



# MAN OF THE YEAR & YOUTH OF THE YEAR EVENT



## **MICHAEL PERLOFF** **SOUTH JERSEY MEN'S CLUB, CHERRY HILL, NJ**

### **FAMILY**

Spouse: Katherine; Children: Sarah; Ben (Christina); Dan (Sula) and Grandson (Liam)

### **HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE**

Northeast HS (Philadelphia), Temple, Montclair

### **OCCUPATION**

Very happily retired for over 20 years

### **HOBBIES/INTERESTS**

South Jersey Men's Club (SJMC), Israel Advocacy, Phillies, Eagles, Working Out, Playing Cards

### **OTHER COMMUNITY OR JEWISH ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES**

Past President of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Southern New Jersey (JCRC)

Represented the JCRC at the Camden Corporation Watch (CCW) public-private security initiative Became a permanent board member of the CCW; Board member of the Goodwin Holocaust Education Center; Volunteer at the Betsy & Peter Fischer Food Pantry of Jewish Family and Children Service (JFCS)

### **MEN'S CLUB OFFICES HELD**

One of the founders and first president of the South Jersey Men's Club (SJMC) Served as the person responsible for programming for the first nine years of the club; Former Vice President of the FJMC Middle Atlantic Region;

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN MEN'S CLUB**

Helped start the Jewish Athletic Group (JAG) to foster closer relations with other Jewish organizations; Helped start the SJMC Investment Club; Helped develop Operation Macabbi, sending Hanukkah cards to Jewish US and Israeli soldiers; Helped start the SJMC Toys for Tears donation of stuffed animals to law enforcement agencies for children in a traumatic situation; Helped organize SJMC donations of food, eyeglasses, and books for various charitable organizations; Helped develop the SJMC Operations Manual (The Forum-Functions, Organization, and Responsibilities User Manual); Organized SJMC logistical support for the US Marshal Service Fugitive Safe Surrender program; Organized the SJMC construction of the JCC Sukkah since 1995; Chaired the annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast since 1996; Developed the unifying concept that all our members attending meetings wear a SJMC shirt and name tag; Formed the SJMC Past Presidents Advisory Group; Published the first SJMC Newsletter (The Mensch); Worked to build relationships with agencies of the Jewish Federation of Southern NJ; Collaborated with Jewish War Veterans for 9/11 Commemoration and Veterans Day flagging of graves; Organized SJMC Volunteers For Israel group that worked on an IDF base; Inspired others to participate in religious, social, and community action, and Israel Advocacy.

### **FAVORITE MEN'S CLUB PROGRAMS**

Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast, Yom Hashoah candle distribution, SJMC volunteer programs with the Jewish Family & Children Service Food Pantry

### **WHAT MEN'S CLUB MEANS TO ME**

The South Jersey Men's Club has been described as a synagogue Men's Club without a synagogue. It provides an opportunity to help our members give back by providing a vehicle to engage in activities that positively affect the greater community. I'm proud that much of our programming enriches our members with knowledge and an appreciation of Jewish culture and life. It also serves to build and maintain a closer connection to Israel. I particularly enjoy the socialization events, such as trips and our year-round monthly breakfast meetings, which bring together members from various backgrounds. It's not unusual for half or more of our members to attend the meetings, even when the "snowbirds" are out of town. It's meaningful that the structure and culture of our Club keep our involved members from becoming burned out. I'm also proud that our member retention rate is very high and that a majority participates and volunteers on a regular basis. Eight different members served on our Torch Award committee in 2023. The result is, that since our beginning in 1991, the SJMC has earned more Torch Awards than almost every other club in North America. The South Jersey Men's Club means a great deal to me.

### **REASON FOR AWARD**

Mike has been a major influence in the successes of the South Jersey Men's Club. As one of the founders of the Club, Mike has been a great supporter of Israel in multiple ways, including volunteering twice to work at military bases in Israel. Also, he has been a great asset to our community by working with the police of South Jersey for many years; including our Law Enforcement Breakfast that attracted 240 police chiefs and regional law enforcement personnel this past November. Mike cares for the Club in multiple ways and is admired and respected by all our members.