

**Richard Schmeltzer**  
**President: 1995-1998**

Richard “Dick” Schmeltzer was born in Wynnefield and grew up in Bala Cynwyd where his family belonged to Har Zion, a conservative temple. During his high school years spent in Troy, NY, his family found Reform Judaism, which aligned with his core values of following the golden rule, being a good person and helping to repair the world as well as his desire to continue to see Judaism evolve.



After graduating from Temple University, Dick began work as an accountant and is a retired partner of EisnerAmper, LLP, has been President of Brahms Consulting Inc. since 2003 and is the founder and managing shareholder of the Schmeltzer Master Group.

Dick and his wife Bobbe raised their children, Michael and Hope, in Elkins Park. A desire to raise their children in Reform Judaism brought the family to Rodeph Shalom in 1974 and they have been deeply connected with the community ever since.

Dick served as president of Rodeph Shalom from 1995 – 1998. Dick threw himself into his work as president, finding great fulfillment in the role, particularly the sense of partnership and community. He brought a strong financial and accounting background to the role and he helped shore up the financial health of RS helping to balance the budget and clear any debts during his tenure. Other highlights include the city-wide service following the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the introduction of bringing the Torah through the sanctuary during services, volunteer recognition night and the children’s Shofar choir.

Dick saw his role as president as leveraging his expertise to help guide Rodeph Shalom. He also recognized that ultimately the work of Rodeph Shalom is driven by the clergy, staff, lay leaders and volunteers. He was changed by the experience – learning through his partnership with Rabbis Fuchs and Kuhn about how to be Reform Jew and forging lifelong connection with “good warm people, committing themselves to this wonderful place”.

*Written by Amara Madu Hahn*