



Q: How did you come to Rochester and then to TBK?

A: I came from Staten Island; I was offered a job in Rochester in 1969, after I graduated from Cornell Law School. I was brought up Conservative/Reconstructionist. We started by going to services at Beth El, and attended services at the Interfaith Chapel at the University of Rochester, but as our oldest son grew up, we started thinking about joining a synagogue. We tried out TBK, and our first service was in the Chapel, and Rabbi Roz Gold was the rabbi that morning. We joined TBK in the mid-1970s.

Q: What social action work have you participated in at Temple?

A: Suzanne and I joined the Social Action committee. It was during the time of the sanctuary movement, and Suzanne was very involved. They initiated putting food collection barrels in the front entrance thinking that, as Suzanne said, "Hunger is a soft entry point," but there was resistance at the beginning. Eleanor Lewin allowed Suzanne to come in to the Sunday school and talk about hunger so that the kids became aware of why we were putting barrels for food collection in the front entry.

Q: What was your most valued work?

A: The sanctuary movement was the biggest moment for us. It was important to help people running away from persecution, and we were partially motivated because of stories of Jews being turned back during the Holocaust. It only made sense to us to do this, but the pushback was really disturbing because of questions about illegality. Rabbi Miller was very instrumental in the congregation aligning with the sanctuary movement. Elie Wiesel came to speak to the congregation within weeks before the vote. Currently, I am very involved in the gun violence issue, and I find the lack of Jewish participation in this very upsetting. We need to show up.

Q: What direction do you hope to see the Temple follow in the future?

A: I hope to see more involvement by Temple members in the life of the Temple and in social action issues in the community. The most important thing that people can give is their time. If people can spare an hour a week or an hour a month to show up, and if others are aware that we care, we may find that others support us. We have a very tenuous hold in this country, as a minority, and we need to be allies and we need allies.