the heart of our Mashadi identity.

Throughout my adult life, I've sought to give back by serving on various community boards. Most recently, I served on the Central Board (2022–2025) alongside 14 amazingly dedicated individuals. Prior to that, I completed two terms at Shaare Rachamim, first as Vice President (2016–2019) and later as President (2019–2022).

I am also proud to have co-founded MEET (Mashadi Enrichment & Education for Teens) an after-school Jewish educational program serving Mashadi teens in the public school system. Each week, more than 300 students gather in our Kanissas to strengthen their connection to Torah, values, and community.

If re-elected to the Central Board, my goals would include:

- Expanding Jewish educational programming across all age groups
- Building stronger bridges across different social and religious segments of our community
- Growing the MEET program to reach even more students
- Developing initiatives that combat assimilation through meaningful engagement
- Collaborating with Central Board members to explore ways to make housing more affordable for young couples in Great Neck
- Strengthening our community's connection to our homeland Israel, and fostering opportunities for Aliyah

It would be my greatest honor to continue serving and contributing to the growth, unity, and vitality of our community. Thank you for your trust and consideration.



Daniel Etessami

My name is Daniel Etessami, son of Farshad and Liza Etessami. I am married to Rachel, daughter of Bernard and Esther Livi, and G-d has blessed us with five beautiful children — Jonah, Naomi, Judah, Hannah, and Joel.

Community service is in my blood — I come from a long line of devoted community servants on both sides of my family (Etessami and LeVian). I draw inspiration from my grandfather, Mr. Abdolrahim Etessami z”l, who was a respected leader and dedicated his entire life to serving the community in both Iran and America, as well as from my father, who helped establish Shaare Tova before the community moved to America and selflessly dedicated the next 20 years of his life serving as a head gabbai and member of the board.

Following in their footsteps, I have always felt a deep sense of responsibility to give back to the community that has given so much to me and my family. I had the privilege of serving as Treasurer of the Board of Shaare Rachamim for six years, where I gained valuable experience and fulfillment helping strengthen our synagogue. For the past two years, I have been on the Board of Magen Ephraim Sephardic Academy (MESA), where I serve on both the Hebrew Education Committee and the Finance and Budget Committee.

It would be an honor to bring this experience and passion to the Central Board, working together to strengthen and preserve the community for generations to come.



Emil Hakimi

I have always loved and felt lucky to be a part of the Mashadi community, but it wasn't until I served on the Central Board that I truly understood what a blessing it is to be Mashadi. Our strength has always come from our unity. Despite our differences in levels of religion, socially, or financially, we remain one family, bound together by shared values and love for our community. That spirit of togetherness is what makes us who we are, and it has been my mission as a board member to preserve it and work for the betterment of every member of our community.

This election is unique because there are no bad choices. Every candidate brings heart, care, and a sincere desire to serve. We may have different ideas, but we all share the same goal: to build a stronger future for our community.

During my time on the Central Board, I've been fortunate to contribute in various ways, including serving as Recording Secretary and on the following committees:

- Board of Directors for MESA (Magen Ephraim Sephardic Academy)
- Israel and Zionism Committee
- Bylaws Committee
- Budget and Finance Committee
- Public Affairs Committee
- Communications Committee

I was also proud to be involved in helping relaunch the Senior Club after Covid. While the Central Board helped bring the program back to life, its success is entirely thanks to the incredible women who volunteer their time each week to make it such a special and lively part of our community.

I want to thank everyone who gives so much of themselves, whether through community service or generous financial support. It is your commitment that keeps our community strong and united.

It has been an honor to serve on the Central Board, and with your blessing, it would be a privilege to continue serving for another term.



Brian Hakimian

I am honored to be nominated to run for my second term on the UMJCA Central Board. If re-elected, I will continue to serve as an active, dedicated member of our beloved Mashadi community, contributing passionately across multiple committees.

I am especially proud to have helped co-found and grow **Mashadi Bikkur Cholim (MBC) Inc.** and **UMJCA Programming LLC**, alongside many hardworking volunteers. Through MBC, we've provided vital care to hundreds of families in times of need and recently launched the **Mashadi Bikkur Cholim Mental Health Clinic**, a NY State-certified facility. Since our

inception in February 2025, we have already treated over 200 Mashadis through 1,000+ hours of therapy.

At UMJCA Programming, my focus remains on creating programs and services that strengthen communal bonds, inspire youth participation, and to fill our new community center at 195 Steamboat Road with meaningful, engaging experiences.

If re-elected, I will continue to lead with vision, collaboration, and passion to enhance the unity and vitality of our beautiful Mashadi community.



Doron Hakimian

With the help of Hashem, it has been an honor and privilege to serve our community as President of the UMJCA Central Board over the past three years. Throughout this time, my goal has always been to listen, learn, and work collaboratively to strengthen the unity and spirit that make our Mashadi community so special.

Together with my fellow board members, I have focused on improving communication and transparency, supporting our synagogues and committees, and creating stronger partnerships across all generations, from our youth programs to our senior initiatives. A key priority has been ensuring that every board member remains engaged, empowered, and supported in pursuing their initiatives. None of this could have been achieved without the dedication and cooperation of so many committed volunteers and community leaders.

As I seek re-election, I do so with deep humility and gratitude for the trust the community has placed in me. My motivation remains simple: to serve with sincerity, to help build consensus even in times of disagreement, and to ensure that our traditions, values, and sense of togetherness continue to flourish for generations to come. With Hashem's help, I am confident that together we can continue moving our community forward, united, strong, and proud.



Leon Hakimian

My name is Leon Hakimian, and I am honored and humbled to be nominated once again for the Central Board. Over the years, I've had the privilege of serving our community in various roles, and it continues to be one of the greatest honors of my life.

