

Allen and Amy Hecht



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Leaving a legacy for the synagogue is important to us. That's what inspired us to establish the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation–Emek Shalom Endowment Fund when Allen served as Temple President from 1995 to 1997. We knew how important it is to prepare for the future, and we want Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation to thrive in the future and be there for generations to come.

We joined the Temple in 1985 and quickly became active in Temple life. Our children, Lesley Ann and Benjamin, attended nursery school here, and both became B'nai Mitzvah and Confirmants through the Temple. Our family went on the Temple trip to Israel in 1996, and Benjamin created the Temple's website in 2001 as a volunteer project. We are really pleased that our children have been such active members.

Allen and I have served on a number of Temple committees. I chaired the Social Action Committee from 1988 to 1995, and helped to create a volunteer group that serves the Faith Church Soup Kitchen and My Sister's Place Shelter, as well as the Annual Yom Kippur Food Drive. I became Chair of Social Action again in 2003 and will finish my term at the end of this year. I have taught in the religious school since 1995, and I served as Sisterhood President for two years. In 2000, I was chosen as Outstanding Member of the synagogue, which was a great honor for me. In addition to serving as Board President, Allen has served on the Scholarship Committee since 1997 and the Cemetery Committee since 2002.

Philanthropy was an important part of our upbringing, and we have always felt an obligation to give back to the Jewish community. We were very excited to help create a lasting legacy for Emek Shalom in 1995 with a contribution to the endowment fund. We also purchased a Torah case that year for a Torah that was rescued during the Holocaust. As Jews, we are proud of our connection to the past, and we are excited to help build a strong future for Emek Shalom. - June 2007