

**Edward Rosewater**  
**President: 1959-1963**

Edward Rosewater grew up in Omaha and Philadelphia and graduated from the Haverford School and Haverford College. He then joined his father-in-law's commercial real estate business: Lionel Friedmann, Strouse, Greenberg Co. He was noted for his encyclopedic knowledge of real estate in the Philadelphia area and for his attention to detail. Accordingly, he provided key leadership to the Congregation in assembling and utilizing both the Suburban and Metropolitan campuses.



Mr. Rosewater was a longtime leader and board member of the National Farm School in Doylestown, PA. The School was founded in 1896 to train Jewish immigrants to the U.S. as farmers. Aided by Mr. Rosewater's business skills and fund-raising capability, the School grew into the Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture and later, as it added more programs, Delaware Valley University. Delaware Valley College awarded Mr. Rosewater an honorary degree in 1974.

Mr. Rosewater was also an active board member of the Mid-City Club and Rydal Country Club. As a semi-retired executive, for many years he mentored numerous diverse businesses through the SCORE organization.

During Mr. Rosewater's tenure as President, the Congregation was "bursting at the seams." Membership passed 1,700 and religious school enrollment reached almost 900 (442 at Metropolitan and 455 at Suburban). Thus, there were significant challenges of finding adequate meeting, event, and classroom space. Again, Mr. Rosewater's creative thinking and detail-orientation were invaluable. He was a quiet gentle man, but when he said something, everybody listened. This leadership style also helped smooth the eventual rabbinic changes.

Mr. Rosewater's continuing commitment to the Congregation was reflected both in his long tenure on the Board of Trustees and in his sponsorship of our congregational history, *Rodeph Shalom, Two Centuries of Seeking Peace*, by Anndee Hochman. He summed up his philosophy in the President's column in the 5/15/62 Bulletin:

"We begin a new year in a troubled world in which many people are exercising a new-born independence and in which all people are searching for a peaceful solution to ever-present tensions. Judaism is a religion of brotherhood and peace and we must endeavor to cling tenaciously to our faith in these principles if we hope to achieve this goal."

*Written by Tom Perloff*