

As per our Constitution, the Sydney Jewish Museum Board comprises 14 Board members. Within that number, the Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants has nominated two Board members (Mrs Anna Berger and Mr Anthony Levin) and the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies has nominated one Board Member (Mr Michael Jaku). These 3 positions are not subject to election.

Please note that each membership, whether individual or family, is entitled to one vote.

The following 12 nominees are contesting the remaining 11 positions on the SJM Board.



### **Charles Aronson**

I was born in Amsterdam to Dutch Holocaust Survivor parents and migrated to Australia in 1951.

I was appointed Director of Marketing and Development at the Sydney Jewish Museum in 2006 and served as Campaign Director for the highly successful 2012 Capital Appeal; retiring from the Museum in November 2014 and joining the Board later that month.

Communally, I have been President of Masada College, Treasurer of the NSW Jewish Communal Appeal and on the Executive of the United Israel Appeal; serving as Chairman of North Shore UIA and North Shore JCA. I have also acted as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Shalom Institute at the University of NSW. For the past 4 years I have been President of NAJEX and have been on the Board of the NSW Jewish War Memorial. I am currently President of the Emanuel School Foundation.

As the child of Holocaust Survivors, my aspirations for the Museum are very clear; to raise awareness of the evils of racism, bigotry and intolerance, through commemoration, education and communication. The Museum is held in very high esteem internationally and it is placed in a unique position in the Sydney community to help safeguard future generations.



### **Michael Blitz**

Board Member Sydney Jewish Museum. Experienced Corporate Real Estate and Project Management professional currently working for the Westpac Group on major construction projects.

My involvement with the Sydney Jewish Museum continues a longstanding family association with the Museum that began when it opened, and I hope to support the ongoing revitalisation of the museum as it goes through its own generational change.

It also provides me with the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing capital works and refurbishment program that will revitalise the museum for the future.

I see the Sydney Jewish Museum as an important link to the wider community with its focus on history and education and feel it is important to help further strengthen the museums appeal and maintain

its viability to continue to tell the stories of the past to generations in the future

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### **Paul Drexler**

I qualified as a Chartered Accountant and have been a volunteer guide for over 16 years, sharing my story with high school students and adult groups. I also serve on the Museum Finance and Curatorial Committees

I have held various public positions;

- Treasurer for years of the SJM
- President of Yad L'Yad
- Chairman of NSW Australian Investors Association
- Director of Australian Investors Association
- Volunteer for Point Zero
- Treasurer of Carers Group Montefiore Homes

As a child Survivor of the Holocaust, I am deeply committed to the work of the Museum and strongly support the education work directed to schools in NSW and ACT. I have written a book of my family history; "In Search of My Father – The Journey of a Child Holocaust Survivor."

I believe that further work needs to be done in order to increase the number of adult visitor from the wider community who visit the Museum.

I am proud of the high standard of exhibitions being achieved by the Curators. It is my ambition for a permanent exhibition suitable for children.

I continue to assist the volunteers who are the strength behind the success of the Museum.

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### **Jeremy Goldschmidt**

I work in strategy at the ANZ Banking Group and have over ten years of experience as a management consultant. Prior to joining ANZ, I worked at The Boston Consulting Group, Capgemini and IBM.

In 2015, I was a Sydney Jewish Museum Board observer where I had the opportunity to support the Museum with the strategic planning process.

My aspiration for the Museum is that it continues to preserve the memory of the past, and ensure it has meaning for future generations. By commemorating the holocaust, educating about its significance, and celebrating the Australian Jewish community, the Museum plays a vital role in our community. I believe I can contribute and add value to the Museum, by engaging and connecting with the next generation.

Growing up in the community, I was involved in the Hineni Youth movement, where I was a participant and leader for over ten years, before becoming the head of the Sydney branch. I also held the role of Vice President of the national Zionist Youth Council. More recently I have volunteered as a consultant with Technoserve in Accra, Ghana and

participated in an Australian Network on Disability (AND) mentoring program.

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### **Margaret Gutman OAM**

My hands-on engagement with the Museum as a Board Member over several years equips me with the ideal perspective for the Museum's exciting new future directions. Also I am a former Chair of Public Events, and was one of the organizing team of the Museum's most successful recent exhibition "Dressing Sydney". I guide each week and continue my participation in public events planning now led by Aviva Wolff.

My 18 years as CEO of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies have provided me with wide communal experience and contacts in both the Jewish and general communities. I am passionate about the Museum's key pivotal role in Holocaust memory and education and am dedicated to work to increase our visitor numbers and the reach of our special and important messages

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### **Professor Gus Lehrer FAA**

Gus is a Professor of pure mathematics at Sydney University who has won numerous awards for research, including Fellowship of the Australian Academy of Science. He has a long record of service to the Jewish community, including periods as president of AZA, of the Australian Institute for Holocaust Studies, and 5 years as President of the Sydney Jewish Museum. The son of Survivors, he has a long relationship with Survivors antedating the establishment of the museum. He has also served as Chair of the Allocations Committee of the JCA.

Gus's vision is for the Sydney Jewish Museum to be a central part of the Jewish community's interaction with the ambient community as well as being a hub for Jewish cultural activity and home for Survivors. He has fostered interaction with Sydney University to enhance the educational credentials of the museum and led a successful capital appeal which has so far resulted in the new Education and Resource Centre. He identifies the current priorities of the museum as ensuring its sustainability, particularly financial, completing the current refurbishment, managing its increasing success, and sensitively and sensibly managing the SJM's entry into the human rights domain.



