

Bruce and I first became friends while serving together on the Ritual Committee at Temple B'nai Abraham. In December of 2008 we travelled with our families to Israel on an amazing Temple trip led by Rabbi Kulwin. On that trip Bruce and I, and my wife Eileen and Susan became good friends. Afterwards, Bruce and I both became temple officers and just over 4 years ago, in March of 2017, Bruce became President of Temple B'nai Abraham.

Bruce loved Susan and Mark more than anything in the world. I also know he loved being the President of Temple B'nai Abraham. His presidency was filled with great challenges. After the Parkland High School shooting Bruce helped organize a rally at the temple attended by an overflow crowd of thousands including Senator Menendez and some of the survivors who flew from Florida to New Jersey to speak to our community about the need for gun control. After the Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, Bruce helped organize a memorial service at the temple again before an overflow crowd. Governor Phil Murphy spoke movingly of his commitment to the safety of the Jewish community. And then Bruce had to handle the retirement of his dear friend and our senior rabbi, Cliff Kulwin. Bruce organized the search committee and set in motion the long and complicated process of finding a new senior rabbi. Bruce told me that the hiring of Rabbi David Vaisberg was the greatest accomplishment of his Presidency.

A little over a year ago, while we were meeting at the temple, I said to Bruce what a challenging presidency his had turned out to be. He nodded his head in agreement. I told him what an absolutely amazing job he had done. That was one of our last conversations and I am grateful that I was able to let him know, as a friend....and as a fellow officer, that he was AWESOME!

In my time as president, I always strived to live up to the wonderful example set by Bruce.

Thank you, Bruce for your friendship, your leadership and a life well lived.



Jeffrey A. Klein
Immediate Past President