



"Yer outta here" – are Fred's favorite words when umpiring a baseball game and one of the players, managers or coaches decides to over argue a call but that is not the case when you ask Fred to do something for Beth Israel.

His commitment to being an active participant and volunteer for his Jewish community stem from his family's commitment to their conservative congregation and his USY experiences; he also met Wilma, his future wife during a USY event but they didn't "get together" until he returned from

Viet Nam. Fred not only has served as Beth Israel's Ritual Director and co-chair of our rabbinic search committee, but is the go-to-guy for finding the correct Torah portion each Friday, acting as gabbai when needed, leading services in the past when we didn't have a rabbi, and reading Torah during the High Holy Days.

Fred and Wilma thank Mel Fader, zikhrono levrakha, for bringing them to Beth Israel. He met Mel and Marsha volunteering at the Straz, and when they realized they were both Jewish the connection was made. They left Rodeph Shalom in Tampa where Wilma's cousin's husband was the Rabbi and joined Beth Israel. Wilma and Fred attended services the following Friday evening and were greeted by Delyse Axinn. Needless to say, they were impressed with the welcoming, the service and the Oneg and decided to join. According to Fred and Wilma, "Beth Israel has become our home away from home."