

## **Bio for Rebecca Sugarman**

I have been part of the Shir Libeynu congregation for over a dozen years. I have a number of skills, lived experiences and work history I would like to offer to the Board of Directors.

My formal education culminated with a Master's of Social Work degree from Carleton University. Though I started in counselling my desire to help people from a broader perspective led me into community development, where I focused for many years.

I have worked with a wide range of populations from helping groups develop child care programs for preschoolers to youth groups, young mothers and single parents. I was instrumental in developing a board game to sensitize the public about issues related to home care for seniors. My formal work experiences include providing field supervision for community development students in the MSW program at Wilfred Laurier University, district director for a federal youth program and Executive Director at the Barbara Schlifer Clinic, which provides counselling and legal services for women experiencing violence, and Opportunity for Advancement, which offers support services to women living in poverty, and the Toronto Training Board. I came to understand business management through my own experiences.

I started volunteering on Boards of Directors at the age of 23. I have been on boards that focused on children, employment/training, seniors, women, local community issues and living in poverty. I have written policy manuals, annual reports and funding proposals. I've supervised staff and scrutinized financial statements. I have made numerous presentations to the public, government policy makers, and other audiences and supported many fundraising initiatives. I am interested in bringing my skills and experience to the Shir Libeynu Board of Directors.