

TOURO SYNAGOGUE FOUNDATION

REPORT OF THE 2016 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee, composed of Andy Teitz (Chair), Gary Naftalis, B. Schlessinger Ross, Rita Slom, and Bernard Gewirz, is pleased to present the following slate of officers and board of directors.* Short biographies of new Officers and Board members are enclosed.

Andy Teitz, Chair, Nominating Committee
July 21, 2016

Proposed Officers:

Diane Hurley, Chair
David Brodsky, First Vice Chair
Bernard Gewirz, Vice Chair
B. Schlessinger Ross, Vice Chair
Laura Pedrick,[#] Vice Chair
Rita Slom, Secretary
Michael Pimental, Treasurer

Class of 2019:

Sally Abbey
Morris Bergman
Alan Edelstein
Deborah Feinstein*
Stanley Goldberg
Bethany Kendall
Zal Newman
Melvin Prostkoff
Evan Smith
Daniel Snyder*[#]

* Indicates new member to board.

Indicates existing Board member or Officer in new position.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON NEW OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Laura Freedman Pedrick

Newport, RI

Laura is a long time member of the Boards of Touro Synagogue Foundation and Congregation Jeshuat Israel, as well as a former Co-President of the congregation. Professionally, she is the Development Director for the Aquidneck Land Trust. Laura was previously the Marketing Director of the law firm of Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP. Prior to that, she spent 14 years at America House Communications in Newport as Vice President of Business Development.

Her educational background includes an MBA in International Marketing from the Thunderbird School of International Management in Glendale, Arizona, and a BA in French from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She is also on the Board of Governors at Newport Hospital, and on the Community Advisory Board of the United Way of Rhode Island.

Deborah Feinstein

Weston, Ma

Deborah Feinstein was a museum director /educator/curator for over 25 years. With her first graduate degree in Islamic art from Harvard University, Deborah has lectured on religious, historical, and cultural connection of the three major religions through the visual arts in numerous universities and museum venues. She has also completed a masters program in Jewish Studies at Hebrew College and is using her artistic talent creating visual images as interpretative tools toward understanding.

Deborah is currently a full time volunteer. In her past career, she has been the Director of the Holyoke Museum and has designed exhibits for museums in the US as a member of the international firm of Chabourne and Associates. In June of 2016, she stepped down as the President of the Board of Directors at the Vilna Shul, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture, where she was able to use her professional skills in understanding the importance of the Vilna, as a place of history, a place of learning, and a place of community. She is currently chair of the capital campaign for their renovation.

Daniel Snyder, Ph.D.

Newport, RI

Daniel is a former member of the Foundation Board. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, the great-grandson of Godfrey Snyder, who arrived there in 1854 to become the Rabbi of congregation K.A.M. After service in the United States Army (including a tour of duty in Vietnam), he attended Oberlin College and received his Ph.D. in American History from the Johns Hopkins University. His dissertation was titled *Traders in Exile: The Quakers and Jews of Colonial Newport and New York*. He went on to serve as executive director of the Newport Historical Society for 22 years where he led the restoration of four of Newport's oldest structures: The Great Friends Meeting House, The Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House, the Brick Market, the Seventh-Day Baptist Meeting House and was a member of the team that restored the Colony House.

From 2004 to 2012 he was executive director of Pequot Library in Southport, CT. Since 2012 he has been conducting research on Robert H. Robertson, the architect who designed the Pequot Library, along with over 250 other buildings all over the Northeast, including Hammersmith Farm in Newport. The book that has grown out of this work— *American Eclectic: The Architecture of Robert H. Robertson* - will be published by the Monacelli Press in 2017.