

THE ROLLING PAPER

MARTY BALL STOLEN

In what can only be described as the heist of the century, Two's AZA's beloved mascot — an 80-pound ball of masking tape named Marty Ball — has been stolen. Yes, you read that right. The very symbol of Two's AZA's resilience, unity, and brotherhood vanished into the St. Louis sunset at FRC 2024,

The Birth of a Legend

It all began in the late 1990s, when Two's AZA members Zach Bassin and Ben Ross, bored out of their minds during a shift at Seasonal Concepts, decided to wrap a small ball of tape. Legend has it the chapter began signing their names on it, then wrapping it again, year after year. Over time, the tape ball grew, accumulating signatures, memories, and a chapter dedication to protecting a piece of history. By 2024, Marty grew to an astonishing 80 pounds. It was so big that the chapter had to create a new, smaller version of the ball, called Baby Marty.

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TWO'S ON THE TOWN



On Oct. 25, Two's AZA toured the The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. The museum was founded in 1990 in Kansas City, Mo., in the historic 18th & Vine District. Says Two's Sopher Micah Kramer: "It goes along with our fold about social justice and about social action. This is representation of people making changes around them because of their want for justice and equality."

Q&A: BOB STEIN

By Micah Kramer | Two's Sopher

On January 11, 1970, former Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Bob Stein made history. At age 21, not only was he the youngest player to win the Super Bowl, he was also the first Jewish football player to play for and win a Super Bowl.

At the same time he was playing for the Chiefs, Stein, a former AZA aleph, was attending classes at the UMKC Law School. Later on he would become the first CEO and president of the Minnesota Timberwolves NBA team.

Two's Sopher Micah Kramer recently interviewed the Minnesota native about his life, career and legacy.



Bob Stein makes a tackle in Super Bowl IV.

Do you have like a favorite memory from either your NFL football career generally or more specifically Super Bowl IV?

Bob Stein: Yeah, well playing in the Super Bowl was a big deal – even then. It was nothing like it is now as far as publicity or viewers or anything like that. But I do remember my rookie year and I was 21 years old – so things were happening going by pretty fast – but I remember the first day of training camp standing near some of the older veterans before practice and hearing them talk about how horrible it was to get into the first Super Bowl and lose to Green Bay, and how it felt like you're letting everybody down, your relatives, your friends, your teammates, and that they would much rather never get back to the Super Bowl and get back and lose it. It was something that stuck with me, partly because over the years I've seen so many great teams in every sport who get to the championship game, but then for whatever reason they lose it, but then they came back with substantially the same team in the next year or two years and win it. And I think a lot of that is just the mental framework of thinking, “Our goal as a group is we want to get to the championship versus get to the championship and win.”

It was fun to play in the NFL. It was never my goal when I started. I started college in pre-med and ended up taking the pre-med courses but not wanting to continue it. I got interested in political science, and that kind of led to law school. I never expected to play in the NFL frankly. Growing up, I was the first one in our family to go to college and growing up all my grandparents had been first-generation immigrants and education was a big priority in my family.

What does it mean to you to be the first like Jewish football player to play with a Super Bowl? I mean, I don't know any other good people that have played football at the NFL level, let alone won a Super Bowl.

Stein: Well, if you look into it, I think you'll find a lot more Jewish players than you realize. I had a conversation one time with Ron Mix. He was a Jewish player, went to Southern Cal, was, was an All-Pro and eventual NFL Hall of Famer for the Chargers. And we were talking about that subject, how many Jewish guys were playing. And he said that at one time he was sitting in the locker room and he overheard two of the other offensive linemen starting along with him talking about the high holidays. And he hadn't even known they were Jewish, and he had played together with them. So there's a lot more guys than people know, because your name isn't always an easy giveaway. I guess it isn't for me. But it was a big honor and it was a big deal to be able to play football in the Super Bowl period ... Jewish or not Jewish. I always had that in mind that there weren't a lot of Jewish players, and I wanted to try to equip myself well and be as tough as the next guy as much as I could, partly because of that.

