

Harry Nusbaum
President: 1935-1941

Nusbaum was on the Board of the Young Men's Hebrew Association. There was a troubled economy at home and growing anti-Semitism abroad. Rodeph Shalom members moved to Germantown, Elkins Park, and Oak Lane. RS's neighbors were Catholic and growing number of black families which led to RS's efforts to bridge gaps of religion, ethnicity and class to form bonds with our neighbors. 1940s the Mt. Vernon Community Center, one of a long list of Rodeph Shalom social action projects, brought area youngsters to the synagogue where volunteers taught sewing, woodworking, dance, drama and other activities. The notion of a Jewish homeland in Palestine gained meaning and relevance as refugees from persecution found homes in Zion.



Written by Jerry Silverman