

**D. Arthur Magazine**  
**President: 1946-1951**

Attorney David Arthur Magaziner was the President of Rodeph Shalom from 1946-1951, the post-war period which saw both rapid growth in membership and increased flight of congregants to Philadelphia's northern suburbs.

Born in Philadelphia on April 11, 1894, Magaziner attended Central High School and then the University of Pennsylvania where he earned a law degree by the age of 20, one year shy of the requisite age for joining the Pennsylvania Bar. According to his granddaughter Brenda Flock, also an attorney, Magaziner viewed law as both his vocation and his avocation. He was known to take on clients regardless of their ability to pay, and he did extensive pro bono work for organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League. When he died at the age of 94, Magaziner's obituary described him as "one of Philadelphia's oldest active lawyers."



Magaziner married Roberta Lee Hirshberg in 1919 and they had three children, Marjorie, Maxine, and David. When Roberta Lee died in 1954, Magaziner established a music memorial at Rodeph Shalom in her honor.

One year into Magaziner's term as president, David Wice was hired and became among the congregation's longest serving rabbis. Magaziner and Wice established a close friendship and formed an effective leadership team. The sesquicentennial of Rodeph Shalom was in 1950, an occasion marked with a series of events including an exhibit of Jewish artifacts at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, an interdenominational service that attracted religious leaders from across the city, and a black-tie gala the Bellevue Stratford Hotel. Magaziner received a letter of congratulation on this milestone from President Harry S. Truman.

At the end of 1951, the synagogue board asked that Magaziner stay on for another term. He declined, indicating a wish to find a more spiritual and less administrative connection to Judaism and to Rodeph Shalom.

*Written by Amy Cohen*