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ISRAEL IS WEARY: COMMEMORATING AND REMEMBERING THE PAST TWO YEARS

By Daniel Nevat | Two's AZA

(The following column by Two's member Daniel Nevat was first published on the Two's website, twosaza.com. on Oct. 7, 2025. Three days later, President Trump announced a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas and ordered a return of all hostages),

The past two years of Israeli history are the aftershock and effects of the most destructive single attack against Judaism since the Holocaust. On October 7, 2023, Hamas, a terrorist group out of the Gaza Strip, launched a large-scale surprise attack on Israel from the Gaza Strip, firing thousands of rockets and sending armed militants across the border. The attackers targeted civilian communities, military bases, and a music festival, killing an estimated 1,195 people, including 736 Israelis, 79 foreign nationals, 379 IDF soldiers, and 38 children. Hamas also took 251 hostages, some of whom are still being held hostage in Gaza.

Since that day, Israel has had conflict in Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Qatar, and, most recently, Tunisia, targeting terrorist groups operating inside or with funding from hostile countries.

Small Wins

Israel has still had wins in this tragic time, achieving 140 diplomatic exchanges and releases, and an additional eight recovered in sanctioned IDF operations. Louis Har was captured with his brother-in-law and three formerly released family members after 52 days. Louis and Fernando were held captive for 129 days until being rescued in an IDF operation in early 2024. He described the "non-stop shooting" as movie-like and painfully emotional. He and Nando (brother-in-law) survived 129 days in a cramped apartment with one pita per day. His interview with Channel 12 revealed the physiological horrors of his captivity.

What's Next?

Today, on a day of remembrance, Israel is also attempting to look to the future. As this is written, Israeli delegates are raising hopes for a ceasefire with the help of President Trump. In the meantime, there are multiple active IDF operations in the Gaza Strip, including Gaza City. Forty-eight hostages are yet to be returned, 20 of which are assumed to be alive. An entire country is waiting for its hostages, and over a dozen families lie in grief, waiting to bury their loved ones. The people of Israel wait patiently, and the constant airstrikes and threats have made them weary, not afraid.



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ADVISOR'S CORNER

By David Wexler | Two's Advisor

Despite the absence of more than a year of Marty Ball, Two's AZA is still rolling.

Since the last issue of *The Rolling Paper*, so much has happened. With or without our beloved mascot, Two's is still focused on brotherhood, giving back to the community and engaging in quality programming centered around all six folds. In this column, I will highlight some of the many successes of the chapter.

Marty Awards. More than 160 guests attended Two's AZA's third annual Marty Awards on May 10, at the Jewish Community Center in Overland Park, Kan., shattering the event's attendance record. Attendees celebrated the achievements of KC BBYO, strolled down the red carpet, noshed on gourmet desserts and partied like it was 1925. A total of 165 guests were in attendance and the chapter raised over \$11,000 in donations and ticket sales. Twenty-nine Two's members were present. The award winners were: Bryan Persky, Aleph of the Year; Gabby Sosland, BBG of the Year; Claire Rosen, Mensch of the Year; Justin Parmet, Senior of the Year; Judah Bassin; Underclassman of the Year; and Friendsgiving, Program of the Year. Ariel Palan was named Chapter Sweetheart; Senior Lucy Warner was named honorary Belle of the Ball.

Two's on the Lake. Two's AZA kicked off the year with a chapter overnight Aug. 16-17 at Lake Viking, Mo. In all, 24 members attended the kickoff. Activities included swimming, a Havdallah service and chapter inductions. The board installed 12 new members (the Corral class). During a chapter Business Meeting held the following morning, Aleph Danny Martin made a motion to ratify the chapter constitution, which passed by a vote of 21-2. We're not sure when it's last been ratified.

Two's for Tomorrow. This year, Two's is standing UP in support of climate action. In September, Two's became the first chapter in the Order to join the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition. Two's has volunteered for Bridging the Gap's KC Wildlife program, working in prairie restoration. The chapter also helped out at the Overland Park Recycling Extravaganza, unloading electronics. "We're trying to make the world a cleaner greener place, support our ecosystem for our future AZA members," says Two's Aleph Godol Judah Bassin.

Beau winner announced. On Oct. 26, Two's Aleph Mazkir Shaefer Spizman was named Beau of Saadia BBG during Saadia's Field Day. Congrats to all the candidates (including four from Two's). Shaefer is a junior at Shawnee Mission South High School. Senior Eli Nathan was named honorary beau.

