

NAOMI SCHWARTZ (Board Member)

I have been a member of Kol HaNeshama for more than 10 years and I have been a Board member for the last two years. I have participated in many of the social action projects of KH. During the pandemic, I organized a phone squad to call members of the synagogue on a regular basis. I also organize the Board to make phone calls as needed.

I had the pleasure of interviewing, with Richard Belle, our interim Rabbi Carl Astor who has been leading our synagogue so successfully these many months. I was a member of the permanent Rabbi search and I'm delighted that we will welcome Rabbi Sigal Brier shortly. For two years I have organized the nominations for our various committees and projects at KH.

My background is a Conservative Jew but I find myself very comfortable in the reconstructionist type of service when I am in Sarasota. When I am in the Berkshires, where I have lived for 53 years, I attend a Conservative synagogue.

I am a former high school teacher and taught chemistry and health education. I began an organization in the Berkshires to work on behalf of Jews in the Soviet Union who wanted to emigrate back in the 70s, and worked on that project into the 90s. At that time, I decided I needed something else besides volunteer work and I took up painting. It totally astonished me that I could actually paint!

I am enjoying spending time in Sarasota with my friends at KH and Pelican Cove.