



*Huntington Jewish Center*

*Arthur Perler*

Arthur grew up in Queens, where his parents were always deeply involved in synagogue life. His family moved to Maryland when he was 15 and quickly became active in the local Jewish community. Arthur met Vicki Held of the Bronx during the summer between high school and the University of Maryland, when they were teenagers in Jewish summer camp. They married in 1971 and settled in Maryland. Their community was starting a new synagogue, and they became part of the effort, eventually serving in its leadership. During that time, their four sons were born, and the rabbi gently persuaded them to educate the boys at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School.

Arthur and Vicki feel fortunate to have found their way to the Huntington Jewish Center when they moved to Syosset in 1990. They became aware of HJC through Rabbi Neil Kurshan's daughter, who was a classmate of their son at the Schechter School of Long Island. The rabbi offered them High Holiday tickets, and after attending on a few more Shabbatot, Vicki and Arthur were moved by the warm sense of community and the outreach. They joined HJC. Arthur joined a few committees and soon found himself assuming chairmanship of the ritual committee and joining the Board of Trustees. Since then, Arthur has served the HJC community as vice president, treasurer, trustee, webmaster, and chairman of several committees, including, security, finance, professional structure, theater, and cemetery.

Arthur worked in Washington, DC, as a chemist for the Army Corps of Engineers, eventually serving as Chief of Science and Technology for the US Environmental Protection Agency's national safe drinking water program. In New York, Arthur is in the wire and cable business. Vicki has a distinguished career in Jewish early childhood education. She is the Director of Early Childhood Education at Temple Beth-El of Great Neck and a past president of the National Jewish Early Childhood Network. Vicki currently serves as the President of the Huntington Jewish Center.

Arthur feels blessed to be a member of the Huntington Jewish Center and credits his family's HJC friends and clergy with the priceless gift of helping his children recognize the importance and value of a lifelong commitment to Jewish communal life. He is proud of his adult children and daughters-by-marriage for their involvement and interest in their Jewish communities, and he is enjoying the déjà vu of attending the Schechter events of grandchildren. Arthur is grateful to have had the opportunity to serve his Huntington Jewish Center family in its leadership and behind the scenes. He admires the schul's active Men's Club and its committed leaders. Arthur congratulates Hayley Feibel for her selection as HJC's Youth of the Year. Hayley is an active and influential teenager whose leadership is an integral part of our community. Arthur especially thanks the membership of HJC's Men's Club and its President Ofer Rind for this nomination.