I previously served two consecutive terms on the Shaare Rachamim Kanisa Board, and most recently, on the Central Board. I am also a proud Great Neck Hatzolah EMT for the past ten years.

My wife, Elisheva, and I share a deep passion for Jewish education and for spreading awareness of the beauty of our values, heritage, and customs. That passion has been the driving force behind much of what we do as a couple and as a family. We love creating opportunities that strengthen our community's connection to its roots and inspire our youth to carry it forward with pride.

My late father, Mr. Firooz Hakimian, always taught me the importance of volunteering and giving back to the community, and my father-in-law, Mr. Farshid Liviem, continues to be a strong role model of that for me today. I would be honored to continue in their path of serving our community with the same dedication and heart.

If elected, I hope to continue building on the work of our current Central Board, focusing on growth, unity, and involvement across all generations, especially keeping our youth engaged and connected.

I've always believed that real impact comes from *saying less and doing more*. With Hashem's help, I hope to continue serving our community with sincerity, teamwork, and devotion.



Mehran Hakimian

My name is Mehran Hakimian, born in 1968 in Tehran. I am married to Arezou, father of Spencer, Scott, Pierce and Anderson, father in law of Chelsea and Sophie and grandpa to Blair.

2022-2025

- Current member of the UMJCA Central Board
- Current member of the Public Affairs Committee
- Current member of the Israel Zionism Committee
- Co-chair of the Arbitration & Mediation Committee

2014-2016

- Served as the President of the UMJCA Central Board
- Chair of the Public Affairs Committee

2011-2013

- Served as a Board Member on the UMJCA Central Board
- Co-chair and liaison to the Sisterhood Committee
- Co-chair and liaison to the Mashadi Youth Committee
- Chair of the Public Affairs Committee
- AIPAC's co-lead lobbyist for the 3rd Congressional District of New York since 2008 representing 700,00 people. Worked closely with members of the House of Representatives and the United States Senate. Serving as the Senate and Congressional Club member.
- Current Northeast board member of StandWithUs fighting antisemitism in high schools and college campuses.
- Current Advisory Board member of CAM (Combat Antisemitism Movement), meets with legislators and governors throughout the U.S. to educate and fight against antisemitism.
- Current member of the Village of Kings Point Planning Board.
- Current chair of the Public Affairs (External Relations) of the Village of Kings Point.
- Former Ambassador of Long Island Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC).
- Former NY Cabinet member of the Jewish Institute of National Security Affairs (JINSA).
- Former 3 term member of the Executive Board of North Shore Hebrew Academy.
- Serving 2 consecutive terms as co-chair of the nominating committee.
- Served on the Planning board of Camp NSHAMA.
- Former Executive board member of the Iranian Jewish Federation of New York (IAJF).

With Hashem's help, I have humbly decided to commit myself to serve another three years to help safeguard our rich traditions and minhagim and to preserve the unity of our beautiful and blessed community for generations to come.



Michael Hakimian

Michael Hakimian Jabarzadeh (husband of Sadie)

Parents: Bahram (Joe) & Janet Hakimian

Profession: Real Estate; Licensed Professional Engineer in NYS

Relevant volunteer experience: Central Board 2022-2025, Ohr Esther Board 2016-2019 & 2019-2022, Tomchei Shabbat of Queens, Vigilant Fire Department.

Volunteer focus: Repair & maintenance (& capital projects), Fundraising, Social Issues.

By the grace of G-d, we are incredibly blessed to be a part of the Mashadi community. Our members are born into a large pre-existing network, a robust Jewish community, and have ample business opportunities. When our community comes together, there is virtually no challenge that we cannot overcome. That said, here are some topics that we can potentially focus on:

COMMUNITY TOPICS TO FOCUS ON 2025-2028

1. **HOUSING.** The Mashadi paradigm is to live in Great Neck. Other Jewish communities can easily expand outward (ie Syrians radiate out from Avenue J, 5 Towns continue to pioneer new villages, etc), but we are somewhat landlocked on a peninsula. Other groups also clamor to Great Neck for the school system. This puts tremendous pressure on pricing & supply, and our seniors & young couples are bearing the brunt it. We must start talking about: A. Building more units; B. Charitably subsidizing homes; C. Coordinating with our youth to explore acceptable new areas to live (eg. other parts of LI/NY, Florida, or Israel).

2. **CULTURE & UNITY.** A culture is typically formed around language, cuisine, & gathering. We have been doing a GREAT job of congregating on Shabbat & holidays.

However, our Persian language is less spoken, and traditional Mashadi food may slowly vanish. Also, a new trend of exclusive gatherings and events are slowly replacing our inclusive values. To preserve our heritage and our unity, we could potentially: A. Host and revive attractive community wide programming (eg Chinese Auctions, performance nights, dance shows etc). B. Memorialize & publish our Mashadi core values (Inclusivity, 'Nejabat', etc)

3. **FUTURE UMJCA FINANCIAL VIABILITY.** Our current voluntary 'kavod' system relies almost 100% on the annual generosity of donors. This is excellent in good years (G-d willing), but could prove challenging as new centers come online and our needs continue to grow. With G-d's help, this past Central Board has formed the UMJCA Endowment, which will fund future programming & operations. Its ongoing success is critical to our future.

There is a lot of other initiatives to take, including reinforcing & building our youth (preventing drugs & alcohol, social media anxiety, etc), but all are achievable, as we are blessed with many volunteers that can step up to help. G-d willing, we will continue to keep our Jewish faith, keep our Mashadi tradition, and keep our community strong for many generations to come.



