

# *Officer Spotlight*

## **Elliot Rosen** Co-President

Our family moved from Strawberry Mansion to Wynnefield in December of 1949 and immediately joined Har Zion. I was 8 years old and Har Zion has played a major role in my life ever since. I was not an ideal student in Hebrew School and when I was 12, I was placed in a special class for problematic kids. Dr. Samuel Sussman was my teacher. He had founded the Hebrew school before there was a synagogue. He changed my life (my son, Samuel, is named after him). He never understood why I was placed in his class. I continued to study with him into my college years.

We had a kosher home but ate other things out. That year, I decided to keep kosher all the time. I went to junior congregation every Shabbat, became an active leader in the Sunday morning Tallis and Tefillin Club and began to study more seriously. My Bar Mitzvah was at 54th Street on my 13th birthday, June 5, 1954, and my confirmation was on my birthday in 1957. I was in Troop #200 of the Boy Scouts at Har Zion and our Scout Master was Marty Birenbaum (z"l) [the brother of Judy Wachs (z"l) and Evelyn Graub (z"l)] who tragically died along with many other Har Zion members in the plane crash in Boston returning from a shoe convention early so that he would be home for Sukkot in 1960. We had many USY chapters at Har Zion because we had so many teens and had an intramural basketball league. We took the best players and had a Har Zion basketball team that played other youth groups and synagogues around the region. I was on the Har Zion basketball team for several years.

Maxine and I were married at Har Zion 54th Street on February 6, 1966. All our children had their B/B Mitzvah at Har Zion Penn Valley although some went to camp at Har Zion Radnor. Maxine was the first co-President of PTA at Penn Valley and taught in the schools for 32 years. She now helps prepare our kiddush lunches for Shabbat and Yom Tovim with Joy Landau, as well as Joy of Shabbat dinners.

My father, David (z"l), was an active board member of the shul and my mother, Vera (z"l) was active with Sisterhood and worked in the gift shop at 54th Street. I have been on the board as well as held officer positions as long as we have been at Penn Valley, and was President of the Men's Club and Chairman of the Trustees.

I have received many honors at Har Zion as well as from many other local and national organizations. Serving the Jewish people is really my life's work – as a volunteer and as a professional, working at Joseph Levine & Sons for the last 40 years. We have three married children, Rachelle (Mitchell) Solkowitz, Samuel (Terri) Rosen and Leah (Dr. Peter Konwerski) Rosen and five grandchildren (David, Naomi, Aviva, Spencer and Bayla).

It's a privilege and honor to serve along with my dear friend Lynne Landsburg as your Co-President.