## Fred Strober President: 2008-2011

If Joseph Einstein was the FDR of Rodeph Shalom, Fred Strober might be considered the Abraham Lincoln. Presiding over the reconstruction and implementation of critical changes to the way RS conducts its services and reaches out to its community, Fred was president during a critical inflection point in the congregation's history. Prior to Fred's work with Rabbi Kuhn, few if any congregants regularly attended Friday night services - in fact, services were generally conducted in the chapel. Moving to the service structure we see today — more music, earlier time, more Hebrew — now regularly draws over 200



people on a Friday night. Similarly, RS' many affinity groups exploded in number during Fred's tenure at the same time that Catherine Fischer came to RS to help steer our in-reach and outreach efforts. Fred's time in office also occurs just after the closure of the suburban campus and concentrated focus on the "metropolitan campus" on Broad Street.

Fred grew up in New York City and was provided with an orthodox education, attending to his religious studies 5 days a week. Fred came from a largely secular family, with deep roots in the formation of Israel - Fred's maternal family influenced by the teachings of the Vilna Goyen, immigrated from Lithuania to Israel in 1809. Those roots remain today as Fred's cousin is the President of Israel, Reuben Rivlin.

Fred came to Philadelphia to attend school, and has been a partner at the law firm of Saul Ewing for many years, practicing in the real estate area, much of the time for not for profit clients.

Fred found his time in leadership at RS incredibly enjoyable and has nothing but good things to say about the experience. It has turned into a springboard for other leadership positions in the greater Jewish Community, including as recent past-President of the American Jewish Council here in Philadelphia.

Written by Jonathan Broder and Brent Landau