Bobby Hematian

Our Mashadi community is truly one of a kind. There is no other community in the world like ours, a family that stays connected no matter where we are. Whether in Great Neck, Israel, or anywhere else around the globe, we share the same love, faith, and sense of belonging. We are one extended family, bound together by our history, our traditions, and our care for one another.

From a young age, my father taught me that being part of this community is both a blessing and a responsibility. Serving on the Central Board has only deepened that understanding. I've seen firsthand what makes us so strong: our unity, our shared values, and the way we always show up for one another.

As Melanie and I raise our children, we're constantly reminded of the lessons our parents and grandparents passed down: humility, equality, and devotion to community.

They built all of this through sacrifice and love, and it's our duty to cherish it and carry it forward for generations to come.

My focus on the Central Board has been on the financial health of our community and ensuring that every decision benefits all members fairly. Looking ahead, with the opening of our new Community Center, I hope to help create a space that brings people together, strengthens relationships, and reinforces the unity that defines who we are.

It would be an honor to continue serving on the Central Board and to keep working toward a future where our Mashadi community remains strong, connected, and proud, not just here, but wherever we are in the world.



Steve Ijadi

My name is Steve Ijadi and I am 56 years old. My wife of 24 years is Sanam Ijadi, daughter of Bijan & Lily Hakimian. Together we have three children Sofia, Benjamin & David.

I've owned my own business since 1986 as a supplier of leather hides for the U.S. upholstery & manufacturing industry here in the U.S. and abroad.

With gratitude to Hashem and my family, I've accepted to become a candidate for the next Central Board.

If elected I won't take the responsibility that comes with it for granted. I'm proud to be a member of this community and love what we have all accomplished since we all moved to the United States. We owe a debt of gratitude to our elders and past board members for their vision and sacrifices in getting us to where we are today.

If elected, my goal would be to give common sense solutions to the challenges expected for our community in the upcoming years. An approach based on mutual respect and logical solutions is what I will bring to the table. I believe that as a united board we can accomplish a lot more and continue the tradition of past leadership to push our community in the right direction.



Soheila Kalatizadeh

My name is Soheila Kalatizadeh.

Many of you know me from my prior experience and involvement in the UMJCA Sisterhood, and before that in my children's schools. I have been the Treasurer of the Sisterhood for eight years, currently in my third term. It has been a great experience to be able to work together with the rest of the Sisterhood board, and I welcome the challenge to join the Central Board to work together with others for the good of the whole community.

Outside of the Sisterhood, I have also assisted with the fundraising effort of the Chinese Auction at the Chabad of Great Neck for a few years, and other fundraising efforts.

It would be a privilege to join this Central Board that has been the source of so much help to our community. I am committed to work hard to elevate our shared community goals to build the future for all our children and the generations to follow.



Eddie LeVian

I am Eddie LeVian, son of the late Pary and Abdulrahim Ephraim LeVian z”l, and brother to the late Elizabeth and Larry z”l, and Liz, Moossa, and Suzy.

I’m blessed to have shared forty incredible years with my extraordinary wife, Miranda and together we are the grateful parents of our highly accomplished next generation, Jonathan & Alexandra and our wonderful daughter-in-law Naomi and four delicious grandchildren.

As children who faced death more than once, we learned early that life is fragile and every sunrise is a gift.

Our father shaped us through work — sending us out at thirteen to earn our way as busboys and waiters in Atlantic City, then as traveling salesmen by twenty. We discovered the pride of perseverance and the strength of never giving up.

Our ancestors were community builders — wherever they lived, synagogues and centers rose from their hands. Our mother, whose kitchen was always open, taught us that kindness feeds both body and soul. I still remember the lines of Russian Jews outside our home in 1972 — and her smile as she served them, one plate, one bag of food, one blessing at a time.

Through hardship, we learned gratitude — to live each day with purpose, meaning, and heart.

We raised our children to aim higher, to value broad education, and to live by the Torah values that shaped us: unity, faith, generosity, selflessness, integrity, perseverance, and kindness.

We learned to love openly — to say “I love you” every day — and to give not just money, but time, encouragement, and presence.

Living life to the fullest can mean chasing thrills, or choosing to make a life that matters. We chose to make it have meaning.

True success is balance — in self, family, friends, community, business, and faith — and that balance demands discipline, humility, and devotion.

People often ask how we balance it all — family, Le Vian, MESA, Bikkur Cholim, the Food Pantry, and community service. The answer is simple: not for titles or politics, but to strengthen unity, give back what life has given us, and pass forward the lessons that shaped who we are — to the next generation who will carry the torch.



Michael Mayer Afarin

My name is Michael Mayer (Afarin)

I'm married to my wonderful wife Nahal Mayer, together proudly we are blessed with 5 wonderful children, Daniel, Melanie, Joseph, Kelly and Sophie and the latest addition our aroos Sophia Mayer. I moved to the United States in 1979 when I was in 4rd grade. I continued my education and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Queens College in 1992 dual majoring in Economics and Urban Studies . My family owns a jewelry manufacturing company since 1984 which I help maintain. I presently serve on multiple jewelry trade show Advisory Boards.

I have also been an elected member of the 62 west 47th street Condo Board of managers and I'm presently in my fourth term of service.

I was also proudly the UMJCA treasurer for the last 3 years.

If elected again , my main goals are to maintain our Mashadi values and traditions and do our best to make our community stronger. I would like to focus and emphasize my energy to help keep our mashadi values and help make this central board amazing to serve the community. I believe we as a community should do everything possible to prolong these amazing Mashadi values that have existed for hundreds of years, especially among our youth for many generations.



Andrew Mittelman

My name is Andrew Mittelman and my wife is Monica (Aghajanoff). Our children are Julian, Lucas, Brielle and Bailey. I am grateful for the warmth, values and connections that this community has provided for my family. Being part of this community has been a true source of inspiration, and I see it both as a privilege and responsibility to give back to the community that has given us so much.

