

## Officer Spotlight

### Howard Herzberg Associate Treasurer

I have been a Har Zion member since 1994 when Sheri and I were married at Har Zion. We both had connections to Har Zion prior to getting married. Sheri's father Don Kapel (z"l) was very good friends with Albie Perlstein, a longtime member and past president, and my uncle, Mr. Adolph Schwartz (z"l), was the Ritual Director or the Shamash at Har Zion.

Adolph Schwartz and his wife Hermina (z"l) and my parents (z"l) were very close. They were Holocaust survivors and remained religiously observant. We often celebrated the Jewish holidays together and consequently stayed over at their home on Drexel Road. Walking into their kitchen on any *erev yom tov* you would see all the preparation for the holiday and smell the chicken soup, kneidlach and kishka cooking on the stove and the cakes, kugels and knishes baking in the oven. The meals were delicious and always included lively conversation, mostly in Yiddish. On the following mornings we would walk to shul at 54th Street where the adults got to enjoy the service led by Rabbi Wolpe and Hazzan Wall while I got to enjoy exploring the building.

Mr. Schwartz also prepared me for my bar mitzvah. I can still hear his voice. "*Zug es noch amul,*" say it again.

Over the past 30 years, I have served on various committees, the board of directors and the board of trustees. I have been a past associate treasurer, have led and participated in past and present services and study groups at Har Zion including the traditional minyan at High Holidays, Minyan in the Round, the Milton Pomerantz Interactive Torah Study group and a regular at the daily morning minyan and Shabbat morning services. I also help coordinate Men's Club Shabbat.

Our daughters, Arielle and Michelle, went to Perelman Jewish Day School, have had their b'not mitzvah and attended religious school at Har Zion, and have both been past USY presidents and have gone to Camp Ramah and Ramah Seminar in Israel.

I have been a practicing CPA for approximately 35 years. I started my career at an international accounting firm after graduation and currently have owned my own accounting practice for close to 25 years. I also currently serve on the boards of two other Jewish organizations: The Foundation for Jewish Day Schools of Greater Philadelphia and the Michael Levin Lone Soldier Foundation.

Har Zion has been a place of life cycle events for us and several close friends. It has become part of our routine for almost 30 years. A place to come pray, study, socialize and forget about the daily toils at least for a short period. I look forward to serving as associate treasurer and working with Alan Seeherman, as treasurer.