International Convention. The chapter is looking forward to the 2026 International Convention in February, this year in Philadelphia. Two's will have a big presence once again - 14 members have registered. The chapter is gunning for the Henry Monsky Chapter Excellence Award of the Aleph Zadik Aleph, the most prestigious honor an AZA chapter can earn. In 1935, when only one chapter received the "Best Chapter" Award, Two's finished second, losing to a chapter in Allentown, Pa., by only 27 points.

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THE DEBUT OF THE SHOFAR



(Philip M. Klutznick, an original AZA #2 charter member, was the editor of the first issue of The Shofar, published in November 1925. Klutznick was the order's Grand Aleph Godol in 1925 and Two's Aleph Godol in 1924. Below is a reprint of his article.)

By Philip Klutznick

Our Order is again swinging into a season of real activity. It was practically dormant during the summer months as most organizations of its type are. But the summer months are past. The time for action is at hand. Our work must be carried on. The number of chapters, as well the number of members, must be increased. We must do this, however, without depreciating the reputation of our chapters and without lowering the caliber of our men.

Furthermore, the activities of each individual chapter must not suffer. Every chapter must be intent on building up its activities. Lay a solid foundation so that future building will have something to rest on.

A lot must be accomplished by our Order in the next year. We cannot be selfish and self-centered. We must build from within, but we must not forget that we are part and parcel of our respective Jewish communities. Let each chapter resolve that it will be a force for the better in its community, and that it will do everything possible to propagate the interests of Judaism in its own circle. A.Z.A.'s, let "Service" be the keynote of your activity.



Rooted in Jewish values such as tikkun olam (repairing the world), bal tashchit (preventing waste), and shalom (peace and wholeness), recycling embodies a moral responsibility to protect our environment for future generations. Two's AZA is doing our part. On Oct, 18, the chapter volunteered at the Overland Park Recycling Extravaganza, helping unload electronics. Help us Stand UP for our future! Picture are: Michael Furey, Judah Bassin and Micah Kramer. (Photo by David Wexler)



Krigel Mesh
DIAMONDS

AZAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT – FRC 2025

Two’s AZA will take on Ochos in the first round of the AZAA Tournament on Nov. 8, 2025, in St. Louis. Two’s is the reigning, defending and undisputed Kansas City AZAA Champions, after defeating Nordaunian last April.

Led by Phil Copland and Sid Magazine, Two’s won the first AZAA National Basketball Tournament in March 1925 in Omaha, Neb. Despite being without their top players, Thomas and Andrew Burns, Two’s is confident they can run it back this year.



starting LINEUP



ELI NATHAN



JUDAH BASSIN



GUS ZITRON



WILL WIDMAN



JAKE SOSLAND

NORDAU WINS IN FLAG FOOTBALL ... AGAIN



Nordaunian kept its streak alive in flag football, defeating Two’s 36-12 on Sunday, Nov. 3. Nordau’s starting seven were: Naftali Tilove, Zach Reif, Sam Nussbaum, Sam Cohen, Jonah Stein, Max Goldstein and Harry Pabst.

Jason Persky and Judah Bassin were captains of Two’s team. Bassin caught both of Two’s touchdown receptions. Two’s roster included: Persky, Bassin, Nate Peizer, Cameron Sablin, Ben Kheyfets, Micah Kramer, Rex Heberd, Will Widman, Daniel Nevat, Shaefer Spizman, Ben Rosenthal, Michael Furey, Ethan Kucherovsky, Rhys Pabst, Shia Kolb, Jacob LaRoque, Beckett Tyler and Danny Hertzfield.

TWO'S FOR TOMORROW

Two's stands UP for climate action and climate control

By Rhys Pabst | Aleph Shaliach

Climate change affects everyone on Earth. Here in the U.S., everyone feels the effects, from more frequent and catastrophic storms in the South due to rising sea levels and rising temperatures, to more devastating wildfires in the West; no one is left untouched. Climate change is a significant problem that is not discussed enough today. Slowing down climate change is essential for preserving our Earth's future, making the Planet a safer place, and leaving our children and future generations with a beautiful Earth.

What is Climate Change

According to NASA, "climate change is the long-term, large-scale shift in average global weather patterns and temperatures, primarily driven by human activities like burning fossil fuels that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere." As of now, climate change is an overshadowed topic, and if we don't start taking action soon, then even more destructive change will happen to our planet.