I own a prominent search firm that provides advisory and consultancy services to law firm partners and associates worldwide, and have opened offices for some of the largest law firms in the USA. With this experience, I have learned to deal, and negotiate with, and for, some of the most difficult personalities.

As someone who came into this community from the outside, I bring a unique perspective that compliments the deep-rooted traditions and experiences of those in the community. As a grandson of holocaust survivors, it has always been very important to me to maintain strong Jewish traditions and values into our homes and community. I understand what it means to listen and find meaningful ways to contribute, which allows me to see opportunities for connection and growth that others may not see. My main focuses are the marriage crisis (age 23 and older), housing crisis for the newly married, and the self-inflicted social/financial pressures that I am observing many households are creating.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve for the betterment of this community.



Daniel Nassimi

Daniel Nassimi, 37, a devoted family man, Husband (Married to Chantal Nassimi), and proud Father of Five. I spent my seven years of childhood in Hamburg, Germany, before moving to New York, where I reside today. Deeply rooted in family values and hard work, I have always believed in the importance of giving back and supporting the community that has shaped my life.

For the past 15 years I have been working at my Family Real Estate Company that has taught me a lot in terms of balancing work/community/family life.

I look forward to Follow in the footsteps of my parents and grandparents—who were deeply involved in community service. I have made it my mission to continue that legacy. Known for my dedication, integrity, and compassion, i strive to make a positive impact wherever I can, giving back isn't just an act of kindness—it's a way of honoring the opportunities and blessings i received throughout my life.

We are in such a vital time of our community, and I want to make sure the Young couples have a voice that will be heard for generations to come.



Lauren Yaghoubi

Hello, my name is Lauren Yaghoubi, and I would be honored to serve as part of the UMJCA Central Board. I am married to Allon Yaghoubi, and we are blessed with four children.

Over the years, I have served on many committees within our community — including the MYC, the Higher Education Committee, the Mashadi Business Network, Sisterhood, and the Long-Term Planning Committee. I have always taken pride in who we are and who we aim to become as a Community.

Recently, I heard Doron Hakimian speak at Ohr Esther, where he described how rare it is to be born Jewish, and even rarer to be born a Mashadi Jew — it's like winning the lottery. We have all won that lottery, and I believe the Central Board serves as the trustees of those winnings — preserving our culture and ensuring it is passed down to our children and generations to come.

I would be honored to serve as one of those trustees. I will strive to listen to all UMJCA members and to ensure that families and mothers are represented in our policies and decisions.

Thank you for this opportunity, and good luck to all the candidates!

Shaare Shalom Candidates



Matt Eliassi

Share Shalom will always be the safest and warmest kanissa. No other building supports the needs of multiple generations in the same day, but we do!!! Share Shalom is the greatest and we want to make it even better!!!



Michael Hakimian

My name is Michael Hakimian (Azimzadeh)

I am married to Nanaz (Zar) Hakimian, daughter of Djalal and Lea Zar, and the son of Mr. Saeed Hakimian ע"ה and Mrs. Farideh Hakimian. My grandfathers, Agh Mehdi Hakimian ע"ה and Agh Molah Aghaee Hakimian ע"ה, both served as gaba'im in synagogues in Iran and Israel, continuing a long family tradition of dedication to the community.

I was born in Tehran and moved to England with my parents in 1980. After completing my studies at the London School of Economics with a BSc in Computer Studies, I worked in the technology field before moving to New York with my brother Martin, where we established a family jewelry business. My wife and I are blessed with one son and two daughters.

Over the years, I have been actively involved in community life, including serving on the board of Shira Chadasha (now Shaarei Yashar) and helping with the Shabbat minyan. Since the pandemic, I have been a regular attendee of the early minyan at Shaare Shalom and weekday services at 54.

Currently, I serve on the Board of Shaare Shalom as Recording Secretary, where I've been involved in modernizing the synagogue's digital systems, including the schedule monitor and memorial board, with plans to add a live Kotel feed.

It is an honor to continue my family's legacy of service. My vision is to strengthen participation among all generations, create more learning opportunities, and help make Shaare Shalom a vibrant center for prayer, community, and connection—filling every seat on Shabbat and holidays, just like the old days.



Steve Ijadi

My name is Steve Ijadi and I am 56 years old. My wife of 24 years is Sanam Ijadi, daughter of Bijan & Lily Hakimian. Together we have three children Sofia, Benjamin & David.

I've owned my own business since 1986 as a supplier of leather hides for the U.S. upholstery & manufacturing industry here in the U.S. and abroad.

With gratitude to Hashem and my family, I've accepted to become a candidate for the next Central Board.

If elected I won't take the responsibility that comes with it for granted. I'm proud to be a member of this community and love what we have all accomplished since we all moved to the United States. We owe a debt of gratitude to our elders and past board members for their vision and sacrifices in getting us to where we are today.

If elected, my goal would be to give common sense solutions to the challenges expected for our community in the upcoming years. An approach based on mutual respect and logical solutions is what I will bring to the table. I believe that as a united board we can accomplish a lot more and continue the tradition of past leadership to push our community in the right direction.



Hooshang Kalatizadeh

Hi

Hooshang kalati zadeh

Harry Kalati

USA Hong Kong New York Dubai

Born 1955 Lalezar Tehran

1956-1961 Mashad

1961 -1970 Tehran

1971-2010 London

Finish UNI 1977

Started in Hatton Graden gem business.

1978 Enghelab family join in London.

1982 younger buyer of Pearls

In Kobe.

1987 Married Leah Katzav from Jerusalem the highest

honor of my life .

2010 Move to HK.

2016 Move to NY

2024 Start catering business

2025 office caterer of Versaci hotel Dubai.

