

Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz, Rabbi -Emeritus of Adas Israel Congregation served as its rabbi from 1960 to 1986. Adas Israel, founded in 1869, located on Connecticut Avenue and Porter Streets in Washington D. C., is the largest and oldest Conservative synagogue in the Washington area. Prior to coming to Washington, he served Congregation B'nai Jacob in New Haven, Conn, from 1946 to 1953 and Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Minneapolis Minnesota from 1953 to 1960. After his ordination by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1943, he served as Executive Director of the United Synagogue of America. He is a graduate of the State University of Iowa and holds a Masters Degree in Sociology from Yale University and a Master of Hebrew Literature from the Jewish Theological Seminary which also awarded him its Doctor of Divinity degree Honoris Causa. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Rabinowitz was elected president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the international organization of Conservative rabbis in 1977 and served for two terms. In 1977, together with representatives of the Reform rabbinate, he successfully negotiated with Israel's then Prime Minister Menachem Begin the indefinite postponement of a bill to change Israel's Law of Return and the definition of Jewish identity. The projected changes, if adopted, would have compromised the role of Conservative and Reform rabbis and challenged the status of their converts. The changes were not implemented.

A few days after the assassination of President J. F. Kennedy,

President-designate and Mrs. Johnson attended Thanksgiving services at the Mount Vernon Place Baptist Church at which Rabbi Rabinowitz delivered the sermon. Upon returning home after that service, he received a call from Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson requesting a copy of his sermon which he then delivered to their Spring Valley home. Much to his surprise, the president included the theme of the sermon in his Thanksgiving address to the nation and quoted from it, once again, at a dedication of a synagogue in Austin, Texas.

The sermon, whose theme was extracting a blessing out of evil, was included in a commemorative volume of sermons entitled "That Day With God" consisting of sermons delivered by preachers of various faiths in the aftermath of Kennedy's assassination. Later the President invited Rabinowitz, in 1965, to participate in his pre-inaugural service at the National City Christian Church.

President Carter invited Rabinowitz to deliver a prayer at a service at the Lincoln Memorial at which the president's sister, Ruth Carter, was the speaker, celebrating the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel negotiated between Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin at Camp David in 1979.

As a leader of Conservative Judaism, Rabinowitz was a spokesman for its liberal wing. He was an early advocate of equality for women and an innovator in incorporating drama, dance, and instrumental music in the worship experience. Many of his early ideas have since been accepted by many congregations. The Washingtonian Magazine named Rabinowitz one of the city's ten best preachers.

Active in Jewish community affairs, Rabinowitz was chairman of the United Jewish Appeal Rabbinic Cabinet and the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee. He was the founder and first president of Mercaz, the Movement for the Reaffirmation of Conservative Zionism. As representative of his religious movement he travelled widely addressing Jewish communities and meeting with government officials in Europe, Egypt, Iran, and South Africa.

Earlier in his life, he was international president of AZA, the youth organization of B'nai B'rith. In 1962 he was the recipient of B'nai B'rith's Sam Beber Award presented annually to a distinguished alumnus. He was vice-chairman of the B'nai B'rith Youth Commission and chairman of its Judaica publishing committee which, during the 25 years of his chairmanship, published a series of pamphlets for young people, two of which he authored. He was later chairman of the Editorial Board of the National Jewish Monthly, a publication of B'nai B'rith.

He has published numerous articles on the Middle East, the oil industry, the Armenians, and the changing role of the modern rabbi. His history of the congregation and the Jewish Community of Washington, entitled, "The Assembly" was published in 1992.

Rabinowitz was born in Duluth, Minnesota, on June 8, 1917, and was reared in Des Moines, Iowa, the son of Rose and Jacob Rabinowitz and grandson of Rabbi Naftali Herz Zeichik. Married to the former Anita Lifson of Minneapolis and Cleveland, Ohio, they have three children, Nathaniel Herz (who died in 2007) of Washington D. C., Dr. Sharon Chard-Yaron of San Diego, Calif, and Judith Argaman of Herzliya, Israel. They have four grandchildren and one great-grandson. Rabbi Rabinowitz had been living with his daughter, Sharon, in San Diego since 2011. He quietly passed away on his 95th birthday.