The Issue

The science is clear: greenhouse gas emissions are heating our planet and worsening the climate crisis. Climate change poses a significant threat to our planet and future generations. Two's AZA supports policies that reduce emissions, leading to cleaner air, water, and land, and helping to slow the devastating impacts of climate change.

We believe that protecting our environment is a moral obligation, rooted in the core Jewish value of pikuach nefesh — the sacred duty to save lives. This principle calls on us to protect the environment, ensuring that our actions today do not compromise the health and well-being of future generations.

The Solution

By taking meaningful steps toward sustainability, we honor this tradition and uphold our obligation to ensure a healthy, just world for those who come after us.

Help Two's AZA create a better tomorrow!

Here's what Two's is doing to help:

- **Service.** Starting in September, Two's began volunteering in Bridging the Gap's KC Wildlands program at the Ogg Prairie location in Shawnee Mission Park for invasive species removal.
- **Philanthropy.** Two's has donated to three organizations focused on creating a cleaner tomorrow: Bridging the Gap, Dayenu and The Climate + Energy Project.
- **Advocacy.** In September, Two's sent a message to the EPA on "Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards."
- **Community Organizing.** In October, Two's volunteered at the Overland Park Recycling Extravaganza, a large community-wide recycling and donation event (1,000+ participants) to give people an opportunity to recycle/donate items other than what is typically collected at curbside.
- **Entrepreneurship.** In September, Two's became the first BBYO chapter in the Order to join the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, a network of Jewish community organizations who recognize the urgency of climate change and commit to taking action. The coalition is part of Adamah, the largest Jewish environmental organization in North America.
- Visit [TwosAZA.com/twos-for-tomorrow](https://www.twosaza.com/twos-for-tomorrow) for more information about our campaign.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME AS AN AIT



By Jacob LaRoque | Two's AZA

In my first year of Two's, I met many people with whom I am very close. When I was being introduced to the group at Sky Zone and then to Waffle House during rush, I learned many things about the group. I did not know that we had so many fun activities. We did community service activities, fun games against Nordaunian, and had fun hangouts at people's houses.

One of my greatest memories of Two's was my first dinner at Buffalo Wild Wings. To this day, I still love this place when I go with my friends. At the first dinner, I connected strongly with a couple of people, including Hudson Zack and Eli Nathan, who are still friends of mine to this day. I also connected with many others whom I still enjoy being around.

During my first year, I also learned a lot about the Jewish faith and Two's had several religious activities. Something else that I found very interesting was how we would have a very professional council election. I never thought that a youth group would be able to have such an advanced council election.

Overall, the most important thing that I got from my first year in Two's was making many new friends.

CHAPTER KICKOFF: TWO'S ON THE LAKE



Two's AZA kicked off the year with a chapter overnight Aug. 16-17 at Lake Viking, Mo. A total of 24 members attended the kickoff.

With temperature in the mid 90s, Alephs cooled off with swimming and other water activities in beautiful Lake Viking, located about 70 miles northeast of Kansas City. In the evening, the chapter held a Havdallah service, followed by chapter inductions.

“AZA was born to unite young men in the pursuit of the dream of human betterment. The Jewish people have undergone challenges of life and death, yet they have persisted in their purpose to be one people in a world torn by differences in political, economic and social spheres.”

- PHILIP KLUTZNICK

HISTORY OF MARTY BALL (CONTINUED)

Named after Two's member Ryan Martisan, the ball became a traveling legend, a staple at chapter events and a part of our lore.

The Heist

But Marty's journey was not without drama. In November 2024, at the Fall Regional Convention in St. Louis, Marty was stolen. And not just by any chapter—oh no, this was a full-blown diplomatic incident. The culprits? Esperanto AZA, a chapter from St. Louis known for its flannel shirts and affection of wood. The kidnapping broke a peace treaty signed a year earlier.

Getting Our Ball Back

Two's AZA has made it clear: they are determined to get Marty back, no matter the cost. "Marty Ball means to me my dad's legacy and what he created," said Two's Aleph Godol Judah Bassin.

While the fate of Marty remains uncertain, one thing is clear: Two's AZA will not rest until their beloved tape ball is back in their possession. Stay tuned Kansas City. The tape is rolling. And Marty's story is far from over.