Mission : Revolution



Mark Karimzadeh

I was born in Iran, but our family moved to London when I was 5.

I got involved with the community at our Synagogues Youth Service at age 9, and was involved in various community committees at the Synagogue, in High School, and also at Manchester University.

I got involved with the Maccabi Association in London, and produced and presented a radio program for over 5 years at the largest children's hospital in the UK.

When I moved to New York, I continued to be involved with our Mashadi community, starting with the Megillah magazine, served on the boards of the MYC, Shaare Tova Synagogue Board, Shaare Shalom Synagogue board, the Supervisory Council, and finally the Central Board.

I continue to be involved at the Rabbi Ben Haim minyan, as well as the overall running of the MJC. It will be an honor and privilege if I were elected to serve the community again.



Mikael Kavian

I was born and raised in Hamburg, Germany, where my family was deeply involved in synagogue and community life. My parents, Massoud and Mahrokh Kavian, set that

example for me, and many in our community who also came from Hamburg remember us from those days. That connection to Jewish communal service has stayed with me ever since.

In 2000, I moved to New York after high school to attend Yeshiva University, where I earned a Bachelor's degree in Marketing and Management and an Associate's degree

in Talmudic Studies. Since then, I have worked in the jewelry business with the Le Vian family.

I am married to Rachel (née Shafiyen), daughter of Danny and Helene Shafiyen, and together we are blessed with four children who many of you see each week on Shabbat.

I have been fortunate to contribute to synagogue life in different ways, for many years already. I help run the 8:05 minyan services, serve as Gabbai in Rabbi Ben Haim's Shabbat minyan, and share yearly WhatsApp Omer reminders. Many of you also know me as your contact for Mezuzah questions, installations, and checking. I was also asked to include that you have probably heard my voice, whether in a minyan in our community, or in a minyan at an airport, in Tucson, Las Vegas, Bangkok, Hong Kong, or even Quanzhou.

I have always believed that the strength of a community comes from people working together with respect and shared purpose. I value collaboration, clear communication, and consistency, and I try to bring those qualities into everything I do, whether in work, synagogue life, or daily interactions. I am a team player who enjoys finding solutions and helping others succeed.

If elected to the Synagogue Board, it will be my privilege to help maintain and strengthen the Kanissa and to serve the needs of our members in any way I can.



Mehran Kohanim

My name is Mehran Kohanim. I am married to Sharon Kohanim, and the proud son of Parvin and the late Haroun Kohanim.

I have previously had the privilege of serving on both the Shaare Shalom Synagogue Board and the Central Board.

I am once again running for the Shaare Shalom Board to give back to our beloved community, uphold the unity, traditions, and values that define us, and ensure that our synagogue remains a warm and welcoming home for everyone.



Adam Livi

My name is Adam Livi, son of Bernard and Esther Livi, proud husband to Lauren Loloi (daughter of Gil and Ifat), and father to one amazing baby boy, Nathaniel.

If you're looking to purchase Etrog and Lulav, you've got the wrong Adam (seriously, please stop calling me). You would be looking for my dear cousin, Adam Liviem. If, however, you're looking for someone with a deep love for the Mashadi community and a desire to see it flourish, you've got the right person. I had the privilege and honor

of being involved in community affairs through my youth—first as director of the Gym Minyan and then three consecutive terms on the MYC (including two terms as treasurer). While I took a brief hiatus from board involvement during which I got married and welcomed a child into the world, I am ready to dive back into community service.

Over the past seven years, I've had the honor of calling Shaare Shalom my home on Shabbatot as I served as the *Ba'al Koreh* for Rabbi Ben Haim's minyan in the Small Sanctuary. Over this time, I've come to see Shaare Shalom as the bridge between our other two, younger Kanissas, both physically and symbolically. It sits between Shaare

Rachamim and Ohr Esther and is the place where Mashadi families, regardless of background or religious, social, and economic status, come together to celebrate their *khoshis*.

As the headquarters of the Mashadi community, I believe Shaare Shalom should always feel like the center of gravity of our community. And while the building is well-utilized throughout the week, I believe there are still things to improve on the average shabbat. Barring weeks with several shiras or special events, attendance at Shaare Shalom often feels sparse, while Shaare Rachamim and Ohr Esther are consistently bursting at the seams. And with the ever-thinning occupancy of the Main Sanctuary due to the natural progression of its elderly constituents, the lack of organic growth in the Small Sanctuary, and the overall lack of a youthful presence in the building on Shabbatot outside the Gym Minyan, there doesn't seem to be a natural remedy to this conundrum. This is further evident in the fact that I received several messages from people expressing their surprise that I, a 28-year-old, would run for the Shaare Shalom board, rather than for the Shaare Rachamim or Ohr Esther boards, which seem a more "natural fit" for a relatively young candidate.

While I don't claim to have all the answers to these questions, I believe the next board has the opportunity to discuss long-term plans for our building, especially considering the impending introduction of the Youth Center into the fold. What is the long-term plan for the Main Sanctuary as the constituency of the minyan naturally passes on? What is the plan to increase occupancy in the Small Sanctuary, which houses our Chief Rabbi, and who at the very least deserves a minyan that is full week-over-week? Is there a realistic way to organically increase the youthful presence in the building on Shabbat, so that next election cycle there is no surprise when younger community members decide to run for this board?

Solutions to these questions can come in many forms and will require collaboration with the Central and other Kanissa boards. The introduction of the Youth Center may very well lead to an attendee realignment across our Kanissas, and I believe this next board has the opportunity to pave the path for the long-term success of Shaare Shalom and the community at large as we continue to grow and expand our presence in Great Neck.

