

Dennis J. Rice – Biography

Dennis was an only child born and raised in Detroit Michigan. He began his organizational life in his teens, being active in USY and AZA. After graduation from Wayne State University, he entered the insurance business. After 7 years in the business, he was given the opportunity to become the Executive director of B'nai B'rith in the State of Michigan. As director he had the responsibility of overseeing and co-ordinating the activity of 40 lodges and units. While overseeing a joint program with a large synagogue he was offered and accepted the position as the synagogue's Executive director. Since he had been a past president of a B'nai B'rith lodge he continued to be active while assuming his new position as Synagogue Executive director.



He was active in the Jewish life in Detroit and National B'nai B'rith, serving on the young leadership committees of both the Detroit Jewish Federation, and International B'nai B'rith. He was also instrumental in forming the Detroit area Synagogue Council, an organization of Presidents, Rabbis and Executive directors of Conservative, Reform and Modern Orthodox synagogues. He also served as President of the Detroit area Synagogue Executive Directors Association and served on the national board of the National Association of Synagogue Administrators.

In 1980 He and his wife, Ruth and their 2 children Ellen and Steven moved to South Florida, where he assumed the executive directorship of a very active Liberal Reform Temple in Miami Beach. He continued his involvement in the total Jewish community serving on the Synagogue/ Federation committee of the Miami Jewish Federation. He also was the founding president of FASTA Florida Association of Synagogues and Temples an organization now consisting of over 35 Synagogue administrators in Florida. He is now President Emeritus of FASTA. He also served as a board member and officer of NATA- National Association of Temple Administrators before his retirement in 1999.

He was always active in the communities where he resided. He served as board member or officer. He served as president in 2 of the communities.

Dennis believes in giving back to the community for all his blessings. He helps co-ordinate a feeding program at a homeless shelter in Miami once a month for the last 12 years. He has also been active in the Special Olympics program in North Miami Beach for a number of years. He also serves as vice-chairman of the B'nai B'rith Senior housing facility in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

He became active in JGSPBCI when the than President Emerita invited him to join while visiting the Family History Center in Boca Raton. He has been seriously searching his family tree for the past 15 years. Even though he received a copy of his family's genealogy when he first moved to Florida 34 years ago. The Family Genealogy was written by a former Delray resident, Maynard Abrams, who wrote a Family book of his and his wife's families entitled "The Ancestors of Our Children (and cousins too)". One of those families was Dennis's. A copy of the family book is in the JGSPBCI library collection at the Sandler Library at the Boca Raton JCC.

Dennis served as the JGSPBCI program chair in 2002-3, and assumed the presidency of the society in January 2004 and served for 4 years. He has been a guest lecturer to many organizations, libraries and Universities on how to find ones ancestors. In April of 2014 The Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach Inc. bestowed upon him the title of "President Emeritus". He and Ruth are the proud grandparents of 4 beautiful granddaughters ages 5-13.