



PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

DR. STEPHEN DAVIDOFF

Steve is a past International President of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs and has a long record of service to the FJMC, its Middle Atlantic Region and to AJ. He has chaired numerous congregational committees and is a past Secretary and Vice-President of Congregation Adath Jeshurun. He was designated Hatan Torah, Bridegroom of the Torah, for his extensive service to the congregation. During his presidency and honorary presidency of the Adath Jeshurun Men's Association, his club was the recipient of nine national Torch Awards including the most coveted award — First Place — Best Overall Activities. He continues to serve AJ as an Honorary Director and as a member of various committees.

Steve was President of the Middle Atlantic Region FJMC from 1984 to 1986. His term of office was characterized by creating the MAR Guide to Organization, Program and Services, establishing regional participation in the citywide services for the Jewish blind, fostering implementation of congregational-level Tay-Sach awareness screening programs, making provision for Purim entertainment at homes for the Jewish elderly, breaking ground for the Lee Linder MAR Ramah Poconos Recreation Center, and endowing a classroom at the Mandel Education Center. He is a recipient of the Samuel Horowitz Award for distinguished service to MAR.

Steve served as International President from 1997 to 1999. During this time, FJMC developed and published the Hearing Men's Voices Series and produced Ties That Bind, a world-acclaimed educational videotape dealing with tefillin. The latter was produced in two versions — traditional and egalitarian — a first for meeting the diverse needs of the Conservative Movement and its synagogues. The tradition of the "President's Torah Mantel," a needlepoint Torah cover (crafted by Steve's wife, Chellie) which resides in the synagogue of the FJMC President, was established and implemented during his term of office. Since 1999, this FJMC iconic symbol has graced the synagogues of succeeding Federation presidents and has been touched and admired by thousands of individuals across North America. During his presidency, Steve served on the Leadership Council of the Conservative Movement, was Vice President of Mercaz, Vice President of the World Council of Synagogues and on the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Theological Seminary. To date, Steve is the only FJMC President to participate in the commencement exercises of the Jewish Theological Seminary. He continues to serve FJMC as the Secretary of the FJMC Foundation for Jewish Life and co-chairs the recently created Long-Range Financial Planning Committee charged with creating a blueprint for the financial well-being of FJMC.

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