

*The first person that many people talk to at The Village Temple is Sandy Albert, our executive director since 2016 and before that temple administrator for three years. She is the supreme multi-tasker—dealing with everything that comes up in the course of a week: membership and logistical questions, program and staff oversight, the temple’s financial operations. Collaborating with Rabbi Hirsch, lay leaders and staff, Sandy brings to bear valuable human resources experience, management acumen, Jewish involvement, common sense and a lovely sense of humor.*

*What brought you to The Village Temple?*

In the fall of 2012, my husband and I decided to move to NYC, we had raised our family on Long Island and decided we wanted to enjoy the “city”. What a great idea - we’re so glad we did! I was working as a consultant in the Human Resources field after having a career in both corporate and consulting as a Human Resources Professional. I decided to look for a position in a nonprofit and was hoping to incorporate my interest in Judaism into the mix. I was lucky enough to find a position at VT as the Temple Administrator in early 2013 and then stepped up to Executive Director in July 2016.

*The job of Executive Director covers many responsibilities. Please tell us about your work.*

I’m fortunate that my work is so varied, each day brings something new and interesting. My main focus is to serve as the administrative contact for members’ needs, to answer any questions, concerns or problems they may have. I manage the office and make sure all the policies as set by the board are followed. I provide support for lay leadership, by attending committee, board, and staff meetings. Assist committees and groups in the planning and implementation of their programs and activities and work to expand involvement of members in activities and develop new leadership. I am responsible for various types of communication, such as the newsletter and weekly emails. I support the work of the Treasurer by generating reports and help with developing the budget. An important part of the year for VT is coming soon with the High Holidays around the corner. This is the busiest time of year with organizing the rental of Cooper Union, tickets, sound system, flowers, letters and communicating honors. The part of my job I enjoy the most is communicating with members throughout the year, and helping to foster a warm and caring environment so everyone feels welcome, respected, nurtured and appreciated.

*When strangers ask you about The Village Temple community, how do you describe the congregation?*

VT is a laid back and warm community. Services are always interesting with varied musical programs. The congregation has a strong interest in social action as demonstrated by the running of the Soup kitchen.

*What are your hopes for The Village Temple for the coming year?*

I would like more people to be connected and volunteer. It’s so much fun sharing activities, learning together and talking at the Kiddush on Friday nights. It would be great if people would participate in an event that they have not tried before.

*Could you describe your own Jewish journey?*

My family had a strong cultural identification with Judaism but we were not synagogue goers. When I got married my husband and I joined a temple and have been members wherever we have lived. Fun fact, I have moved 10 times and been members of five synagogues over the years. I raised my children on LI and became very active as a member of the Education Committee, on the Board, as VP of Administration and co-EVP. I was responsible for overseeing the staff in the office, chaired many fund raising and cultural events, worked on staff contracts and served as the B'nai Mitzvah liaison. I enjoy being part of a community, sharing good times and bad, joining in song and being challenged by an interesting sermon. My journey has now brought me to VT where I am helping the community to thrive and share with others on their Jewish journey.