We sit on the shoulders of giants who built our community to what it is today, and I would be honored to receive your vote so I could play a small part in its continued success.



Adam Liviem

It is a tremendous honor and zechut to be considered for continued service on the Shaare Shalom Board.

- Son of **Faramarz & Janet Liviem**, raised with the values of Torah, chesed, unconditional love, and community service.
- Blessed to be married to **Eva Liviem**, daughter of **Freydoun & Minoo Kashimallak** — my partner in every endeavor for Am Yisrael.
- Proud father of **Daniel & Nava, Yaacov & Ahuva, Binyamin, Chana, Emmanuel & Nechama**, who inspire me daily to keep plowing forward for our community's future.
- **Current Co-Vice Chairman** of the Shaare Shalom Board for the past 3 years, working to strengthen the operations, warmth, unity, and spiritual experience of our Kanissa.
- **12+ years** proudly serving as **Gabbay of the 8:05 Minyan**, together with Parham Shaer.
- **5+ years** continuing as **Gabbay of Rabbi BenHaim's Shabbat Minyan**, with gratitude to the guidance and example of Besalel BenHaim, Rav Mosheh Aziz, Farshid Liviem & Bernard Livi.

May Hashem bless all the candidates with strength, dedication, a pure heart, and the ability to help better everyone's experience in Kanissa, and most importantly the sanctity of our Kanissa's.



Yoram Nasrolai

I'm Yoram Nasrolai, son of Zomi and Isac Nasrolai. I'm married to Sahar Rahmanan, daughter of the late Lotfollah and the late Parvin Rahmanan. Together, we've built a beautiful family with our daughter Kailey, married to Brandon Etessami, and our three sons, Ariel, Jacob, and Joshua. As a former Treasurer of Share Shalom's board, I've had the privilege of being involved in the day-to-day operations and have seen firsthand the incredible work our community does. This experience has inspired me to run for a second term on the Kanissa Board.



Parham Shaer

One of the biggest privileges a person can have is being part of a community. My special privilege is to be part of the Mashadi community with its rich history, customs and values.

My name is Parham Shaer. along with my amazing wife, Natascha Shaer and our incredible children, Alex, Liam, Emilia and Katia, I'm honored to be nominated for the synagogue board of Shaare Shalom.

Being in synagogue every day gives me the opportunity to observe all the remarkable minyans and programs that take place at Shaare Shalom. Having served on six previous synagogue boards at Shaare Shalom as well as the TMT at Ohr Esther, I am very familiar with the building operations, our community's needs and the wonderful staff.

Thank you for placing your trust in me. I looking forward to being a continued part of Shaare Shalom.



Joseph Zaroovabeli

My name is Joseph Zaroovabeli. In 1968, I moved to the US from Iran. Eventually I was blessed to move to Queens where I would start a family while attending Share Tova. Since I moved to Great Neck in 1984, I've been a loyal member of our community's synagogue from the early days. As our community continues to grow, I hope to dedicate my time and experience to contributing as much as I can. Being elected as Kanissa Board member is a great privilege, and it would be an honor for me to serve our community that has given me so much.

Ohr Esther Candidates



Manuel Hadjibay

My name is Manuel Hadjibay. Growing up in this remarkable community, it's easy to take for granted just how special it is to be Mashadi. When I think about our community, a few words immediately come to mind: *family, camaraderie, and brotherhood*. These values shine through across every generation.

As a proud father of four, I'm especially grateful to see my two oldest children so excited to come to Kanissa on Shabbat. Between spending time with their friends and participating in the wonderful children's programs at Ohr Esther, they look forward to Shabbat all week long.

As a congregant, few things are more beautiful than being at Kanissa on Shabbat or attending one of the many outstanding programs our community offers, surrounded by friends and family. What often goes unseen is the tremendous time and effort that go into making these experiences so meaningful and enjoyable.

I believe the outgoing Ohr Esther board did an exceptional job managing and elevating the Ohr Esther experience, and I want to thank each of them for their dedication and hard work. It would be a true honor to give back to this incredible community and help our Kanissa continue to thrive and flourish.



Evan Hakimi

I am honored to be renominated for the Synagogue Board of Ohr Esther.

Background:

- Son of Saeed & Hengameh Hakimi
- Married to Rebecca Hakimi (Daughter of Siamak & Sharleen Ijadi)
- Proud father of Shira, Gabriella, Talia and Kayla Hakimi
- Currently the Treasurer of Ohr Esther Synagogue

- Earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Economics from NYU Stern School of Business
- Director at Roc Capital (Real Estate Debt Fund)

Goals:

- Continue to ensure strong financial stability and liquidity at Ohr Esther
- Grow the YAM Minyan and Shabbat Kids program
- Maximize synagogue attendance for singles and married couples



Daniel Koren

Hi, my name is Daniel Koren, also known as Sepi's husband or Benji's brother.

I was born in Jerusalem, Israel to Joseph (Kordevani) and Yehudite (Livian) Koren. My great-grandparents immigrated to Jerusalem in the 1920s from Meshed. They were instrumental in developing the Mashadi community in Israel, and later my grandparents and uncles served as leaders in the community in Milano and New York.

Community and kanissa matters have always been important in my family. I am a firm believer in having all community members involved in the kanissa to continue expanding the wonderful work that our 130 board has so tirelessly accomplished, so that we can secure a better future for the generations ahead.

My strengths: HaShem, my wife, my children, and my family.

My weakness: my grandchildren.

If elected, I pledge to serve my community to the best of my abilities and look forward to hearing the opinions, suggestions, and needs of all our men, women, and children in order to better our kanissa.



Jonathan LeVian

My name is Jonathan LeVian. I am the husband of Naomi LeVian and father of Amaya, Camilla, Olivia and Sasha LeVian. I am humbled by the opportunity to be able to serve the community again. I feel that it is not a choice, but our duty to give our time to serve the community.

