

Thomas Perloff
President: 1998-2002; 2004-2005

Thomas served as President of Rodeph Shalom from 1998 to 2002 and again from 2004 to 2005. He joined Rodeph Shalom with his family in 1951, when Tom was in first grade. At that time, the Perloff family attended synagogue at Rodeph Shalom's Suburban Center in Elkins Park. Tom's father, Earl Perloff, was also President of Rodeph Shalom, from 1967 to 1970.



In 1969, Tom and his wife, Carol, were married by Rabbi Wice. The Perloff family celebrated many simchahs and observed many funerals at Rodeph Shalom. Tom and Carol are proud parents of Jennifer, Andrew, David, and Samuel and eight grandchildren, who reside in Boston, New York, Lafayette Hill, and Elkins Park.

Tom has played a critical role at Rodeph Shalom, both in his role as President and otherwise. In 1998, Tom chaired the search committee that resulted in the hiring of Rabbi William Kuhn. Together, Tom and Rabbi Kuhn conducted an exhausting dozen interviews for a junior rabbi at Hebrew Union College in New York City. Fortunately, despite their exhaustion, they did not pack up early that day after the first 11 interviews, because interview number 12 was a young rabbi named Jill Maderer, who knocked their socks off--and the rest is history.

In addition to bringing such strong clergy to Rodeph Shalom, some of Tom's contributions to the synagogue include helping to develop and supporting the Buerger Early Learning Center and conducting two significant capital campaigns – one to improve the Sanctuary and the recently complete Legacy Campaign for the newest addition to the synagogue. One of the most difficult – but ultimately wise – decisions for Tom and our leadership was closing the Suburban Center and focusing the synagogue's resources on only one location – the "Metropolitan Center," at Broad and Green Streets in Center City. Even after his Presidency, Tom has served the synagogue as its Director of Development and Finance during a time of great growth and significant philanthropy.

For Tom and Carol, Rodeph Shalom has become their community for both prayer and socialization. Tom's many contributions to the synagogue have impacted generations to come, and we thank him for his tireless support and dedication.

Written by Leslie Miller Greenspan