## David Nemes

Director, Brand Strategy  
BuzzFeed

I am currently the Director of Brand Strategy for BuzzFeed in Australia. I lead commercial operations and am responsible for partnering with clients and agencies in the region to create compelling campaigns and help them engage with the 200M+ monthly visitors on BuzzFeed.

Prior to BuzzFeed, I was one of the first hires for LinkedIn in APAC and played a pivotal role in establishing LinkedIn's presence in Australia & South East Asia. I have over ten years experience on management teams in digital across both startups and digital leaders, where my focus has been on building teams, driving strategy and expanding businesses into new regions. I am passionate about marketing, technology & digital/social media and would love to continue to leverage my skills and knowledge to help the Sydney Jewish Museum.

The past 2 years on the board (the first as an Observer) have been fantastic and I would love to continue to help the SJM achieve their goals and mission.

LinkedIn profile: [www.linkedin.com/in/davidnemes](https://www.linkedin.com/in/davidnemes)

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## Evan Penn

Having had a successful entrepreneurial career for the past 25 years, I now find myself wishing to spend my time and skills working for important causes.

I cofounded a number of charities in Cambodia over the past few years with my father. (see [www.justteaching.org](http://www.justteaching.org) ) Mainly in the area of children's education and building schools.

I have a very strong Jewish conscience, having been brought up in a family committed to ongoing Tzedakah, both in terms of money and time.

My area of expertise is marketing and business building; accordingly I was excited to be invited to assist the SJM team to help build and market their Corporate Leadership and Diversity Training Program. I have been working closely with the team to take the program to a whole new level.

I am passionate about getting a message to the world that debunks age old prejudices towards Jewish people. Education is the best way to do this!

Apart from education, the program we are building has the capacity to earn hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for the SJM. Accordingly if I am nominated for the SJM board, I feel that I will be able to effectively execute upon these plans.



## Roma Shell

***“One who does not remember history is bound to live through it again”***

It is a tremendous responsibility and honour to support the teaching of the Shoah and to effectively educate the Community about the Holocaust and the lessons learnt. The Museum is well equipped to provide that education.

As a descendant of Holocaust Survivors I want to represent and pay tribute to the generation of precious Holocaust Survivors, ensuring that we will always remember.

I have joined the Board of the Museum to make a difference. I would like to continue leveraging my extensive professional experience, common sense approach, energy and knowledge of the Jewish community to assist in the work of the Museum, thus ensuring its continuity.

I have held a wide variety of leadership positions within the Jewish Community - the Sydney Jewish Museum, JCA, NSWJBD and WIZO.

I have been a Board Member of the Museum since 2009, Vice President since 2011 and the Capital Appeal Chairman in 2012.



## Gavin Solsky

### **Bio**

Gavin Solsky is a successful entrepreneur who has been involved in building a number of businesses in the professional services, technology, health and financial services sectors over a number of years. Prior to becoming involved in these businesses, Gavin worked in the US and Australia for leading management consulting firm Bain & Co and before this he completed Commerce and Law degrees at UNSW, both with distinction. Gavin has also been involved in a number of community organisations, having served as Chairman of UIA Young Leadership and been on the JCA’s Building and Capital Committee. For the last 3 years Gavin has been a board member of the museum and in the most recent year was Treasurer of the museum.

### **Vision for the Museum**

The Sydney Jewish Museum is the local Jewish community’s most important asset to combat rising antisemitism and intolerance in our city and state. We do this through our education programs and welcoming more than 40,000 visitors a year, including more than 20,000 school children. I am passionate about helping the museum to sustain and grow this very important work and in particular on raising funds to ensure the museum can continue to do this work into the future. With investment returns declining and a small endowment, the board of the museum has a significant amount of work to do to obtain additional funding to secure our future. I am committed to leading this effort along

with the President and other board members into 2016 and beyond.

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### **Robert Swieca**

I have been closely associated with the Museum community for over 25 years. In particular I was the initial volunteer coordinator for the reopening of the Powerhouse Museum in 1988. I have been involved in museum education, public programs, curation and management, primarily in the fields of design and social history. I commissioned the live interpretation program for the *Precious legacy* exhibition and curated exhibitions of design and Indigenous culture. I was the manager of the AMOL (Australian museum and galleries online) project for 2 years and program coordinator for the Sydney Design Festival. I am also a member of the AJHSD as both my parents are Holocaust Survivors. I see the museum as a vibrant, living digitally enhanced space that serves the community and looks to preserving its past by looking forward.

Professional associations:

- National Secretary, Museums Australia
- President, Museums Australia (NSW)
- Chair, 1996 Museums Australia National Conference Committee
- Vice President, Museums Australia (NSW)
- National Councillor, Museums Australia
- President, Museum Education Association of Australia
- President, Museums Australia Education Group
- Member of Performance Advisory Committee of the National Museum of Australia
- International Board Member, IMTAL
- Appointed to Shoalhaven City Council Arts Board as a community representative
- Award: Distinguished Service Award, Powerhouse



### **Dr Gary Weiss**

Dr Weiss holds the degrees of LL.B (Hons) and LL.M (with dist.) from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, as well as a Doctor of Juridical Science (JSD) from Cornell University, New York, United States. He has a highly qualified legal background, has authored numerous articles on a variety of legal and commercial subjects, and has a substantial breadth of company directorship experiences to draw upon in assisting with the Museum's strategy and direction.

He has been involved in appeals for the Museum as well as the United Israel Appeal, JCA, Moriah College and Save a Child's Heart. His family have been communally involved for many years. Gary's mother Lotte, continues to be involved at the Museum as a Volunteer Survivor.

Gary also holds positions on the boards of AIJAC, The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and the Centre for Independent Studies.

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