

## The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee's role is to collaborate with CBH spiritual leadership, staff members, committees, and our congregation as a whole to carry out recommendations of the CBH 2022 DEI report. This process involves applying a DEI lens to CBH services, education, programs, policies, and practices so that all may feel welcome, respected, and included. We invite the feedback of our community to assist in achieving this goal. You may reach out to any one of us individually, or to the entire Committee at [dei@cbh.org](mailto:dei@cbh.org).



### **ALLISON GOLDSMITH** (*she/her*)

**Joined CBH:** 2016

**Additional CBH Involvement:** I have kids in the Sunday and Hebrew schools and am also on the Partnership Committee.

**Personal/Professional Connections to DEI Work:** I have LGBTQ+ members in my family. And my extended family includes Catholics, Methodists, and Buddhists.

**A Jewish tradition I find meaningful is...** having Shabbat dinner with my mother once a week. It's an excellent way to set aside time to have a lovely dinner together.



### **ROBERT "BOB" SMITH** (*he/him*)

**Joined CBH:** 1995

**Additional CBH Involvement:** I previously served on the Board of Directors as well as a variety of committees, including Security, Buildings and Grounds, Education and Youth, and Mitzvah Day. I was also a member of the Rabbi Onboarding Committee that assisted our new rabbis integrate into our CBH community. I currently enjoy being a CBH song leader, a role I have filled for many years.

**Personal/Professional Connections to DEI Work:** My commitment to the guiding principles of DEI has its roots in my family life and professional experiences. Our youngest daughter's autism has shown us the many barriers to inclusion that can accompany such disabilities. Professionally, I did considerable work in the field of Procedural Justice, and I am an instructor in the topic of Implicit Bias.

**A Jewish tradition I find meaningful is...** Tikkun Olam. Although many Jewish traditions play a meaningful role within our family, a belief in the value of Tikkun Olam stands as an ever-present backdrop, providing a framework that guides my actions as I make my way in this world. These words of Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel hang on my bedroom wall, and I reflect upon them daily: *"On three things the world is sustained: justice, truth, and peace."*



## **CARMIA FELDMAN** (*she/her*)

**Joined CBH:** 1996

**Additional CBH Involvement:** I served on the Board of Directors and various Committees, such as Education & Youth and Strategic Planning. My two college-aged daughters, Talia and Leila, grew up in the CBH community, participated in DRTY and NFTY, and went to Camp Newman for many years.

**Personal/Professional Connections to DEI Work:** I believe in the Jewish values of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and that all people are B'tzelem Elohim (made in the image of G-d). These principles are at the root of my connection to DEI. In addition, my husband and children are Jews of Color, and they have taught me a great deal about challenges they and others face and how much more work there is to do in our communities to live up to our values.

**A Jewish tradition I find meaningful is....**singing the Mi Sheberach prayer. Mi Sheberach is for those in our community who are in need of healing, be it physical, mental, emotional or spiritual. I love that Judaism is about community through good and bad times. When I say or hear a name called out for Mi Sheberach, it reminds me that we are all connected and that we are stronger when we help those who aren't so strong at that moment. And it is comforting to know that when I or my loved ones need that extra support, the community will be there for us too.



## **CYNTHIA GOLDBERG** (*she/her*)

**Joined CBH:** 1993

**Additional CBH Involvement:** I co-coordinated the first Contemporary High Holy Day Services after our move to our current campus in 2004.

**Personal/Professional Connections to DEI Work:** I am a member of an interfaith and multiracial family. I have family and friends with multiple disabilities and, professionally, I assisted adults with disabilities in their pursuit of career and educational plans.

**A Jewish tradition I find meaningful is...** the mourner's path — Shivah, Kaddish, Yahrzeit, Yizkor. Judaism's support of those who are grieving during services, annually, and in other ways is unique and realistic. As a mourner, I have needed the intensity of sitting Shivah and annual recognition that my grief continues. The recognition that the loss and the memories may change, but they do continue, is not common in our contemporary society. These practices have held me close in difficult times.



## **GIL MOHTES-CHAN** (*he/him*)

**Joined CBH:** 1992

**Additional CBH Involvement(s):** I participated in the rabbi search process for Rabbi Wolfe and have also been involved in CBH Interfaith panels, a chavurah, and volunteer activities. My wife has served on the Religious School Committee.