HISTORY OF TWO'S MASCOTS

Two's AZA has enjoyed a menagerie of mascots over the years. Aside from Marty Ball, other Two's mascots have included:

- Lattimore the Cat (Felix the Cat) – Named after Richmond Lattimore, the Greek translator. From Two's alumnus Josh Ellis (now Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis): "Richmond Lattimore wrote the Odyssey of Homer, which we were supposed to read in high school. Our English teacher loved that book and I think most of us hated it. So that was the reference. I'm working to remember why he was a cat. I think our English teacher had a cat and or liked cats so that may have been the reason."
- Prince Edward - From Rabbi Ellis: "Prince Edward was our principal/headmaster at the HBHA at the time. His real name was Edward Prince."
- Santa's Little Helper - A fictional dog in the American animated television series The Simpsons.
- The Fraggles/The Doozers. Doozers a race of characters from Fraggles Rock who love to work. They're tiny, green creatures with small nub-like tails who usually sport construction helmets, boots, and tool belts. Doozers stand approximately knee-high to Fraggles, at six inches tall. Unlike Fraggles, Doozers love to work all day long, and they hate playing games.
- Henry Fitzpatrick
- Patrick Fitzhenry
- Amelia Bedelia
- Marty Ball
- Baby Marty

New mascots added in 2025:

- Twoey the Two (Currently Aleph Danny Martin is still working on the designs of a new cartoon character named "Twoey the Two". To the right is the original mockup.)
- Kyle Broflovski
- Marty Balin (from Jefferson Airplane)
- Papa Smurf
- Statler and Waldorf (from the Muppets)
- Tom Sawyer

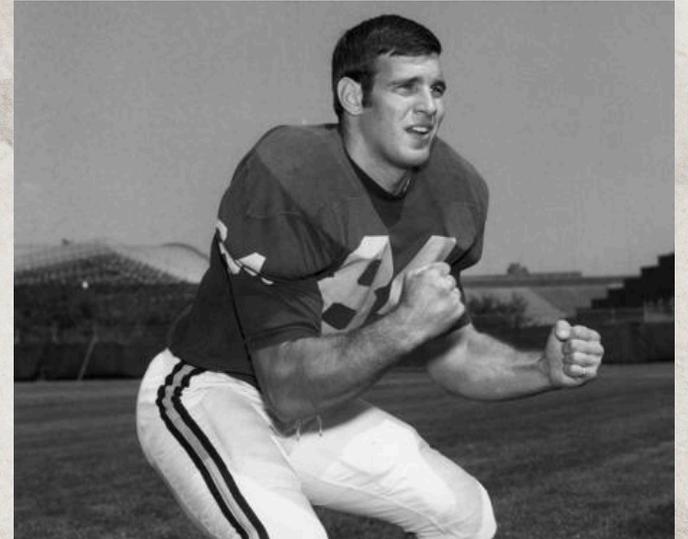


BOB STEIN (CONTINUED)

Did you face any antisemitism during your time in the NFL?

Stein: Not very much. I've been asked that before. There were a couple of guys who made comments, but it was definitely the exception rather than the rule.

The thing that happened a lot was I played with guys who had never played and, and in many cases, even known any Jewish people. So they didn't know what to expect and a few of them gave me what they intended as compliments saying, "Geez, you're like a regular guy." "Well, yeah, I am a regular guy," but wherever they had grown up and lived their life, they hadn't experienced Jewish people.



What's your favorite part about your time in Kansas City? Just as a little side note, is there any places or establishments that you really remember?

Stein: Oh, yeah. I love Kansas City. In a lot of ways physically it's much like Minneapolis. When I played with the Chiefs, the Chiefs were a big deal, having won that Super Bowl and when I started. And that was very exciting and fun. The other part of it was that by going to law school, I had friends apart from football. And not that I wouldn't have met other people, but some of my best friends still today were people I went through law school with. And so there's a whole different sense of the community. You had two different groups that I got to know there very quickly.

Going back to Minnesota, your first home, what were some of the challenges you faced as the first president and CEO of the Minnesota Timberwolves?

Stein: Well, I was responsible for starting the team – the basketball team part, the finance and sales part, and then also building the arena. So the development challenge of the Target Center, the arena. Everything was brand new to me, and there's no book on how to start a franchise. So what I did is I sought out as many people as I could within the NBA and talked to them about everything, really.