I have experience in community service, having served as President of MYC from 2012-2014.

Most recently I was honored to serve as the Secretary of the Ohr Esther Board from 2022-2025.

Here are a few of our team's biggest accomplishments during the term that I am proud of:

- **Children's Program:** We expanded children's programming from a single game room and preschool space to **8+ weekly classes** for boys and girls ages 2–13 including a Middle School Minyan for 6-8th grade boys. We are blessed with **over 250 children** attending classes each week.
- **YAM Minyan** - During our term and with the support of the board, the YAM Minyan began, with over 100 people attending weekly, and during the high holidays up to 400 people attending. We are blessed that this minyan has created a home for so many congregants who didn't feel they had a place.
- Hired **Rabbi Mikey Livi** as Assistant Youth Rabbi and Chazzan for the growing youth minyan, and to help counsel the singles throughout the week.
- Hired **Rabbi Roey Kohanim** shared with Share Rachamim as a Chazzan and Assistant Rabbi for the YAM minyan
- **Singles Events** – World renowned Guest speaker – Chana Levitan was brought to the community and events for Singles, Couples, and Parents of Singles were all held for our community members.

I hope to be given the honor again to serve the community.



Netanel Levy

Over the last 15 years, many of you know I make the chulent for the building, but what you don't know is what I have been doing behind the scenes for the building. Kids programming has been a big part of what I do, from finding sponsors to reaching out to vendors for exclusive rates to help the budget. My intentions will always stay with our kids because they are our future.

My main goal in this upcoming term is to make this building more functional, getting proper use of the Bet-kineset and the building. This building needs to be available to our members and community programs at any time when needed if available. Hopefully with the help all the board members we can turn this building into a proper, functioning and useful venue for anyone who needs for any event.



Rodney Nassimian

Hi, my name is Rodney Nassimian, and I'm thrilled to be running for the Ohr Esther Synagogue Board. My parents are Parviz and Soheila Nassimian. I hold a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Binghamton University and have since made a career shift into the world of commercial real estate as an Investment Sales Broker at Highcap Group.

Over the last eight years or so, I've become increasingly passionate about taking on leadership roles within various community programs, both secular and religious.

I've been fortunate to serve on the Ivread Committee for three years now, helped run the Mashadi Basketball League (now UMB) for five years, and played an instrumental role in launching the UMJCA Olympics in collaboration with the UMJCA Programming Committee – resulting in three successful years of organizing sporting events for more than 1,000 participants.

When taking on a leadership role, my approach is rooted in **fairness** and **equality**, aiming to create an environment where all feel included. I've found that the foundation for achieving this starts with building **trust** and ensuring open, transparent **communication**. I am genuinely thrilled to have the opportunity to share fresh ideas and perspectives with a Board that has already demonstrated tremendous leadership skills and commitment to the synagogue and the community as a whole.



Avi Rachmani

Hello, my name is Avi Rachmani. I am married to Farnaz Rachmani and we are proud parents of three children: Benjamin, Jonathan, and Amelia.

I am honored to be running for the Ohr Esther Board. If you have been to Ohr Esther on any shabbat or chagim, it is likely that you have seen me there with my children. When Benjamin was only a few

months old, I started bringing him to Kanisa with me because I value our traditions and believe in the strength of our community and wanted to instill the same in my children. It has always been important to me to create a Jewish home where our children understand the richness of our Mashadi heritage, the meaning of our prayers, and the beauty of our customs.

As a board member, I hope to contribute my experience in leadership and problem-solving to help our Kanisa thrive, strengthen community engagement, and ensure that future generations continue to feel proud and connected to our Mashadi traditions.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to give back to the community that has given so much to my family, and I look forward to working together with all of you to help Ohr Esther flourish.



Joshua Sabzevari

Hi, my name is Josh Sabzevari. My wife Ashley and I are blessed to have four wonderful children -Hannah, Sasha, Jordan and Sadie. I'm the son of Massoud and Mitra Sabzevari.

It's an honor to be nominated for a second term on the board of Ohr Esther. Serving over the past three years has been both a privilege and a deeply fulfilling experience, and I would be truly grateful for the opportunity to continue contributing to our community.

Over the last 10+ years, I've had the privilege of serving Ohr Esther in various roles, giving me a unique perspective on our congregation – from that of a congregant, to a gabbai, and now as a board member. These experiences have given me invaluable insight into how our synagogue functions and the efforts required to maintain and grow such a vibrant community.

I've had the opportunity to attend many synagogues over the years, and I can honestly say that we are fortunate to have such a dynamic and thriving building. Of course, this comes with its own challenges, but I've seen firsthand the dedication it takes to address them. I'm excited about the opportunity to continue helping our Kanissa flourish and thrive.



Lance Zar

My name is Lance Zar, son of Ranel and Dalia Zar (z"l), husband of Lauren (Dilmanian) Zar and proud father of Harper Dalia Sara Zar.

When I first ran for the board, I emphasized how important attendance in Ohr Esther was to me. I'm proud to share that over the past three years, I've had the privilege of being directly involved in reaching record-high attendance in our building. One of my proudest accomplishments has been playing a major role in the launch of YAM (Young Adults Minyan), which has become a warm and

consistent home for so many, especially those who had not been attending regularly before.

As I seek reelection, my mission remains clear: to continue building upon this growth and ensure that every member of Ohr Esther, no matter their age or background, feels welcomed, represented, and at home. We are a community of acceptance and belonging, and I am deeply committed to preserving and strengthening that spirit in the years ahead.

