

Member Profile: In this issue we feature Temple Members Dale and Rich Weiss. Read other profiles at: <https://templemanuelakeland.com/member-profiles/>

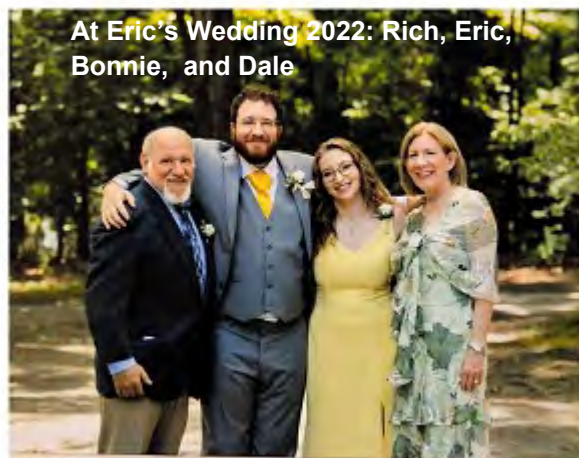
Dale Weiss grew up in Northeast Philadelphia, PA and Rich Weiss grew up in Cherry Hill, NJ. We met at a party Rich and his roommates had in their apartment. Dale has one older sister who lives in New Jersey and Rich has an older brother who lives in Michigan and a younger sister who lives in Pennsylvania. Rich's father is turning 90 and lives in Spring Valley, New York.

Growing up in Northeast Philadelphia, Dale thought everyone was Jewish and did not learn otherwise until middle school! We lived in North Potomac, Maryland for over 30 years and moved to Lakeland in February 2021.

Our son Eric is married and lives in Winston-Salem, NC., and our daughter Bonnie is engaged to be married June 2024. She lives in Arlington, VA.

Dale has a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from the University of MD and a Master's degree in Progress in Addiction Science from Virginia Commonwealth University. Dale was a manager at several different Federal Agencies. The last position was the Associate Director of the International Program at the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health. It gave Dale the opportunity to meet people from many different developing countries. They were in the US on fellowships to learn about substance abuse research.

Rich has always been an entrepreneur starting at the age of 12 when he sold stickers. His last business was working in commercial repair. He has always been creative and learned how things work and how to build and repair everything.



At Eric's Wedding 2022: Rich, Eric, Bonnie, and Dale



Dale & Rich got married in 1983

We both do lots of volunteering. Dale volunteers with VISTE distributing hot meals, LVIM, Bonnet Springs Park, the Polk Museum of Art and the Lakeland Theatre. Rich volunteers with VISTE distributing hot meals and building ramps, Bonnet Springs Park, Senior Corp of Retired Executives (SCORE) and the Polk County Citizen Assisted Patrol at Bonnet Springs Park. In the summer Rich teaches wood-working at the JCC Cohn Campus summer camp. Rich was also involved in off-road driving and overlanding.

We have been members of Temple Emanuel since August 2022. Dale is on the synagogue board and Rich has been working on building projects. Being Jewish is more a cultural than a religious observance thing for us. Not that we don't observe holidays, but it is more the people we associate with and are comfortable with that make a community for us.

Rich would say the best advice he has discovered (although it was not taken to heart until he was in his 40's) is *God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.*

Editor's Note: Thank you Dale and Rich for sharing your story with us. We are happy to have you as part of our Temple Emanuel family!