

Rabbi Jeffrey A. Wohlberg

Rabbi Jeffrey A. Wohlberg served as Senior Rabbi of Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, DC for 22 years. Adas Israel, which is celebrating its 140th anniversary, is one of the leading synagogues in the Conservative Movement, known for its creativity, energy and innovative programs. It is the largest synagogue in the Conservative Movement in the Washington area and among the largest in the Movement. Under Rabbi Wohlberg's leadership the congregation grew and won numerous awards for its innovative programs, in adult education, musical creativity, youth and family education, Holocaust programs, speakers' series, interfaith activities and support for the wider community.

As Rabbi Wohlberg became Rabbi Emeritus of Adas Israel Congregation in June 2008, he ascended to the Presidency of the Rabbinical Assembly. In that post he leads the organization of 1,600 Conservative Rabbis around the world, serving as its spokesperson, strengthening the relationship between the arms of the Conservative Movement, helping to nurture and guide Conservative congregations in Latin America, Israel and Europe, and encouraging the work of Conservative rabbis, educators and communal leaders in North America.

Prior to assuming the Presidency of the Rabbinical Assembly, Rabbi Wohlberg was active on its Executive Council, served on its Placement Commission, as well as its Commission on Human Sexuality, and in other administrative capacities. His involvement in community affairs has lead him to become a member of the Board of Directors of the American Jewish Committee Washington Chapter, a past National Co-Chair of the Rabbinic Cabinet for State of Israel Bonds, a member of the National Rabbinic Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal, a Vice President of Mercaz (Zionist Arm of the Conservative Movement in Israel), the Board of Masorti (American Arm in the Conservative Movement in Israel), Education Chair for Masorti of Greater Washington, the Board of United Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, Jewish Foundation for Group Homes of Greater Washington, American Technion Society, and numerous other groups. He is past President of the Washington Board of Rabbis and a participant in the Federation's Long-Range Planning Committee. Long involved in interfaith activities, Rabbi Wohlberg is an active participant in the National Council of Synagogues and its ongoing dialogue with the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, a participant in the American Jewish Committee's dialogue with Muslims in the Washington area, part of its outreach efforts to the Presbyterian and Lutheran clergy regarding issues concerning Israel, and a member of a small group involved in a high level dialogue among Christians, Jewish and Muslim leaders at the National Cathedral in Washington. He also serves as one of the four rabbis who are Chaplains to the ATF (The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) and has participated in a number of ATF pre-deployment briefings and in the annual Memorial Ceremony since his appointment.

As President of the Rabbinical Assembly, Rabbi Wohlberg serves as a Trustee of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in the capacity of an Affiliate Representative.

Upon ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary, Rabbi Wohlberg was elected Rabbi of Comunidad Bet El in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which he served from 1966-1969. In Argentina, he was also Co-Director of Camp Ramah and on the faculties of the Seminario Rabbinico Latinoamericano and the Catholic Seminary of DeVoto.

A native of New York, Rabbi Wohlberg was raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For 17 years, following his Rabbinate in Argentina, he served as the Rabbi of Beth El Temple in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he sought to reach out to the wider community as chairman of Pennsylvanians for a Civic Commemoration of the Holocaust, served on the Governor's Commission for the Hiring of the Handicapped, on a blue ribbon citizens advisory panel reviewing the Three Mile Island accident and clean up, on the Harrisburg Human Relations Commission, the Board and Ethics Committee of Harrisburg Hospital, and the Citizens Advisory Board of Pennsylvania Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Rabbi Wohlberg was also recognized for his activities in the interfaith community, having served as Chairman of the Interreligious Forum of South Central Pennsylvania.

In the Jewish community, Rabbi Wohlberg was a faculty member of the Adult School of Jewish Studies and the High School of Jewish Studies, as well as an active member of the Boards of the United Jewish Federation, the Jewish Community Center, and the Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg.

Rabbi Wohlberg graduated from the Akiba Hebrew Academy in Philadelphia, PA, received his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania where he was elected to the Psi Chi Honor Society, and holds a Master's Degree and an honorary doctorate from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York, from which he was ordained in 1966.

Rabbi Wohlberg and his wife Judy have three children and four granddaughters.

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