**Personal/Professional Connections to DEI Work:** I converted to Judaism in 1986 and have been involved in an Interfaith Chavurah in the Bay Area and interfaith panel discussions at CBH. In addition, I have been a member of our local school's Human Relations Committee as well as national minority communications organizations. Recently, I was a participant in the Jews of Color Initiative's national study on Jews of Colors 50+.

**A Jewish tradition I find meaningful is ...** lighting the menorah. Whether we come together as a family at home or as a congregation at temple to light the menorah, I am always in awe that we are continuing the tradition of renewing the light of Judaism and that we are fortunate to do so freely.



## **ILANA GOLIN** (*she/her*)

**Joined CBH:** 2020

**Additional CBH Involvement(s):** Soon after becoming a CBH partner, I joined the Strategic Planning Team and I also served on the Rabbi Selection Committee for Rabbis Wohlner and Simons.

**Personal/Professional Connections to DEI Work:** I am a member of an interfaith family and am always seeking ways to make Judaism meaningful and relevant for us. In addition, I have personal connections to neurospiciness, sensory sensitivities, and mental health conditions. Professionally, I work in higher education where I have led and participated in a wide range of projects with students, staff, and faculty from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds in order to help create more inclusive campus communities.

**A Jewish tradition I find meaningful is...** Shabbat. I am a total homebody and love that Shabbat is a ritual I can experience from my house that connects me across space and time to my extended family in New York, our relatives who have passed away, and a global Jewish community. We are grateful to the Berkeley JCC for teaching our family the weekly ritual of sending out “scoops of Shabbat light” to people we love and those in need of support.



## **LURIE STILLMAN** (*she/her/hers*)

**Joined CBH:** 2004-ish

**Additional CBH Involvement(s):** I am on the CBH Board and liaison to the Education & Youth Committee, which I've been involved with for about eight years. I also served on the Hate Incident Task Force and am forever linked to my fellow “Mitzvah Moms,” who found creative and meaningful ways to celebrate our B'nai Mitzvah kids on Zoom during the pandemic.

**Personal/Professional Connections to DEI Work:** My interfaith, two-mom family has found a lovely home at CBH. I have been involved in DEI work through higher education for more than 20 years, and I value bringing this expertise to our CBH community. I have also worked with the local school district on Trans\* inclusion and am happy to be a resource to LGBTQ+ families and youth in this arena.

**A Jewish tradition I find meaningful is...** Passover, my favorite holiday. I value the way we can meaningfully tie our tradition to the current plagues in our world. I also love expanding our traditions to be more inclusive with Miriam's cup, an orange on our Seder plate, and charoset representing the Jewish diaspora.



## **LORI RAINERI**

**Joined CBH:** 1990s

**Additional CBH Involvement(s):** I've been on many committees, taught Sunday School, led the Youth Group, and was the barista for Cafe Haverim.

**Personal/Professional Connections to DEI Work:** For me, learning about modern DEI ideas connects to Tikkun Olam. I love the concept of “Come as You Are, Know You Belong” because it can be received in so many beautiful ways at different times in one's life. I hope to support the actualization of these words for everyone in the CBH community.

**A Jewish tradition I find meaningful is...** Shabbat. When I light the candles, I feel globally and historically connected to Jews all over the world and for thousands of years who are and have been doing the same. I find meaning in my Shabbat traditions of wearing white, avoiding work, enjoying Davis, and resting.



**MITCH SINGER** (*he/him*)

**Joined CBH:** 1995

**Additional CBH Involvement(s):** While I joined in 1995 I really did not get involved in CBH until 2000 when I got remarried by Rabbi Greg. My daughter, Brianna, was part of the original group of kids at Gan Haverim and both my children were B'nai Mitzvah here. I am a past President of CBH and currently serve on the Board of Directors.

**Personal/Professional Connections to DEI Work:** Professionally, I am a Professor of Microbiology at UCD and part of the University STEAD Committee, which trains faculty in how implicit bias can affect faculty hiring and the merit/promotion process. I have also worked with under-represented groups in various undergraduate and graduate programs. On a personal note: my family has been very active in supporting autistic kids and others on the spectrum.

**A Jewish tradition I find meaningful is...** Haverim, a sense of a larger support and family group.

9/16/2024