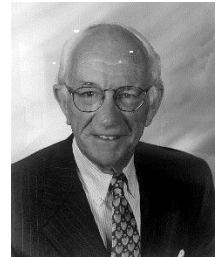


**Alvin P. Gutman**  
**President: 1992-1995**

Alvin “Vene” Gutman grew up in Philadelphia. He graduated from the Friends Select School and Dartmouth College. Upon graduate, he joined his father, Jacob, in the textile industry. He was president, and later, chairman of the Pressman Gutman Company, a major textile converter. He later became a business consultant for the CMS Companies in Philadelphia.



Mr. Gutman was active in many industry and communal organizations, including the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Boy Scouts of America. He also served on the boards of the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and the Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, where he established the Gutman Diabetic Institute. For decades, he served on the Board of the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science, which has morphed into Jefferson University. After the tragic death of his son Paul, Mr. Gutman helped create the Paul Gutman Library at “Textile” and was recognized in 2010 with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

At Rodeph Shalom, Mr. Gutman was instrumental in founding the Philadelphia Judaica Museum which evolved into the Philadelphia Museum of Jewish Art. PMJA is one of the country’s few Jewish-sponsored museums which features contemporary art. Mary Bert Gutman was a core leader of the Federation Early Learning Center (FELS), endowed the FELS center in Melrose Park, and lent her expertise to the creation of our Buerger Early Learning Center.

The Gutmans provided key philanthropic leadership for the Congregation including the Endowment Campaign, the 1993 Capital Campaign, which covered many infrastructure improvements, and the Joshua Campaign, which renovated the Sanctuary. They provided lead gifts to these campaigns and endless hours of planning and solicitation.

*Written by Tom Perloff*