

Member Profile: This issue we feature Temple Member Harry Wlodawski

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Where did you grow up? I was born in Poland. We moved to Israel when I was 6. We emigrated to the US when I was 9. Our relatives in Memphis, TN brought us to the US and that's where I grew up.

Who are/were your siblings, parents, and grandparents and what affect did they have on the person you have become? My mother was Russian and my father was Polish. I never knew my grandparents as they perished in the Holocaust. I have a twin sister (Baila) and two brothers (Sam and Joe). Joe passed away several years ago. My parents instilled in us a love of family and hard work. My mother loved nothing more than seeing her kids schmooze and kibitz. My dad turned every opportunity he had into a success.

What was your childhood like? Are there any funny family stories you can share? I think I had a happy childhood. I do, however, feel that moving several times, although I was pretty well accepted, contributed to a feeling of not quite fitting in at times.

How did you meet your spouse? Do you have children/grandchildren? Marlene and I met at a Jewish singles party in Memphis. One of her best friends and one of my best friends thought we'd hit it off. They insisted we go and that's where I met my b'shert. We have 3 children and 4 grandchildren.



Where did you go to school? I went to the University of Memphis and got a Bachelor of Business degree. I got into Law School and only went for a little over a semester. It wasn't a good fit.

What is or was your occupation? I was the Plant Controller for a manufacturing company. I was responsible for reporting the results of our operations, safeguarding our assets, and managing our credit function.

What was the most interesting job you ever had....or the most unusual? My most interesting and challenging job was my plant controllership position for 35 years. Every day was different whether dealing with Management, Human Resources, Sales, and/or Employees.

Harry and Marlene 9/12/1979

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What are your interests and hobbies? What book is on your nightstand right now? My hobbies are cooking, photography, reading, travel, and a little gardening. On my nightstand is "Vivian Maier Developed: The Untold Story of the Photographer Nanny" by Ann Marks and "Thank You for Your Service" by Mark Leibovich.

How long have you been a member of Temple Emanuel? What committees or leadership roles have you had or perhaps would like to have at Temple Emanuel? We've

been members since 1985, I was very happy to handle the food prep for our fundraisers.



What does being Jewish mean to you? While I'm not religious, being Jewish means living your life in the most decent, righteous way you can.

Who has been the biggest influence in your life and why? I'd have to say my dad. He was truly a self-made man who faced adversity and survived in the face of unbelievable odds. He left home at an early age to help his family back home by sending money to his family. When WWII broke out he left Poland and moved to Russia. He met my mother and they raised a family after the war. They moved back to Poland where he found out almost his entire family perished. They eventually moved to Israel and after 3 years there our family in the US brought us to America. He was a middle aged man who moved his family half way around the world for better opportunities. He took every opportunity afforded him and with his indomitable perseverance succeeded.

What is one thing people would be surprised to learn about you? That English isn't my first or second language.

What is your proudest moment? Is there anything you would do over if you had the chance? I believe succeeding in my family and business life.

Looking back, what is the best advice you would give your younger self? What are the most important lessons you have learned in life? If you persist and do your best in all your endeavors, things have a way of working out. I've learned that the true meaning of happiness is to appreciate your blessings. I know it's trite but I truly believe that.

****Thank you Harry for sharing your story with us! If you want to share your profile, please let us know!**



Can you guess who is in these pictures? Hint: they are all the same family!

Need another hint? Go to page 10 and read our Member Profile! Answers on Page 20.