Were you ever involved with, with the local AZA chapter in Minneapolis?

Stein: I was a member, but I wasn't real active. My main activities were trying to get good grades and do the best I could in my sports. I was in a AZA for a while, but I can't say it was a big part of my life.

To wrap things up, what advice do you have for today's Jewish youth?

Stein: I think we're entering a more challenging environment than it had in my lifetime, being Jewish and growing up in America or any place in the world based on what's going on politically. And it is a time to remember who you are and take care of yourself, be aware of threats because I think they're very significant. I guess we don't want to get into your political diatribe, but I think it's really important for everybody personally to have their own goals, that are realistic. I was asked at a speaking engagement about what to advice to give to kids who wanted to play in the NFL. And the first thing I thought of is, well you need to realize that statistically it's about impossible. But you never know. And the important thing is to make significant goals for yourself but make them realistic. ... As far as unique to Jewish people, I'd say, things like AZA or anything else that ties you closely to the Jewish community is more important now than for many, many decades.

What advice would you give your 18-year-old self?

Stein: Well, try to maintain perspective, do the important things first. I think the lesson I always tried to impart for my kids – it is pretty straightforward. And it's that you can rarely control a lot of things that happen to you, but you can always control how you react and respond to them. And I just think that's so important in interpersonal relationships – in athletics or academics or business.

ALUMNI PROFILE: PHIL COPLAND

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1908, Philip Copland is best remembered in Kansas City for his role in 1925 as a leader of AZA No. 2, where he not only led the basketball team to the first ever AZA national basketball championship but also served as chapter president.

Copland later moved to Phoenix, where he was a distinguished community leader, successful businessman, and a man revered for his integrity, warmth, and dedication to family and faith.

“Phil Copland, while a great basketball player he was he was so much more than that,” said Drew Reich, Phil’s grandson. “He was a great father, husband, grandfather, successful business owner and most importantly a great human being . A real ‘mench.’”



Copland joined AZA #2 in May 1924 as a pledge member. In 1925, he was elected to serve as the chapter’s Aleph S’gan (vice president) under Godol Lewis Sutin and then the following term as Aleph Godol (president).

Copland attended Central High School, where he played on the school basketball team. At 5 feet, 10 inches, he was known his accurate shooting ability. The 1925 Central High School yearbook described Copland as: “the most accurate shooter in the league – he also became a strong defensive man.”

His athletic prowess extended beyond high school, notably shining in 1925 when he led the Kansas City AZA No. 2 basketball team as their top scorer.

AZA No. 2, led by Copland and Sidney Magazine, won the first ever national AZAA basketball tournament, held March 21-22, 1925, in Omaha, Neb. The Kansas City basketball team entered the tournament as one of the favorite teams after going undefeated on their road to Omaha. AZA #2 beat Gary, Indiana chapter No. 9 in the championship game, with Copland leading the way with 14 points. Copland was chosen on the All-Star Team picked by *The Omaha Bee*.

“For me, my grandfather was my idol,” Reich said. “He inspired me to be the best student best athlete, and most importantly be the best person I could be to my family and friends.”

Copland always found time to attend his grandson’s football and basketball games, and track meets, Reich said.

“He pushed me hard to be the best I could be while being a fierce competitor on the field while exhibiting sportsmanship win or lose,” Reich said. “Admittedly he wasn’t always successful with the sportsmanship part.”

Copland was a successful businessman, owning a wholesale shoe firm.

In the summer of 1942, Phil and his family moved to Phoenix, Arizona, seeking a healthier climate for his young daughter Gayla, who had been diagnosed with a life-threatening condition. He served as president of Temple Beth Israel and the Phoenix Jewish Federation and was a member of the board of directors for several organizations, including the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Geriatric Center, and the Jewish Community Center.

“I believe in a large part my success in life was driven by his wisdom, drive and never-ending enthusiasm and support.”

“Potentially, one of the greatest tributes of this greatness as a man and human being was unfortunately at his funeral,” Reich said. “The service had over 1,500 people in attendance. The service was standing-room only in the temple the annex and even in the parking lot. One of my greatest regrets is that he died so young and wasn’t able to see and share my success and a father, husband , business executive and now a grandfather.”

PHOTO GALLERY