Shaare Rachamim Candidates



Shawn Aziz

Being part of the Aziz and Liviem family, I've had the tremendous zechut of being surrounded & inspired by some of the most selfless givers in the community. I'm grateful to have been able to serve on the Shaare Rachamim Board in the past, and it would be an honor to re-join the board so that I can continue giving back to the community I love.



Matan Evrany

Matan Evrany, the son of David (Z"L) and Jenny Evrany. My wife, Amanda, and I take pride in being active members of the Shaare Rachamim community.

As an Israeli Mashadi, I am committed to enhancing our community's dedication to Israel and the young Mashadis residing there.

I am confident that our Kanissa can provide numerous programs that integrate Torah with everyday life topics, including Torah in business, Torah in child education, Torah in science, and more.

Furthermore, I will endeavor to foster closer connections among our members by dedicating more time to meet and engage with new individuals.

In my role on the board, I will ensure that each minyan is led by a designated hazan and a rabbi, allowing members to experience a meaningful tefila and divrey torah.



Elirom Kalatizadeh

Hello, my name is Elirom Kalatizadeh. I am married to Liat Kalatizadeh, and blessed to be the father of two beautiful girls, Galya & Shirel. I am the son of Joseph & Soheila Kalatizadeh, and the proud aghzema of William & Dalia Dilamani.

Over the past five years, Shaare Rachamim has become a meaningful part of my life, a place that truly feels like family. I deeply admire the way our kannisa bridges generations, where youth and elders come together as one. The dedication of past boards has built a strong foundation of unity and growth, and I'm eager to continue that legacy.

I hope to bring a fresh perspective that preserves the warmth, inclusiveness, and sense of belonging that make Shaare Rachamim so special. With Hashem's help, I hope to ensure our community continues to thrive for years to come.



Joseph Kamali

My name is Joseph Kamali, son of Bahman and Ruth Kamali. My wife, Natalie, and I feel very blessed to be born into such a united and tight-knit community.

Serving this past term on the board of Shaare Rachamim was an amazing experience. I enjoyed working on community building events such as the annual Shabbaton and other holiday events.

While Shaare Rachmim is one of our smaller kanissas, I think Shaare Rachamim is the "safe-keeper" to our community's traditional values and has so much to offer to our community. If elected, I look forward to continuing to support the huge success of Shaare Rachamim.



Moshe Kohanim

Our Kanissa has always felt like a second home — a place of connection, prayer, and community. I am deeply grateful to have been nominated to the board. I value Torah, tradition, and unity, and I strive to help strengthen the bond between our families and our Kanissa. I hope to contribute to the continued growth of Shaare Rachamim as a place of tefillah, learning, and warmth for all generations.



Michael Livi

BS"D

My name is Michael Livi, son of David and Azita Livi, and husband of Vanessa Livi.

My wife and I were very fortunate to be raised in families that were always involved in various chessed endeavors and charities. We strive to raise our children with the same principles.

Having the privilege to be the son in law of the late Mr. Larry Levian ZT"L for more than 15 years has also taught me many valuable lessons, one of which is the importance of an unwavering commitment to the betterment of our nation and especially the Mashadi community.

I'm very grateful to be a part of this beautiful community and have a strong desire to give back in any way that I can. With the support of my amazing wife and kids, I've had the privilege to be a volunteer EMT for Hatzalah in Great Neck for more than 8 years bH. It would truly be a zechut to also serve our community as a member of the board of Shaare Rachamim.



David Sianes

My name is David Sianes, and I have had the privilege of serving on the Shaare Rachamim synagogue board over the last term. Thank G-d our attendance has grown drastically in recent years, and during my time on the board we worked tirelessly to expand and improve our building to better accommodate the surge in participation and the needs of our members.

Shaare Rachamim has always had incredible board members, which has made it very easy for me to work effectively and accomplish meaningful progress. I look forward to continuing to keep this building successful and an integral part of our beautiful Mashadi community.



Ariel Yacobi

Hello, my name is Ariel Yacobi.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to run for the Shaare Rachamim board for the first time.

Before deciding to run, I've always enjoyed volunteering as part of Shaare Rachamim's active community. It has been deeply rewarding to contribute to community-building initiatives such as our annual Shabbaton and various programs throughout the year.

I consider it a true privilege to give back my time and energy to this great community and hope to continue doing so in any capacity I can.



Matthew Zeroobaveli

My name is Matthew Zeroobaveli.

I'm blessed to be married to my wonderful wife, Rachel, and together we have four amazing children, David, Aria, Joelle, and Judah. My mother Sabrina, and my late father, David Zeroobaveli Z"L, instilled in me a deep love for community and tradition.

I'm truly honored to be running for the Shaare Rachamim board. Like you, I want our synagogue to be a vibrant, welcoming home for everyone, now and for the future. I hope to contribute to strengthening

our community through two essential areas: our physical space and our spiritual core.

1. Structural Improvements.

- **Renovation and Expansion:** We can move forward with a thoughtful, aesthetic renovation to improve the current layout and functionality. It will also be important to explore expansion and adding more space to comfortably fit our community for additional minyanim and events.

- **One Cohesive Seating Area:** I feel strongly about creating one cohesive seating area for the women of our synagogue. This simple change can naturally strengthen their sense of connection and unity during prayer.

2. Torah and Religion.

- Ensuring that Torah study remains a focal and important part of all we do here.
- I want to help create more community events centered on Chessed. I believe focusing on doing good for others is our most powerful way to protect our community from the growing pressures of materialism.

- Our synagogue must be a true home for every single member, regardless of the school their children attend or where they may pray occasionally. Everyone deserves to feel completely at home at Shaare Rachamim.

I am running because I deeply value this community and hope to dedicate myself to serving it. I look forward to partnering with you to build a more beautiful, more unified, and more spiritual home for us all